

DMEO Conversation Series

Joint Rapid Needs Assessment in Odisha, India

A detailed analysis of food and nutrition sector during COVID-19



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Background

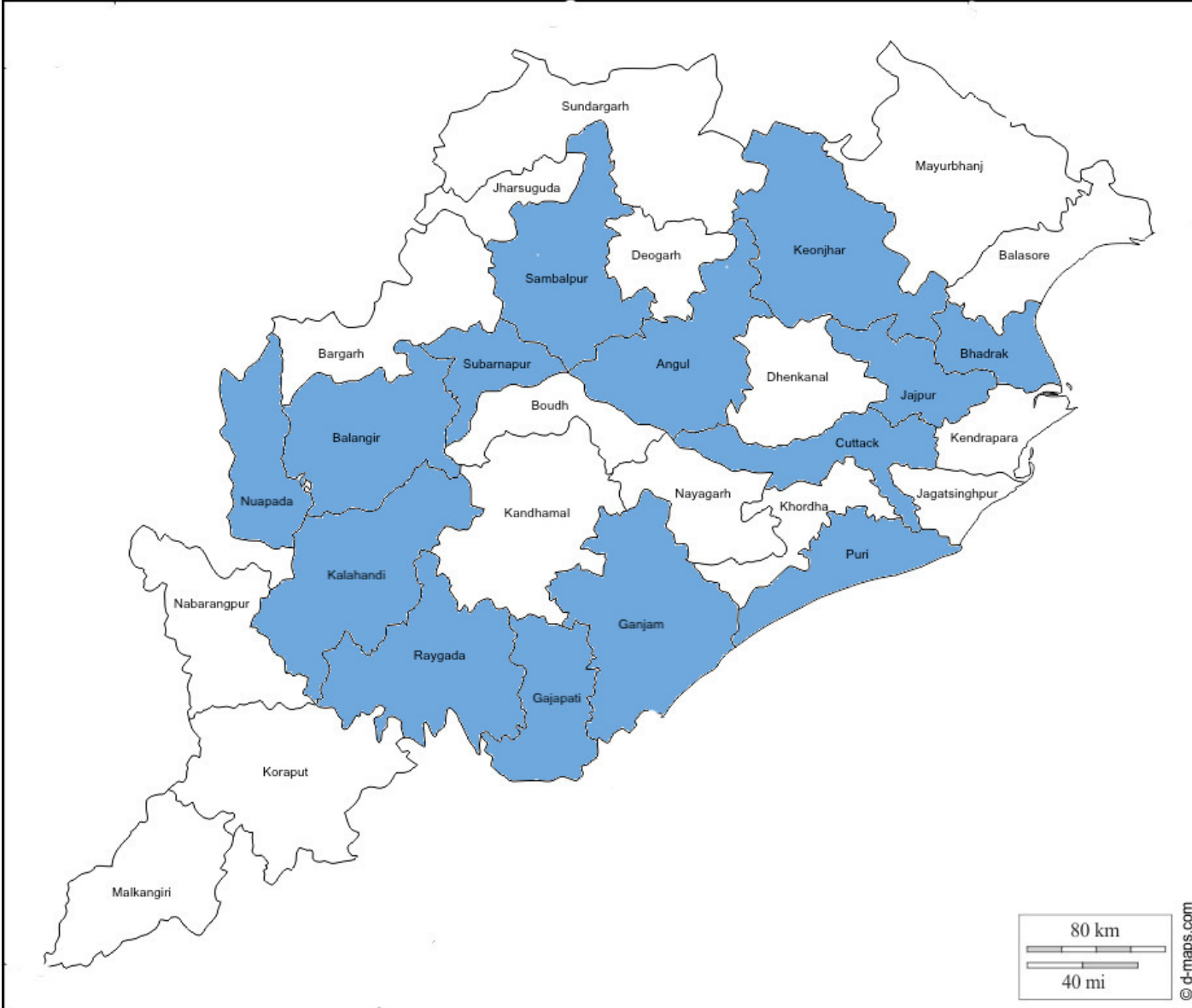
- Globally, number of people facing acute food insecurity stands to rise to 265 million in 2020, up by 130 million from the 135 million in 2019, as a result of the economic impact of COVID-19, according to a WFP projection.
- The COVID-19 outbreak is particularly detrimental to the poor people without access to running water, labours, migrants or displaced persons.
- WFP, Inter-Agency Group and other partners commissioned a study to understand the situation of food and nutritional security among the small/marginal farmers, landless/daily wage labourers and migrant labours during the post COVID-19 period in Odisha.

Objectives

1. Assess the impact of COVID-19 on food and nutrition security of vulnerable people such as small/marginal farmers, daily wage earners, migrant families in Odisha.
2. Communicating to the government about the seriousness of the problem and providing recommendations.
3. Facilitate in designing short term and long-term responses for most vulnerable community

Method

Map of Odisha showing Sample Districts



- The data was collected from 14 diverse districts of Odisha, including different livelihood zones, Aspirational Districts and tribal concentrate.
- Data collected from small/marginal farmers, landless/daily wage labourers and migrant labours.
- Volunteers either telephonically or through maintaining social distancing norms gathered data.
- Data collected at the household level
- Household tool captured household profile, food consumption pattern, coping strategy adopted, support received from government/NGO and the future requirements of the

Characteristics of Sample Districts

Sl. No	Division	District	Aspirational Distr.	Tribal concentrate	HHs covered	Physiographic Zone	Agro-climatic Zone
1	Central Zone	Cuttack		Low	22	Coastal plains	East & South Eastern Coastal Plain
2		Puri		Low	10	Coastal Plains	East & South Eastern Coastal Plain
3		Bhadrak		Low	60	Coastal plains	North-Eastern coastal plain
4		Jajpur		Mod	14	Coastal plains	North-Eastern coastal plain
5	Northern Zone	Keonjhar		High	33	Northern plateau	North-central plateau
6		Bolangir	Yes	Moderate	39	Central table land	Western Central Table Land
7		Angul		Low	31	Central table land	Mid-Central Table Land
8		Sonepur/ Subarnapur		Mod	36	Central table land	Western Central Table Land
9		Sambalpur		Low	41	Central table land	North-Western plateau
10	Southern Zone	Ganjam		Low	44	Eastern Ghats	East & South Eastern Coastal Plain
11		Gajapati	Yes	Mod	44	Eastern Ghats	North-Eastern Ghats
12		Kalahandi	Yes	High	26	Eastern Ghats	Western Undulating Zone
13		Rayagada	Yes	High	36	Eastern Ghats	North-Eastern Ghats
14		Nuapada	Yes	Mod.	37	Eastern Ghats	Western Undulating Zone

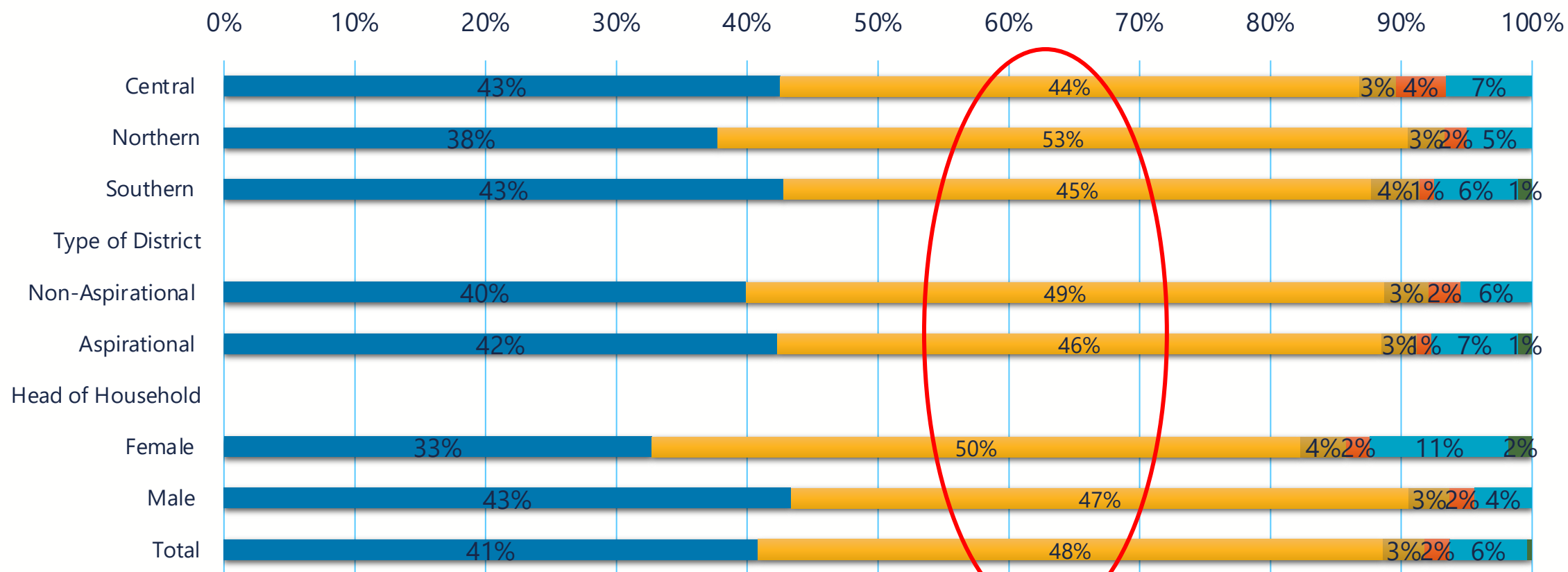
Background characteristics

- One-quarter of the households were headed by women.
- Nearly 2 in 5 of households had elderly person (60+ years), 1 in 10 had disabled person and 1 in 5 had a chronically ill member.
- Around 2 in 5 households lived in an Aspirational district in Odisha.
- 1 in 5 households lived in a district with a high concentration of tribal people.
- By geographic area, 40% lived in the Eastern Ghats, followed 31% from the Central Land Table, 22% from the Coastal Plains and 7 percent from the Northern Plateau.

Main source of food

- More than half of households access their food from the market or grocery store.

Main source of food by division, type of district, sex of head of household and total



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Own production

Gift from family, relatives or friends

Market / Grocery store

Food assistance by Government/NGO

Exchange labor for food

Other

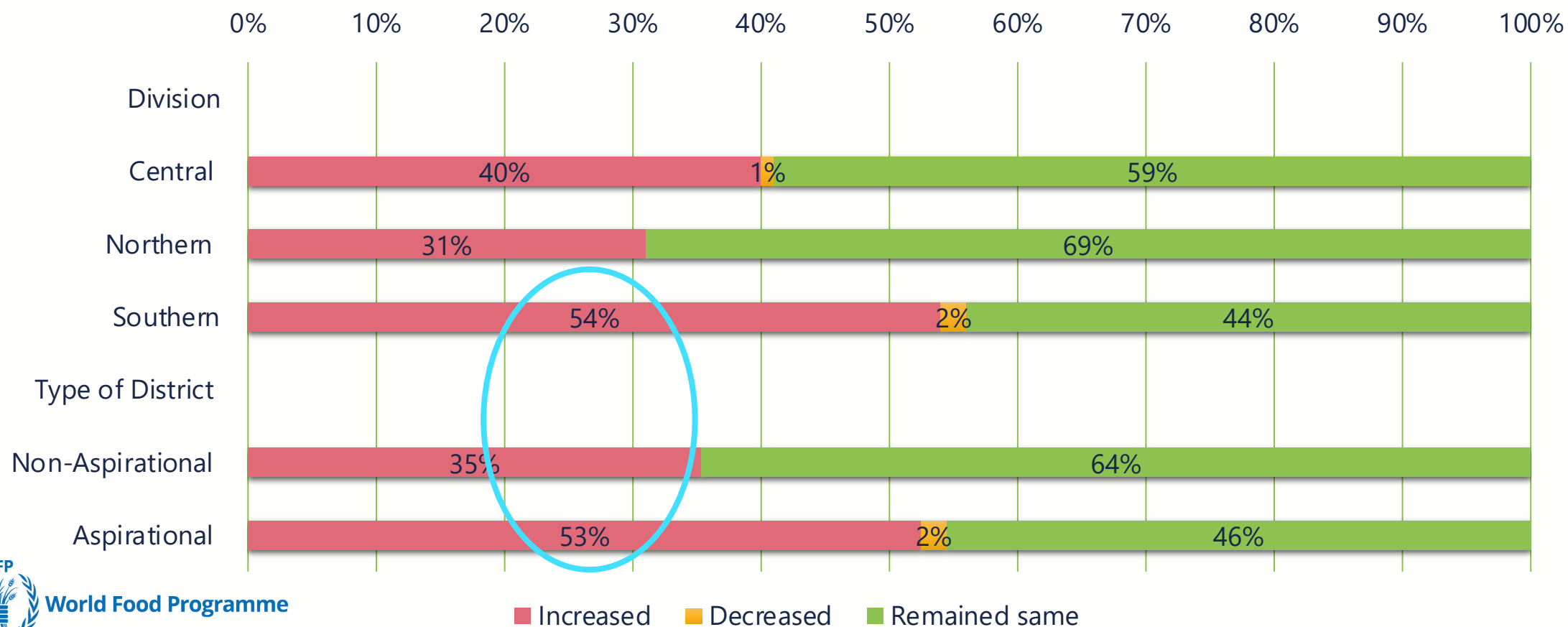
Sufficiency of food

- More than **half** of the respondents reported of having insufficient food in last 7 days.
- Households from **Aspirational districts** (54%) and those with **female heads** (56%) are slightly more vulnerable than those from non-aspirational districts (47%) and with male household heads (48%).
- Reason for shortage of food: **No money** to buy food and **inability to access market/lockdown** were the most commonly reported reasons for insufficient food.

Change in price of food

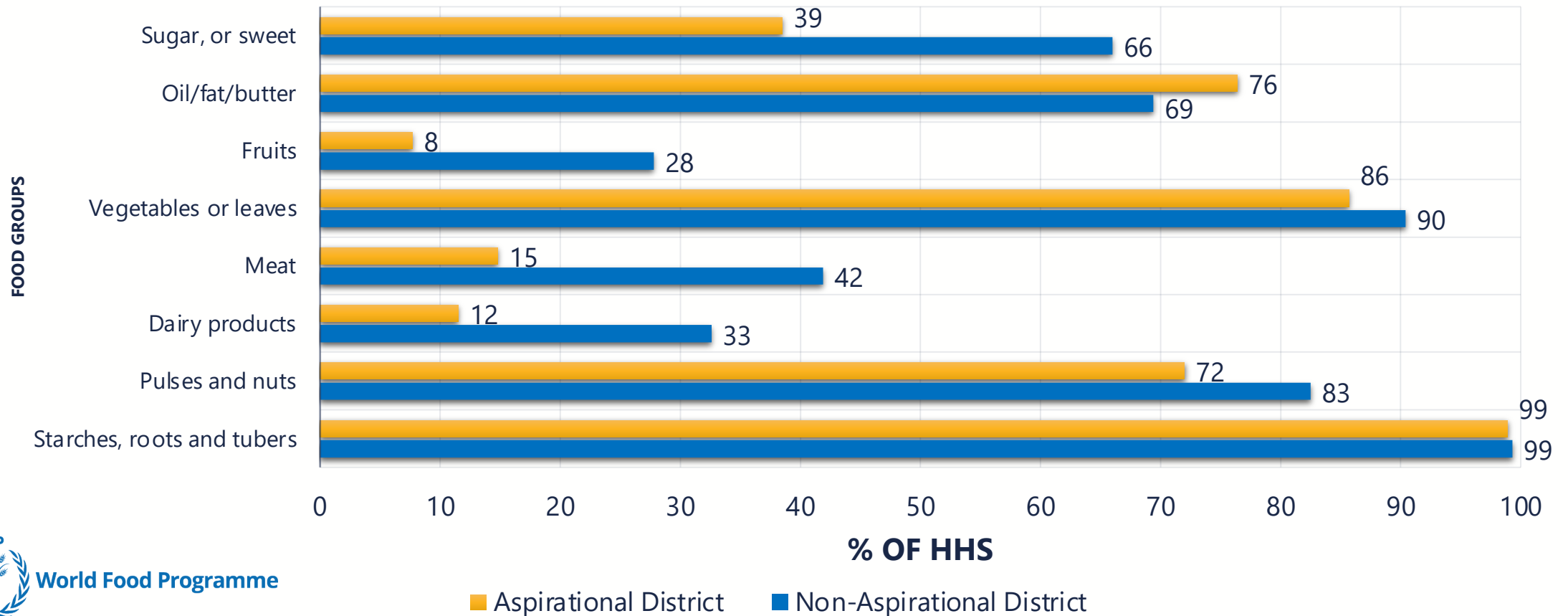
- Prices of food commodities increased in the locality of **two-fifth** households.
- **Southern zone** and **Aspirational district** were most likely to report price increases

Change in price of food commodities by division and type of district



Food consumption in the last 24 hours

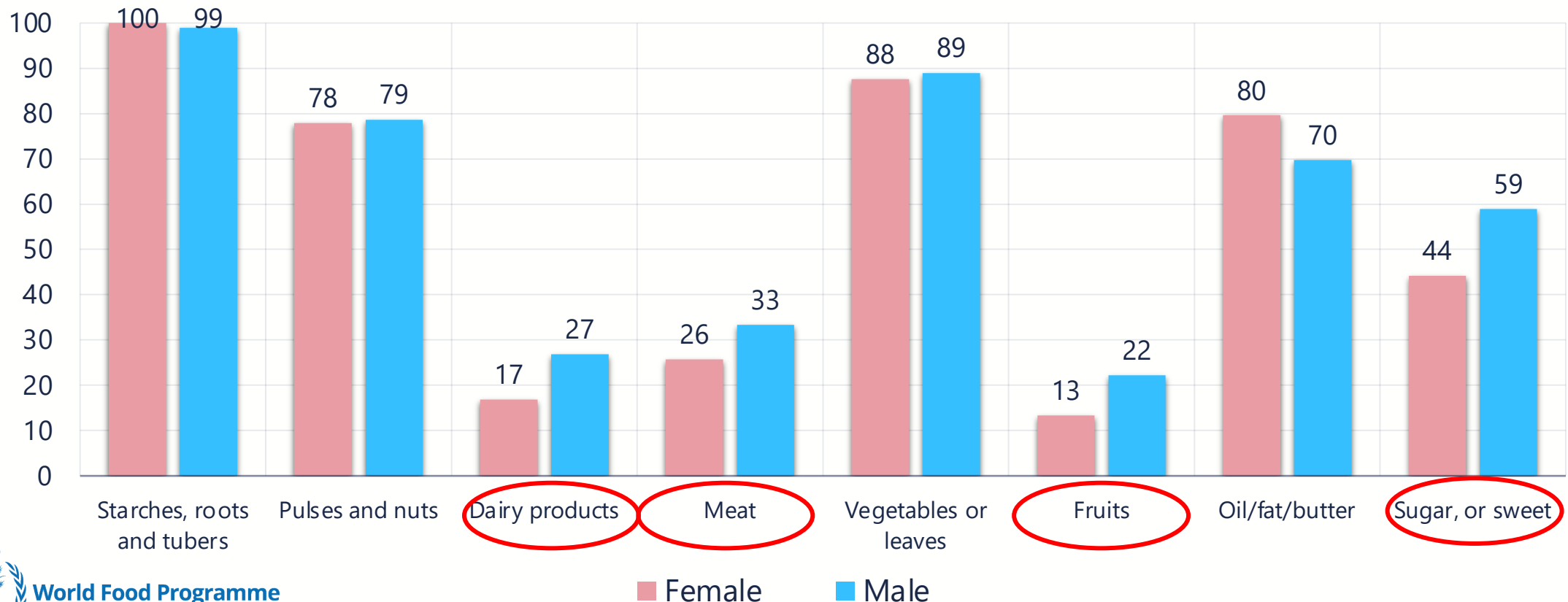
- Households in Aspirational districts were more likely to consume oils & fats than those in non-Aspirational districts.
- However, they are much less likely to consume: sugar, fruits, meat and dairy.
- They are slightly less likely to consume vegetables and pulses



Food consumption in the last 24 hours – by sex of head of household

- Male headed households have better consumption as compared to female headed households.

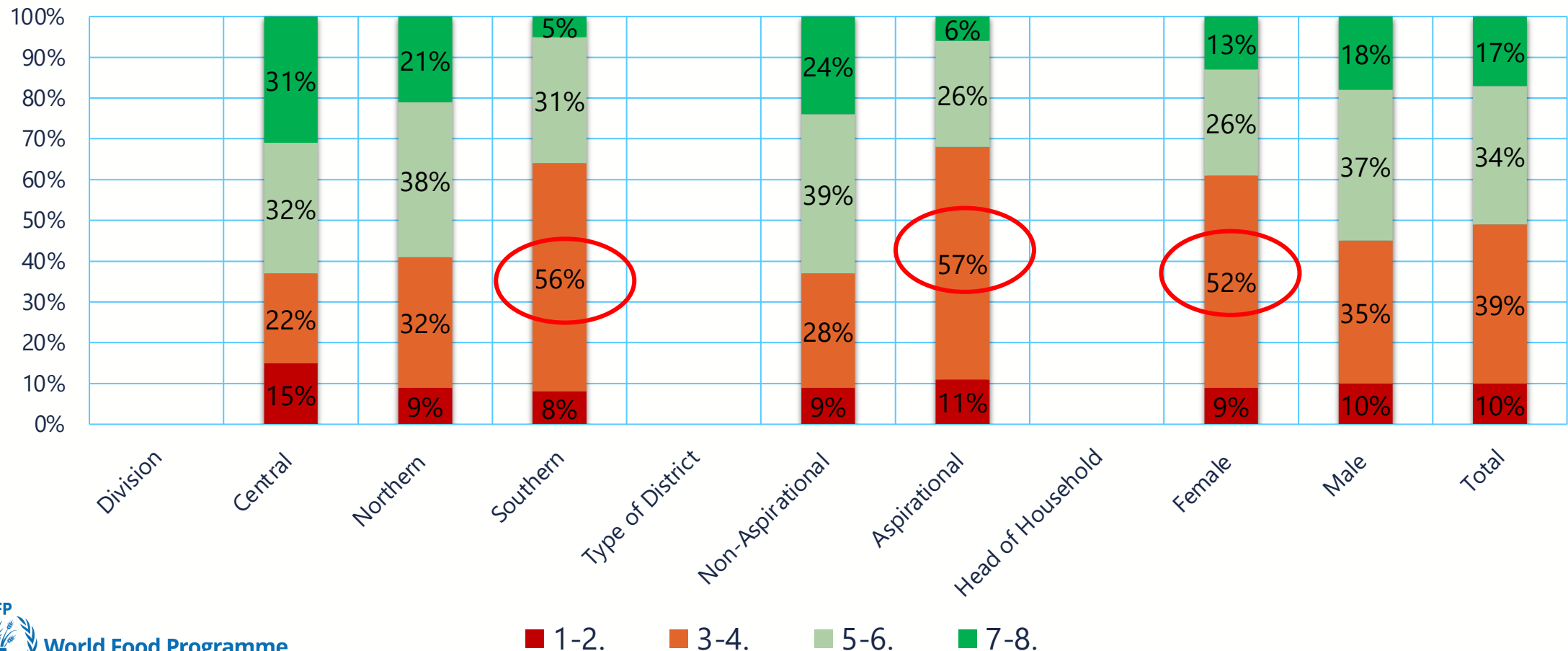
Food consumption by sex of head of household - 24 hours recall



Household Dietary Diversity

- Households in the **Southern zone** (64%), **Aspirational districts** (68%) and **FHH** (61%) had lower dietary diversity compared to the other zones, districts and MHH.

Number of food groups consumed in last 24 hours



Coping strategies during food shortages

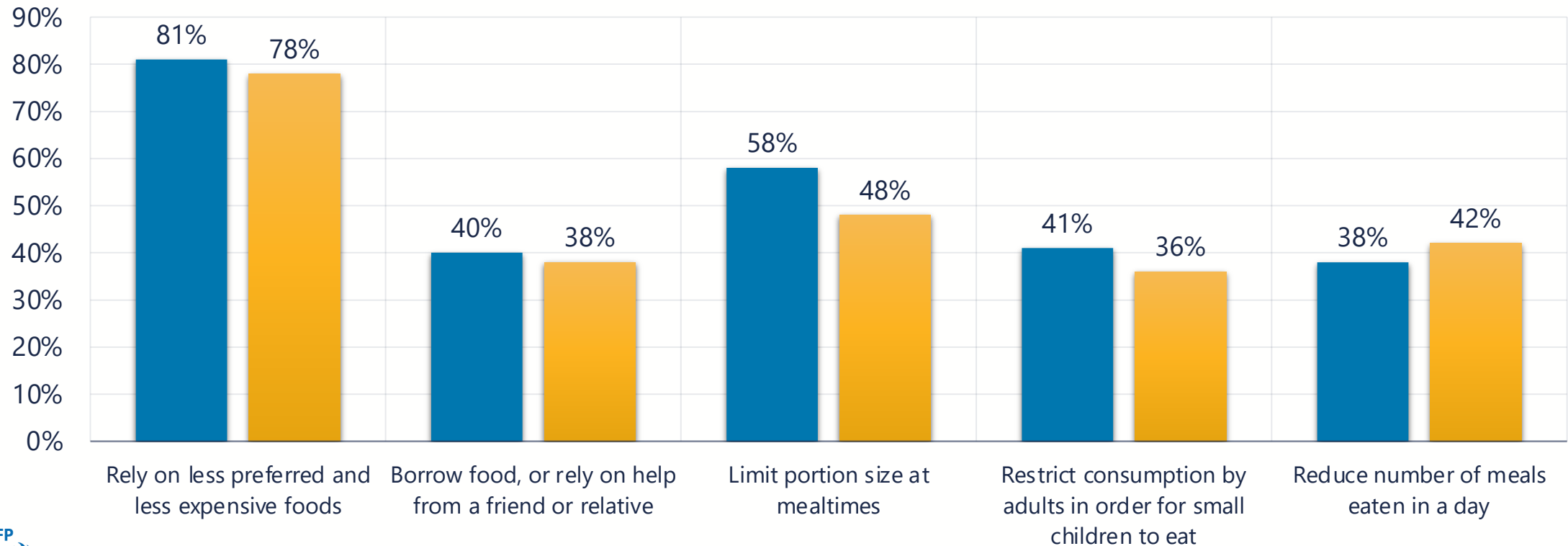
- The most frequently used coping strategy was relying on **less preferred and less expensive foods** (80%),
- Least used coping mechanisms were:
 - **restricting consumption by adults** in order to save food for small children (39%),
 - **borrowing food, or relying on help from a friend or relative** (39%).
- More than half (54%) of the households reported **limiting portion size at meal times**
- 2 in 5 households **reduced the number of meals eaten** in a day.



Coping strategies by type of district

- Except for reducing the number of meals (most extreme CS), households in Aspirational districts **are less likely** to use coping strategies compared to the others.

Type of coping strategies by type of district (aspirational and non-aspirational district)



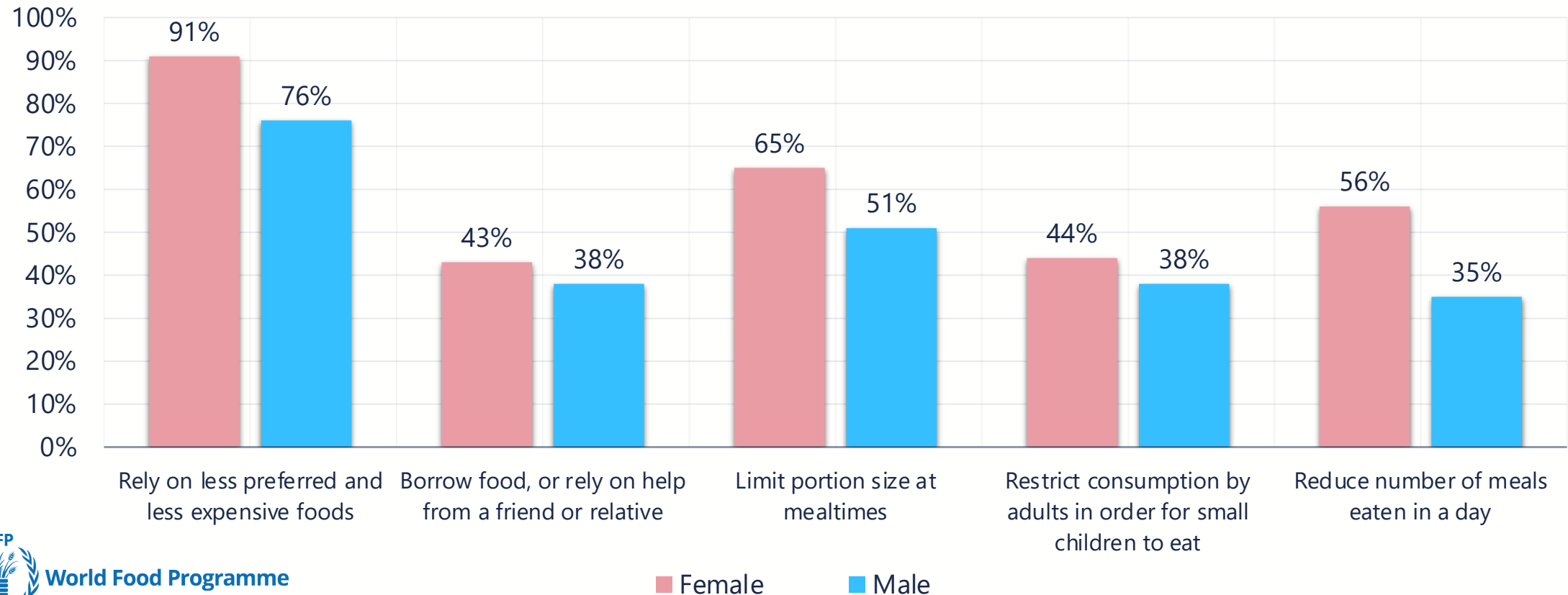
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■ Non-Aspirational ■ Aspirational

Coping strategies by sex of household head

- Female headed households are more likely to rely on coping strategies, in all cases, than males.

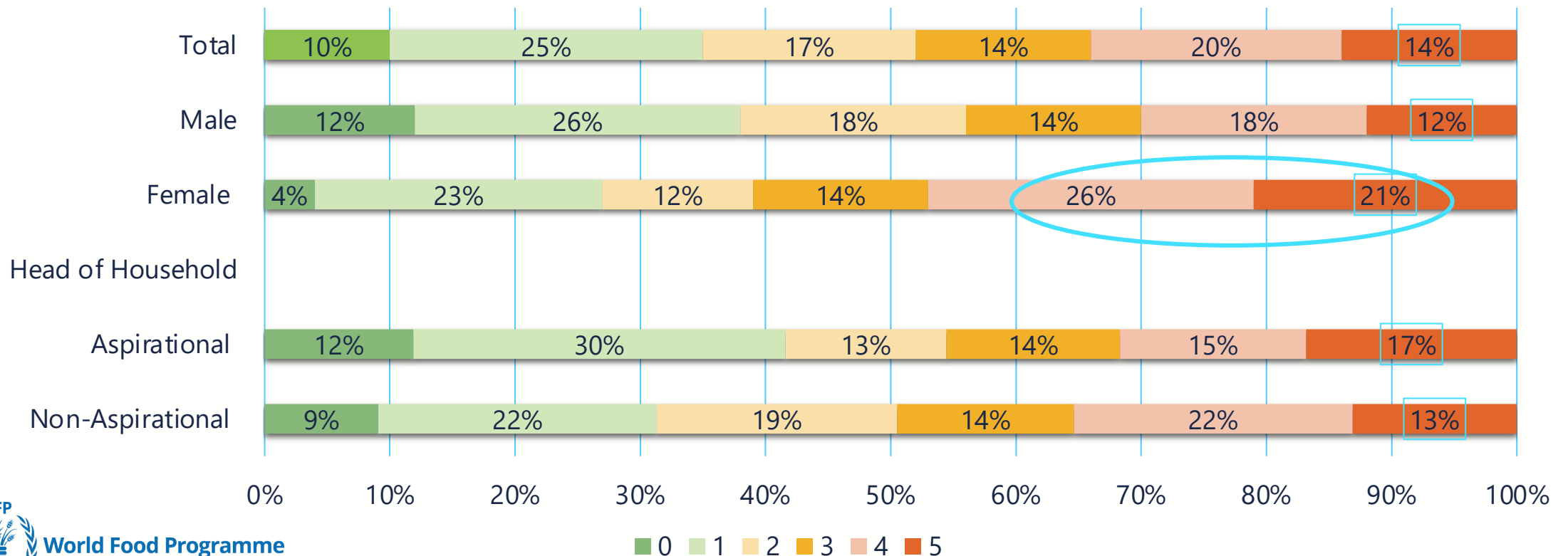
Type of coping strategies by sex of head of household



Number of coping strategies

- Households headed by women are more likely to use multiple coping strategies compared to those headed by men.

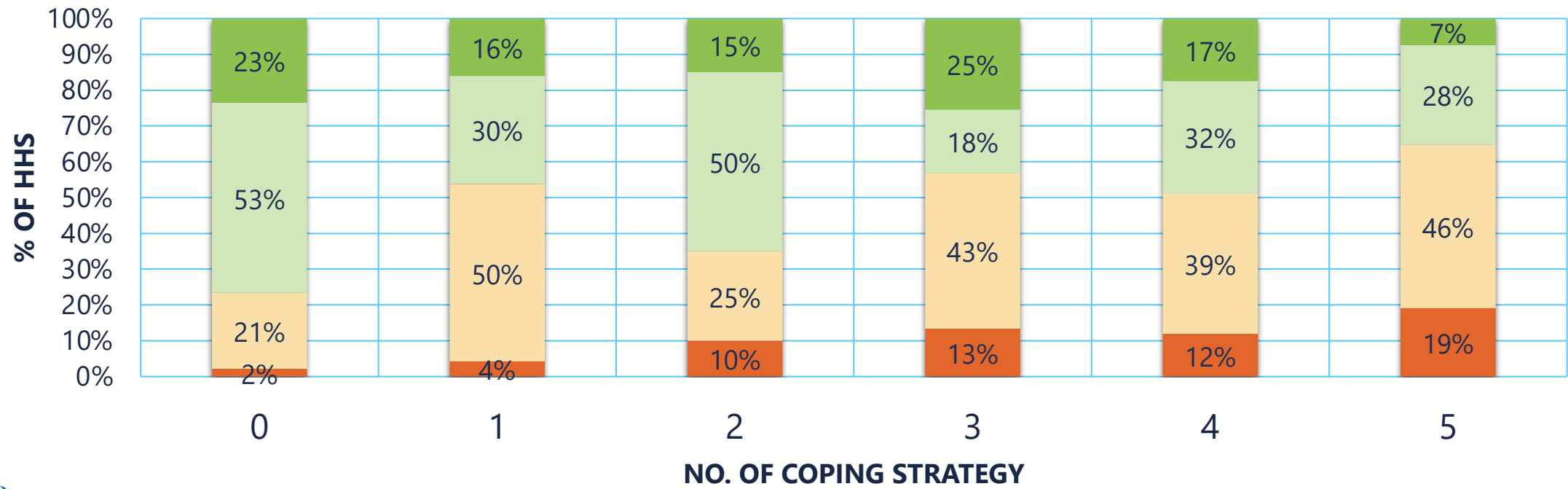
Number of coping strategies by sex of head of household and type of district



Relation between consumption of food groups and coping strategy

- As dietary diversity decreases, the reliance on coping strategies increases.

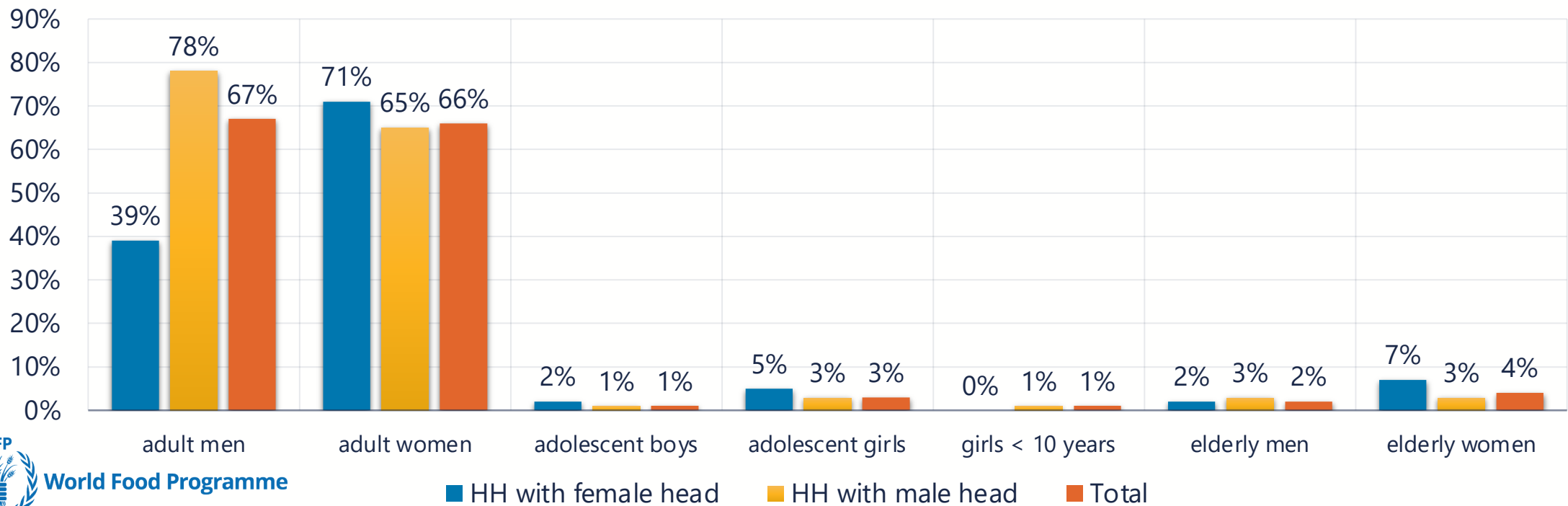
Food groups consumed in last 24 hours by number of coping strategy



Effect on intra-household food consumption

- 45% households reported change in the amount of food consumed by certain household members
- Adult men and women were more likely to reduce consumption (around 66%), as compared to children and elderly.

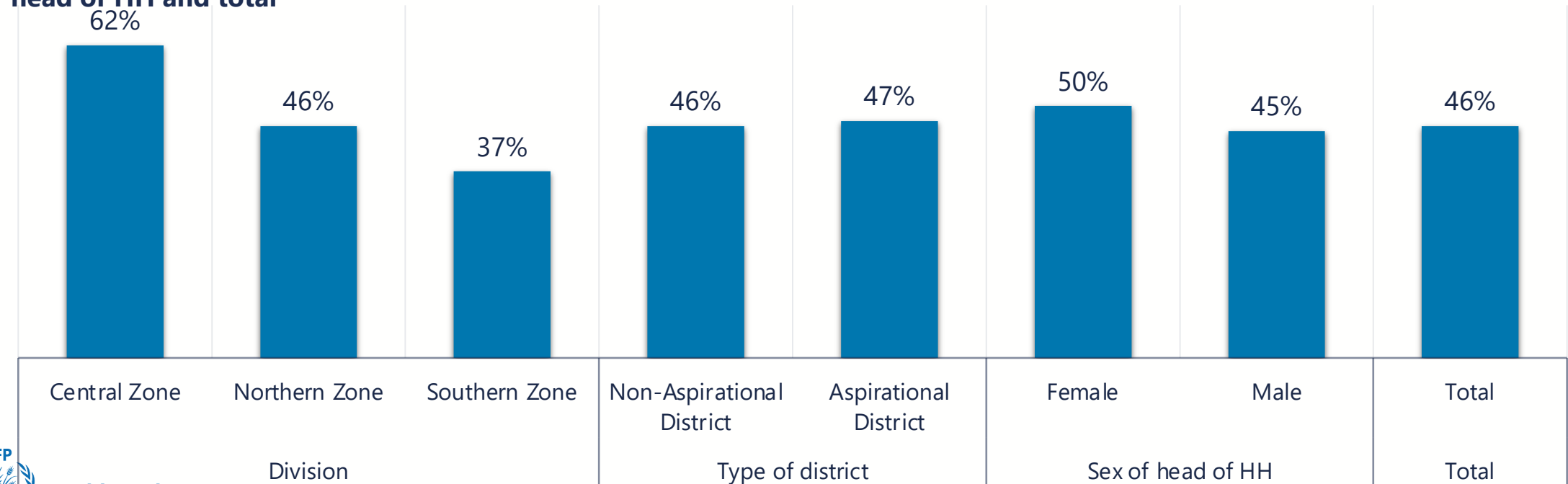
HH member whose food consumption changed post-lockdown by sex of head of HH and total



Borrowing of money to meet food needs

- Almost half of the households (46%) borrowed any money with nearly two thirds (62%) from Central Zone which was higher than households in the Northern (46%) and Southern (37%) zones
- **Source of Borrowing Money:** neighbours/relatives (66%), local money lenders (24%) and saving groups (17%). Few (4%) borrowed from the MFI/bank.

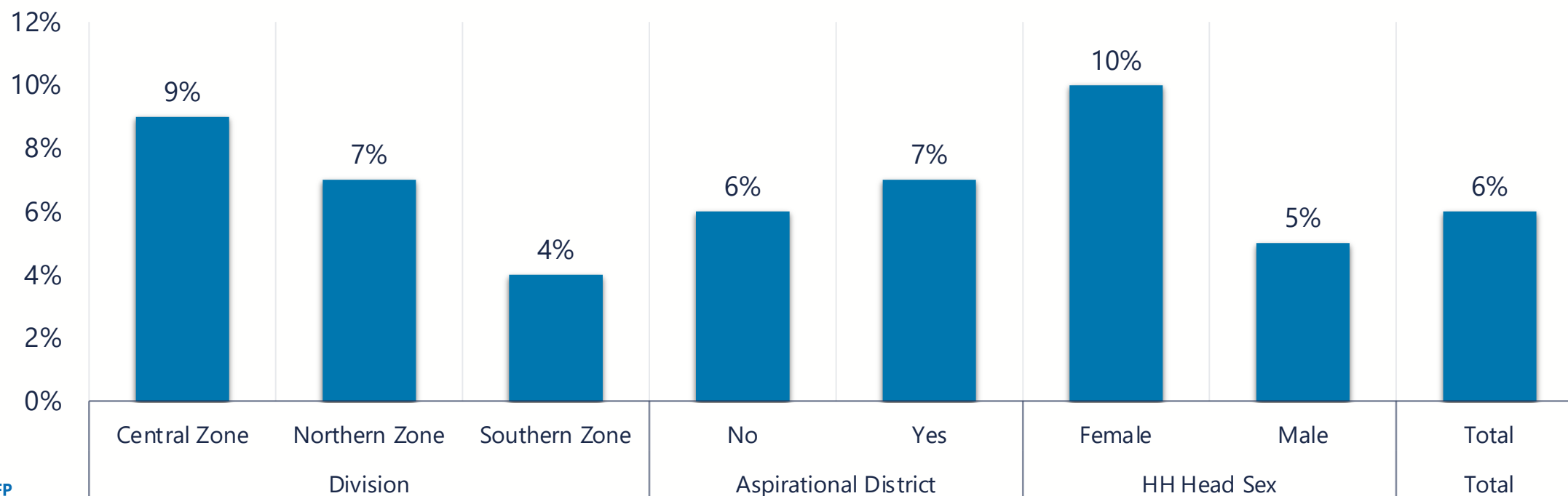
Proportion of households in which money was borrowed to meet family's food needs by division, type of district, sex of head of HH and total



Selling or mortgaging of assets to meet family's needs

- Few respondents (6%) reported of selling or mortgaging their assets; 10% of FHH compared to 5% of MHH
- Most commonly sold/ mortgaged assets were ornaments (23%). One-tenth sold land.

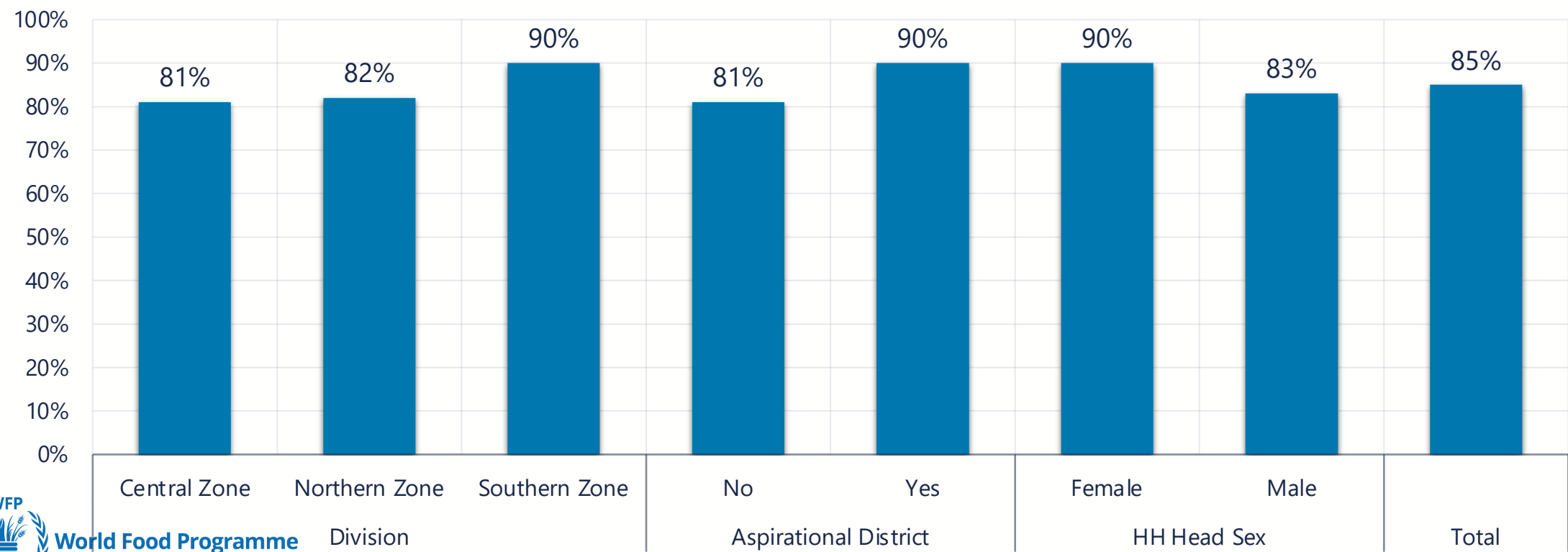
Proportion of households in which asset was sold or mortgaged to meet family's needs by division, type of district, sex of head of HH and total



Government or Non-Government Organization Support

- Four out of five received support; FHH and households from the Aspirational districts were more likely to receive support.
- Among those receiving support, almost all received from the government.

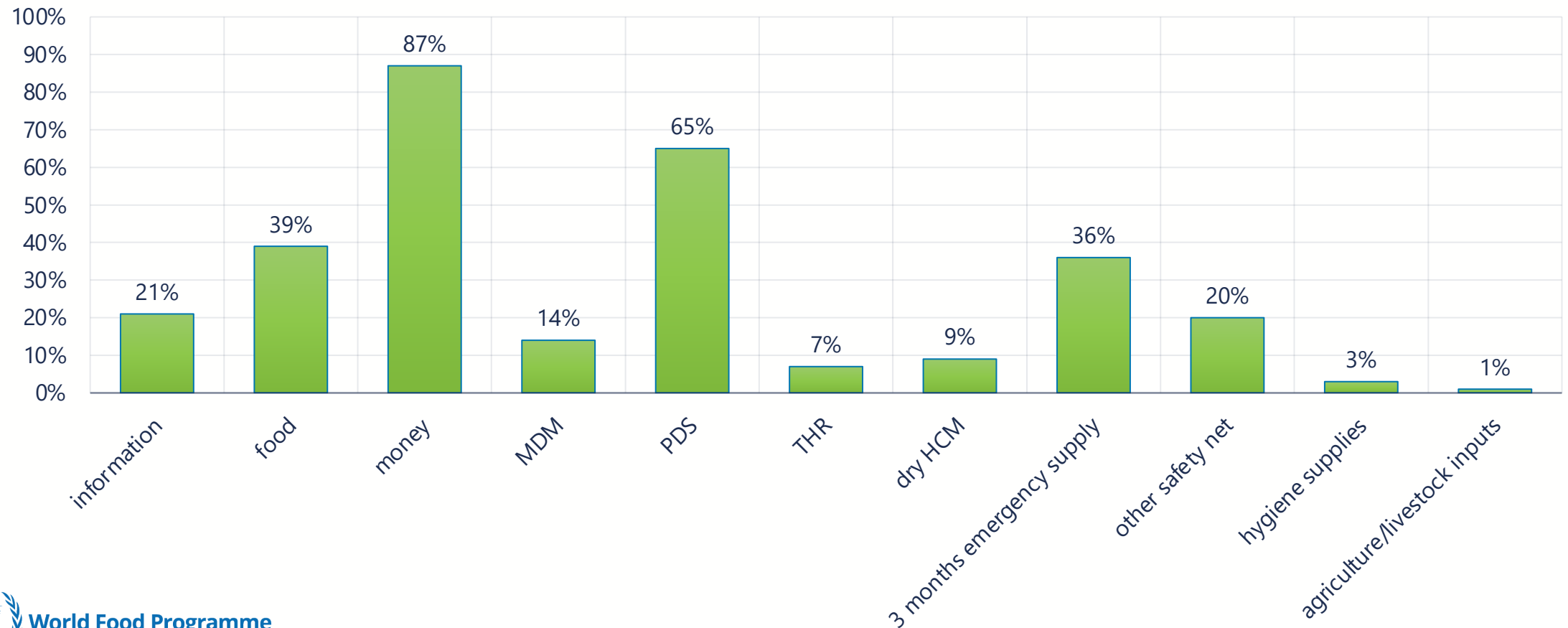
Proportion of households received support by division, type of district, sex of head of HH and total



Type of support received from government

- Most common type of support is in the form of money (87%); Almost two-thirds received from PDS while two out of five (39%) received food.

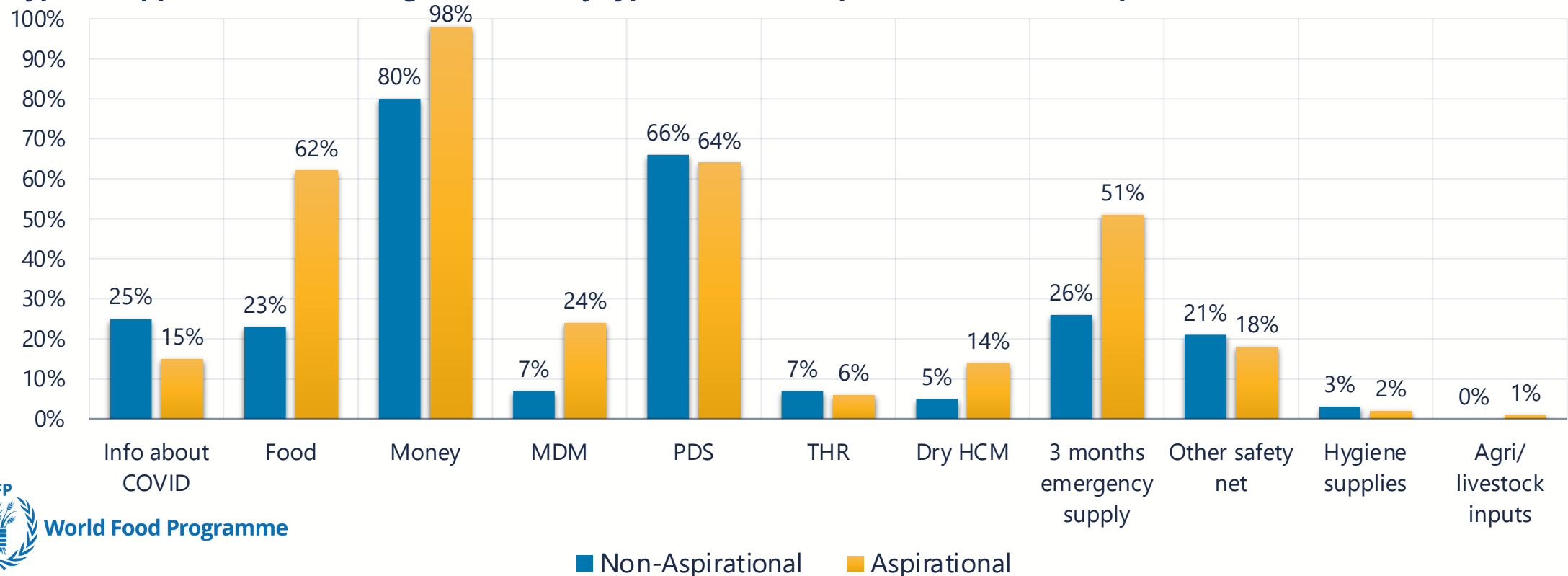
Type of support received from government



Government support by background

- FHH were more likely to have received support under other schemes like widow pension, old age pension, Mamata.
- Households residing in Aspirational districts were more likely to receive support in the form of food, money, MDM, dry HCM and 3 months emergency supply.

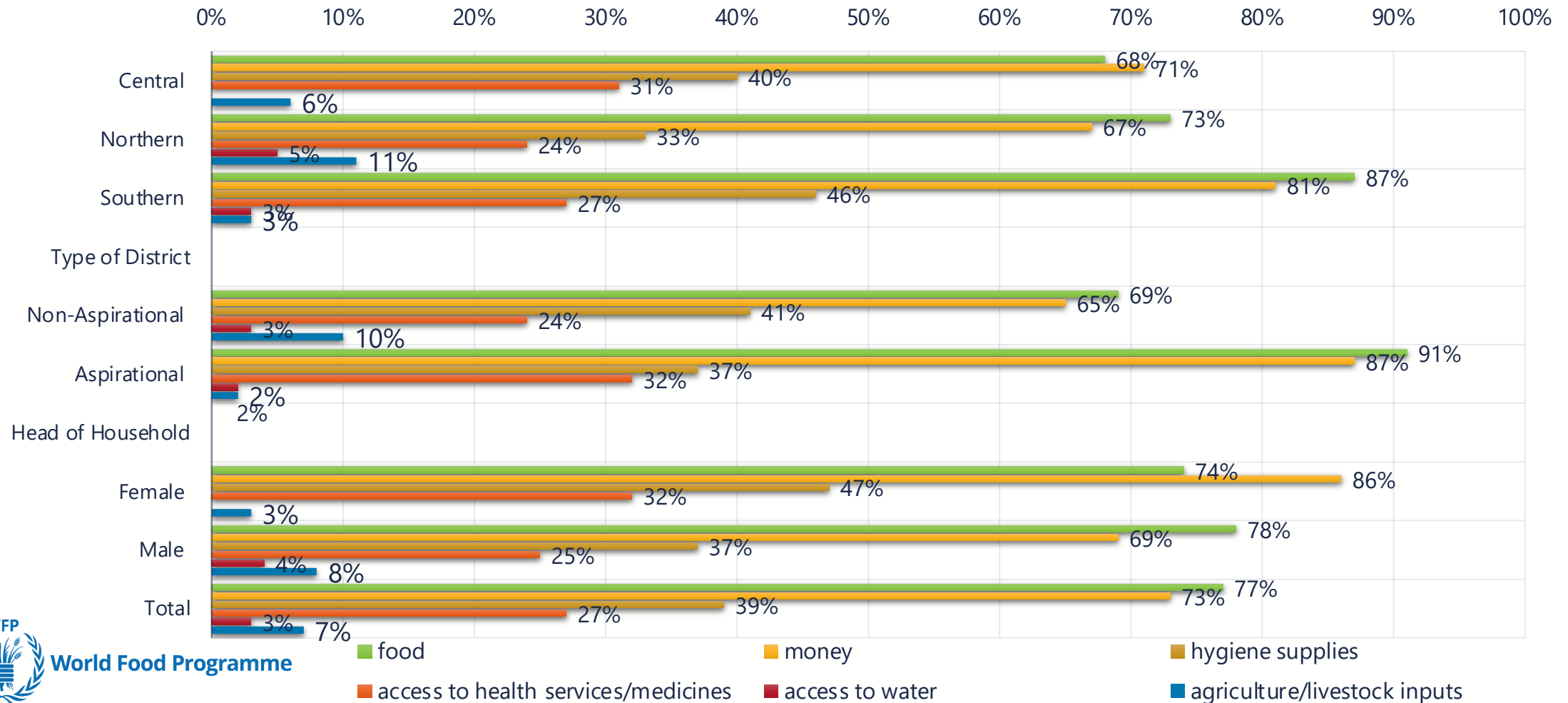
Type of support received from government by type of district (Aspirational and Non-Aspirational District)



Immediate needs in the next 10 days

- Almost three-quarters of HH need food (77%) and money (73%) support which is highest amongst HH in Aspirational districts. FHH are more likely to need hygiene supplies compared to MHH.

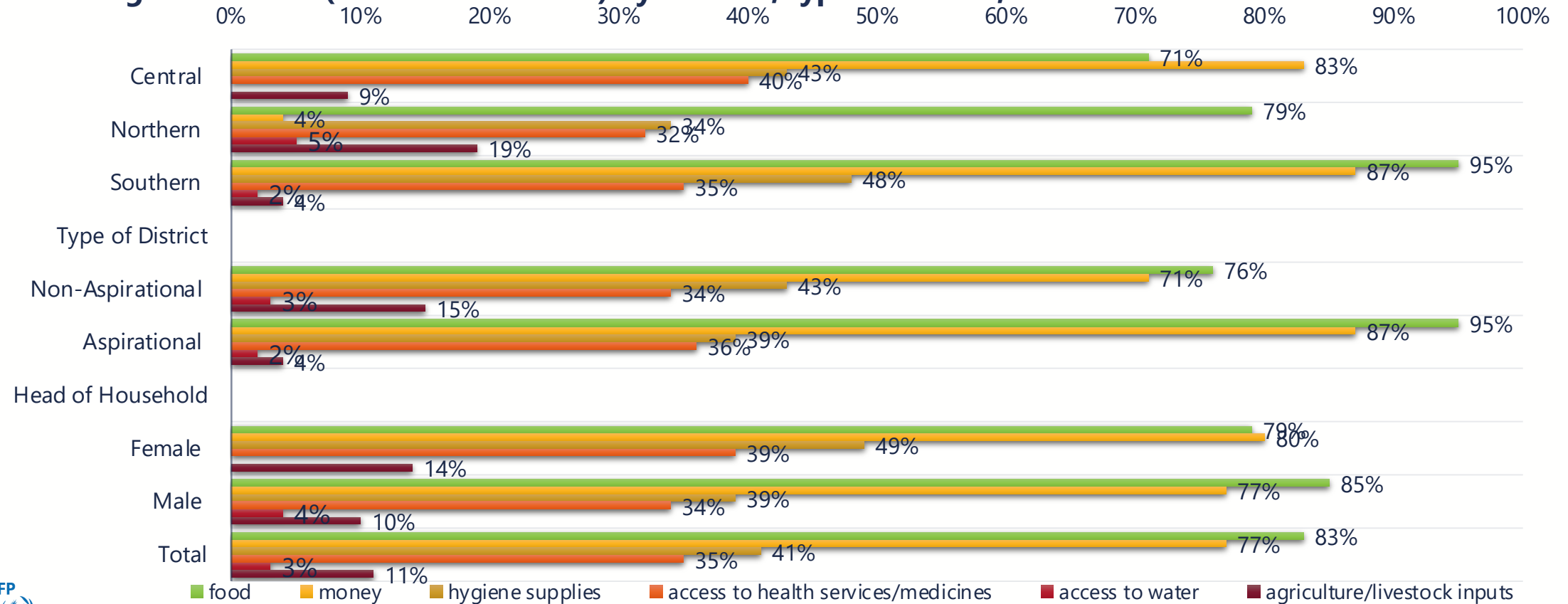
Household's immediate needs (over the next 10 days) by division, type of district, sex of head of HH and total



Long-term needs in next one month

- Food and money are the most common need; hygiene supplies (41%) and access to health services/medicines (35%) is also high.
- Household from Aspirational districts are more likely to require food (95%) and money (87%)

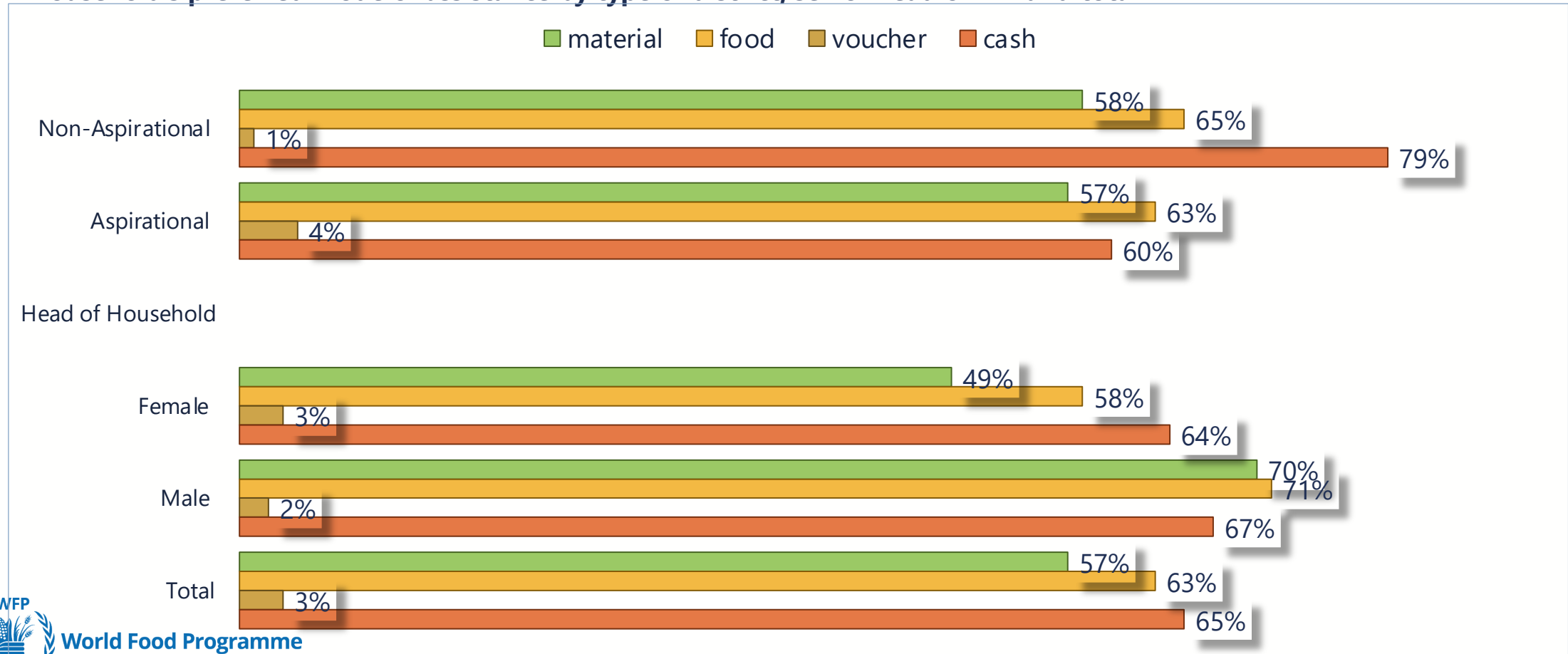
HH's long-term needs (in next one month) by division, type of district, sex of head of HH and total



Preferences for the mode of assistance

- Cash and food are the most preferred form of assistance while Voucher is the least preferred mode
- FHH are more likely to prefer food and materials compared to MHH.

Household's preferred mode of assistance by type of district, sex of head of HH and total



Recommendations

1. Increase diversity of food consumption, especially amongst the more vulnerable households - diversifying foods provided in assistance, through IEC & ensuring availability of fresh foods in the markets.
2. Increase the quantity of food support and expand the coverage of COVID response systems.
3. Cash assistance should be continued and feasibility of increasing the amount of money and coverage of vulnerable households should be explored.
4. Distribution of assistance through TPDS should be expanded.
5. More emphasis on the food and nutritional needs of HHs in Aspirational Districts and those headed by women.
6. Continue providing food and cash assistance to the vulnerable while exploring creative longer-term solutions.

“At this time of immense global challenges, from conflicts to climate shocks to economic instability, we must redouble our efforts to defeat hunger and malnutrition. This is crucial for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and building a more stable and resilient world. We have the tools and the know-how. What we need is political will and sustained commitment by leaders and nations.”

António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations
2020 Global Report on Food Crises

Thank you!