CASH BASED EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM (EFSP) IMPLEMENTED BY WORLD VISION IN PORT LOKO DISTRICT, SIERRA LEONE

FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

World Vision - Sierra Leone

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We hope that the evaluation findings, lessons learned and recommendations will gainfully be used by stakeholders, especially in the design and implementation of related future programs of a similar nature in Sierra Leone and/or other developing countries.

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Acronyms

ACC	*Anti-Corruption Commission*
CFSVA	*Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability assessment*
CIC	*Community Identification Committee*
EFSP	*Emergency Food Security Program*
EVD	*Ebola Virus Disease*
FGDs	*Focus Group Discussions*
HDDS	*Household Dietary Diversity Score*
HHSP	*Household Hunger Scale and Prevalence*
KIIs	*Key Informants Interviews*
LPMT	*Light Proximity Means Test*
M&E	*Monitoring and Evaluation*
MAFFS	*Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security*
MDGs	*Millennium Developments Goals*
MSD	*Management for Sustainable Development*
MSWGCA	*Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs*
NaCSA	*National Commission for Social Action*
NGOs	*Non-Governmental Organizations*
PDM	*Post Distribution Monitoring*
PLDC	*Port Loko District Council*
PRSP	*Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper*
SDGs	*Sustainable Development Goals*
SLDHS	*Sierra Leone Demographic Health Survey*
SLDHS	*Sierra Leone Demographic Health Survey*
SPSS	*Statistical Packages for Social Scientists*
USAID	*United States Agency for International Development*
WASH	*Water Sanitation and Hygiene*
WFP	*The United Nations World Food Program*
WHO	*World Health Organization*

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Executive Summary

The outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) left a high proportion of Sierra Leonean households in food insecurity and constrained economic related shocks. Control measures to fight against the EVD, resulted into its second order impacts, which eventually reduced the purchasing power, food production level and economic access of households to meet their diversified and nutritious food consumption needs. Accordingly, the end of EVD left over 88% of all Sierra Leonean households food insecure and 61.4% of the population of Port Loko district food insecure – (17.1% severely food insecure and 44.3% moderately food insecure).

To urgently complement government efforts in addressing such miserable food insecurity and economic situations, World Vision, in partnership with its funding agency, USAID designed and implemented a cash-based Emergency Food Security Program (EFSP) intervention in seven chiefdoms in Port Loko district. The intervention was mainly to distribute conditional seed vouchers and unconditional cash transfers to enable the most vulnerable directly and indirectly affected EVD households to recover from the shocks of Ebola and to meet their food and nutrition needs.

This independent evaluation was commissioned by World Vision Inc. and USAID to assess whether expected results were achieved or not, to enhance future design and implementation of related cash-based intervention, and to fulfill the part of international best practices for accountability and donor aid effectiveness. The evaluation specifically assessed the relevance, appropriateness, efficiency, effectiveness of the EFSP and its contribution towards improving food security amongst the participating households in Port Loko district, and to enhance learning for sharing with partners and informing future program designs. The evaluation addressed the following questions:

- *To what extent were targeted households in the EFSP intervention (through cash transfer seed voucher packages and capacity building training) able to achieve food security as measured by project level outcome indicators?*
- *To what extent did the EFSP intervention contributed to improving the ability of project participants to mitigate, adapt, and recover from the economic impacts of the Ebola?*
- *To which extent were the approaches, systems and processes used by the EFSP intervention for delivering cash transfers and non-cash assistance to participants effective and efficient during the reference period of program implementation?*
- *To what extent did collaboration and coordination with public and private sector stakeholders contribute towards enhancing effective delivery of seed vouchers and cash-based food assistance to vulnerable households during the emergency and recovery phases?*
- *What lessons were learned from the implementation of the EFSP intervention to be used for future programming*

A non-experimental pre-test and post-test mixed-method evaluation design with participatory approach was conducted using two-stage cluster and purposive sampling techniques. Both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods were used. A two-stage cluster sampling was used for quantitative data collection methods, while purposive sampling technique was used for qualitative data collection methods. A mobile-based household survey questionnaire designed on a KOBO collect platform was used to collect quantitative data on key intervention and other outcome indicators. Focus group discussions (FGD) and key informant interview (KII) guides were used as qualitative tools to collect in-depth information to enhance explanations and triangulation of evaluation findings. Quantitative data was analyzed using statistical techniques, which included Chi-Square test and independent sample T-test of significance; while content analysis was used to analyze qualitative data. Below are the key findings, lessons learned, and recommendations of the evaluation.

Key Findings

Household Demographic Characteristics

- *Out of the 694 survey participants, 71.3% were females and the remaining 28.7% were their male counterparts. The higher proportion of females against males is due to the fact that more females were selected as beneficiaries on the EFSP intervention. Over half (53.3%) of sample participant households were headed by male as against 46.7% headed by females. Among households contacted, more beneficiary participants and their respective household heads happened to be in their productive ages (25-49years).*

Primary Household Income and Livelihood Sources

- *Among participating households, crop farming remained the main household income source, with 87.7% of them reporting their dependence on crop farming as their primary income sources as against 37.4% who admitted at baseline. Petty trading, secondary crop farming, almost remained unchanged at 8.7% and 8.2% respectively at baseline and end-line. No income and casual or agricultural labor were found to have markedly reduced over the life time of the EFSP intervention. The proportion of participants having No income has reduced from 24.8% at baseline to 0% at end-line; while casual labor is seen to have reduced from baseline at 14.4% to 0.1% at end-line. Also, important among others is remittances, which has reduced to 0.1% at end-line down from 12.9% at baseline. These changes could possibly be attributed to contributions from the EFSP intervention implemented in the target district.*

Average Normal Household Expenditure Patterns

- *On average, respondents reported that 35.3% of their normal household expenditure is on food items at this end-line as against the 88.5% reported at baseline. Followed by food item are agriculture (increasing from 6.3% at baseline to 17.7% at end-line), education (from 2.1% at baseline to 16.3% at end-line), health care (from 0.0% at baseline to 14.7% at end-line), and savings (from 0.0% at baseline to 7.0% at end-line) in that order. Expenditure on transportation and debt repayment tend to have increased both from 0.0% at baseline to respectively 3.0% and 3.7% at end-line.*
- *The expenditure patterns regarding normal household income and EFSP cash at household level show that increase in household income in cash is accompanied by motivating household members to correspondingly increase their expenditure on previously not prioritized, but equally important non-food items such as agriculture, education, health care, savings, transportation, etc.*
- *These findings show that when the income of households increases (by whatever means), they become motivated to increase their expenditure on other items that they don't normally prioritize as expenditure items when there is limited or no income in the household.*

EFSP Cash Utilization by Beneficiaries

- *Overall, beneficiary households spent less than half (35.3%) of all the EFSP cash they received on food compared to that expected at baseline (94.2%) to have been spent on food at the end of the intervention as against expenditure on non-food items. This expenditure pattern reveals that as implementation of the EFSP progressed to its end; the evaluation observed that there was a gradual reduction in the overall expenditure on food. Subsequently, the expenditures on non-food items significantly increased in order of agriculture (moving up to 18.3% at end-line from expected 1.1% at baseline), education (increased to 16.3% at end-line from expected 1.6% at baseline), health care (from an expectation of 0.2% at baseline to end-line at 14.3%), and savings (from 0.0% at baseline*

expectation to end-line at 7.3%). Transportation and debt repayment were also found to be significant; increasing from 0.0% expected expenditure to 3.0% and 3.3%, respectively.

- *The observed decrease in expenditure on food as hypothesized by the EFSP design was found to be compensated for, by expenditures on education, health care, agriculture and savings. These diversified expenditure lines provide evidence of enhanced future sustainability of the intervention, since sustainability activities integrated into the EFSP intervention had its focus on especially agriculture, health care through nutrition, and savings at local levels.*

Household Hunger Scale (HHS)

- *On average, almost no household now have severe hunger. Severe hunger reduced from 0.3% at baseline to 0.1% at end-line for phase I; and from 2.1% at baseline to 0.1% at end-line for phase II. Moderate hunger was largely found to have reduced from baseline at 95.9% to end-line at 23.3% among phase II beneficiary households; while it reduced from baseline at 37.0% to end-line at 23.3% in phase I. A possible reason for which the average end-line figure for moderate hunger remained a little bit higher (23.3%) is that it reflects an average of two phases (I & II), where phase I has a relatively higher end-line value (95.9%) for moderate hunger.*
- *The reductions in both moderate and severe hunger led to the increase in the percentage of households with little or no hunger from respectively 67.2% and 2.0% at baselines for phase I and phase II to average end-line value of 76.6%. These considerable reductions in proportion of beneficiaries in severe and moderate hunger, which was the basis of their selection at baseline, accompanied by the increased proportion of households with little to no hunger could be attributed to contributions from the EFSP intervention, which demonstrates value for money with regards the intervention.*

Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)

- *The evaluation found after the EFSP intervention that the HDDS of all survey participant households has improved to an average score of 7.4 from baseline conditions of 4.9 for phase I and 6.7 for phase II. Across phases, the evaluation found that even though target households in phase II still have a higher HDDS (7.2) than households in phase I (6.8) after the EFSP intervention, phase I households responded more to the intervention than those in phase II.*
- ***A one-tailed Independent Sample T-test of statistical significance conducted on average (mean) HDDS revealed that there is statistically significant difference between the baseline and end-line values; since the p-value (p=0.0385) is seeing to be less than the significance level (0.05) measured at 95% confidence level.***
- *However, the claim of marginal increase in HDDS from baseline to end-line could be ascertained by Chi-Square tests conducted on individual food groups* ***measured on a nominal scale,*** *showing statistically significance differences (p<0.001) between baseline and end-line values with respect to each of the individual food groups. Specific food groups tested here include; vegetables, fruits, meat, dietary products, fats & oil, eggs, condiments and lentils.*

Household Food Consumption Score (FCS)

- *In the absence of baseline values, the evaluation findings on FCS have been compared with the international benchmarks as given in the CFSVA report (2015) and the WFP (2008) Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Technical Guidance Sheet. The benchmarks are; Poor food consumption profile (1 - 21), borderline food consumption profile (21.1 - 35), and acceptable food consumption profile (greater than 35).*
- *The overall average FCS for the targeted households is 55.2 at end-line; 56.3 for female participant households and 52.5 for male participant households. Across phases, the result*

shows that the average FCS for phase I currently stands at 58.6 while that of phase II is 56.3. Though these changes in the average FCS seem to be good, the evaluation could not make conclusive judgment on whether the changes are statistically significant because there was no baseline data to compare with.

- *The above findings are noted to be within the acceptable level of food consumption as confirmed by the internationally recommended acceptable consumption level of greater than **35** score points. This can be attributed to contributions from the EFSP intervention and demonstrate marked achievements of results.*

Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI)

- *In the absence of baseline values for EFSP intervention to compare the end line rCS indices with, the evaluation team has compared them with the national and district averages from the Sierra Leone CFSVA (2015) report. The overall average rCS index for beneficiary households is 9.6 down from the Port Loko district average value of 15.6 and national average value of 12.0. Even when the evaluation cannot conclusively judge whether the changes are statistically significant (due to lack of baseline data to compare with), these changes remain big achievements for the EFSP noting that the target households were the most vulnerable households in their communities based on the NaCSA selection criteria.*

Average Household Meal Frequency

- *On average, household members across the different age brackets (children and adults), now eat at least two meals per day within the last 24 hours before their participation in the final evaluation. as opposed to baseline value of almost one meal intake per day.*
- *Findings reveal that average meal intake among adults (18 years and above), especially in phase I, have significantly increased since baseline, and seem to be more than the intake for children less than 5yrs and those between 5-17 years.*
- *A comprehensive measurement as required by the evaluation, because beneficiaries now take more meals per day, there is a significant increase in the proportion of households with two or more meal in-take from 50% at baseline to 92.8% at end-line. The findings are consistent across phases, with end-line values increasing by more than 41% in each of the phases.*

Capacity Building Training to Enhance Good Agronomic Practices

- *It was found that 66.6% of all target beneficiaries received agronomic trainings, with almost equal proportion of males (67.3%) and females (66.3%). In phase II, 79.0% received the training while 51.3% received training in phase I. More females (80.1%) in phase II received the training than males (76.1%) while in phase I, the reverse was observed with more males (54.5%) receiving the trainings than females (49.8%).*
- *91.3% of all target beneficiaries who received the training reported that they are currently applying the training knowledge to their individual farming activities. Most of them are practicing brushing (83.8%), weeding (82.5%) and clearing (72.1%). However, slightly over half of them (52.4%) are also practicing leveling or smoothing of farm lands while 40.3% are practicing padding or breaking of soil clods before planting. Across phases I and II, almost equal proportion of households are practicing padding of soils before planting (37.3% and 36.9% respectively) while for leveling and smoothing, some difference was noted between households in phase I (51.2%) and those in phase II (45.3%).*
- *This agronomic training has increased the beneficiaries practice of backyard gardening and are now consuming most of the produce from the backyard gardens. If continued, this will surely improve their nutritional status.*

Support to Smallholder Farmers

- *Focus group discussions (FGDs) with randomly selected smallholder farmer groups from various EFSP target chiefdoms and communities across the district revealed that most of the participants were trained in basic post-harvest management, with strong focus on rice. In addition, some production topics were incorporated to broaden the farmers' understanding along the lower end of the rice production chain. From these FGDs, the evaluation concludes that the rice production knowledge of smallholder participant farmers, especially in post-harvest management, has been increased through the trainings conducted by World Vision and facilitated by MAFSS Port Loko district.*
- Participating smallholder farmers in FGDs revealed that all of them (100%) received *seed vouchers which they redeemed at specific vendor stores. The seeds were meant for both IVS and upland rice cultivation based on farmers' choices. As they said, the voucher-redeemed seeds were of high quality because of the yield they noticed after planting the seeds.*
- *Almost all of the FGD participants were found to have been taught on good warehousing practices and seed storage. They reported that they have used part of the ESFP cash to build improved stores where they have or will be keeping the seeds for the next planting season. This was noted to be a good sustainability impact point of the EFSP intervention.*
- *An attempt was made to assess the overall impact of the seed support and associated trainings on the participants, particularly on applying the training knowledge and how that has affected the volume of their rice production. Over 90% of them reported that they applied the training knowledge in the recent planting season for which they have just harvested and/or waiting to harvest. For those who cultivated Inland Valley Swamp (IVS), almost all reported that they nursed close to the swamps to adhere to seeds testing methodology and avoid travelling long distances to transplant.*
- *All those who have already harvested reported that they received increased production levels this season compared to most other seasons before they received the ESFP high quality seeds.*

Cash Transfer Processes

- *Most beneficiaries access the pay points after walking a distance of less than one mile or between one to two miles to collect cash. At end-line, an average of 73% of the participants reported as against 17.9% of those who reported walking to cover distance between a little above two to three miles. Few beneficiaries (8.5%) walk above 3 miles to access their pay point. The trend seems to be consistent across phases. Over 72% of households in phase I and about 76.7% in phase II walk less than one mile or between one to two miles to access their pay points.*
- *An average total of 76.9% of household beneficiaries reported spending between 30 minutes and 2 hours, compare to 18% of those who reported spending less than 30 minutes to receive their cash at pay points. Very few beneficiaries reported receiving their cash only after waiting for more than two hours at pay points. Again, the waiting pattern is similar across phases. However, the proportion of participants who reported waiting for one to above two hours was 50.4% in phase I and 37.7% in phase II. The significant differences observed in waiting time for cash receipt by beneficiaries between phase I and phase II, represent a real-time improvement in time management in phase II, which would have been visible because of the continuous routine and progress monitoring recommendations from the EFSP phase I implementation.*
- *Almost all beneficiary participants admitted that they feel safe both during accessing the cash at 99.3% and after they have received and left the distribution centers at 97.3%. The findings are consistent across phases. This means that there was no evidence of threat or attack on any beneficiary at the pay points or after leaving the pay points, throughout the entire EFSP intervention*

Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning

- *Effective monitoring mechanisms were found to have been put in place and identified as one of the contributing factors for the positive intervention results achieved. Project staff were dedicated to supporting routine onsite monitoring and quarterly Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercises.*
- *At community level, Community Help Desks (CHD) were formed at cluster level to receive complaints about the cash distributions and utilization; joint partner monitoring was intermittently conducted, especially on days of cash disbursement to achieve credible cash distribution processes; telephone hot lines were also available to report on any malpractice or an outstanding success regarding the EFSP implementation.*
- *Over 68% of survey participants were aware about a place where they could complain in case they feel aggrieved. Across phases, more survey beneficiaries in phase I (77.4%) knew about the complaint mechanisms than those of phase II (55.3%). Among which, 75.9% were aware of the telephone hotlines for complaints. Other complaint bodies they reported awareness about include town chiefs (57.2%), Anti-Corruption Commission (56.6%) and World Vision Project Staff (51.2%).*
- *In terms of accountability, almost all the beneficiaries mentioned either World Vision (77.1%) or USAID (71.9%). This shows that World Vision did a good job in educating the beneficiaries about USAID being the donor.*
- *The evaluation also noted that several key government agencies also supported with intermittent independent or joint monitoring. It was found that even the donors, USAID/Food for Peace, did intermittent field visits to monitor implementation.*

Partnerships and Collaborations

- *All the partners that were brought onboard (NaCSA, MSWGCA, SPLASH Mobile Money, ACC, MAFFS, DHMT and the Port Loko district Council) had clear roles and responsibilities regarding implementation of the EFSP and they all played their parts well to enhance integrity and ownership of the intervention for achievement of results.*
- *To avoid duplication of resources, the evaluation noted that WV collaborated with other agencies that were engaged in cash transfers or supporting their beneficiaries with food assistance in the Port Loko district. For instance, NaCSA is supporting beneficiaries in the target district; at the same time, United Nations World Food Program (UNWFP) is providing food assistance to most communities in port Loko district. WV collaborated with these agencies both at district and national levels to avoid targeting the same households that were already receiving cash or food assistance from the other agencies.*
- *At national level, the Cash Transfer Technical Working Group served as the platform that brought together all agencies undertaking cash transfer interventions to share and learn. This included agencies like CRS, World Vision, Care International, Save the Children, ACDI/VOCA and their cash transfers funding partner, USAID. At district level, coordination among stakeholders was mainly done through partner meetings, sharing of progress reports among partners, and joint field visits. This coordination also added integrity and value to the whole process and gave it the community ownership it deserved.*

Constraining and Facilitating Factors of Project Implementation

Below were the following key challenges noted by the evaluation:

- *NaCSA's limited capacity in geo-targeting prompted World Vision to have hired a consultant to generate the poverty maps. The consultant however delayed in producing the maps that were later used by NaCSA and World Vision for targeting of intervention communities and respective households.*
- *Despite cash payments being made and beneficiaries receiving their correct entitlements, dates for these payments were on few occasions postponed, due to internal operational*

challenges on the part of SPLAH, such as arrangement for departure for payment of beneficiaries and the untimely submission of reconciliation report to WV. These resulted in late disbursement of subsequent payments to service providers which on rare occasions may have resulted in beneficiary dissatisfaction and affected the reputation of WV Sierra Leone.

- *The pace of activities for cash transfer and its monitoring were mostly slowed down due to bad road network and poor mobile communications network.*
- *Some Community Identification Committee (CIC) members reported that in some cases they felt the urge to quit the project because 'they were not getting any direct benefit (token etc.) in return for their services'. This was confirmed from KIIs with community leaders and field program staff, who reported that they sometimes had to spend long time encouraging CICs to continue working and not quit. According to them, this was partly because the CICs involved had understood the project concept and partly because they already knew the participants and that was helping a lot in easily disseminating key information.*

The following facilitating factors were identified as contributors towards achieving results:

- *The right partnerships were put in place. This ensured the targeting of right communities and household beneficiaries, and the cash transfers processes were done in a transparent and accountable manner. These partnerships also enhanced project monitoring and adequately equipped beneficiary's capacity with the required knowledge and skills to enhance project sustainability.*
- *Specific project staff members were exclusively dedicated to work on the EFSP intervention so as to enhance the monitoring and effectiveness of implementation and greater project visibility at community level.*
- *The evaluation noted that the project was adequately funded, and had the required human and material resources, which permitted timely implementation of most or all of the intervention activities.*
- *Effective sensitizations on the correct use of cash received, coupled with the complementary agricultural trainings and seed supports ensured that beneficiaries used the cash to access more food. This helped in improving their food security status as evidenced by changes in the indicators.*

Relevance of the EFSP Intervention

- *Almost all (99.6%) participants accepted that the ESFP has been very helpful to their households. In particular, 66.6% reported that the EFSP intervention helped them to reduce their various coping strategies in the absence of enough food.*
- *A significant proportion of participants (81.8%) said that in the absence of EFSP support they would have had extreme difficulty in coping with their daily lives while 17.9% of them said they would have coped but with extreme difficulties. Almost all participants (96.1%) in phase II mentioned this extreme difficulty. This finding therefore underscores the relevance of the ESFP to the target beneficiaries.*
- *On average, 70.2% of all participants reported that the cash amount they have been receiving was adequate to cover their household's food needs for three months as against 29.8% who thinks the cash amount was not adequate for the said duration.*
- *Two key reasons surfaced for those who perceived that the cash amount was not adequate to address all their food needs for a three months period, as follows: high food prices, reported by 65.2% of all households and large family size, reported by 34.3%. Across phases, 60.8% and 38.1% of households in phase I respectively reported high food prices and large family size as the main reason for cash inadequacy while in phase II, 68.1% and 31.9% of households respectively reported same. This means even though World Vision adjusted the cash amount due to inflation, 29.8% of households still felt the weight of rapid inflation in the country experienced just after the EVD.*

Evidence of Impacts of the Intervention on Change in Household Agricultural Assets

- *Despite participants engagement in some form of farming before the EVD and before they started receiving the EFSP cash support, 93.5% of survey participants, who said they were cultivating before the EFSP support, reported that there has been some increase in the size of farm land that they currently cultivate as a result of the EFSP cash support. Although the evaluation did not physically measure the farm sizes of beneficiary households, but findings revealed that across phases, almost equal proportion of participants in both phases reported increases in the size of farm lands they now cultivate at 92.3% for phase I and 92.9% for phase II.*
- *About 38.2% of the participants who were not cultivating any farm land before; have started doing some cultivation as a result of EFSP support. The remaining 61.8% of non-cultivating participants might belong to the petty trading sector of the communities, as this was noted to be the second largest livelihood strategy in all the communities surveyed.*
- *Over 68% of survey participants reported that they have used the cash support to purchase new farm tools. This finding is consistent across phases. Among those, most of them have bought cutlasses (92.6%), large hoes (89.9%) and small hoes (79.5%). Other key farm tools bought with ESFP cash include shovels (37.6%) and sickles (30.8%). Overall, this was an impressive impact of the EFSP support on the farming capability of target beneficiaries.*

Evidence of Impacts of the EFSP Intervention* on *Change in Financial Capacity

- *Over 65% of all participants reported that they now have some form of savings schemes. Across phases, 52.2% and 75.1% of households respectively in phase I and phase II reported that they have savings schemes of different types. In particular, movement of the average household proportion of EFSP cash expenditure on savings from 0.0% at baseline to 7.3% at end-line provides evidence of contributions from EFSP cash support to motivate beneficiaries to join various savings schemes.*
- *Savings schemes that participants have joined almost fall into some three saving scheme types: World Vision Introduced the 'Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) at 57.1%, the traditional 'Osusu' at 46.4%, and the 'Self-Help Group Savings' at 14.7%). Across phases, there were more participating households for Osusu in phase II at 56.5%. Also, survey beneficiaries who happened to have participated in both phases I&II are more into the SILC at 68.0% compared to those in only phase I at 59.1% and to those in phase II only at 49.7%.*
- *Among those beneficiaries with savings schemes, over 91% of all survey participants reported that the EFSP has indeed increased their current savings ability. Across phases, more households (97%) who happened to have participated in both phases I&II were found to have reported on now having increased their savings ability, while in phase I only and phase II only, 91.5% and 89.6% of households respectively reported same.*

Gender Mainstreaming

- *Despite the limited gender specific strategies integrated into the design of the intervention, the evaluation assessed the level of gender integration into the overall project implementation. Gender was found to be incorporated into the EFSP intervention across phases. From the start, the EFSP was designed to have a minimum of 50% female participants. This end line evaluation noted that there were in fact more women participants than men, to ensure that women are empowered. Also, in 57.3% of participants' households, decisions regarding the use of EFSP cash was found to be rested with direct beneficiaries, while in 29.5% of the households, joint decisions were made on how to spend the cash. Technically, since the intervention targeted more of women, this finding represents some form of women empowerment regarding decision making, though most of them need to understand that joint decision making is better.*

Across phases, more beneficiary households in phase II (38.9%) engaged joint decision making regarding how to spend the EFSP cash than those in phase I (20.4%).

Sustainability of Project Activities

- *The evaluation noted that the only sustainability measures taken were those embedded in the complementary activities: agronomic best practice training and VLSA. The evaluation noted that some households have started applying the training knowledge gained in their normal farming practices. Some beneficiaries reported that after the training they have constructed their own seed banks to store their rice seeds. Participants were also formed in to savings groups so they can have sustained access to credits to finance their agricultural activities or petty trading, which most have also engaged in.*
- *The key sustainability threat noted was that the cash distribution aspect will most likely stop after WV pulls out, even though it is expected that NaCSA should take over. However, resource constraints are currently limiting NaCSA from taking over now or even in the near future. Another threat is to the continuity of the VSLA due to dishonesty among members, especially the executives. Even though there has not been any case of dishonesty, but from review, it was found that members of the VSLA raised this issue during some of their training sessions because of past experience. When WV pulls out, there are doubts about how well the schemes will be monitored to keep the executive on their toes to run transparent schemes.*

Lessons Learned

1. *When the income of households increases in cash, they are motivated to increase their expenditure on other important items that were not previously prioritized as expenditure items when there was less or no income in the household. The EFSP cash expenditure patterns seem to be contrary to the expectations of the EFSP intervention that at the end of the intervention, 70% of the EFSP cash received by households would be spent on food items. However, the observed decrease in EFSP cash expenditure on food (35.3%), was compensated for by expenditures on education, health care, agriculture and savings.*
2. *Establishing the right partnerships with state and non-state actors adds special value to quick – impact – projects like cash transfer projects. The presence of NaCSA, ACC, PLDC etc. and the CICs added integrity and visibility to the whole process. This has led to greater community acceptability of the project activities which has formed the backbone of sustainability activities.*
3. *When the right participant targeting is done, cash interventions could have a very big positive effect on the daily lives of the participants. Their food security situation, as measured by the HDDS and HHS in this case, will be improved in the shortest possible time.*
4. *The problem of CICs sometimes having the urge to quit the project, except they are being encouraged to stay on, was largely solved in the second phase of implementation. The strategy employed by WV was to use CICs only during the participant identification stage. Once all participants were identified, the CICs were dissolved and replaced with two other committees, formed from among the participants themselves, namely:*
    - *The Cash Distribution Committee (CDC), who helped with organizing the distribution process at each distribution points (cleaning the center, crowd control, sitting arrangements, etc.), and*
    - *Complaints Help Desk (CHD), who helped to receive all complaints and pass them on to WV and also served as feedback channel to the participants about the outcomes of their complaints and what are the necessary next steps to take, if necessary.*

   In the second phase, this strategy completely eliminated the issues around CICs wanting to get tokens etc. ***Therefore, the use of beneficiaries themselves in temporary committees is cost effective in achieving cash intervention results.***

5. *In the absence of effective mobile technology, a well-deployed and monitored offline cash transfer project can adequately replace the technology-based cash transfers.*

Recommendations

1. *The average meal frequency of households per day has been improved to an average of 2 due to the intervention. There is need for this figure to reach a minimum of 3 for better nutrition outcomes. Therefore, the Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, represented by the District Health Management Team (DHMT) and other related community structures should continue sensitizing and monitoring programs on nutrition and hygiene.*
2. *The evaluation found that a good number of households have their diets currently diversified as a result of the EFSP intervention. This has prompted most to start or increase their backyard gardening to keep a stream of fresh vegetables, fruits etc. On that note, the Government of Sierra Leone, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) should undertake regular sensitizations on the benefits of backyard gardening and the importance of eating these foods to help improve their nutritional status and not selling them. Additionally, MAFFS block extension officers should continue monitoring the participants who were trained in post-harvest management technology to ensure they continue to employ it in their farming activities. They should also provide technical assistance where necessary.*
3. *The cash transfer process was largely appreciated by the participants (monitoring strategies employed, types of partnerships created, distances covered, waiting time, safety at pay points, etc.). The strategies employed to achieve these must be maintained by WV in similar future interventions.*
4. ***In future similar interventions, WV should put premium on using CICs only during the participant identification stage and afterwards establish committees constituted of the beneficiaries themselves who will assist in monitoring the cash distribution process. This will enhance cost effectiveness and commitment of the committee members towards achieving cash intervention results.***
5. ***To enhance sustainability of similar future projects to be implemented, World Vision in collaboration with appropriate line ministries of the government should as their main activities, prioritize effective sensitizations on the benefits of backyard gardening and post-harvest management technology. The importance of eating foods got from such agricultural activities to help improve their food and nutritional status and not selling them should be emphasized as well. By so doing, WV would engage in building the capacity (including provision of technical assistance where necessary) of not only their implementing staff, but also staff from appropriate line ministry, especially the agriculture ministry to enhance effective monitoring of participants to ensure they continue to be engaged in such farming activities.***
6. *The evaluation noted that there was limited involvement of the private sector in the overall implementation. Though there was no observed direct negative impact on the project, the high potential of this sector could be tapped into if more organizations from the sector were drawn into the project.* ***Therefore, for planning and implementation of similar future projects, World Vision should establish partnerships with not only state and non-state actors, but also with private sector organizations.***

1.1 Introduction

The May 2014 rapidly spread Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak left Sierra Leonean households in high food insecurity and extremely constrained economic situations. The second order impacts, which emanated from control measures in the prolonged fight against the EVD, eventually reduced households purchasing power, food production level and economic access to meet their diversified nutritious food consumption needs. According to the Sierra Leone 2015 WFP Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA, 2015) report, the end of EVD left about 11.2 % of all Sierra Leonean households food secured nationally and 61.4% of the population food insecure (17.1% were severely food insecure and 44.3% moderately food insecure) in Port Loko district.

World Vision, in partnership with its funding agency, USAID swiftly responded to urgently address the acute food insecurity and miserable economic situations among households, and to complement government effort towards achieving implementation of its National Ebola Recovery Strategy. Their response strategy resulted into the designing and implementation of a cash-based Emergency Food Security Program (EFSP) intervention in seven chiefdoms in Port Loko district, namely; Koya, Buya Romende, Masimera, Kaffu Bullom, Lokomasama, Maforki, and Sanda Magbolontor. The intervention was mainly to distribute conditional seed vouchers and unconditional cash transfers to enable the most vulnerable directly and indirectly affected EVD households to recover from the shocks of Ebola and to meet their food and nutrition needs.

To fulfill the part of international best practices for accountability, aid effectiveness and to enhance future design and implementation of the cash-based intervention, World Vision and USAID commissioned independent evaluation, to permit them make conclusions on achievement (or non-achievement) of intervention results.

This report is the final evaluation report, which beyond this introduction presents sections on purpose of the evaluation, evaluation objectives, methodology of the evaluation, analysis and findings, lessons learned, and recommendations.

1.2 Purpose of the Evaluation

The purpose of this performance evaluation is to assess the relevance, appropriateness, efficiency, effectiveness of the EFSP and its contribution towards improving food security amongst the participating households in Port Loko district. At program level, it will also enhance learning by sharing it with partners, such as the USAID, Cash Transfer Working Group Members, NaCSA, and the Government of Sierra Leone as whole. In addition, findings from this evaluation will be used by WV and USAID to inform future program designs where necessary and better understand the role of cash transfers in emergency situations. In line with the terms of reference, this evaluation answers the following questions:

- To what extent were households in the target district participating in the EFSP intervention (through cash transfer packages and capacity building training) able to achieve food security as measured by project level outcome indicators?
- To what extent did the EFSP interventions contribute to improving the ability of project participants to mitigate, adapt, and recover from the economic impacts of the Ebola?

- To what extent were the approaches, systems and processes used by the EFSP intervention for delivering cash transfers and non-cash assistance to participants effective and efficient during the reference period of program implementation?
- To what extent did collaboration and coordination with public and private sector stakeholders contribute towards enhancing effective delivery of cash-based food assistance to vulnerable households during the emergency and recovery phases?
- What lessons were learned from the implementation of the EFSP intervention to be used for future programming

1.3 Objectives of the Evaluation

The overall objective of the assignment was to conduct a performance evaluation of the cash-based EFSP intervention, by assessing its relevance, appropriateness, efficiency, effectiveness and contribution towards improving food security amongst the participating households in Port Loko district.

Specific Objectives

- Assess the appropriateness of the EFSP intervention design and its relevance to the needs of target beneficiary communities and chiefdoms in Port Loko district and Sierra Leone as a whole.
- Assess the performance of the EFSP intervention with respect to progress and achievements based on the following outcome indicators:
    - Household dietary diversity score
    - Household hunger scale
    - Household food consumption score
    - Reduced coping strategies index
    - Household meal frequency
    - Household income/livelihood sources, EFSP Cash utilization, and capacity for improved food security
- Assess the efficiency of resource utilization in the implementation of the EFSP intervention activities to achieve project level outcomes
- Assess the coverage and coordination among partners in the implementation of the EFSP intervention
- Assess the extent to which gender and sustainability activities were integrated and/or mainstreamed into the EFSP intervention.
- Explore community's acceptance, perceptions and attitudes towards the EFSP project
- Assess factors affecting the achievement and/or non-achievement of the EFSP intervention results; and hence document evidence of lessons learnt from implementation of the EFSP intervention to enhance future emergency and/or development programming.

2.0 Methodology of the Evaluation

2.1 Evaluation Approach and Design

A non-experimental pre-test and post-test mixed-method evaluation design with participatory approach was used in this evaluation. This was as a result of the fact that the approaches permit stakeholder involvement and the use of quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques and tools. The design allowed effective triangulation of information gathered from different stakeholders. Since implementation was done in phases, the evaluation design strategies took into account variations in the different extension phases of the EFSP intervention period.

2.2 Data Collection

Several documents and related existing tools, including; the EFSP logical framework, monitoring and quarterly/annual reports, data collection tools used at baselines, and evaluation objectives were used to guide the current evaluation data collection exercise. The content of tools used at baselines, particularly for outcome indicators were largely maintained to allow comparison of baseline and end-line values. Both quantitative and qualitative primary and secondary data were collected. Secondary data was collected using documents review of secondary information. Quantitative primary data was collected using online mobile-based household survey questionnaire designed on a KOBO platform to collect data on EFSP outcome indicators, and other key indicators such as capacity building training, cash transfer processes and utilization, gender mainstreaming, and monitoring and accountability of the intervention.

Focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KII) were used as qualitative techniques. The FGD guide was used to separately conduct group discussions with men and women cash beneficiaries in groups of 8-10 participants per group. Data was collected on household income and livelihood sources, relevance, capacity building trainings, cash transfer processes, monitoring and accountability, coordination and sustainability of the intervention. The FGD participants included, women farmers (agricultural), savings groups and small-scale traders. KII guide was used to collect data on relevance of EFSP intervention, effectiveness and efficiency, cash transfer processes, monitoring and accountability, collaboration and coordination among partners, sustainability, successes, challenges & lessons learnt. The KII participants were community chiefs, Local Council, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS), National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA), Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), SPLASH electronic money transfer agency, Cash Transfer Committee Members and World Vision EFSP intervention staff.

Secondary data was collected using desk review. Data was collected from documents of the EFSP intervention and cash transfer and food security (particularly in emergencies) across developing countries including Sierra Leone. Documents included; the EFSP narrative proposal, baseline reports, project internal routine and annual monitoring reports, Comprehensive Food Security Vulnerability Assessment (CSFVA, 2015), post distribution and market monitoring reports, emergency food security technical and monitoring documents by USAID, World Food Program (WFP) and FAO on key outcome indicators of the EFSP intervention.

2.3 Sampling Techniques and Sample Size Determination

2.3.1 Sampling Techniques

- **A two-stage cluster sampling method was used. It was noted that prior to the start of implementation, World Vision had already formed the communities into clusters with no more than three (3) communities per cluster. In cases where these communities were large, they were subdivided to form a cluster.**

- **In stage one simple random selection of clusters were done across the seven EFSP intervention chiefdoms (Buya Romende, Masimera, Koya, Kaffu Bullom, Lokomasama, Maforki, and Sanda Magbolontor) in the Port Loko district.**

- **In stage two, participants (beneficiary) households were randomly selected from communities within the selected clusters.**

- **In addition, purposive sampling was used exclusively for qualitative data collection across chiefdoms targeted by the intervention. The purposive sampling technique was used to select a sample of identified stakeholder groups from which participants were identified and selected to participate in focus group discussions and key informant interviews (KII) in other to provide qualitative information that meet the purpose of the evaluation. See Table 1 below for the list and type of participants contacted for KII.**

2.3.2 Sample Size Determination

Two baselines were conducted for phases I & II. Prior to implementation of Phase I intervention, and conducted by World Vision Staff, a census was used, instead of statistically determined representative sample size to collect Phase I baseline data. In Phase II, the second baseline, also conducted by World Vision Staff, used inadequate and not statistically determined representative sample size of **96** respondents (selected from **5460** target beneficiaries). Due to time and resource constraints, and wider coverage area that was to be covered at end-line (both Phases I & II), it was not practically feasible for the evaluation team to have also used census. Coupled with the inadequate sample size used at baseline for Phase II, a statistical formula developed by Magnani (1999) presented as addendum in FANTA III Sampling Guide (2012) at 95% confidence level was used to determine a representative survey sample size of household beneficiary participants. To these representative sample respondents, the evaluation team administered online mobile-based quantitative survey data collection tool. Below is the sample size formula used:

$$n = \frac{D * (Z_{1-a} + Z_{1-b})^2 * [p_1(1 - p_1) + p_2(1 - p_2)]}{(p_2 - p_1)^2}$$

Where,

n = required sample size of cash beneficiary respondents

D = Design effect (for a two-stage cluster sampling, D=2.0 for FFP Program)

P_1 = the value of the key indicator at baseline (or a proxy value), expressed as a proportion between 0 and 1

P2 = the planned target value of the key indicator at the end-line/final evaluation, expressed as a proportion between 0 and 1

Z_α = the Z-score corresponding to the desired confidence level (α = 1 - a). At 95% confidence level, a = 0.05, which gives α =0.95, and Z_α = 1.645

Z_β = the Z-score corresponding to the desired statistical power (β = 1 - b). Consistent with FANTA III Sampling Guide (2012), for FFP program, b is typically set at b = 0.2, which gives β=0.80 and Z_β = 0.840

The sample size determination took into account the design effect and key intervention outcomes indicators for which adequate information was available.

Design effect is the factor by which the sample size for a cluster sample would have to be increased to produce survey estimates with the same precision as a simple random sample (FANTA III Sampling Guide, 2012).

Based on information provided for the two key indicators [Household Hunger Scale (HHS) and Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)] with adequate baseline and target information, and keeping a large enough number of clusters to provide the base for generalization of findings, a not representative sample sizes were determined for the two outcome indicators. About 137 and 142 respondents were determined as sample sizes for HHS and HDDS respectively. Based on this, the evaluation team assumed at least a 10% estimated change in each of the key outcomes indicators during the project entire life. This allowed the determination of a minimum required sample size of 605 beneficiary participants. However, accounting for non-response participants and sample representation, provisions were made for additional 89 response participants for flexibility.

According to Magnani (1999) - Addendum in FANTA III Sampling Guide (2012), and as used in this evaluation, a minimum of 30 clusters represents a figure adequate to ensure that sample target groups are sufficiently spread across enough clusters of intervention coverage area. In this evaluation, a total of 33 randomly selected clusters out of the 118 clusters for the EFSP intervention with a minimum of 21 households per cluster was used. In addition, three (3) communities per cluster with a minimum of 7 beneficiary participants (per community) were randomly selected and surveyed.

The above total sample of clusters and beneficiaries were proportionally distributed among the two phases as follows:

Phase I: 5324 Beneficiary households spread across 62 cluster points[1]
Phase II: 5460 Beneficiary households spread across 73 cluster points

[1] *Constituting of 1124 EVD directly affected households and 3302 smallholder farming households.*

From document review and personal interview, it was noted that during phase II implementation of the intervention, 1,051 (same) beneficiary households from those of phase I were included and spread over 17 cluster points across the intervention chiefdoms. With the inclusion of these cluster points and respective beneficiary households in phase II implementation, the evaluation team categorized this group of beneficiaries as those in both phases I and II. Samples of household beneficiaries from this group were followed to examine and analyze the performance of the intervention for this set of groups.

Also, a total of **20** focus group discussions (one per randomly selected cluster) of **8 to 10** participants per group (one participant per household) were conducted across the intervention chiefdoms. These included; 5 for women and 5 for men who received unconditional cash transfer support, 5 for savings group members who received cash transfer support, and 5 for women in agriculture groups who received conditional cash transfer support. Additionally, a total of 45 key informants were interviewed as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary of Respondents' Category and Response Rate

Respondent Type	**Expected and Actual Number of Tools Administered**					
	Questionnaire		**KIIs**		**FGDs**	
	Expected	Actual	Expected	Actual	Expected	Actual
Cash Participants	605	694	-	-	20	20
Local Council	-	-	1	1	-	-
MAFFS Reps	-	-	1	1	-	-
Community Chiefs	-	-	20	20	-	-
Anti-Corruption Commission	-	-	1	-	-	-
Cash Transfer Committee Members	-	-	20	20		
NaCSA	-	-	1	1	-	-
SPLASH	-	-	1	1	-	-
EFSP Program Management Staff	-	-	2	1	-	-

2.4 Data Management and analysis

2.4.1 Data Processing

Data accuracy was enhanced integrating skip logic into the online mobile-based data collection system designed on a Kobo platform. The data was downloaded into MS excel database, cleaned and subsequently imported into SPSS Version 23.0 database for further cleaning and analysis. There was due consideration given to data cleaning to avoid duplications and other errors to ensure consistency in data collection and analysis. Qualitative data was captured using paper based and in some cases recorders. The recorded data was transcribed and merged with paper recorded data. To make it easier for screening and analysis, qualitative data was captured by thematic indicators and entered into MS Word by themes, response category, and chiefdom.

2.4.2 Data Analysis

Quantitative data was analyzed by gender (sex) and the EFSP intervention phases (phase I, II and both phases I & II) using SPSS version 23.0, which allowed for statistical analysis of information. **Independent Sample T-test and Chi-Square statistical tests were performed for HDDS and HHS outcome indicators respectively** with available baseline dataset, to estimate, based on changes observed, whether there were statistically significant differences between end-line and baseline values. **It should be noted that SPSS software does not directly run a one-tailed independent sample T-test. However, evidence from Garth (2008), Lind et al. (2002) and Brace et al. (2000) suggest that the p-value for a one-tailed independent sample T-test would be obtained from SPSS analysis by dividing the p-value of the two-tailed independent sample T-test in half. The SPSS output of the two-tailed test result tables has been included in appendix A. But as the alternative hypotheses of this evaluation with respect to intervention indicator values are one-tailed (a change leading to increase or decrease as the case may be in indicator values), the p-values presented in the body of this report are one-tailed independent sample T-test results obtained at 5% level of significance and measured at 95% confidence level.** Qualitative data was analyzed using thematic content analysis of information. The analysis took into account identification of emerging themes and establishment of relationships between the said themes that were further categorized into concepts. The data was analyzed and findings presented within the framework of household demographic characteristics, income and livelihoods sources, expenditure patterns, outcomes of the intervention, capacity building trainings and related impacts, cash delivery processes and utilization, relevance and appropriateness of the intervention, efficiency and effectiveness of intervention implementation. Also, partnership and collaboration, gender and sustainability integration into the intervention, and monitoring and accountability of the intervention were analyzed.

2.5 Recruitment and Training of Data Collectors

One day was taken to recruit data collectors. 14 experienced data collectors (supervisors and enumerators) were recruited. A two-day training was conducted. The training was delivered by lead consultants and two World Vision EFSP intervention staff. Facilitated by the two World Vision staff, the trainees were trained on the background of the EFSP and organizational policies. Lead consultants then delivered training on evaluation design, sampling techniques and framework used, data collection and evaluation ethics. Trainees were taken through each of the data collection tools and put into smaller groups for role play sessions. This was followed by a day field pre-testing of the tools. In the role play sessions and field pre-testing exercises, enumerators were assessed on the use of the tools for effective and ethical data collection from respondents.

2.6 Evaluation Ethics

Evaluation ethics was maintained in the entire evaluation process. Team members observed respect for persons; avoiding knowingly doing harm to participants and ensuring justice and fairness. The team obtained written or verbal informed consent from beneficiary participants in the evaluation before questionnaires were administered. Participants were told about the confidentiality of their names and information sharing with unauthorized users. The rights of respondents to end their participation at any time during conversation were made clear to

them. The evaluation team constituted both male and female teams to take into account possible limitations surrounding information gathering on questions dealing with sensitive topics, from which participants total anonymity were assured.

2.7 *Limitations of the Evaluation*

1. It was assumed in this evaluation that there was at least a 10% estimated change in each of the key outcome indicators during the life span of the project, which practically allowed the evaluation team to have determined a minimum required sample size of intervention beneficiaries. This was because the calculated sample sizes determined using baselines and target information available, and the statistical formula developed by Magnani (1999), were too small relative to the number of targeted beneficiaries. For instance, in the case of indicators, such as Household Hunger Scale (HHS) and Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) for which adequate information was available and the statistical formula was used, sample sizes of 137 and 142 were respectively determined.
2. **Two different statistical tests were performed for two outcome indicators; Chi-Square tests was conducted for Household Hunger Scale (HHS) outcome indicator measured on a nominal scale and a one-tailed independent Sample T-test conducted for average HDDS outcome indicators to test for statistically significant differences between baseline and end-line values with respect to these indicators. There was no baseline dataset containing data on other outcome indicators, including; Reduced Coping Strategies Index and Food Consumption Score. This limited the evaluation team to have not conducted similar statistical tests to estimate and ascertain whether the associated changes in values of these indicators from baseline to end-line are statistically significant.**
3. The absence of baseline data for selected outcome indicators could not allow direct comparison of baseline and end-line values for such indicators. The evaluation could only compare these end-line values to national survey data as re-constructed baseline values. Additionally, for similar reasons regarding the absence of Phase I baseline dataset, the team could only use Phase II baseline data set with relatively small sample responses (96 sample respondents compared to 5460 beneficiaries) to have conducted the Chi-Square test of statistical significance across indicators concerned. These may have resulted into under/over estimation of attributable changes due to the intervention.
4. Field workers were challenged in accessing randomly selected target communities due to poor road networks, and crossing of rivers/streams. In these instances, data collectors as strictly advised by MSD Consulting Limited not to cross streams/rivers, had to travel long distances to access these randomly selected survey communities and respective beneficiaries. Here, more time and resources were consumed.

3.0 Analysis and Findings

Except otherwise, but in this report, all tables and figures are generated from field data of the final evaluation for which this report was prepared.

3.1 Household Demographic Characteristics

- ***Sex and Age of Household Respondents***

A total sample of 694 beneficiary respondents participated in the end line survey. There were 314 (45.2%) of the total sample participants, with 101 male and 213 females that were surveyed for phase one. Also, 257 (37.0%) with 71 male and 186 females were contacted for phase two; while 123 (17.7%) constituting of 27 male and 96 females who received cash in both phases I&II were contacted in the evaluation. As seen in Figure 1, the bulk of household participants, overall and across phases of the EFSP intervention, fall in the adult age range between 25 to 50 years and above. In Table 1 of appendix C, the participants are dominated by females at 71.3% over male (28.7%), due to the fact that more females were selected as beneficiaries on the EFSP intervention. As revealed in the figure, more participants who happened to be within the age range of 25-49 years were selected as EFSP beneficiaries with no participant found to be less than 18 years of age. Notwithstanding, among the respondent beneficiaries interviewed, about 74.4% were household heads while others were not.

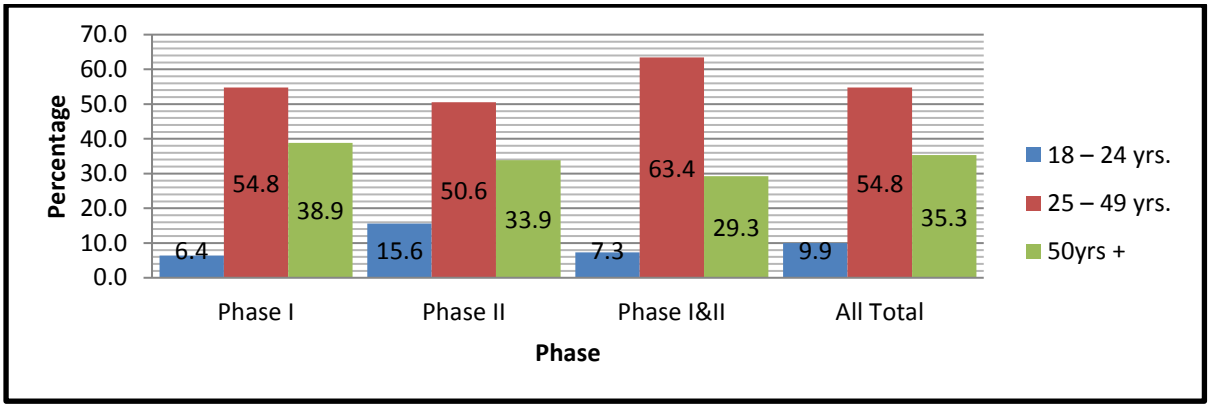

Figure 1: % Distribution of Age of Household Respondents

- ***Sex and Age of Household Heads***

Among the households surveyed, 324 were female headed households while 370 households were headed by males. Across phases, Table 2 of appendix C revealed that there are more males than female headed households with the exception of respondent households in which beneficiaries received cash in both phases I&II. In a similar manner as household respondents, the bulk of these household heads across the two phases also fall within the adult age range between 25 to 50 years and above. The overall percentage distribution of age demographic characteristics of household heads is displayed in Figure 2 below. This is a good picture of beneficiary household engagement in agriculture, which is one of the major contributing sectors to growth of the Sierra Leone economy. With capacity building training on agronomic and nutrition practices integrated into the EFSP intervention, the household demographic result presents a picture of an opportunity to achieve future sustainability of the EFSP intervention.

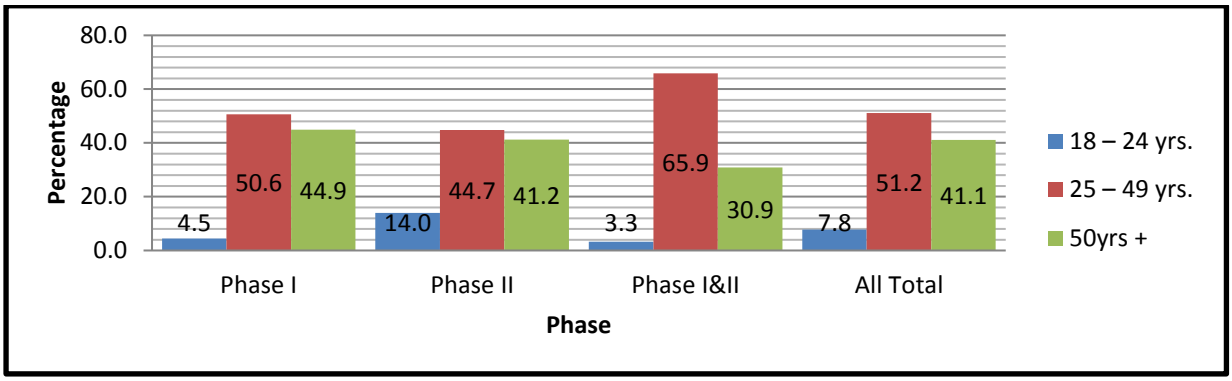

Figure 2: % Distribution of Age of Household Heads

- ***Average Household Size and Composition***

The average household size of participating households in the end-line evaluation is 6.3. Across phases, this figure is 6.3 in phase I, 6.5 in phases II, and 6.5 for participating households who received the EFSP cash in both phases I&II. At baseline, the average household size stood at 6.52 for phase I and 8.79 for phase II. This indicates that the end-line values were in close proximity to the phase I baseline average value, but show greater divergence from the phase II baseline average value. However, the evaluation found that the phase II average baseline value had a mode of 6.0, indicating that in that high average value, there were more households with 6 members, thus resonating with earlier findings above and also the national average household size of 5.6 and for 6.0 for the northern province, where Port Loko district is found. In terms of household composition, 85.3% of all respondent beneficiary households that participated in this evaluation were male and female adults' household type with the remaining percentage of households having female only household type being slightly greater than their male only counterpart household type. Similar trend follows across sample households in all the phase categories. (See Table 3 of appendix C)

- ***Educational Level of Beneficiary Households***

In Table 3 of appendix C, it can be seen that the vast majority of beneficiary household participants as well as their household heads across phases have extremely low or no formal education. On average, about 91.1% beneficiary respondents and 87.4% of household heads in EFSP intervention phases were found in this evaluation to have acquired non-formal educational or primary school graduates. Among which, females were noted to be of higher frequency than male counterparts for such level of education for both beneficiaries and household heads. In effect, this increases the vulnerability of women to poverty and their limited access to resources. Education of the few across intervention phases were noted to have only gone up to the level acquiring some form of koranic educational level. The finding is largely consistent with household heads being illiterate or has little or no education as predefined criteria for selection of Extreme Poor Ebola-Affected Households, this finding shows that the right beneficiaries were targeted for inclusion into the cash transfer scheme.

3.2 Household Socio-economic Characteristics

3.2.1 Household Income and Livelihood Sources

The income and livelihood sources of households serve as ways of determining household poverty level. Figure 3 presents the main or primary sources of the EFSP beneficiary household income.

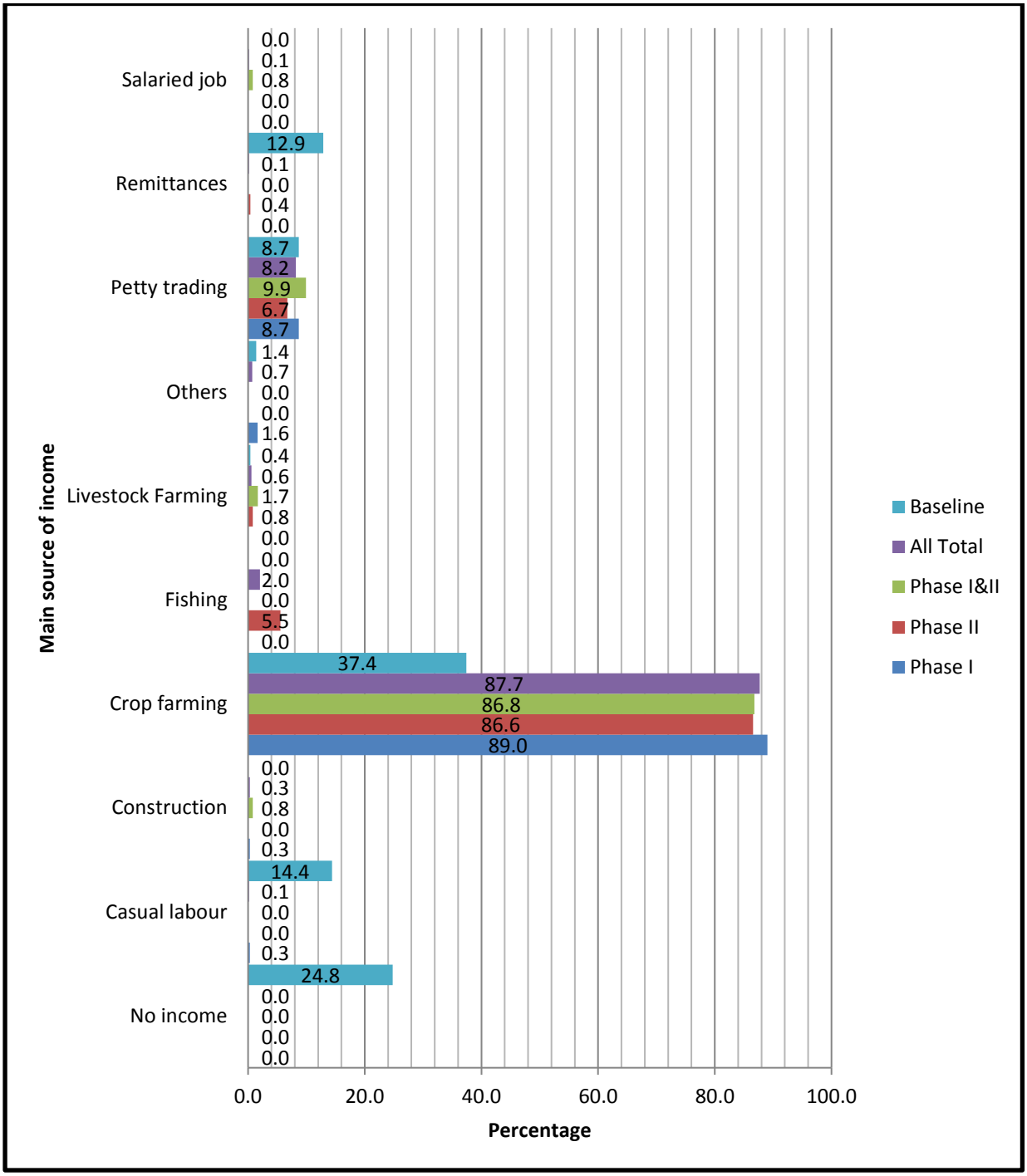

Figure 3: % of Household Main/Primary Sources of Income

On average, the evaluation found that crop farming continues to be the main household income source. Comparatively, 87.7% of EFSP beneficiaries reported their dependence on crop farming as their primary source of income compared to 37.4% who admitted at baseline. Across phases, there remains significant degree of beneficiary reliability on crop farming.

About 89.0%, 86.6% and 86.8% of household beneficiaries respectively reported having crop farming in phases I, II and I&II as their main source of income. All these end-line phase values of respondents seem to be more than the baseline value measured at 37.7%. Followed by crop farming was petty trading, which on average can be seen in Figure 3 to have almost remained unchanged at 8.7% and 8.2% respectively at baseline and end-line. No income and casual or agricultural labor are found to have significantly reduced. No income has moved down from 24.8% at baseline to 0% at end line; while casual labor is seen to have reduced from baseline at 14.4% to 0.1% at end-line. In addition, remittances had also reduced to 0.1% at end-line down from 12.9% at baseline. Despite less significant changes occurring in percentage of household beneficiaries for other income sources (mining or quarrying, salaried job, begging, etc.), the increase in household beneficiary engagement in crop farming could serve as evidence, which would positively be attributed to the contribution of EFSP intervention. This contribution provides evidence of largely reducing the percentages of beneficiaries engaged in casual labor, remittances and those with no income sources; and significantly been translated into crop farming. This is a good achievement, because even in terms of sustainability of the EFSP activity, it was one of the key activities that were integrated into the EFSP intervention to help continue the intervention activity in the future.

3.2.2 Average Normal Household Expenditure Patterns

The evaluation tried to isolate the normal household expenditure patterns (i.e. without the EFSP cash), to determine how the intervention has impacted this expenditure patterns. The results are presented in figure 4.

It was found that at baseline, households spent, on average, 88.5% of all their income on food, 6.3% on agriculture, 2.1% on education and 3.1% on other things. They spent nothing on healthcare, transportation (they most likely always walked no matter the distance they have to cover) and nothing on savings. These are real indicators of high vulnerability! After these participants were exposed to the EFSP intervention, figure 4 shows a striking change in their normal household expenditure pattern. Average expenditure on food came down to 35.3% (from 88.5%), agriculture moved to 17.7% (from 6.3%) and education moved to 16.3% (from 2.1%). They also started spending on healthcare (14.7% from 0%), transportation (3.0% from 0) and savings (7.0% from 0%).

These findings clearly indicate that the EFSP intervention helped in freeing the normal household income to some extent. Because the intervention encouraged households to spend more of the EFSP cash on food, this clearly had a positive impact on the normal household income that was originally heavily spent on food. Hence the huge drop from 88.5% to 35.3%. The results show that with the EFSP, households now had some extra money (from their normal income stream) to increase their spending on agriculture and education, and at the same time start spending on other key necessities like healthcare, transportation and savings.

These findings show that when the income of households increases (by whatever means), they become motivated to increase their expenditure on other items that they don't normally prioritize as expenditure items when there is limited or no income in the household.

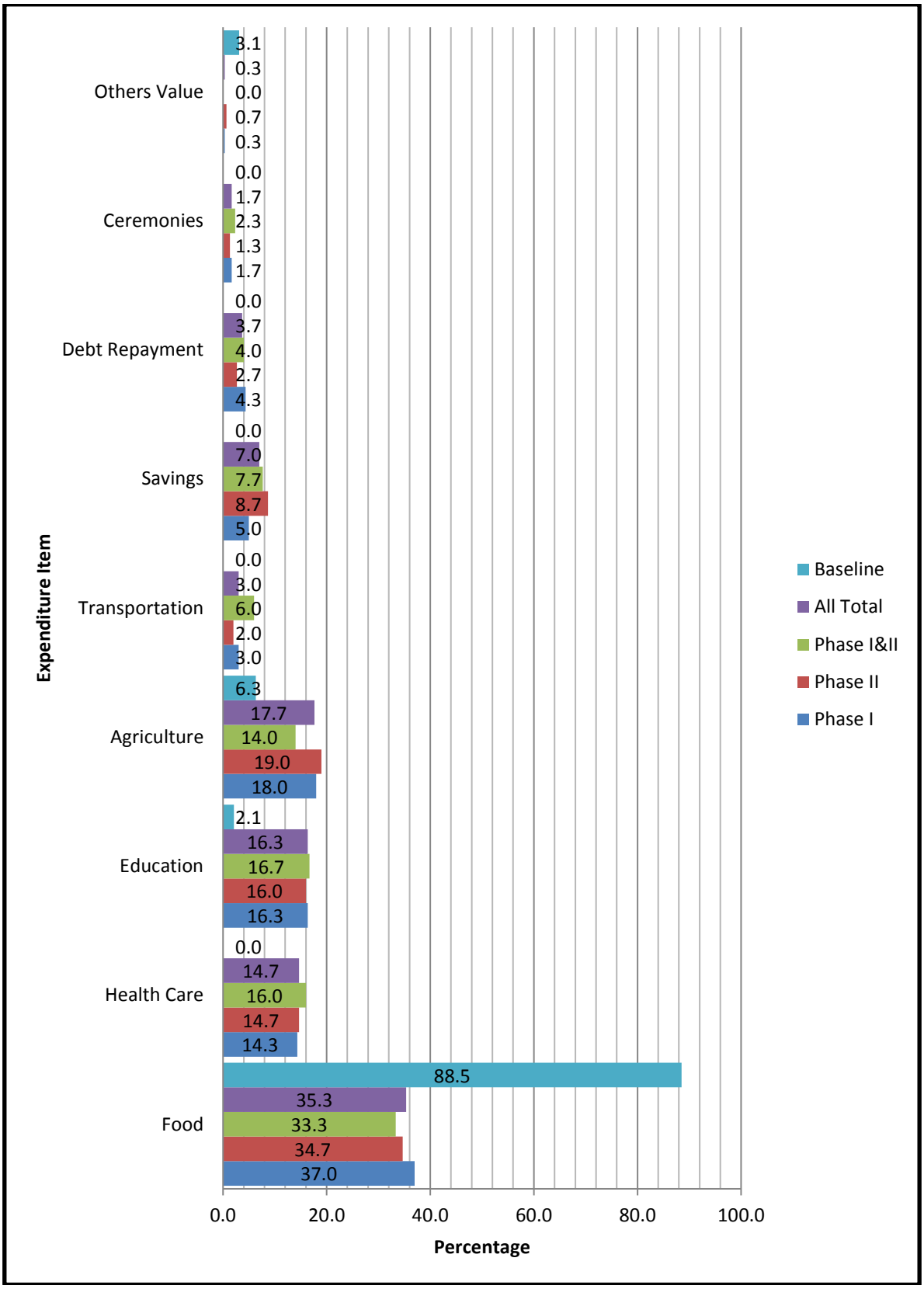

Figure 4: % of Average Normal Household Expenditure of Income

3.3 Outcomes of the Intervention

3.3.1 Household Hunger Scale (HHS)

The HHS was determined in this evaluation based on information provided by beneficiary households in response to questions on the extent to which household members, in the past four weeks, household members have no food to eat at all in the house, household members go to sleep at night hungry, and household members that go a whole day and night without eating anything at all because there was not enough food in the house.

Based on considerable changes resulting from household responses to above questions, Figure 5 presents evaluation findings on the hunger scores of households in the target chiefdoms of Port Loko district. These have been categorized into three hunger levels: Severe hunger, Moderate hunger, and little to no hunger among beneficiary households.

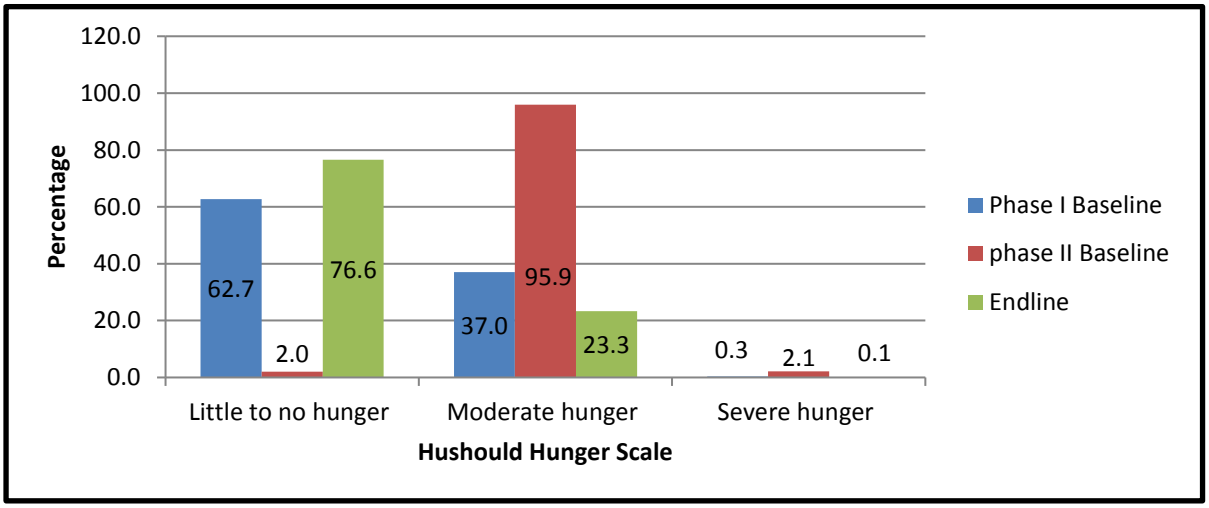

Figure 5: % of Household Hunger Scale

Overall, it can be seen from Figure 5 that almost no household now have severe hunger. Severe hunger reduces from 0.3% at baseline to 0.1% at end-line for phase I; and from 2.1% at baseline to 0.1% at end-line for phase II. In addition, moderate hunger among beneficiary households largely reduces from baseline values of 37% and 95.9% in phase I and phase II, respectively, down to an average of 23.3% at end-line. One possible reason for which the average end-line figure for moderate hunger remained a little bit higher (23.3%) is that it reflects an average of two phases (I & II), where phase I has a relatively higher end-line value (95.9%) for moderate hunger.

The reductions in both moderate and severe hunger may have led to the increase in the percentage of households with little to no hunger from baseline values of respectively 62.7% and 2.0% in phase I and phase II up to end-line value of 76.6%. Very limited or no proportion of beneficiary households remain to face severe hunger situations in both phases I and II. The marked reduction in proportion of beneficiaries in severe and moderate hunger, which was the basis of their selection at baseline, accompanied by the increased proportion of households with little to no hunger could be attributed to contributions from the EFSP intervention and this demonstrates value for money with regards the intervention.

Results presented in appendix A from Chi-Square tests of statistical significance, conducted on three HHS parameters revealed that there are statistically significant differences ($p<0.001$) between baseline and end-line values with respect to two of the HHS parameters as follows:

- The extent to which household members in the past four weeks have no food of any kind to eat at all because of lack of food in the house
- The extent to which household members in the past four weeks go to sleep at night hungry because there was not enough food in the house.

The above test results for the two parameters are considered statistically significant because the p-values are both less than the **significance value** (0.05) measured at 95% confidence level.

Notwithstanding, similar Chi-Square test of statistical significance conducted and result presented in appendix A on the third HHS parameter given below revealed that there is a difference between baseline and end-line values with respect to the parameter but not statistically significant ($p>0.05$).

- The extent to which household members in the past four weeks go a whole day and night without eating anything at all because there was not enough food in the house,

The statistically insignificant result may be accounted for by the large difference between the representative sample size dataset used at end-line and tested with the minimal phase II baseline sample size dataset.

3.3.2 Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)

The evaluation assessed household dietary diversity score as one of the key food security and nutrition indicators. The findings are presented below.

Table 2 presents findings relating to the average household dietary diversity scores (HDDS) of target beneficiaries in the two phases of intervention. It can be seen that at baseline, target households in phase I had a HDDS of 4.9 while those in phase II had a HDDS of 6.7. This means at baseline, phase II households had a better HDDS than those in phase I, even though both HDDS were unacceptable for a good nutritional status. This is in line with the CFSVA report (2015) on the average HDDS for Sierra Leone: “On aggregate, only 13.9% (561) of households surveyed had an acceptable HDDS”.

After the EFSP intervention, the table shows that the HDDS of all target households has improved to an average of 7.4 up from the baseline conditions of 4.9 for phase I and 6.7 for phase II. Across phases, the evaluation found that even though target households in phase II still have a higher HDDS (7.2) than households in phase I (6.8) after the EFSP intervention, phase I households were realized to have responded more to the intervention (a change of 1.9 in the average HDDS) than those in phase II (a change of 0.5 in the average HDDS). **Claims on these changes are ascertained by a one-tailed independent sample t-test performed and results presented below.**

The table also presents findings on those beneficiaries who were in both phases I and II category. It can be seen that for this category of beneficiaries, their HDDS was noted to be higher than those in phase I only, but slightly lower than those in phase II only.

Table 2: Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)

Baseline Values	Phase I Only			Phase II Only			Phase I & II			All Total		
	Female (n=213)	Male (n=101)	Total (n=314)	Female (n=186)	Male (n=71)	Total (n=257)	Female (n=96)	Male (n=27)	Total (n=123)	Female (n=495)	Male (n=199)	All Total (n=694)
P1: 4.9 P2: 6.7	**6.9**	**6.6**	**6.8**	**7.5**	**6.5**	**7.2**	**7.0**	**7.5**	**7.1**	**7.5**	**7.2**	**7.4**

P=Phase

In appendix A, result of a one-tailed Independent Sample T-test of statistical significance conducted on average household dietary diversity score revealed that the difference between baseline and end-line values with respect to average HDDS is statistically significant. This is because from the statistical test result, the one-tailed p-value (p=0.0385) is seen to be less than the significance level (0.05) measured at 95% confidence level.

In addition, Chi-Square tests conducted on individual food groups measured on a nominal scale, revealed that for several food groups (including; vegetables, fruits, meat, dietary products, fats & oil, eggs, condiments and lentils) there are statistically significant differences (p<0.001) between baseline and end-line values with respect to each of these individual food groups. See appendix A on results from statistical tests of significance. The test results are considered statistically significant for the said food groups because the p-values are all less than the significance level (0.05) measured at 95% confidence level.

3.3.3 Household Food Consumption Score (FCS)

One of the key indicators used to measure food security situation of vulnerable households is the Food Consumption Score (FCS). The FCS profile is measured on a three-dimensional scale; namely; poor, borderline and acceptable food consumption scores. Table 3b presents evaluation findings relating to the target household's food consumption scores. In the absence of a baseline value, the evaluation figures have been compared with the international benchmarks as given in the CFSVA report, 2015, and the WFP (2008) Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Technical Guidance Sheet. See Table 3a.

Table 3a: Food Consumption Score Benchmarks

Food Consumption Profile	*Food Consumption Score*
Poor	*1 – 21*
Borderline	*› 21.5 – 35*
Acceptable	*› 35*

Source: WFP's CFSVA Report 2015

In Table 3b, it can be seen that all the food consumption scores in the table fall in the acceptable food consumption profile (greater than 35). Again, noting the vulnerability levels of the target households (as depicted by the NaCSA selection criteria), the evaluation noted that the EFSP did a good job in improving the consumption scores of these vulnerable households from poor to acceptable scores. This evaluation claim is supported by the following lines form the CFSVA report:

"According to the food consumption groups (FCG) based on the above cut-off points, in Sierra Leone an average of 19.9% of households have poor food consumption, 33.5% have borderline food consumption and 46.5% have acceptable food consumption. This means that the majority of households do not have an acceptable food intake, and the food security situation of those households characterized by borderline food consumption might easily deteriorate in the event of a shock (CFSVA, 2015)"

The overall average FCS for the targeted households is 55.2 at end-line; 56.3 for female participant households and 52.5 for male participant households. Across phases, the result shows that the average FCS for phase I currently stands at 58.6 while that of phase II is 56.3. Though these changes in the average FCS seem to be good, the evaluation could not make conclusive judgment on whether the changes are statistically significant because there was no baseline data to compare with.

Table 3b: Household Food Consumption Score (FCS)

Baseline Value	Phase I Only			Phase II Only			Phase I & II			All Total		
	Female (n=213)	Male (n=101)	Total (n=314)	Female (n=186)	Male (n=71)	Total (n=257)	Female (n=96)	Male (n=27)	Total (n=123)	Female (n=495)	Male (n=199)	All Total (n=694)
N/A	**58.3**	**59.2**	**58.6**	**60.0**	**46.6**	**56.3**	**45.5**	**45.9**	**45.6**	**56.3**	**52.5**	**55.2**

3.3.4 Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI)

Table 4 presents evaluation findings relating to the coping strategies indices of target households after they have been exposed to the EFSP intervention. Since there is no baseline value to compare these indices with, the evaluation team has compared them with the national and district averages from the CFSVA report. According to the CFSVA report, the national rCSI is 12.0 and that for Port Loko district is 15.6 (higher than the national average) meaning Port Loko district is among the highest food insecure districts in Sierra Leone.

The current overall average index for all target households is 9.6 (down from 15.6), a 6-point change from the district average. This is a big achievement for the EFSP noting that the target households were the most vulnerable households in their communities based on the NaCSA selection criteria. Therefore, most might have even had higher coping strategies indices than the district average. Meaning a 6-point downward movement is worth commending. On the overall, the study noted that male beneficiary households have a slightly better rCSI (9.5) than the female beneficiary households (9.6).

Across phases, the table shows that households in phase I only have an average rCSI of 8.6, those in phase II only have an average rCSI of 9.8 while those in both phases I and II have an average rCSI of 11.7. When these averages are compared with the national rCSI of 12.0 and

that of Port Loko district where the intervention took place, they seem to be good. But here again, the evaluation could not make conclusive judgment on whether the changes are statistically significant because, like for FCS, there was no baseline data to compare with.

Table 4: Reduced Coping Strategies Index

Baseline Value	National Average (CFSVA 2015)	Port Loko District Average (CFSVA 2015)	Coping Strategy Index											
			Phase I Only			Phase II Only			Phase I & II			All Total		
			Female (n=213)	Male (n=101)	Total (n=314)	Female (n=186)	Male (n=71)	Total (n=257)	Female (n=96)	Male (n=27)	Total (n=123)	Female (n=495)	Male (n=199)	All Total (n=694)
N/A	**12.0**	**15.6**	**8.8**	**8.2**	**8.6**	**9.7**	**10.0**	**9.8**	**11.2**	**13.3**	**11.7**	**9.6**	**9.5**	**9.6**

3.3.5 Meal Frequency and Type

The evaluation also assessed the frequency with which beneficiary household meals are eaten by the various age groups, to further determine the depth of hunger among participating beneficiary households.

In Table 5, household members across the different age brackets (children and adults), on average, now eat at least two meals per day as opposed to almost one meal daily, especially for adults at baseline. This pattern of meal intake follows across the EFSP intervention phases. Findings in the table reveal that average meal intake among adults (18 years and above), especially in phase I, have significantly increased by more than 70% since baseline, and even now seem to be more than the intake for children (5-17 years) and those less than 5 years in that order.

Table 5: Meal Frequency by Age Group

	Baseline	End-line			
		Phase I	Phase II	Phases I&II	All Total
Children less than 5yrs	1.6	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.0
Children 5-17yrs	1.6	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.2
Adults 18yrs and above	1.4	2.4	2.1	2.2	2.3

- ***Percentage of Households with Adults and Children Consuming Two or more Meals per day***

Figure 6 presents a comprehensive meal intake for all household members, including adults and children, who consumed two or more meals per day. On average, beneficiaries were now found to be taking more meals per day as a result there is a significant increase in the proportion of households with two or more meal in-take from 50% at baseline to 92.8% at end-line. The findings are consistent across phases, with end-line values by more than 41% in each of the phases. These consistent changes were found to be attributed to contributions from the EFSP intervention, and hence demonstrate a significant positive impact of the EFSP on target beneficiaries.

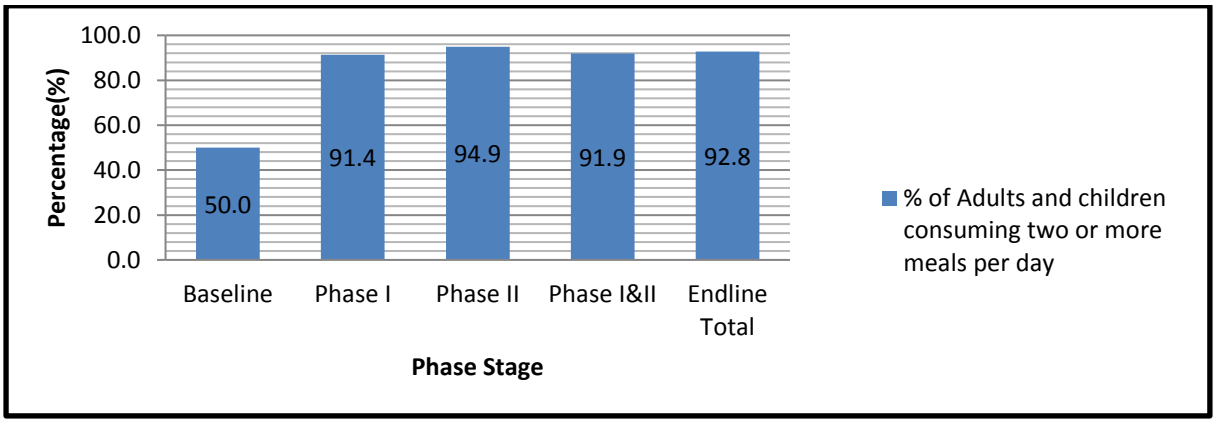

Figure 6: % of Households with Adults and Children Consuming Two or more Meals per day

To examine the diversity of meals taken in by beneficiary households, the evaluation further assessed the different classes of foods households had used to prepare their meals. As presented in Figure 7, it can be seen that all households had almost used all the different classes of food. Most of the fruits used include banana, coconut, orange, grape fruit, etc. Vegetables used include cassava leaves, pepper, potatoes leaves, onion, corn, okra, garden eggs (bitter ball), green (krain krain), etc. Carbohydrates used include rice, cassava, potato and yam. Protein includes fish, groundnut, beans, meat, etc. The findings support earlier findings on improved HDDS and FCS.

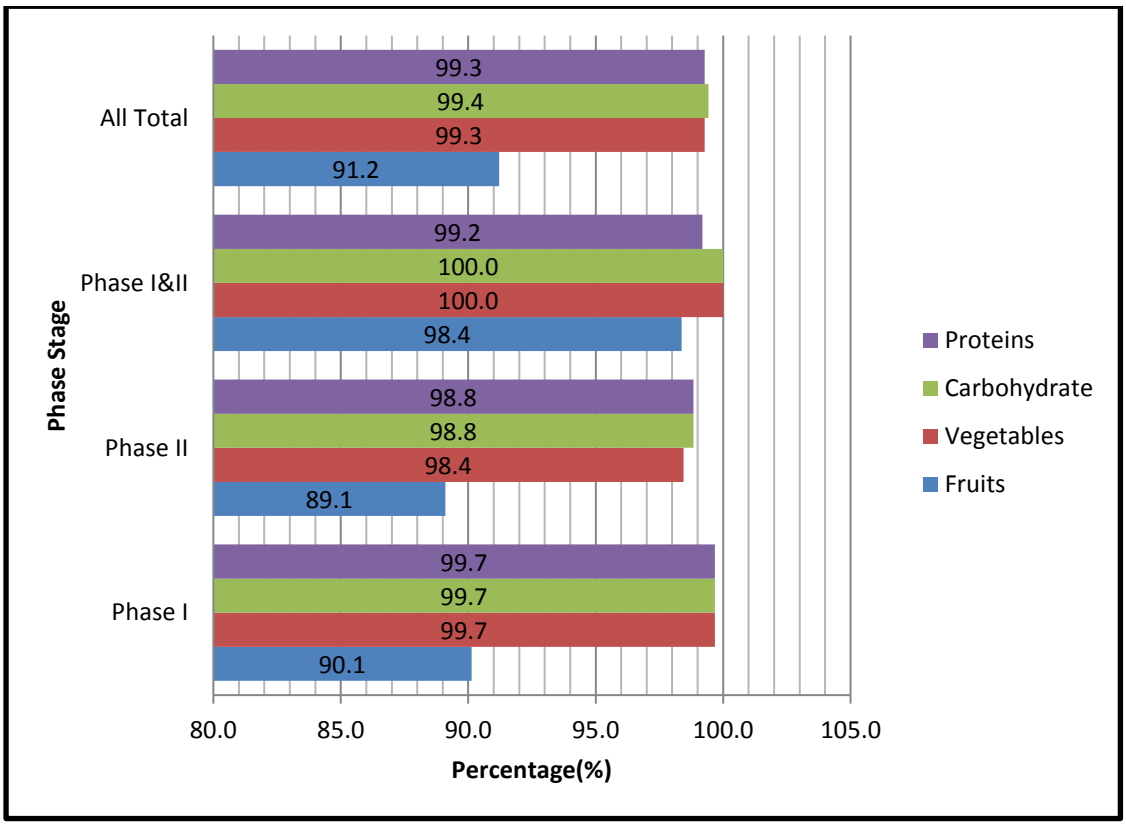

Figure 7: Type of Meals Prepared within the last 24hrs before the Survey (Multiple Responses)

3.3.6 The EFSP Cash Utilization by Beneficiaries

The EFSP intervention was meant to enable target beneficiaries to gain adequate access to food. As a result, beneficiaries were expected to spend more of the cash they received on food. This evaluation attempted to assess whether this factor played well or did not happen.

- ***Average EFSP Cash Spent on Food and Non-Food Items by Households***

Figure 8 shows that households in the intervention phases spent the greater part of the EFSP cash they received on food, though not necessarily as expected by the intervention design.

Overall, beneficiary households spent less than half (35.3%) of all the EFSP cash they received on food compared to that spent on food at baseline (94.2%). Similar expenditure pattern follows across phases. The above expenditure pattern reveals that as implementation progressed to end-line; the evaluation observed that there was a gradual reduction in the overall expenditure on food, with subsequent increments in the expenditures on agriculture (moving from 1.1% at baseline to 18.3% at end-line), education (increased from 1.6% at baseline to 16.3% at end-line), health care (moving from 0.2% at baseline to end-line at 14.3%), and savings (moving from 0.0% at baseline to end-line at 7.3%). Transportation and debt repayment were also found to have increased from 0.0% to 3.0% and 3.3% respectively. The reduction in EFSP cash expenditure on food provides evidence of the intervention contributions to beneficiary households' prioritization of diversified expenditure on non-food items, including; agriculture, education, health care, savings, and other relevant non-food items.

This significant increase in expenditure on agriculture is a key factor that have enhanced the own-production capacity of target households, thus contributing positively to their overall food and nutrition security situations as expressed by the HDDS, FCS and HHS.

The below expenditure patterns seem to be contrary to the expectations at baseline (where beneficiaries proposed their EFSP cash to be spent on food before cash receipt at 94.2%) and of the EFSP intervention that at the end of the intervention, more of the EFSP cash received by households would have been spent on food than non-food items. However, the observed decrease in expenditure on food as hypothesized by the EFSP design was found to be compensated for, by expenditures on education, health care, agriculture and savings. These diversified expenditure lines provide evidence of enhanced future sustainability of the intervention, since sustainability activities integrated into the EFSP intervention had focused on especially agriculture, health care through nutrition, and savings at local levels.

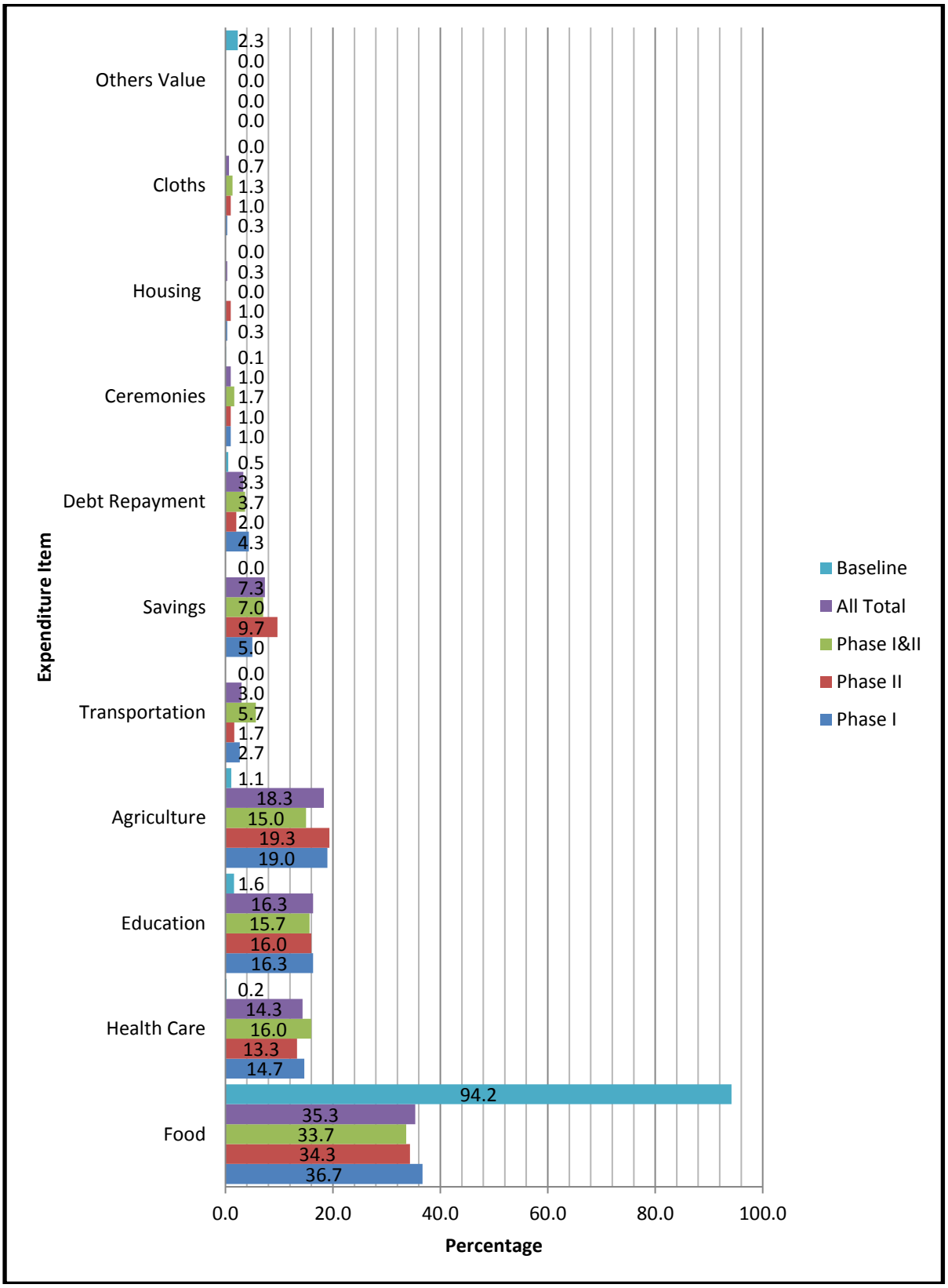

Figure 8: % of Average Household Expenditure Pattern of EFSP Cash

Types of Foods Purchased with EFSP Cash

As evidence to support the above results on fraction of EFSP cash expenditure on food items, Figure 9 presents findings relating to the different food items on which households spend the EFSP cash.

On average, 95.4% of beneficiary households spent part of their cash on fish 95.4%, on rice/cereals at 88.9% and palm oil at 75.4%. Others also significantly spent the cash on condiments (63.3%), roots and tubers (51.7%), sugar/honey (45.4%), and vegetable and vegetable oil at 31.4% each. The purchase pattern follows across phases. It can be seen that in all phases, most households spent the cash on fish, rice, palm oil, condiments, tubers/roots (cassava, potatoes etc.), and sugar/honey. Another key food they buy most are nuts (including beans, lentils, etc.) and vegetables and vegetable oil. Although meat, fruit, dietary products and eggs seem to attract less expenditure from households; the evaluation, however, found from FGDs with participants that these food items are mostly produced locally by the households themselves. However, the evaluation did not collect data on actual volume of own food production since data was not also available on these at baseline.

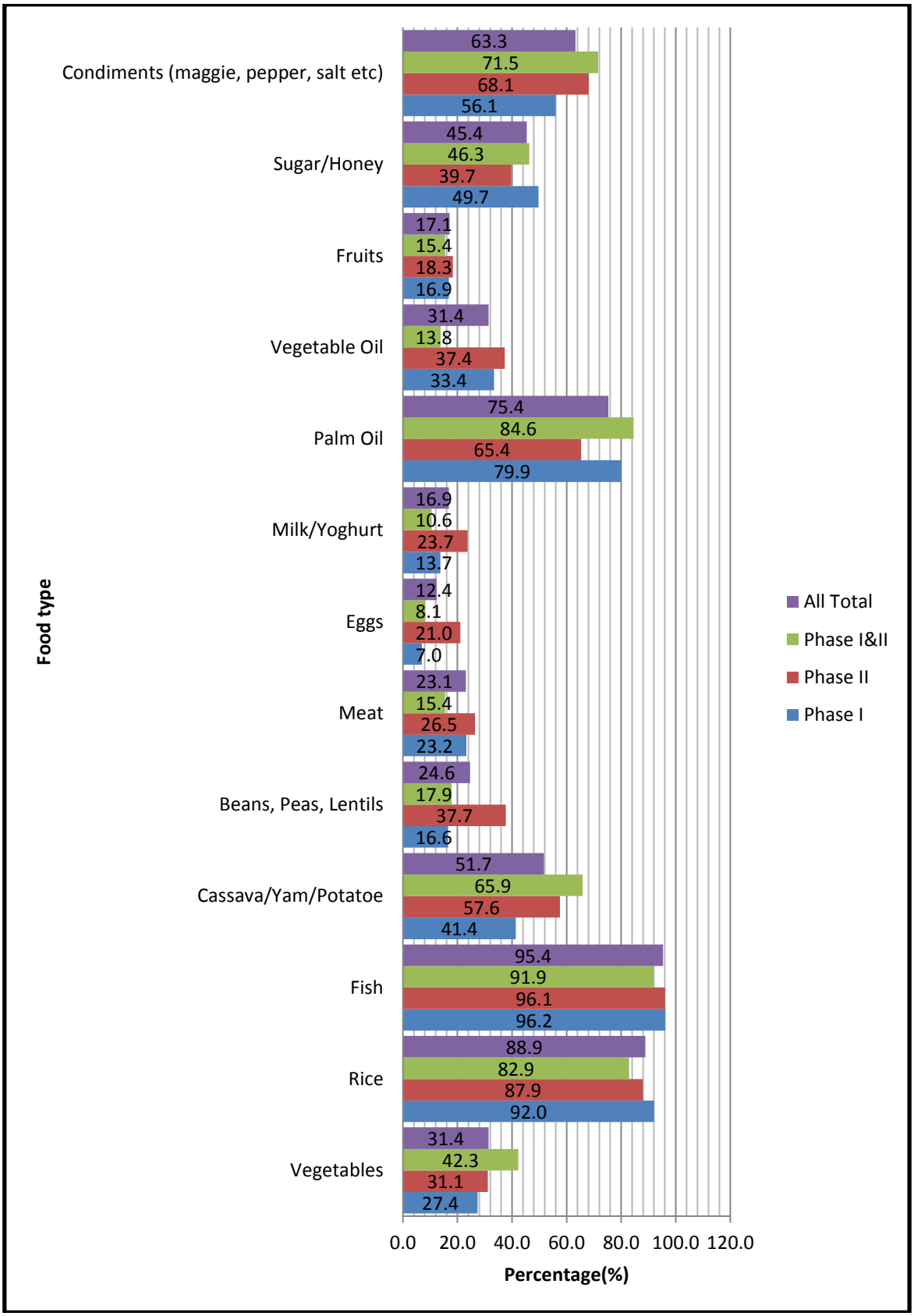

Figure 9: Types of Foods Purchased with EFSP Cash (Multiple Responses)

3.3.7 The EFSA Capacity Building Training and Beneficiary Practices

Capacity Building Training to Enhance Good Agronomic Practices

Table 9 of appendix C presents evaluation findings relating to the fraction of target beneficiaries who received training in agronomic practices and those who are currently putting them into practice during their normal agricultural activities. The table shows that, 66.6% of all target beneficiaries received agronomic trainings, with almost equal proportion of males (67.3%) and females (66.3). Across phases, it was found that more beneficiaries in phase II (79.0%) received the training than those in phase I (51.3%). Also 79.7% of beneficiaries that received support in both phases I and II received the agronomic training. The table further shows that more females (80.1%) in phase II received the training than males (76.1%), while in phase I, the reverse was observed with more males (54.5%) receiving the trainings than females (49.8%). From KIIs with program staff, the training was only meant for those who received seed vouchers. Therefore, the 33.3% of those who reported not to have received trainings are those participants who were included in the survey that were not part of the seed voucher components of the project.

This could mean that the agronomic training was either not meant for all beneficiaries or quite a few beneficiaries (33.4%) missed out on the trainings.

On average, 91.3% of all target beneficiaries who received the training reported that they are currently applying the training knowledge to their individual farming activities. This is a huge impact point for the EFSP intervention. To confirm the finding, the evaluation asked the beneficiaries to explain the current agronomic practices they are applying. It was found that on average, most of them are practicing brushing (83.8%), weeding (82.5%) and clearing (72.1%). Additionally, slightly over half of them (52.4%) are practicing leveling or smoothing of farm lands while 40.3% are practicing padding or breaking of soil clods. In this evaluation however, none of the beneficiary respondents mentioned burning of farm land. This was a good finding noting that most farmers in Sierra Leone simply burn their farms to save time and cost associated with clearing. This indicates that the target beneficiaries understand that burning is a bad agronomic practice as they were taught.

Across phases, the analysis focused on padding and leveling because bruising, clearing and weeding are traditional agronomic practices most farmers in Sierra Leone engage in, but most hardly do the former two practices. It was found that households in phases I and II are practicing padding almost on equal basis 37.3% and 36.9% respectively. Regarding leveling, a relatively big difference was noted between households in phase II who are applying this method (51.2%) and those in phase I who are applying the same method (45.3%). However, relatively higher fractions (52.0%) and (66.3%) of those households who received support in both phases I and II tend to be applying the padding and leveling agronomic practices than those households that received support in only phases I and II.

In addition to training delivered on agronomic practices, the EFSP beneficiaries were given money to buy seeds and to pay for labor to put the agronomic knowledge gained into practice by doing farming. The study tried to know if these efforts were made and have had any impact on beneficiary ability to do backyard gardening. Table 10 of appendix C presents findings relating to this. In the absence of baseline figures to compare with, findings show significant proportion of respondents who said they have backyard gardens. Overall, 63% of respondent

beneficiaries reported having backyard gardening. This finding is consistent across phases, with more of such found in phase I at almost 70%.

The evaluation went further to observe beneficiary household backyard gardens. It was noted that most of the households had planted and were consuming Potato Leaves (87.3%), Pepper (80.5%), Garden Egg (70%), Okra (68.8%), and Cassava Leaves (62.2%). Others include but not limited to Bitter Ball (Jakato), Tomato, Onion, Krain Krain, Green and Corn. This finding confirms why the household expenditure on vegetables was low; since beneficiary households get most of it from own-production. This was found to be a good achievement and impact point for the EFSP intervention; especially when linked with the agricultural food security training, particular on diet diversification.

3.3.8 Capacity Building Support to Smallholder Farmers

All findings presented in this section were generated from focus group discussions (FGDs) conducted with smallholder farmers in randomly selected communities across the intervention chiefdoms in the EFSP target district. The discussions have been put into three categories and presented below:

- ***Increased Knowledge of Post-Harvest Management Best Practices***

In focus group discussions with randomly selected members of the smallholder farmers groups from various target communities across the district, the evaluation found that most of them were trained in basic post-harvest management, with strong focus on rice. However, some topics were also covered under production. The trainings were facilitated by MAFFS Port Loko district with support from World Vision, using both class-based and field-based teachings. According to participants, topics covered include:

Production

- How to detect a non-viable seed
- How to nurse seeds for IVS
- How and when to transplant seedling
- The advantages of Mulching of soil and weeding
- How to apply fertilizers

Post-harvest Management

- How to hold rice when harvesting
- How and where to thresh harvested rice
- Use of drying floor to dry the harvested rice
- Good storage practices (including bagging and warehousing)

Even though the focus was on post-harvest management, MAFFS brought in some level of production topics to broaden the farmers' understanding along the lower end of the rice production chain (production – post-harvest).

The evaluation found that the trainings were done effectively and that participants were able to demonstrate good understanding, by clearly explaining (in their own languages) what most of the topics meant.

"During training, we were taught how to prepare our farmland, how to plant our rice and how to harvest it to minimize waste. We were also taught how to store rice for the next planting season" [FGD Participants, Masembeh Community, Koya Chiefdom]

"We learnt how to hold the crop when harvesting. We also learnt how to store or preserve our produce after harvest. At first, we just kept our produce anywhere after harvesting and because of that, our seeds and other crops got spoilt" [FGD Participants, Furawa Community, Maforki Chiefdom]

"During the practical session, we were told that mulching is necessary because it adds manure to the soil while weeding allows good air circulation which leads to good yield" [FGD Participants, Rothoma Community, Masimera Chiefdom]

In most of the FGDs, participants were able to clearly explain that using a dry floor to dry rice leads to effective drying through high moisture content reduction. According to them, the trainers told them that will ensure long storage of seed in good condition for the next planting season. They also explained that good warehousing ensures that rats and other animals don't damage/infest the seeds thus allowing it to stay in good conditions for long period of time.

With these findings, the evaluation concludes that the rice production knowledge of smallholder participant farmers, especially in post-harvest management, has been increased through the trainings conducted by World Vision and facilitated by MAFFS Port Loko district.

- ***Increased Access to Quality Seed***

Findings from FGDs with participating smallholder farmers revealed that all of them (100%) received seed vouchers which they redeemed at specific vendor stores. The evaluation noted that participants received seeds for both IVS and upland rice cultivation based on farmers' choices. According to them, the voucher-redeemed seeds were of high quality because of the yield they noticed after planting the seeds. For those who have not yet harvested, they reported that they are expecting bumper harvest this season because of the way they are seeing the rice in the swamps. One good quality they reported about the seed is that it has high germination rate.

"The seeds have early yield (3 – 4 months). It has short duration as compare to the old seeds that we were having before. Seed germination is also very good especially in the swamps" [FGD Participants, Roktenti Community, Sanda Magbolonthor Chiefdom]

The seeds are good and clean. They germinated well, grow well and gave us high yield. [FGD Participants, Robis Community, Buya Romende Chiefdom]

"The seeds were clean and viable. Easy to germinate [FGD Participants, Malal Community, Sanda Magbolonthor Chiefdom]

Regarding what steps the farmers have put in place to ensure the seeds last longer with them, most reported that they have used part of the ESFP cash to build improved stores where they have or will be keeping the seeds for the next planting season, according to how they were taught on good warehousing practices and seed storage. This was noted to be a good sustainability impact point of the EFSP intervention.

- ***Increase / Restore Smallholder Farmers Agricultural Production***

In order to assess the overall impact of the training on the participants, the evaluation probed to know whether they are applying the training knowledge and how has it affected the volume of their rice production. Most of them reported that they applied the training knowledge in the recent planting season for which they have just harvested and/or waiting to harvest. Specifically, most reported that they used the seed testing methodology to test the viability of seeds. For those who cultivated IVS, almost all reported that they nursed close to the swamps to avoid travelling long distances to transplant. The only key thing that they did not report accurately, was the maximum duration the rice should take in the nursery before they should transplant. However, some reported that the rice should not stay long in the nursery, it should be transplanted, indicating that they have gained some knowledge about the danger of leaving the seedlings for too long in a nursery (a common practice they were engaged in before the training, according to FGD findings). For those who have already harvested, almost all of them reported that they received increased production levels this season compared to most other seasons before they received the ESFP high quality seeds. Even those who have not yet harvested reported that they are expecting high yields this season.

"The way we saw the germination process, it was very encouraging. We are hoping to have good harvest this season, because the way the rice is growing is very good. We give all the thanks and praises to World Vision and we appreciate their work greatly" [FGD Participants, Furawa Community, Maforki Chiefdom]

"The seeds we received from world vision was really good. It helped us to actually obtain high yield in our production this year" [FGD Participants, Makin Community, Lokomasama Chiefdom]

"Since we received the farming training, and we have started practicing it, we have noticed an increase in productivity levels of our rice production [*FGD Participants, Santigna Community, Kaffu Bullom Chiefdom]*

3.4 Evidence of Impacts of the EFSP Intervention

- ***Change in Agricultural Assets Owned by Households***

Table 11 of appendix C presents evaluation findings relating to changes in beneficiaries' agricultural assets (farm land and farm tools) through the utilization of EFSP cash. It was found that almost all the target beneficiaries (95.1%) were doing farming before the EVD and before they started receiving the EFSP cash support. In phase I, 95.2% of target beneficiaries were farmers and in phase II, 93.4% were farmers before they started receiving the EFSP support. The evaluation tried to assess the impact of the EFSP on the size of farm land beneficiaries currently cultivate. The study revealed that out of those target beneficiaries who said they were cultivating before the EFSP support, 93.5% of them reported that there has been some increase in the size of farm land that they currently cultivate as a result of the EFSP cash support. Across phases, almost equal fraction of beneficiaries in both phases reported increases in the size of farm lands they now cultivate: 92.3% for phase I and 92.9% for phase II.

The study further explored whether the EFSP support has prompted those beneficiaries who were not cultivating any farm land before (4.9%), to also start cultivating some piece of land. It was found that 38.2% of them have started doing some cultivation while 61.8% have still not started any form of cultivation. This non-cultivating fraction might probably belong to the petty trading sector of the communities, as this was noted to be the second largest livelihood strategy in all the communities surveyed. Across phases, it was noted that the non-cultivating fraction was higher for phase II households (82.4%) than phase I households (46.7%).

The study further looked at how the cash support has helped the beneficiary households in acquiring new farm tools and if so which type of farm tools they have acquired. Table 11 of appendix C presents the findings, which shows that 68.3% reported that they have used the cash support to purchase new farm tools. Across phases, 66.6% of beneficiaries in phase I and 64.2% in phase II reported having used the EFSP cash to buy new farm tools. Regarding the type of tools bought, the study found that most of them have bought cutlasses (92.6%), large hoes (89.9%) and small hoes (79.5%). Other key farm tools bought with ESFP cash include shovels (37.6%) and sickles (30.8%). Overall, this was an impressive impact of the EFSP support on the farming capability of target beneficiaries.

- ***Change in Financial Capacity***

Findings relating to the perceived change in financial capacity of beneficiary respondents and their respective households, especially relating to their savings and loan repayment abilities using the EFSP cash are presented in Table 11 of appendix C. It can be seen that over 65% of all target beneficiaries reported that they now have some form of saving schemes. Across phases, 52.2% and 75.1% of households respectively in phase I and phase II reported that they have savings schemes of different types. Drawing from the baseline criteria of selecting these beneficiaries (the most vulnerable in their households), and consistent with findings on EFSP cash utilization for which the average household proportion of EFSP cash expenditure on savings moved from 0.0% at baseline to 7.3% at end-line (and particularly to 9.7% at end-line for phase II) provides evidence of contributions from EFSP cash support to enhance beneficiaries to join various savings schemes.

In the same Table 11 of appendix C the different types of savings schemes that beneficiaries have joined almost fall into some three savings schemes types: World Vision introduced the 'Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC)' at 57.1%, 'the traditional 'Osusu' at 46.4%, and the 'Self-Help Group Savings' at 14.7%. Findings are consistent across phases, but with more beneficiary households for Osusu in phase II at 56.5%. In addition, beneficiary households who happened to have participated in both phases I&II are more into the SILC at 68.0% compared to those in only phase I at 59.1% and to those in phase II only at 49.7%. These savings schemes were noted to have been introduced/developed to mainly support agricultural activities of beneficiary households.

Table 11 of appendix C also presented findings on beneficiary perceptions about whether the EFSP intervention helped increase their savings ability or not. It can be seen that of those beneficiaries with savings schemes, over 91% of all sample beneficiaries reported that the EFSP has indeed increased their current savings ability. Across phases, more households (97%) who happened to have participated in both phases I&II were found to have reported on now having increased their savings ability, while in phase I only and phase II only, 91.5% and

89.6% of households respectively reported to have also increased their savings ability. Findings indicate that the EFSP participating households seem to now have somewhat enough food to eat and hence can save some little funds for later use. This means, the complimentary package of the EFSP intervention have contributed to increased recovery speed of beneficiary households to sustain their livelihoods for now and in the future.

3.5 Appropriateness of EFSP Intervention Design

The design of any development intervention is critical in determining how successful the intervention would be. It dictates how the different components and planned activities are interconnected and how they should be rolled out in order to achieve the intended objectives. The evaluation therefore assessed how appropriate the EFSP design was in achieving the desired results.

The evaluation found that the EFSP was designed to be a quick-fix intervention, using conditional seed vouchers and unconditional cash transfer to accelerate the recovery of the most vulnerable households that were affected by EVD in the Port Loko district – this was the overall objective of the intervention. The strategy was to ensure that target households have continued access to nutritious and diversified food, especially throughout the lean season. The evaluation noted that this design strategy was appropriate in achieving the intended result of speedy recovery from the shock of EVD.

Firstly, cash transfer projects are cost effective to implement since they do not require too many program activities and the transport and logistics costs associated with other alternatives are eliminated. Secondly, cash transfer (especially when made unconditional) allows beneficiaries a great deal of latitude to choose what to buy. This brings about some sense of dignity and control over household expenditure, which is a basic duty of a household head.

Secondly, before the project design was finalized, a needs assessment was done to get first-hand information from randomly selected communities from Port Loko district. This gave adequate information on the EVD situation on ground and how vulnerability is distributed across space. This made targeting a lot easier.

Thirdly, the project design incorporated a gender aspect by pre-fixing a 50% quota for female beneficiaries. This ensured from the onset that equal participation of women was assured. This design strategy is in line with the popular view that when food assistance is directly put into the hands of women, the household stand to benefit more.

Furthermore, the evaluation noted that the project design allowed for working with partners who have specialties in various critical areas. For instance, SPLASH has specialty in money transfers (both electronic and manual), NaCSA has a vast experience in vulnerability issues in Sierra Leone etc. This was a good design strategy that brought about effectiveness in implementation.

Finally, the design took into consideration complementary activities that would help speed up the recovery of the target beneficiaries. They were introduced to VSLA as a means of improving their access to small scale loans and they were trained in agronomic practices, including post-harvest management. These design strategies were built-in sustainability measures.

The only weakness noted in the project design was that seed redemption activity came before the agronomic best-practice training. Though the evaluation did not probe to know whether this action led to any specific negative impact on farmers, it is our opinion that the reverse would have been more appropriate.

3.6 Intervention Relevance and Strategic Fit

- ***Relevance***

This section of the report throws light on the perception of the target beneficiaries themselves about how relevant they think the EFSP support has been to them in helping them recover from the shock of EVD. It also presents findings on how the EFSP strategically aligns with the government of Sierra Leone Ebola Recovery Plan.

Table 12 of appendix C presents findings relating to beneficiaries' perception about the relevance of the EFSP to them. It can be seen that almost all (99.6%) beneficiaries accepted that the ESFP has been very helpful to their households. This simply implies that the intervention was very relevant to all those it targeted. However, regarding their perception about how it helped them to reduce their various coping strategies in the absence of enough food, the table shows that 66.6% are in agreement that indeed the intervention helped them to reduce their coping strategies. This leaves a reasonable fraction of beneficiaries (33.4%) who thinks the intervention, though it helped them generally, but did not help them much in reducing their coping strategies. Across phases, it can be seen that more beneficiaries (50.6%) in phase II hold that perception than those in phase I (22.3%). Along gender lines, it is more of male beneficiary households (64.8%) that holds the perception that the EFSP did not change their coping strategies situation than their female counterparts (45.2%). The key reason advanced for this was that the cash transferred was not quite enough to take care of the food needs of their households for three months because of their family sizes. As a result, those households may have still be engaging in their initial coping strategies.

However, when they were asked about how they would have coped with their daily lives, if the EFSP support was not given to them, the evaluation found that a significant fraction (81.8%) of them said they would have had extreme difficulty in coping with their daily lives while 17.9% of them said they would have coped but with difficulties. The interesting finding is that 96.1% of beneficiary households in phase II mentioned extreme difficulty in coping without the EFSP intervention. This finding therefore underscores the relevance of the ESFP to the target beneficiaries.

Table 12 of appendix C presents findings relating to the adequacy of the cash amount transferred to beneficiaries. The evaluation found that 70.2% of all beneficiaries reported that the cash amount they have been receiving was adequate to cover their household's food needs for three months (with 66.7% of female household beneficiaries reporting this and 78.9% of male households reporting same). This leaves a reasonable fraction of the beneficiaries (29.8%) who thinks the cash amount was not adequate for their food needs for three months. Regarding the opinion of cash inadequacy, the evaluation found that it was more of the female beneficiary households (33.3%) who reported that the cash was not adequate for a three months food needs. Across phases, more households in phase I (30.9%) reported the cash inadequacy than those in phase II (26.8%). In fact, more beneficiaries (33.3%) who received support both in phases I and II reported cash inadequacy.

The evaluation further explored to understand why they think the cash amount was not adequate to address all their food needs for a three months period. It was found that only two key reasons surfaced: high food prices, reported by 65.2% of all households and large family size, reported by 34.3%. Across phases, 60.8% and 38.1% of households in phase I reported high food prices and large family size as the main reason for cash inadequacy while in phase II, 68.1% and 31.9% of households, respectively reported the same reasons. This means even though World Vision adjusted the cash amount due to inflation, 29.8% of households still felt the weight of the rapid inflation in the country experienced just after the EVD.

- ***Strategic Fit***

After the short but difficult battle with EVD, the government of Sierra Leone and its development partners put every effort to quickly recover from the damage caused by the virus, both in social and economic terms. The government therefore drew up a robust plan titled The National Ebola Recovery Plan that was to be implemented from 2015 to 2017. One of the key objectives of the plan was "Managing and Mitigating Immediate Ebola Impact in the Social Sector, Gender, Children, and Social Protection". To achieve this objective within the required time frame, the government devised strategies, among which were "Provide livelihood support for EVD affected children, women, orphans, widows, widowers, and the elderly and disabled" and "Provide cash transfers to poor households and vulnerable groups, therefore benefitting local economies". The evaluation found that the objectives of the EFSP intervention was in alignment with the above objectives and strategies, thus making the EFSP directly contribute to the Government's Ebola Recovery Plan.

3.7 Effectiveness of the EFSP Implementation

3.7.1 Coverage of the EFSP Intervention

Port Loko district has eleven chiefdoms. Seven of the chiefdoms were covered representing 64% of all chiefdoms. According to the CFSVA report 2015, in Port Loko district, 61.4% of the population are food insecure (17.1% being severely food insecure and 44.3% moderately food insecure). The EFSP targeted the severely food insecure households within the target communities. The project was able to reach 10,784 households. Taking the average household size of 5.9 according to the 2015 CFSVA report for Port Loko districts, the project was then able to reach approximately 63,626 beneficiaries. The evaluation noted that the geo-targeting was very accurate and allowed the EFSP to concentrate its resources available to the most vulnerable communities in the district. In addition, the NaCSA poverty-grading tool was correctly used to select the final beneficiaries. This was a good coverage!

3.7.2 Cash Transfer Processes

Key aspects of the processes involved in the EFSP cash transfer were also assessed in this evaluation. Among which due considerations were given to distance covered by beneficiaries to pay point, waiting time to receive cash at pay point, and beneficiary safety during and after receipt of cash. Presented below are discussions on these aspects.

Distance Covered

Figure 10 presents findings relating to the issues of distance covered by beneficiaries in accessing the cash pay points. The evaluation found that most beneficiaries access the pay points after walking a distance of less than one mile or between one to two miles to collect cash. At end-line, an average of over half (73%) of the beneficiary respondents reported this, as against 17.9% of those who reported walking to cover distance between a little above two to three miles. Few beneficiaries (8.5%) walk above 3 miles to access their pay point. The trend seems to be consistent across phases. Over 72% of households in phase I and about 76.7% in phase II walk less than one mile or between one to two miles to access their pay points.

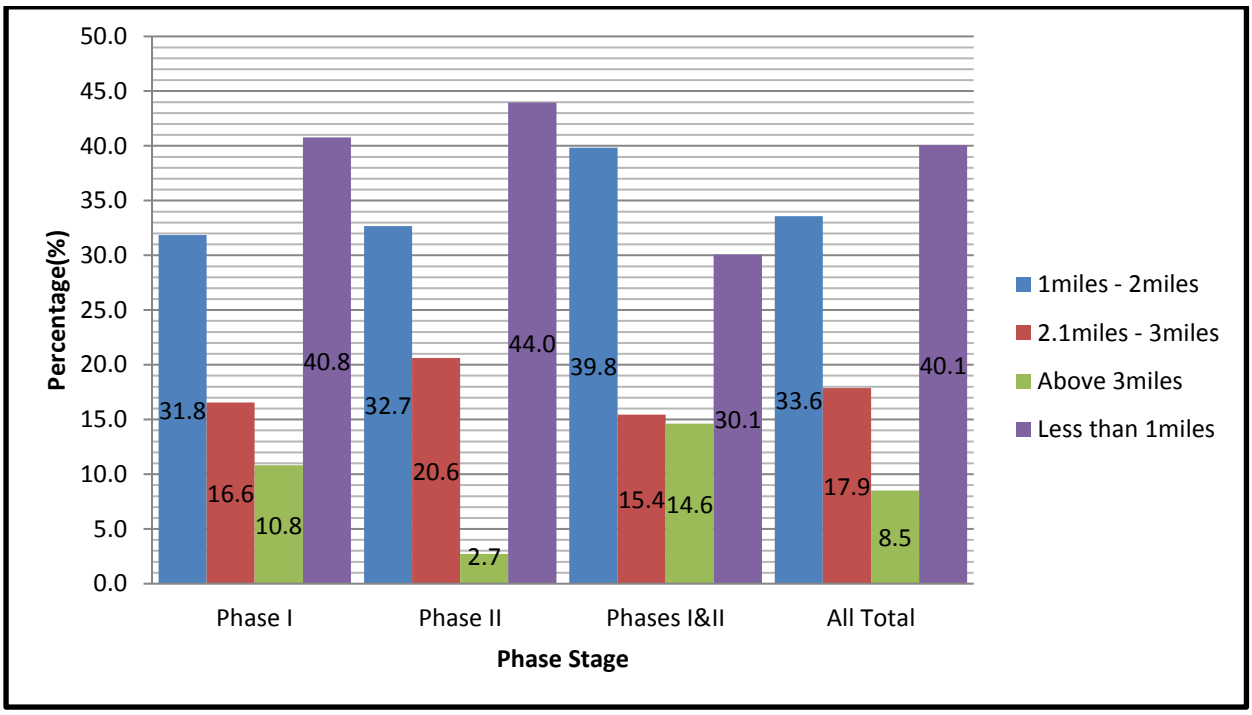

Figure 10: % of Category of Distance covered by Beneficiary to Pay Point

Waiting Time

With respect to time taken by beneficiaries to receive their cash, Figure 11 adapted from Table 13 of appendix C presents findings on this. As noted, the evaluation found that an average total of 76.9% of household beneficiaries spend between 30 minutes and 2 hours, compare to 18% of those who reported spending less than 30minutes to receive their cash at pay points. Very few beneficiaries reported receiving their cash only after waiting for more than two hours at pay points. The waiting pattern is similar across phases. However, it can be seen that the proportion of beneficiaries who reported waiting for one to above two hours was found to have reduced from a total of 50.4% in phase I to a total of 37.7% in phase II. The reduction in this time between the two phases resulted into an increase in the proportion of respondents who reported waiting for between less than 30 minutes to 59 minutes at 62.3% as against 49.7% for the same time in phase one. A positive significant difference was observed with regards to the reduction in waiting time for cash receipt by beneficiaries between phase I and phase II. This improvement in reducing waiting time for phase II beneficiaries would have been visible

because of the continuous routine and progress monitoring recommendations from the EFSP phase I implementation.

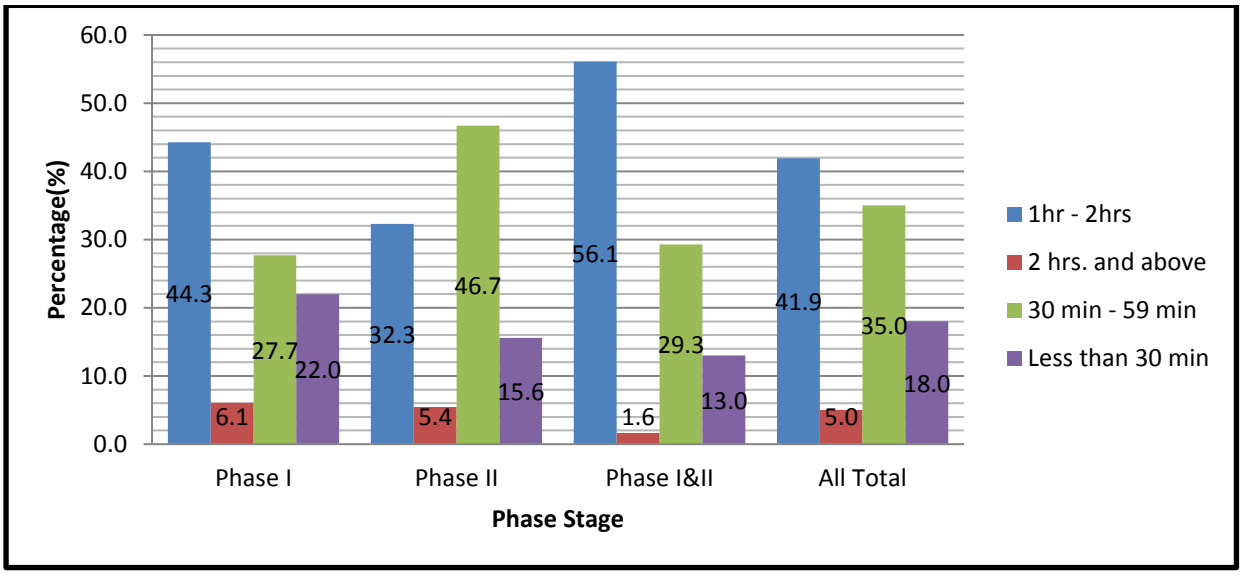

Figure 11: % of Respondents Waiting Time to receive Cash

Overall, the evaluation found that most beneficiaries don't have problem with the waiting time. The evidence can be seen from their perception on satisfaction level with the waiting time in Table 13 of appendix C; where on average and across phases, almost all beneficiary respondents reported that they were satisfied with the waiting time for them to receive cash at the pay points.

- ***Beneficiary Safety during and after Cash Distribution***

Table 13 of appendix C shows that beneficiaries feel safe both during accessing the cash at 99.3% and after they have received and left the distribution centers at 97.3%. The findings are consistent across phases.

3.8 Efficiency of the EFSP Implementation

This section of the report presents findings regarding how wisely World Vision utilized all the resources mobilized for the implementation of the EFSP.

Resources for the intervention fell into three categories, namely; Financial, Material and Human. The sole donor for the EFSP is USAID through its Food for Peace (FFP) program. They supplied all the financial resources utilized on the EFSP. Finance utilization was in two forms: finance in the form of cash transferred to beneficiaries and finance used in the day-to-day operation of all implementing actors (including staff salaries, office running etc.). The evaluation found that both forms of finances were adequate for project implementation. There was no evidence of cash transfers being postponed because of lack of cash. In fact, cash transfer duration for indirect EVD households in phase I was extended from a planned four months to ten months because the implementation team noticed that the beneficiaries were still facing aftershocks due to EVD. The cost for this extension came from exchange rate gains due to inflation. There were no evidences of delayed payment of salaries because funds were not available or delayed procurement of material resources necessary for project

implementation. Two instances were noted where activities were implemented outside planned time. One is the cost extension of phase I, highlighted above and the delay experienced with the consultant who worked on the poverty maps used for geographical targeting. This led to delay in completing beneficiary targeting and hence a delay in the first cash transfers. However, this did not attract any additional cost.

The evaluation also assessed alternatives that the EFSP could have used to deliver the same results. It was found that the only alternative available to World Vision would have been to use Airtel Money Transfer Services. However, the limitation there was that Airtel only does electronic money transfers. This was not feasible because most of the communities targeted are remote and do not have effective mobile network coverage. Additionally, most of the target beneficiaries do not have mobile phones, which means World Vision would have had the cause to either buy mobile phones for all beneficiaries or at least sim cards. This would have attracted additional costs. Therefore, the evaluation noted that SPLASH Mobile Money Ltd was a better option to use.

Material resources were also noted to be adequate. Dedicated equipment for the EFSP, including photocopiers, printers and computers, was provided to staff. At the field office in Port Loko, the evaluation also noted that there were dedicated Honda bikes for supporting cash distributions and monitoring purposes and android mobile phones used by field staff for PDMs and market price monitoring. As at evaluation time, all these material resources were in good working order. The evaluation did not look at assets register to determine whether there was one for the project and that the assets were correctly recorded. This was due to limited time allocated to field data collection.

Human resources utilized on the EFSP was also noted to be adequate. There were dedicated staff assigned to specific target chiefdoms with a cluster of target communities to supervise. In KIIs with some of the project staff, the evaluation noted that they have no perception that they were overstretched. All of them were observed to be okay with the areas they covered, amidst the normal operational challenges that most often come along with field operations – bad road networks, working overtime sometimes, limited mobile network coverage etc.

The evaluation therefore concludes that all the resources mobilized in the EFSP implementation were utilized wisely in the achievement of intended results and that the best alternative for cash transfer to beneficiaries was used.

3.9 Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning

Monitoring of the EFSP intervention was noted to have been carried out both internally and externally.

At the internal level, the project was monitored by field staff based in Port Loko district. They provided the first line of monitoring, collecting routine monitoring data on market prices of basic food stuffs, and supporting onsite monitoring of cash distributions. These staff also supported the quarterly Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercises conducted after every cash distribution. The evaluation noted that field-staff-monitoring was intermittently complemented by the M&E team from country office in Freetown.

Externally, the project was monitored by several actors. At community level, Community Help Desks (CHD) were formed at cluster level to receive complaints about the cash distributions and utilization. Community leaders were informed about the functions of the CHD and local volunteers identified and trained to manage the CHDs. The evaluation also noted that joint partner monitoring was intermittently conducted, especially on cash distribution days to observe the process and provide guidance. Toll free telephone hot lines were also shared in the various target communities for direct call-in to report any malpractice or an outstanding success regarding the EFSP implementation. This was to increase community monitoring of project activities. However, the evaluation noted that the hotlines were seldom used, even though it was toll free. Since people most times call to complain, a limited use might mean little reasons to complain, because the project was implemented in a transparent manner or because most of the beneficiaries don't have access to phones which was one reason why the cash transfer modality was changed from electronic to manual.

Table 14 of appendix C presents findings on the awareness level of beneficiaries about the grievance redress structures put in place by World Vision. It can be seen that 68.7% of beneficiaries were aware about a place where they could go and complaint in case they feel aggrieved. This means a reasonable fraction (31.3%) of the beneficiaries were not aware about any complaint system. Across phases, it was found that more beneficiaries in phase I (77.4%) knew about the complaint mechanisms than those of phase II (55.3%).

The evaluation went further to assess the knowledge of beneficiaries about the specific places they think they could report a complaint. It was found that most of them are aware of the telephone hotlines for complaints (75.9%), but ironically earlier finding suggests that they used it seldom. The other complaint bodies they reported awareness about include town chiefs (57.2%), Anti-Corruption Commission (56.6%) and World Vision Project Staff (51.2%).
The evaluation found that information from all the monitoring components were directed to the appropriate bodies designated to handle it. For instance, data from market price monitoring and PDMs were collated and analyzed by World Vision and findings shared with all stakeholders. Complaints from the hotlines were directed to the authorities the complaint is about. If they complained a SPLASH staff, the complaint was channeled to the management and the M&E unit followed up for a proper resolution. The same goes for World Vision staff. Feedbacks were communicated to the complainant. If the complainant was satisfied with the way the issue was addressed then the file relating that matter was closed. On the other hand, if the complainant was not satisfied then he/she would be advised to report the matter to a higher or state authority. However, the evaluation did not find much evidence that complaints reached a level where state authorities were brought in. This is a partial evidence that the process was largely transparent.

The evaluation did not find any evidence of a midterm evaluation. However, several PDMs were conducted, one after every quarterly cash distribution. These were used to largely guide implementation.

Regarding learning, the evaluation found that monitoring findings were utilized to make decisions regarding implementation. For instance, it was market price monitoring information that led to upwards revision of cash transfer amount due to inflation. Also, some additions were made to pay points and some pay points relocated as a result of field monitoring information. These were evidences of monitoring data utilization. On average, the evaluation

concludes that the monitoring mechanisms put in place by World vision worked well in enhancing effective monitoring of the EFSP.

Additionally, Table 14 of appendix C presents findings relating to beneficiaries' awareness about the donors of the EFSP. It was found that almost all the beneficiaries mentioned either World Vision (77.1%) or USAID (71.9%). This shows that World Vision did a good job in educating the beneficiaries about USAID being the donor, even though a good fraction of them also mention World Vision as the donor. This can be understood from the point of view that it is World Vision that facilitates the cash to be put into their hands.

The evaluation also noted that several key government agencies also supported with intermittent joint monitoring. Details of their roles are covered in the next section, dealing with partnerships and collaboration.

3.10 Partnerships and Collaborations

The evaluation noted that World Vision (WV) was the direct Implementing Partner (IP) of the EFSP. However, for creating effectiveness and efficiency, they partnered with several other organizations to undertake specific roles.

NaCSA was brought on board to support with beneficiary targeting both geographical and household. However, when it was realized that NaCSA has limited capacity in the area of geographical targeting, a consultant was hired to do this aspect to generate the poverty maps that were later used by NaCSA and World Vision for the community and household targeting. The WV-NaCSA partnership helped in targeting the right beneficiaries, thus permitting project resources to be directed to the intended beneficiaries. They also trained the WV staff in the use of the LPMT poverty grading tools and shared their experiences with WV staff during the beneficiary registration exercise itself. This helped greatly in reducing mistakes and increased the speed of the registration exercise.

SPLASH Mobile Money Limited is specialized in money transfers, both electronic and manual. They were contracted to do this aspect of the intervention. The evaluation noted that SPLASH did a good job. They worked with WV to position pay points in a very efficient manner that reduced walking distance by beneficiaries to access pay points *(see cash transfer process section).* Overall there were only few instances when payment was delayed because SPLASH distribution team arrived late, but in most cases, as confirmed by beneficiaries themselves, the distribution teams were at the pay points before they themselves (beneficiaries) arrived. This was one reason why most beneficiaries were spending limited time at the pay points to receive cash *(see also cash transfer process section).*

Other key collaborating partners were Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS), Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA), Port Loko District Council (PLDC), Presidential Delivery Team and various Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). It was noted that MSWGCA, PLDC, ACC and the CSOs supported the targeting process to add integrity to it and to target the right beneficiaries. MAFFS gave support to all activities relating to seed vouchers, including seed security assessment, seed certification through SLeSCA, and conducted agronomic best practice training for smallholder farmers. Added to the roles highlighted above, all of these

other key partners supported in intermittent joint monitoring of the project, including onsite cash distribution monitoring and PDMs.

These partnerships helped in enhancing the overall integrity of the EFSP implementation and increased community ownership, which (according to some of the CICs) was what kept them working for the project, even though they were not getting any direct benefit. This same sense of ownership, was what urged most of the community leaders to give their support to the project. The presence of ACC also helped deter potential malpractices which would have otherwise occur and dent the image of WV and SPLASH. The evaluation therefore concludes that these partnerships helped in enhancing the achievement of the good results we have seen in this report.

Apart from the partnerships created, the evaluation also noted that WV collaborated with other agencies that were doing cash transfers or supporting beneficiaries with food assistance in the Port Loko district mainly to help avoid duplication of resources to the same beneficiaries. For instance, NaCSA is supporting beneficiaries in the target district and sometime in the very communities that were targeted by WV. At the same time, United Nations World Food Program (UNWFP) is giving food assistance to most communities in port Loko district. WV collaborated with these agencies both at district and national levels to avoid targeting the same households that were already receiving cash or food assistance from the other agencies. This was noted to be a good strategy to avoid resource wasting.

3.11 Constraining and Facilitating Factors of Project Implementation

Specific challenges identified in this evaluation were not of those that mitigated the achievement of specific results; rather the challenges were more of operational and were addressed as implementation progressed. Below were the key challenges:

- NaCSA's limited capacity in geo-targeting prompted World Vision to have hired a consultant to generate the poverty maps. The consultant, however, delayed in producing the maps that were later used by NaCSA and World Vision for targeting of intervention communities and respective households.
- Despite cash payments being made and beneficiaries receiving their correct entitlements, dates for these payments were on few occasions postponed, due to internal operational challenges on the part of SPLAH, such as arrangement for departure for payment of beneficiaries and the untimely submission of reconciliation report to WV. These resulted into late disbursement of subsequent payments to service providers which on rare occasions may have resulted to beneficiary dissatisfaction with WV Sierra Leone.
- The pace of activities for cash transfer and its monitoring were mostly slowed down due to bad road network and poor mobile communications network.
- Some Community Identification Committee (CIC) members reported that in some cases they felt the urge to quit the project because 'they were not getting any direct benefit (token etc.) in return for their services'. This was confirmed from KIIs with community leaders and field program staff, who reported that they sometimes had to spend long time encouraging CICs to continue working and not quit. According to them, this was partly because the CICs involved had understood the project concept and partly because they already knew the participants and that was helping a lot in easily disseminating key information.

The following facilitating factors were identified as contributors for greatly achieving results:

- The right partnerships were put in place. This ensured the targeting of right communities and household beneficiaries, and the cash transfers processes being done in a transparent and accountable manner. These partnerships also enhanced project monitoring and adequately equipped the beneficiaries with the required knowledge and skills to enhance project sustainability.
- Project staff were exclusively dedicated to work on the EFSP intervention so as to enhance the monitoring and effectiveness of implementation and greater project visibility at community level.
- The evaluation noted that the project was adequately funded, and have the required human and material resources, which permitted timely implementation of most or all of the intervention activities.
- Effective sensitizations on the correct use of cash received, coupled with the complementary agricultural trainings and seed support ensured that beneficiaries used the cash to access more food. This helped in improving their food security status as evidenced by changes in the outcome indicators.

3.12 Gender Mainstreaming and Sustainability of Project Activities

Although there were limited gender specific strategies integrated into the design of the intervention, the evaluation assessed the level of gender integration into the overall project with regards to design and implementation.

The evaluation noted that the project was designed to accommodate a minimum of 50% female beneficiaries. This was to ensure that women are not marginalized in the project. Additionally, the evaluation noted that field staff were engaging communities in gender equality sensitizations and awareness raising, mainly to cushion any tensions that may arise at the household level over decisions on how to use the EFSP cash. The evaluation noted that this strategy was a very good one in helping households, especially non-beneficiary husbands, understand the advantages of giving women their right to also make decisions regarding how to spend the EFSP cash and that the best way to go was joint decision making.

Figure 12 below present findings on how EFSP cash spending decisions were made. It was found that in 57.3% of beneficiary households, decisions regarding the use of EFSP cash rested with the direct beneficiaries, while in 29.5% of the households, joint decisions were made on how to spend the cash. Technically, since the intervention targeted more of women, this finding represents some form of women empowerment regarding decision making, though most of them need to understand that joint decision making is a better. Across phases, more beneficiary households in phase II (38.9%) engaged in joint decision making regarding how to spend the EFSP cash than those in phase I (20.4%).

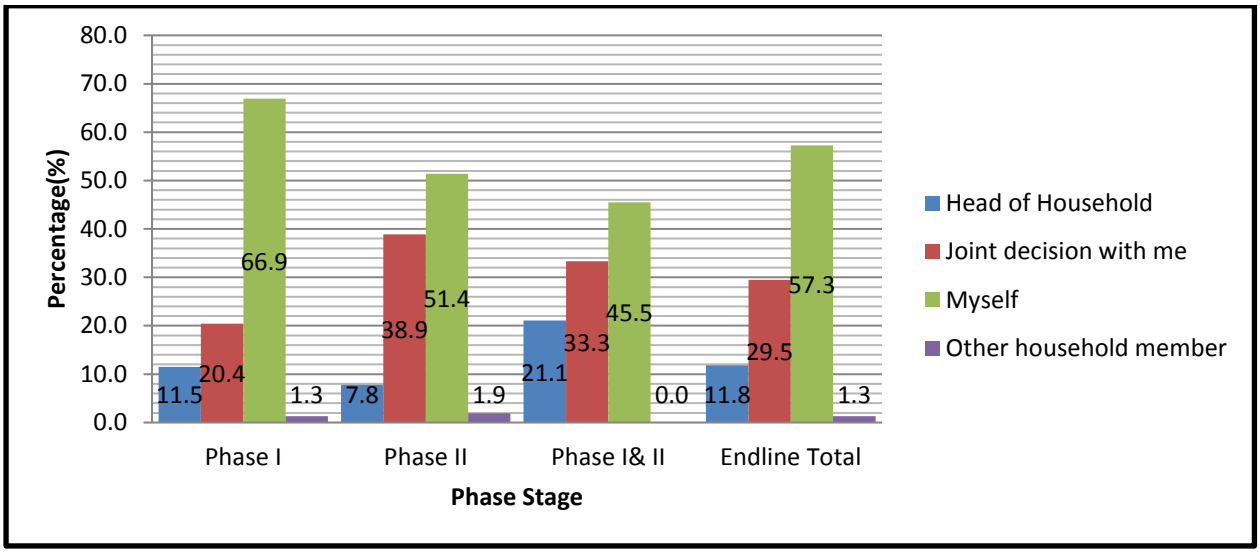

Figure 12: % of Beneficiary Household Decision Making on EFSP Cash Expenditure

Regarding sustainability measures, the evaluation noted that the only measures taken were those embedded in the complementary activities: agronomic best practice training and VLSA. The evaluation noted that some households have started applying the training knowledge gained in their normal farming practices, for instance the simple method of how to detect that seeds are viable or not before nursing. Some beneficiaries reported that after the training they have constructed their own seed banks to store their rice seeds. The project also formed the beneficiaries in to savings groups so they can have sustained access to credits to finance their agricultural activities or petty trading, which most have also engaged in.

The key sustainability threat noted was that the cash distribution aspect will most likely stop after WV pulls out, even though it is expected that NaCSA should take over. However, resource constraints are currently limiting NaCSA from taking over now or even in the near future. Another threat is to the continuity of the VSLA due to dishonesty among members, especially the executives. Even though there has not been any case of dishonesty, but it might be because WV is closely monitoring the activities. When WV pulls out, there are doubts about how well the schemes will be monitored to keep the executive on their toes to run transparent schemes. Furthermore, other sustainability aspects, such as how well nutrition messages received as well as post-harvest management skills and attitudes acquired will continuously be put into practice, disseminated to other vulnerable groups, and sustained in the future are suspected to encounter future constraints at project closure.

4.0 Lessons Learned, Conclusion and Recommendations

4.1 Lessons Learned

1. When the income of households increases in cash, they are motivated to increase their expenditure on other important items that were not previously prioritized as expenditure items when there was less or no income in the household. The EFSP cash expenditure patterns seem to be contrary to the expectations of the EFSP intervention that at the end of the intervention, 70% of the EFSP cash received by households would be spent on food items. However, the observed decrease in EFSP cash expenditure on food (35.3%), was compensated for by expenditures on education, health care, agriculture and savings.

2. Establishing the right partnerships with state and non-state actors adds special value to quick – impact – projects like cash transfer projects. The presence of NaCSA, ACC, PLDC etc. and the CICs added integrity and visibility to the whole process. This has led to greater community acceptability of the project activities which has formed the backbone of sustainability activities.
3. When the right participant targeting is done, cash interventions could have a very big positive effect on the daily lives of the participants. Their food security situation, as measured by the HDDS and HHS in this case, will be improved in the shortest possible time.
4. The problem of CICs sometimes having the urge to quit the project, except they are being encouraged to stay on, was largely solved in the second phase of implementation. The strategy employed by WV was to use CICs only during the participant identification stage. Once all participants were identified, the CICs were dissolved and replaced with two other committees, formed from among the participants themselves, namely:
    - The Cash Distribution Committee (CDC), who helped with organizing the distribution process at each distribution points (cleaning the center, crow control, sitting arrangement etc.), and
    - Community Help Desk (CHD), who helped to receive all complaints and pass them on to WV and also served as feedback channel to the participants about the outcomes of their complaints and what were the necessary next steps to take, if necessary.

    In the second phase, this strategy completely eliminated the issues around CICs wanting to get tokens etc. **Therefore, the use of beneficiaries themselves in temporary committees is cost effective in achieving cash intervention results.**
5. In the absence of effective mobile technology, a well-deployed and monitored offline cash transfer project can adequately replace the technology-based cash transfers.

4.2 Conclusions

Based on the findings highlighted above, the evaluation concludes the following:

1. The EFSP intervention was implemented and monitored effectively. As a result, the food security situation of the target participants has been appreciably improved as recorded by the changes in the key food security indicators (HHS, HDDS, FCS, RCSI). Statistical test done on two of these indicators – HHS and HDDS – supported this claim. The intervention was therefore largely successful in achieving its intended purpose.
2. The processes, systems and strategies employed were effective in enhancing the achievement of results.
3. The sustainability of project activities is highly dependent upon the continued commitment of the devolved government institutions (MAFFS, NaCSA, MSWGCA and PLDC) that WV partnered with in the implementation of the EFSP.

4.3 Recommendations

The World Vision EFSP intervention has ended. All things remaining normal, the government of Sierra Leone, being one of the primary audiences of this report will be taking over to continue with the intervention activities for sustainability purposes. To

this end, some of the key recommendations presented below are targeted to the government of Sierra Leone. Presented below are the recommendations.

1. The average meal frequency of households per day has been improved to an average of 2 due to the intervention. There is need for this figure to reach a minimum of 3 for better nutrition outcomes. Therefore, the Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, represented by the District Health Management Team (DHMT) and other related community structures should continue sensitizing and monitoring programs on nutrition and hygiene.
2. The evaluation found that a good number of households have their diets currently diversified as a result of the EFSP intervention. This has prompted most to start or increase their backyard gardening to keep a stream of fresh vegetables, fruits etc. On that note, the Government of Sierra Leone, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) should undertake regular sensitizations on the benefits of backyard gardening and the importance of eating these foods to help improve their nutritional status and not selling them. Additionally, MAFFS block extension officers should continue monitoring the participants who were trained in post-harvest management technology to ensure they continue to employ it in their farming activities. They should also provide technical assistance where necessary.
3. The cash transfer process was largely appreciated by the participants (monitoring strategies employed, types of partnerships created, distances covered, waiting time, safety at pay points, etc.). The strategies employed to achieve these must be maintained by WV in similar future interventions.
4. **In future similar interventions, WV should put premium on using CICs only during the participant identification stage and afterwards establish committees constituted of the beneficiaries themselves who will assist in monitoring the cash distribution process. This will enhance cost effectiveness and commitment of the committee members towards achieving cash intervention results.**
5. **To enhance sustainability of similar future projects to be implemented, World Vision in collaboration with appropriate line ministries of the government should as their main activities, prioritize effective sensitizations on the benefits of backyard gardening and post-harvest management technology. The importance of eating foods got from such agricultural activities to help improve their food and nutritional status and not selling them should be emphasized as well. By so doing, WV would engage in building the capacity (including provision of technical assistance where necessary) of not only their implementing staff, but also staff from appropriate line ministry, especially the agriculture ministry to enhance effective monitoring of participants to ensure they continue to be engaged in such farming activities.**
6. The evaluation noted that there was limited involvement of the private sector in the overall implementation. Though there was no observed direct negative impact on the project, the high potential of this sector could be tapped into if more organizations from the sector were drawn into the project. **Therefore, for planning and implementation of similar future projects, World Vision should establish partnerships with not only state and non-state actors, but also with private sector organizations.**

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Appendices

Appendix A: Results from Statistical Test of Significance

HOUSEHOLD HUNGER SCALE

Group * In the past one month, was there ever no food to eat of any kind in your house because of lack of resources to get food?

Crosstab

			In the past one month, was there ever no food to eat of any kind in your house because of lack of resources to get food?		
			No	Yes	Total
Group	Baseline	Count	1	95	96
		Expected Count	65.1	30.9	96.0
	End-line	Count	535	159	694
		Expected Count	470.9	223.1	694.0
Total		Count	536	254	790
		Expected Count	536.0	254.0	790.0

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	223.579[a]	1	.000		
Continuity Correction[b]	220.107	1	.000		
Likelihood Ratio	234.122	1	.000		
Fisher's Exact Test				.000	.000
N of Valid Cases	790				

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 30.87.
b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

Group * In the past one month, did you or any household member go to sleep at night hungry because there was not enough food?

Crosstab

			In the past one month, did you or any household member go to sleep at night hungry because there was not enough food?		
			No	Yes	Total
Group	Baseline	Count	4	92	96
		Expected Count	62.7	33.3	96.0
	End-line	Count	512	182	694
		Expected Count	453.3	240.7	694.0
Total		Count	516	274	790
		Expected Count	516.0	274.0	790.0

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	180.378[a]	1	.000		
Continuity Correction[b]	177.318	1	.000		
Likelihood Ratio	187.932	1	.000		
Fisher's Exact Test				.000	.000
N of Valid Cases	790				

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 33.30.
b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

Group * In the past one month, did you or any household member go a whole day and night without eating anything at all because there was not enough food?

Crosstab

			In the past one month, did you or any household member go a whole day and night without eating anything at all because there was not enough food?		
			No	Yes	Total
Group	Baseline	Count	72	24	96
		Expected Count	75.2	20.8	96.0
	End-line	Count	547	147	694
		Expected Count	543.8	150.2	694.0
Total		Count	619	171	790
		Expected Count	619.0	171.0	790.0

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.725[a]	1	.395		
Continuity Correction[b]	.517	1	.472		
Likelihood Ratio	.704	1	.402		
Fisher's Exact Test				.427	.233
N of Valid Cases	790				

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 20.78.
b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

AVERAGE HDDS

Independent T-Test Results for Average HDDS

Group Statistics

	Group	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Average HDDS	Baseline	96	6.72	1.506	.154
	End-line	694	7.05	2.682	.102

Independent Samples Test

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
									95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	Lower	Upper
Average HDDS	Equal variances assumed	20.167	.000	-1.170	788	.242	-.327	.280	-.788	.133
	Equal variances not assumed			-1.776	191.607	.077	-.327	.184	-.632	-.023

Note: SPSS software does not directly run a one-tailed independent sample T-test. However, evidence from Garth (2008), Lind et al. (2002) and Brace et al. (2000) suggest that the p-value for a one-tailed independent sample T-test would be obtained from SPSS analysis by dividing the p-value of a two-tailed independent sample T-test in half. In line with the alternative hypotheses of this evaluation with respect to intervention indicators (a change leading to

increase or decrease as the case may be in indicator values), the p-values obtained from the above table (divided by 2) and presented in the body of this report are one-tailed independent sample T-test results.

Since *F*-value is significant, the variances cannot be assumed to be equal as such, the one-tailed t-test is shown to be statistically significant at p = {(0.077/2) = 0.0385} as presented in the body of the report.

CHI-SQUARE TEST RESULTS FOR INDIVIDUAL HDDS

Group * Corn/maize, sorghum, millet, wheat, bread, biscuits, rice, rice noodles

Crosstab

			Corn/maize, sorghum, millet, wheat, bread, biscuits, rice, rice noodles		
			No	Yes	Total
Group	Baseline	Count	3	93	96
		Expected Count	3.6	92.4	96.0
	End-line	Count	27	667	694
		Expected Count	26.4	667.6	694.0
Total		Count	30	760	790
		Expected Count	30.0	760.0	790.0

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.135[a]	1	.713		
Continuity Correction[b]	.007	1	.934		
Likelihood Ratio	.143	1	.706		
Fisher's Exact Test				1.000	.494
N of Valid Cases	790				

a. 1 cells (25.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 3.65.
b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

Group * Potatoes, sweet potatoes, yams, manioc, cassava, coco yams or any other foods made from roots or tubers

Crosstab

			Potatoes, sweet potatoes, yams, manioc, cassava, coco yams or any other foods made from roots or tubers		
			No	Yes	Total
Group	Baseline	Count	8	88	96
		Expected Count	11.3	84.7	96.0
	End-line	Count	85	609	694
		Expected Count	81.7	612.3	694.0
Total		Count	93	697	790
		Expected Count	93.0	697.0	790.0

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	1.244[a]	1	.265		
Continuity Correction[b]	.896	1	.344		

Likelihood Ratio	1.351	1	.245		
Fisher's Exact Test				.313	.173
N of Valid Cases	790				

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 11.30.
b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

Group * Vegetables like spinach, tomato, onion, okra, eggplant, pepper, or pumpkin

Crosstab

			Vegetables like spinach, tomato, onion, okra, eggplant, pepper, or pumpkin		
			No	Yes	Total
Group	Baseline	Count	21	75	96
		Expected Count	11.9	84.1	96.0
	End-line	Count	77	617	694
		Expected Count	86.1	607.9	694.0
Total		Count	98	692	790
		Expected Count	98.0	692.0	790.0

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	9.019[a]	1	.003		
Continuity Correction[b]	8.054	1	.005		
Likelihood Ratio	7.793	1	.005		
Fisher's Exact Test				.005	.004
N of Valid Cases	790				

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 11.91.
b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

Group * Fruits like mango, guava, papaya, banana, avocado, orange, lemons or plantains

Crosstab

			Fruits like mango, guava, papaya, banana, avocado, orange, lemons or plantains		
			No	Yes	Total
Group	Baseline	Count	58	38	96
		Expected Count	25.4	70.6	96.0
	End-line	Count	151	543	694
		Expected Count	183.6	510.4	694.0
Total		Count	209	581	790
		Expected Count	209.0	581.0	790.0

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	64.778[a]	1	.000		
Continuity Correction[b]	62.807	1	.000		
Likelihood Ratio	56.917	1	.000		
Fisher's Exact Test				.000	.000
N of Valid Cases	790				

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 25.40.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

Group * Beef, pork, lamb, goat, rabbit wild game, chicken, duck, or other birds, liver, kidney, heart, or other organ meats

Crosstab

			Beef, pork, lamb, goat, rabbit wild game, chicken, duck, or other birds, liver, kidney, heart, or other organ meats		
			No	Yes	Total
Group	Baseline	Count	94	2	96
		Expected Count	72.1	23.9	96.0
	End-line	Count	499	195	694
		Expected Count	520.9	173.1	694.0
Total		Count	593	197	790
		Expected Count	593.0	197.0	790.0

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	30.491[a]	1	.000		
Continuity Correction[b]	29.117	1	.000		
Likelihood Ratio	43.646	1	.000		
Fisher's Exact Test				.000	.000
N of Valid Cases	790				

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 23.94.
b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

Group * Fresh or dried fish or shellfish

Crosstab

			Fresh or dried fish or shellfish		
			No	Yes	Total
Group	Baseline	Count	2	94	96
		Expected Count	3.2	92.8	96.0
	End-line	Count	24	670	694
		Expected Count	22.8	671.2	694.0
Total		Count	26	764	790
		Expected Count	26.0	764.0	790.0

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.501[a]	1	.479		
Continuity Correction[b]	.162	1	.687		
Likelihood Ratio	.564	1	.453		
Fisher's Exact Test				.759	.369
N of Valid Cases	790				

a. 1 cells (25.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 3.16.
b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

Group * Foods made from beans, peas, lentils, or nuts

			Foods made from beans, peas, lentils, or nuts		
			No	Yes	Total
Group	Baseline	Count	63	33	96
		Expected Count	51.6	44.4	96.0
	End-line	Count	362	332	694
		Expected Count	373.4	320.6	694.0
Total		Count	425	365	790
		Expected Count	425.0	365.0	790.0

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	6.150[a]	1	.013		
Continuity Correction[b]	5.621	1	.018		
Likelihood Ratio	6.270	1	.012		
Fisher's Exact Test				.016	.008
N of Valid Cases	790				

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 44.35.
b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

Group * Cheese, yogurt, milk or other milk products

Crosstab

			Cheese, yogurt, milk or other milk products		
			No	Yes	Total
Group	Baseline	Count	92	4	96
		Expected Count	78.7	17.3	96.0
	End-line	Count	556	138	694
		Expected Count	569.3	124.7	694.0
Total		Count	648	142	790
		Expected Count	648.0	142.0	790.0

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	14.132[a]	1	.000		
Continuity Correction[b]	13.086	1	.000		
Likelihood Ratio	18.605	1	.000		
Fisher's Exact Test				.000	.000
N of Valid Cases	790				

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 17.26.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

Group * Foods made with oil, fat, or butter

Crosstab

			Foods made with oil, fat, or butter		
			No	Yes	Total
Group	Baseline	Count	6	90	96
		Expected Count	40.7	55.3	96.0
	End-line	Count	329	365	694
		Expected Count	294.3	399.7	694.0
Total		Count	335	455	790
		Expected Count	335.0	455.0	790.0

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	58.489[a]	1	.000		
Continuity Correction[b]	56.816	1	.000		
Likelihood Ratio	71.766	1	.000		
Fisher's Exact Test				.000	.000
N of Valid Cases	790				

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 40.71.
b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

Group * Eggs

Crosstab

			Eggs		
			No	Yes	Total
Group	Baseline	Count	95	1	96
		Expected Count	83.2	12.8	96.0
	Endline	Count	590	104	694
		Expected Count	601.8	92.2	694.0
Total		Count	685	105	790
		Expected Count	685.0	105.0	790.0

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	14.228[a]	1	.000		
Continuity Correction[b]	13.044	1	.000		
Likelihood Ratio	21.685	1	.000		
Fisher's Exact Test				.000	.000
N of Valid Cases	790				

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 12.76.
b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

Group * Sugar or honey

Crosstab

			Sugar or honey		
			No	Yes	Total
Group	Baseline	Count	39	57	96
		Expected Count	39.5	56.5	96.0
	Endline	Count	286	408	694
		Expected Count	285.5	408.5	694.0
Total		Count	325	465	790
		Expected Count	325.0	465.0	790.0

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.012[a]	1	.913		
Continuity Correction[b]	.000	1	1.000		
Likelihood Ratio	.012	1	.913		
Fisher's Exact Test				1.000	.503
N of Valid Cases	790				

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 39.49.
b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

Group * Other foods, such as condiments, coffee, tea

Crosstab

			Other foods, such as condiments, coffee, tea		
			No	Yes	Total
Group	Baseline	Count	26	70	96
		Expected Count	59.8	36.2	96.0
	Endline	Count	466	228	694
		Expected Count	432.2	261.8	694.0
Total		Count	492	298	790
		Expected Count	492.0	298.0	790.0

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	57.621[a]	1	.000		
Continuity Correction[b]	55.928	1	.000		
Likelihood Ratio	56.108	1	.000		
Fisher's Exact Test				.000	.000
N of Valid Cases	790				

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 36.21.
b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

Appendix B1: Expected Results and Indicators

Hierarchy of Objectives		Indicators	March 2016 Baseline	February 2017 Baseline	November 2017 End-line	Remarks
Purpose	Address immediate, life-saving food needs and promote early recovery of 5,460 targeted households in Port Loko District.	% of target HH reporting enhanced food security (HH who report a 50% increase)	No data	2%	98.20%	End-line data from September 2017 PDM
		Prevalence of HH with moderate hunger (HHS) (HH who decrease their HHS score by 50%)	37.3%	98%	*23.3%*	
		Prevalence of HH with severe hunger (HHS) (HH who decrease their HHS score by 50%)	0.3%	2.1%	0.1%	
		Average HH dietary diversity score (HDDS) (HH who increase their HDDS by 50%)	4.9	6.7	7.4	
Sub-Purpose 1	Increase / restore access to food via market purchase	% of HH where adults and children consume two or more meals per day (CWBOI)	No data	50%	92.8%	
	Increased ability to purchase food from local markets	% of monthly cash transfer spent on food	0	0	35.3%	
		% of monthly cash transfer spent on nonfood items	0	0	64.7%	
		Total value of cash transfers distributed to targeted households	0	0	$1,474,200	End-line data from September 2017 PDM
Input 1.1.1	Facilitate community mobilization and sensitization meetings in the 7 chiefdoms	# of sensitization meetings held	0	0	7	End-line data from September 2017 PDM

Input 1.1.2	Train beneficiaries on Mobile Cash Transfer	# of beneficiaries trained on mobile cash transfer (5460 HH)	0	0	5460	End-line data from September 2017 PDM
Input 1.1.3	Provide unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) to directly and indirectly-affected HHs	# of HH who received UTC (direct)	0	0	1124	End-line data from September 2017 PDM
		# of HH who received UTC (indirect)	0	0	4336	End-line data from September 2017 PDM
Sub-Purpose 2	Increase / restore smallholder farmers agricultural production	% of smallholder farmers who report increased production under improved technologies or practices as a result of USG assistance (male)	0	0	100%	End-line data from September 2017 PDM, and largely confirmed from KII and FGD sessions
		% of smallholder farmers who report increased production under improved technologies or practices as a result of USG assistance (female)	0	0	100%	End-line data from September 2017 PDM, and largely confirmed from KII and FGD sessions
Output 2.1	Increased knowledge of post-harvest management best practices	# of farmers who have applied 2 or more improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (male)	0	0	100%	End-line data from September 2017 PDM, and largely confirmed from KII and FGD sessions
		# of farmers who have applied 2 or more improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (female)	0	0	100%	End-line data from September 2017 PDM, and largely confirmed from KII and FGD sessions
Input 2.1.1	Recruit and train M/F smallholder farmers on post-	# of smallholder farmers recruited and trained on post-harvest	0	0	1042	End-line data from September 2017 PDM, and largely confirmed

	harvest management	management (male)				from KII and FGD sessions
		# of smallholder farmers recruited and trained on post-harvest management (female	0	0	2318	End-line data from September 2017 PDM, and largely confirmed from KII and FGD sessions
	Increased access to quality seed	Value of seed vouchers distributed	0	0	$ 178,080.00	End-line data from September 2017 PDM
Input 2.2.1	Survey and select vendors	# of vendors selected (male)	0	0	4	End-line data from September 2017 PDM
		# of vendors selected (female)	0	0	3	End-line data from September 2017 PDM
Input 2.2.2	Register vendors and sign agreements	# of vendor agreements signed	0	0	7	End-line data from September 2017 PDM
Input 2.2.3	Train vendors in voucher system	# of vendors trained (male)	0	0	4	End-line data from September 2017 PDM, and largely confirmed from KII and FGD sessions
		# of vendors trained (female)	0	0	3	End-line data from September 2017 PDM, and largely confirmed from KII and FGD sessions
Input 2.2.4	Distribute seed vouchers to smallholder farmers	# of seed vouchers distributed	0	0	3360	End-line data from September 2017 PDM, and largely confirmed from KII and FGD sessions

Appendix B2: List of Evaluation Team members

No.	Name	Designation
1	Baimba Abdulai Koroma	Team Leader (Food Security and Cash Transfer Evaluation Expert)
2	Momoh Thomas Bockarie	Socio-economist and Livelihood Expert
3	Salieu A. Swaray	Field supervisor
4	Amadu Jalloh	Field supervisor
5	AAllen Abdul Nabiue	Field supervisor
6	Francis Musa	Field supervisor
7	Aiah John Kellie	Field supervisor
8	Jesse Yamba	Online Mobile-based Data Collection System Designer
9	Esther Kai-Sesay	Enumerator
10	Haja M. Musa	Enumerator
11	Amara Kallon	Enumerator
12	Abibatu Turay	Enumerator
13	Aminata Conteh	Enumerator
14	Lahai G. Kpewa	Enumerator
15	Mohamed Kpaka	Enumerator
16	Kalifa S. K. Kamara	Enumerator

Appendix C: Analytical Tables

See attachment - Appendix C: Analytical Tables