



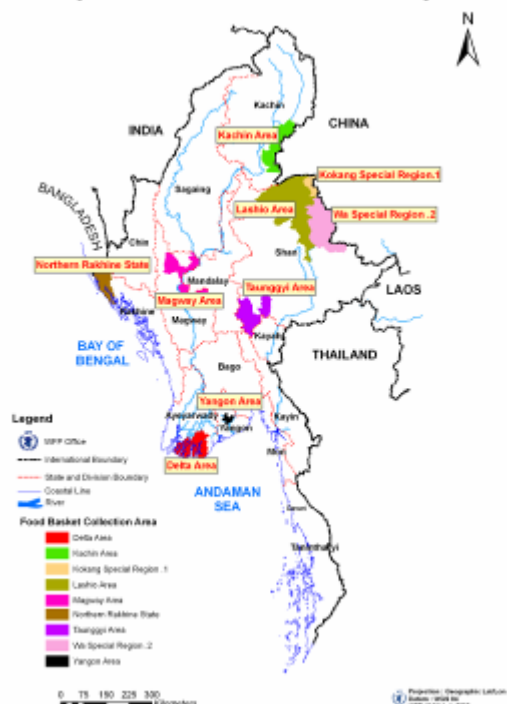
DECEMBER 2009: HOUSEHOLD FOOD BASKET BULLETIN

This edition of the Food Basket Bulletin attempts to provide detailed analysis on food prices, casual labor employment and wages for 2 time periods. In addition the overall food security situation with respect to prices, wages and employment for 2008 & 2009 has been graphically depicted for each region.

- **Section A** is based on an analysis of trends over relatively longer time-period. This period being the course of 2009 - January to December 2009. This section is divided into two parts with Part 1 dealing with rice price trends and Part 2 with labor and wage trends.
- **Section B** consists of a more detailed analysis at the village tract level for the period September – December 2009
- **Section C** is a graphical representation of the Current Minimum Standard & the Basic Survival Threshold for each region for a period of 2 years (January 2008 – December 2009). This is designed to give the reader, at a glance, a clear idea of the food security trends over a period of 2 years for the entire region.

This report describes the ability of poor and vulnerable households in selected areas in Myanmar to meet their basic food needs. The report is produced by the Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit at WFP Yangon.

Monthly Food Basket Collection Areas in Myanmar



Data was collected with the help cooperating partners, including ADRA, World Vision, WHH, REAM, CARE, KMSS, OISCA, AMDA, PACT Myanmar, Save the Children, Metta, NAG, Shalom foundation and Field Staff from ten WFP sub-offices and two field offices.

Market data related to household access to rice is collected on a monthly basis from WFP's current operational areas: Northern Rakhine State, Dry Zone-Magway, Northern Shan State: Lashio Areas, Kokang Special Region, Wa Special Region; Kachin State, Taunggyi area; Delta Areas and Yangon as shown in the adjacent map. The data collected includes rice prices, daily wages, and employment opportunities.

Section A: Wage, Price & Employment Trends across Myanmar over a Period of Twelve Months

Part 1: Rice Price Trends across Myanmar over a Period of 12 Months

A look at rice price trends across the country presents 2 scenarios; (1) states / divisions where prices have increased over 12 months and (2) areas where price has decreased. It is to be noted that a particular area for example, Lashio, may have seen a decrease in the price of rice across seven of its nine village tracts. Thus, for the Township as a whole we can say that prices have decreased over a 12 month period. Behavior of prices for each township is listed in greater detail elsewhere in this Bulletin.

(a). Areas that have seen an overall decrease in rice prices

The following areas across the country have seen an overall decrease in prices (over a twelve month period):

1. Northern Rakhine State (NRS)
2. Yangon
3. Dry zone

The following Village Tracts (VT) have seen the highest percentage decrease in prices over a twelve month period

		Percentage Change (%)
1	Mee Kywat HlaingTharYar (Yangon)	-50 %
2	Kaung Ming Sang (Wa)	-37 %
3	Tar Shwe Tan (Kokang), Taung Pyo (NRS)	-31 %
4	Kha MOUNG Zeik (NRS)	-29 %
5	Kha Htee Hla (NRS), Wai Moe (Kachin)	-25 %

(b). Areas that have seen an overall increase in rice prices (over a twelve month)

1. Bogale
2. Laputta
3. Kokang
4. Kachin

The following Village Tracts have seen the highest percentage increase in prices over a twelve month period

		Percentage Change (%)
1	Nan Khan Wu (Wa)	150 %
2	Ban Wai (Wa), Set San (BGL), Poe Oo San (BGL), KaDonkaNi (BGL),	100 %
3	Pang Kham (Wa)	92 %
4	Bogale (BGL), Kyein Chaung (BGL), MyinKakone (BGL)	75 %
5	Man Ton Par (Kokang)	74 %

Across the country the following areas have seen the highest price for a Kg of lower quality rice (in absolute terms i.e. in Myanmar Kyats) in December 2009:

	Village Tract / Township	Area	Average Price of 1 Kg of Rice in December' 09 (in Kyats)
1	Nan Khan Wu, Pang Kham	Wa	700
2	Man Ton Par, Morhtai, Honai	Kokang	550
3	Man Pan	Lashio	450
4	Namsanyang	Kachin	450

Part 2: Labor & Wage Trends across Myanmar over a Period of Twelve Months

Data on wage rates and average days of employment were analyzed and a number of discernable patterns were seen. While other areas, not listed below did show change, this was not significant in terms of increase or decrease relative to the patterns seen below.

Number of Days per Week Employed - December 2009

		# of Days	Area
Men			
1	Highest average number of days (per week) employed	7	Yenanchaung (Dry zone)
2	Lowest average number of days (per week) employed	1	Dabakyang (Kachin)
Women			
3	Highest average number of days (per week) employed	7	Yenanchaung (Dry zone)
4	Lowest average number of days (per week) employed	2	Kha Htee Hla (NRS), Buthidaung (NRS), Taung Bazzar (NRS), Nyaung Chaung (NRS) Kyein Chaung (NRS) Kha Mounng Zeik (NRS) Pakhangyi (Dry zone)

Casual Labor Wages Earned per Day - December 2009

		Wages Per Day (in Kyat)	Area
Men			
1	Highest reported wage rate from casual labor	7000	Pang Kham (Wa)
2	Lowest reported wage rate from casual labor	1000	Rathedaung, Zedi Pyin (NRS)
Women			
3	Highest reported wage rate from casual labor	2000	Taunggyi
4	Lowest reported wage rate from casual labor	400	Nyaung Chaung(NRS)

Section B: Wage, Price & Employment Trends for September – December’ 09

In this section, the analysis attempts to provide a rough indicator of food security trends based on 3 key factors; changes in staple food prices, wages and employment opportunities.

The charts that follow in this section provide comparisons between the Current Minimum Standard and the Basic Survival Threshold of HHs in a given location. The charts have been compiled based on the assumption that households do not have significant access to self production and there fore rely on casual wages to generate income.

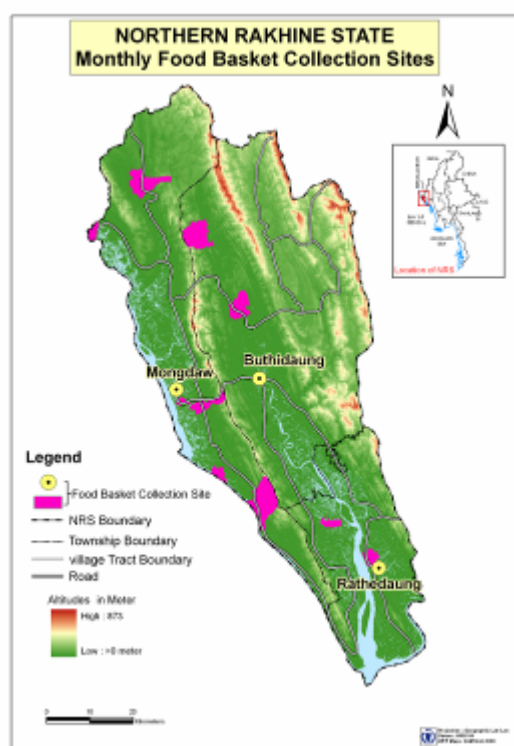
Calculation method:

The two lines in attached charts denote the following:

BLUE: current minimum standard (the average weekly income of a poor household), derived from the formula: [number of earners] x [no of days of employment]x[daily unskilled wages]

RED: basic survival threshold (the minimum expenditure per household per week to survive, only rice), derived from the formula: [0.5 kg cheap rice price] x [number of persons per household] x [seven days per week] These calculations take into account "compulsory collateral expenditures" in urban areas (weekly):

Northern Rakhine State

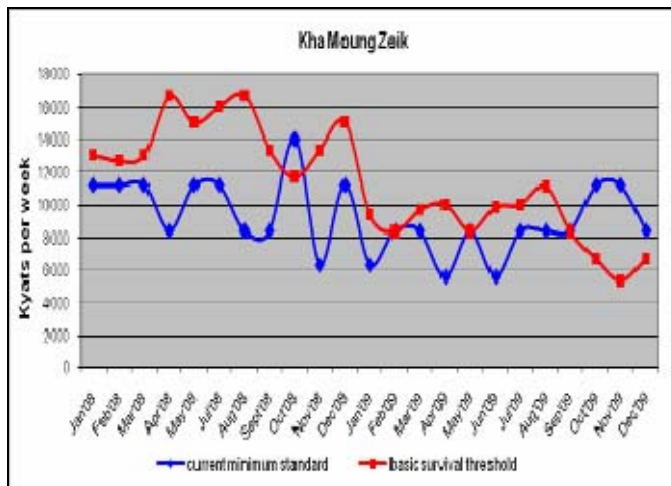
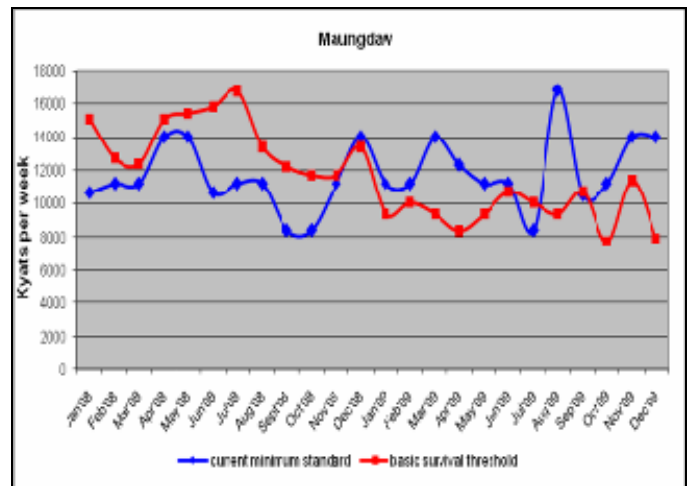
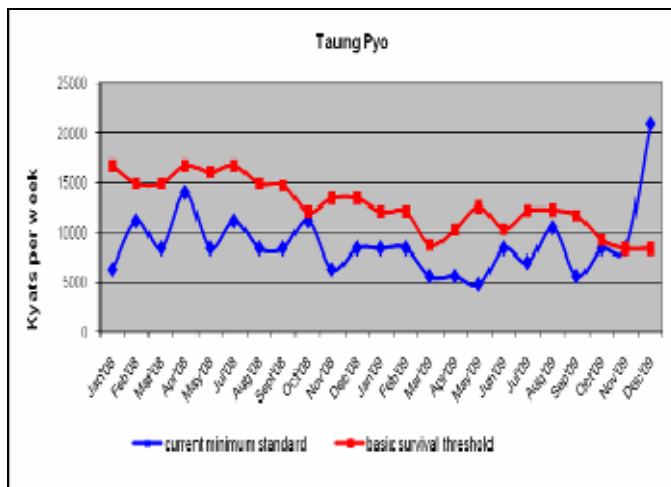
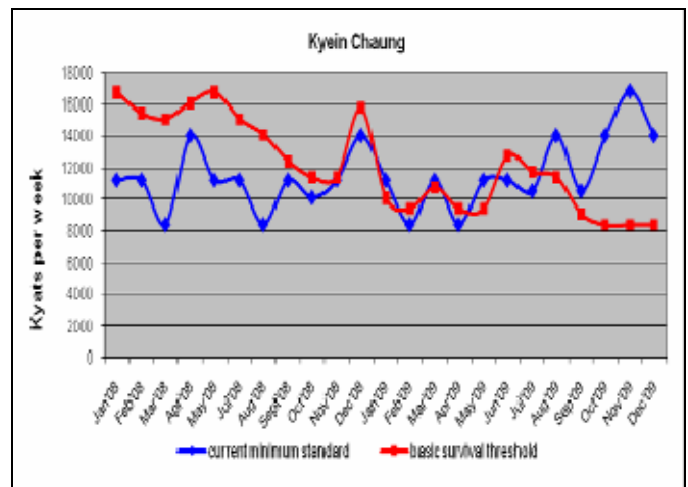
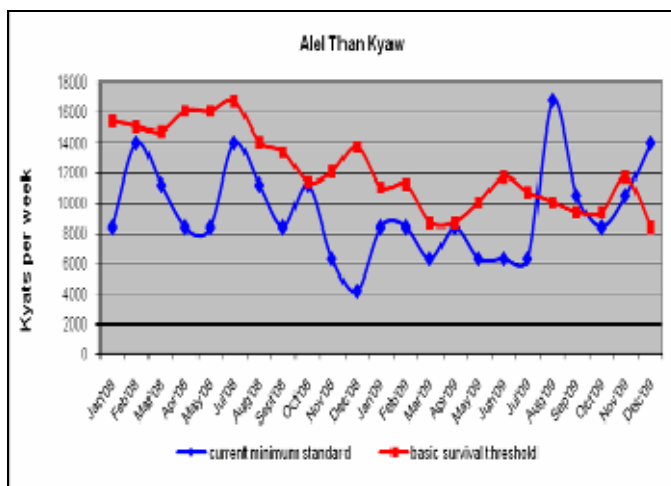
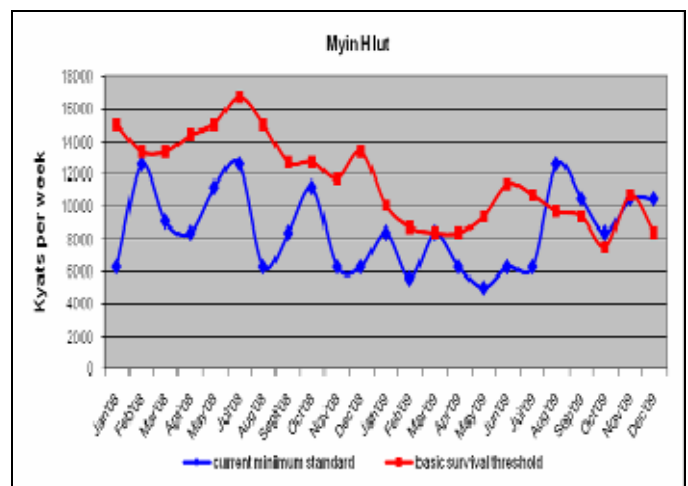


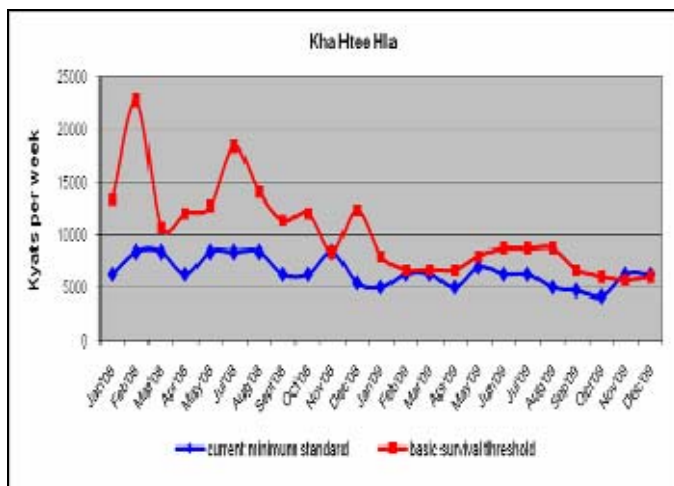
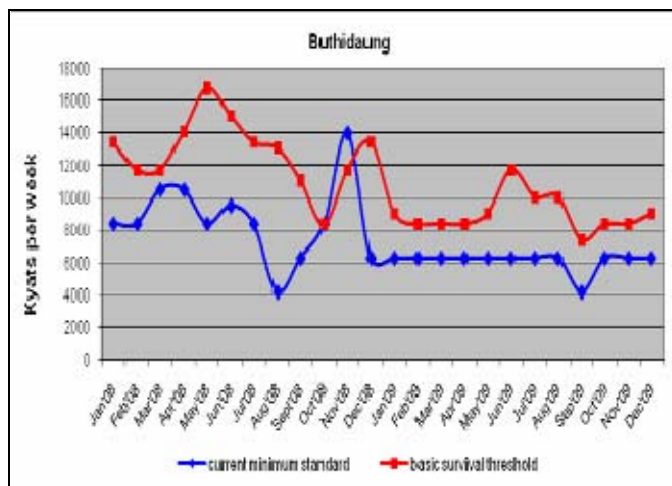
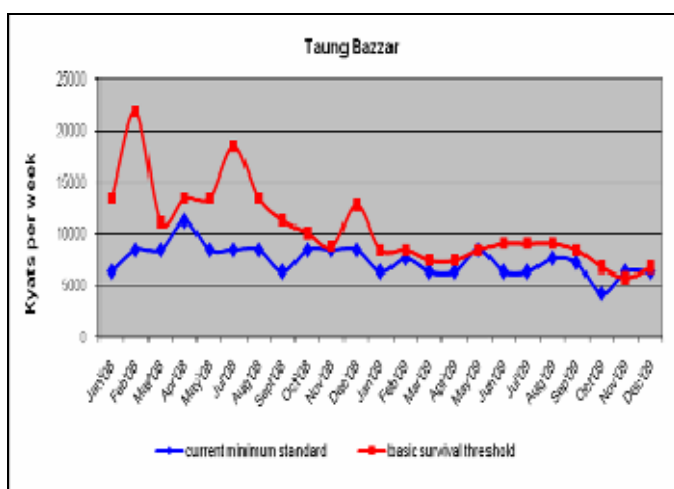
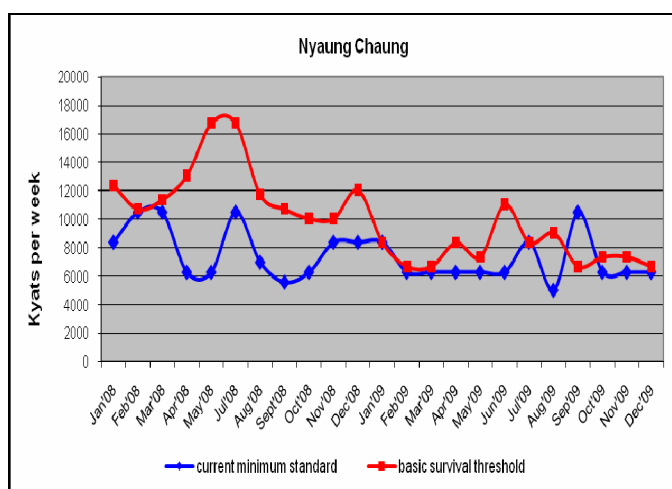
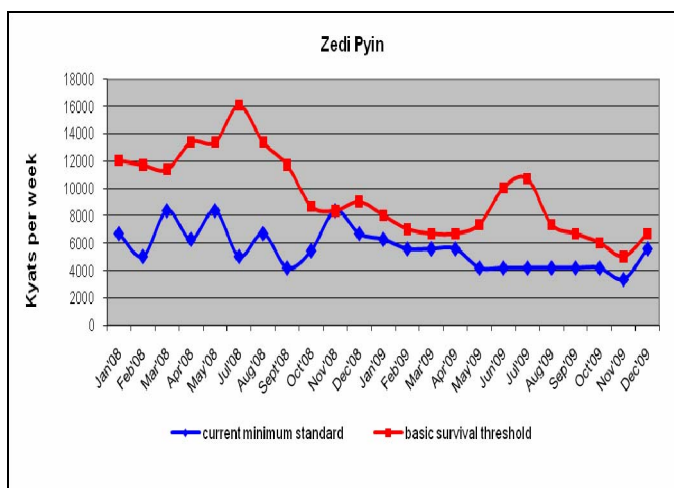
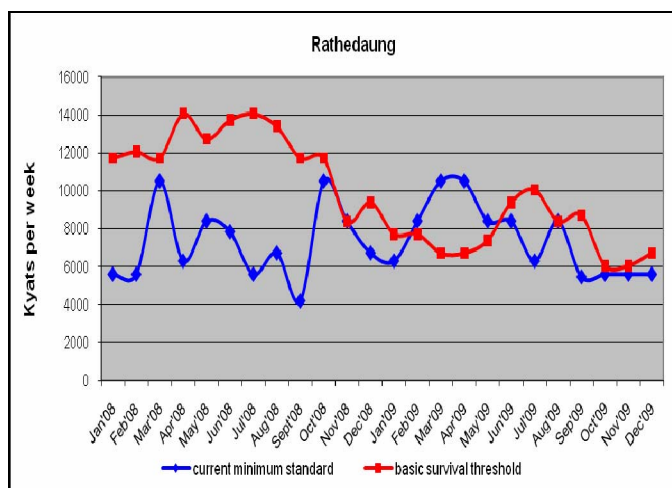
HH food security was poor in Buthidaung, Zedi Pyin, and Rathedaung for the period September to December. Nyaung Chaung was below in poverty line for 3 months - October, November and December. The opposite trend could be found in Kha MOUNG Zeik and Maungdaw. In Taung Pyo and Alel Than Kyaw the Current Minimum Standard increased rapidly during December. With respect to Kha Htee Hla, Taung Bazaar, Nga Khu Ra; the Current Minimum Standard was lower than the Basic Survival Threshold for September/October and vice-versa for the next two months.

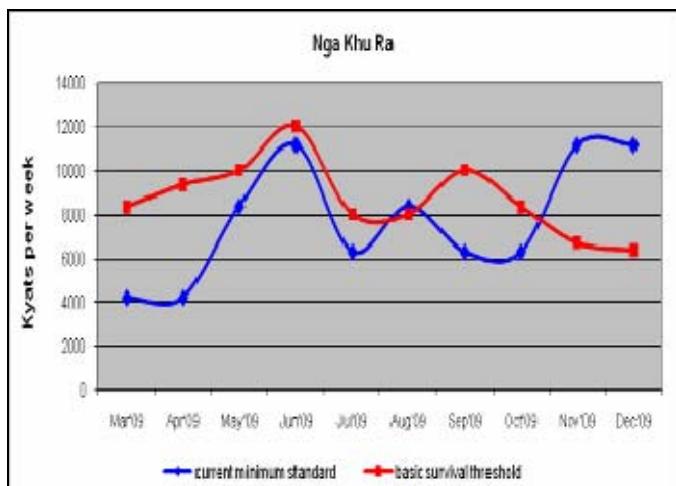
During the months of September to December the average rice price declined in all NRS area and the average number of employed day per week for Male Casual Labor was 4 and the wages, 1500 Kyat's/Day. In September, the highest price for rice was 350Kyats/Kg in Taung Pyo. In November, the lowest price of rice (150 Kyats/Kg.) and the lowest wages (800Kyats/Day) were seen in Zedi Pyin.

However as has been noted in previous Bulletins, access to food continues to be a problem in NRS and this negates any potential advantages of a reduction in price

Average household of 6.7 with 1.4 earners.







Northern Shan State: Kokang Special Region

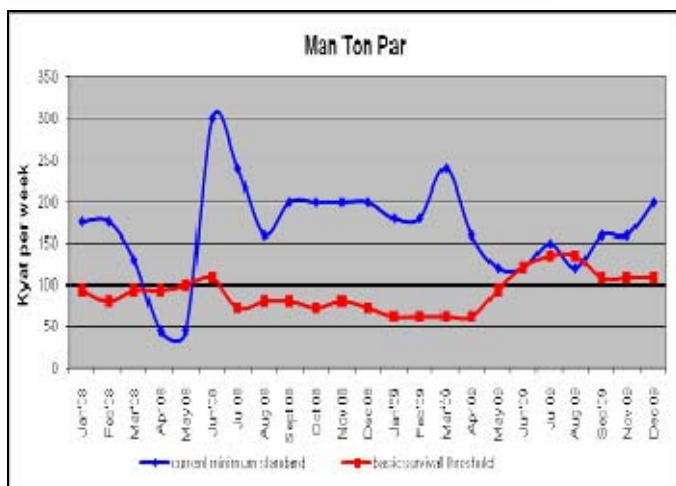
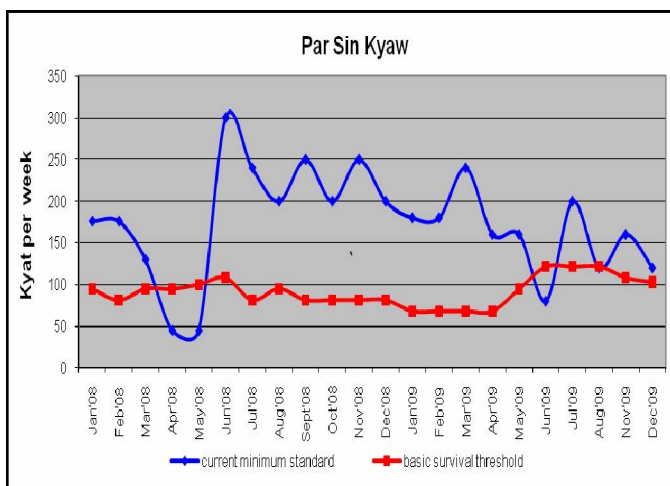


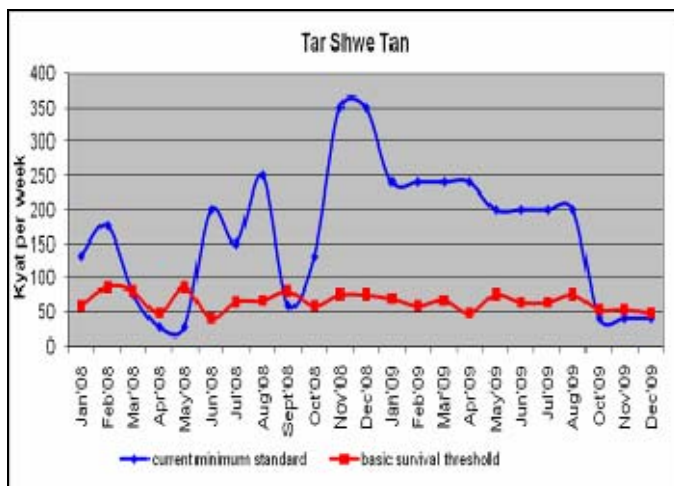
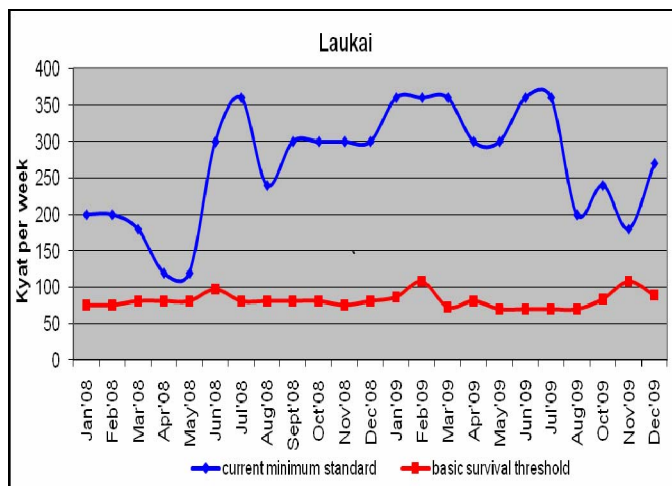
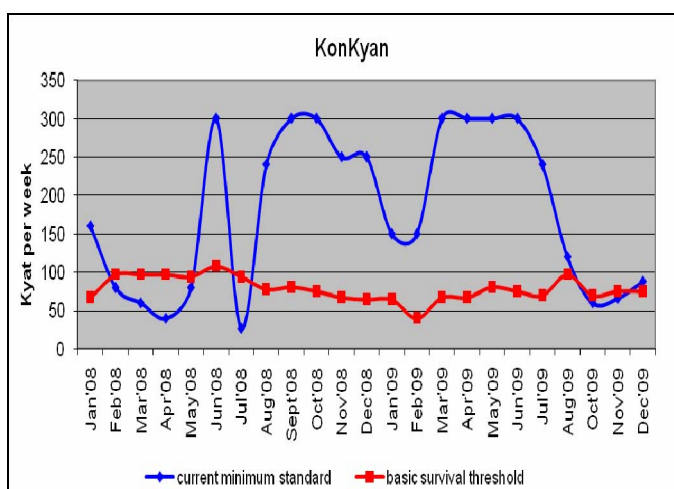
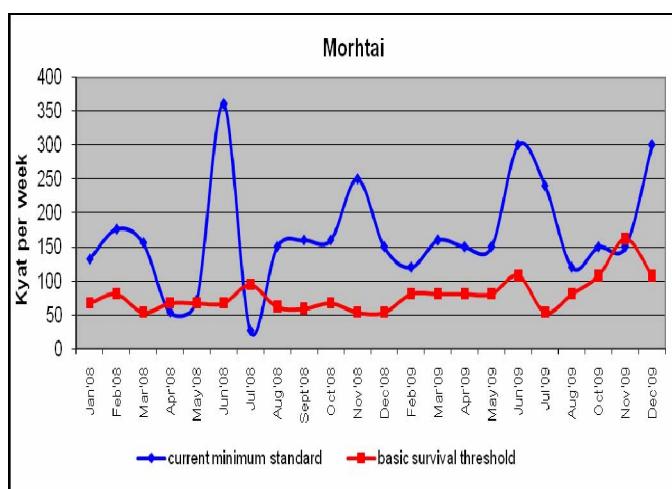
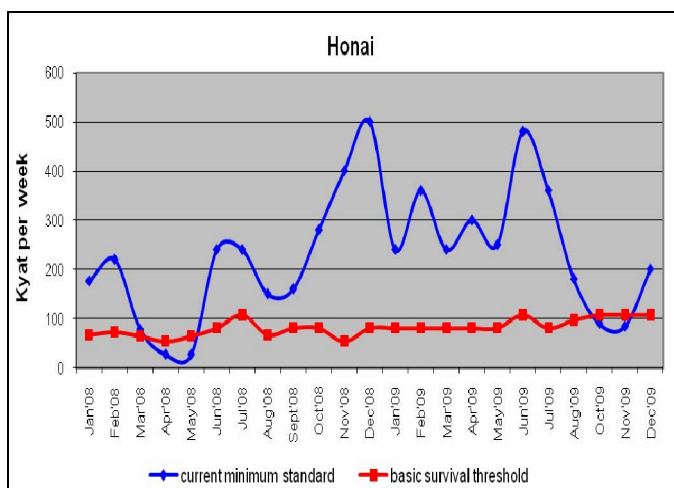
Tar Shwe Tan, Konkyan, and Honai experienced food insecurity in this period. Man Ton Par, Par Sin Kyaw and Laukai depicted a food secure trend when compared the rest of Kokang (NSS area).

The average price of rice across the Kokang area was 4.5 Yun/Kg. The highest earning for Male Casual Labor was 30Yun/Day in Laukai and Mortai; whereas the lowest rate of 10Yun/Day was seen in Konkyan and Tar Shwe Tan. The average number of days employed was 4.

Average household of 6 with 2.2 earners.

Note: no data available for September in Kokang area.





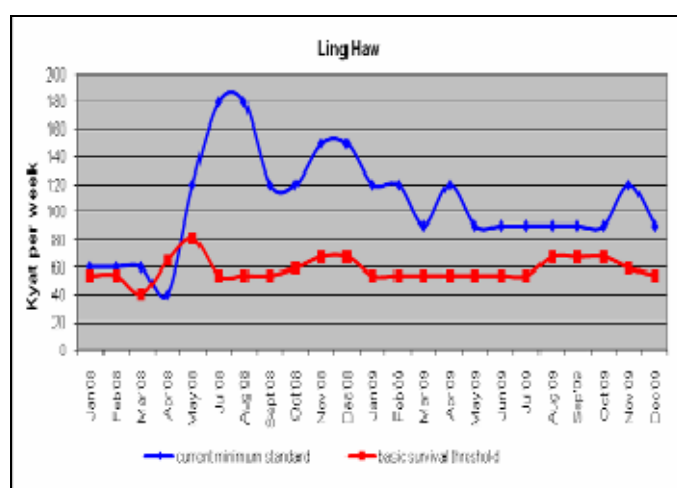
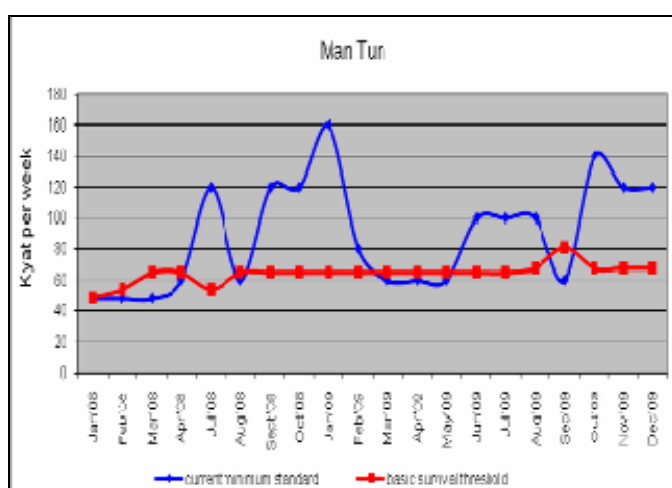
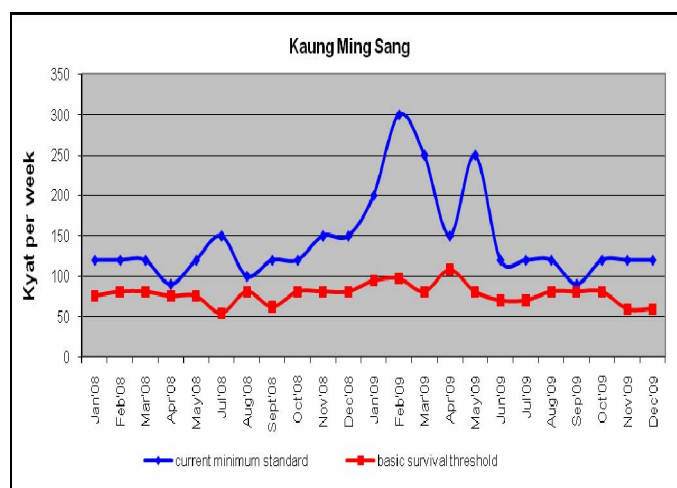
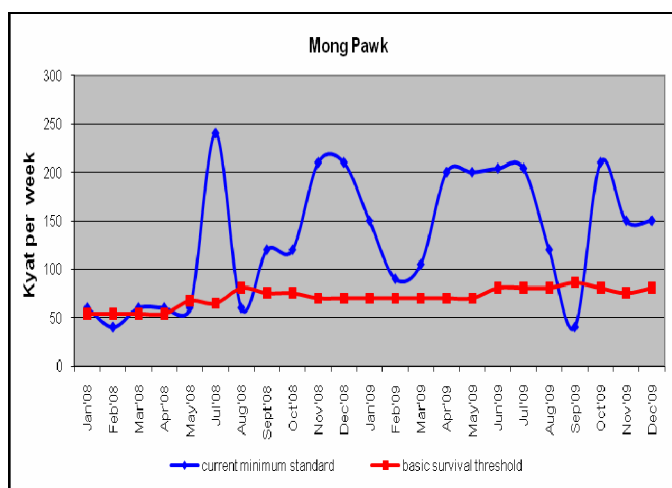
Northern Shan State: WA Special Region

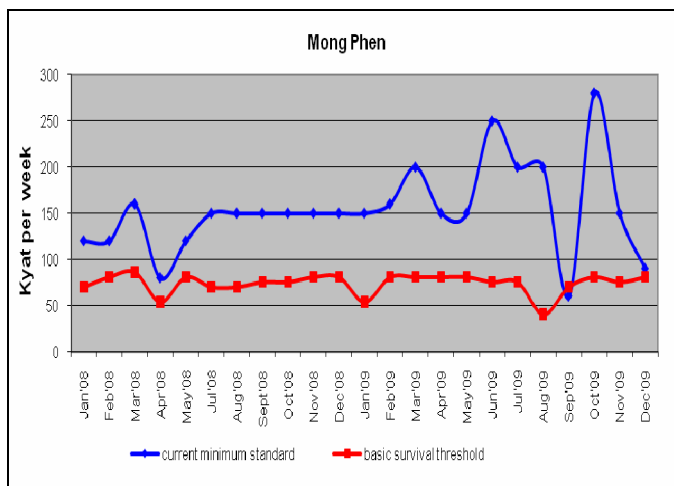
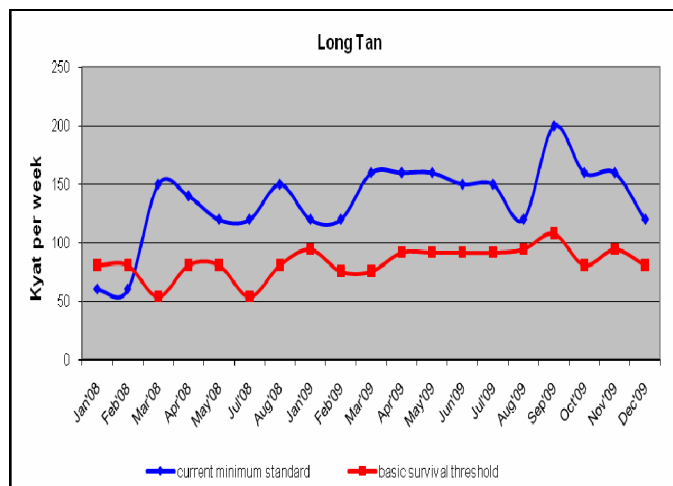
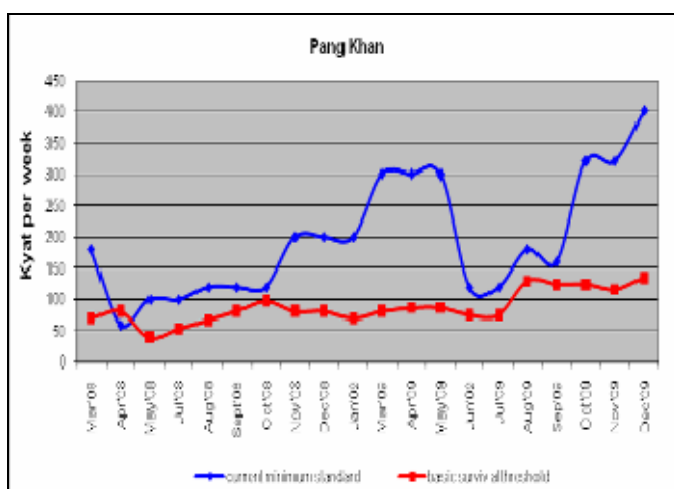
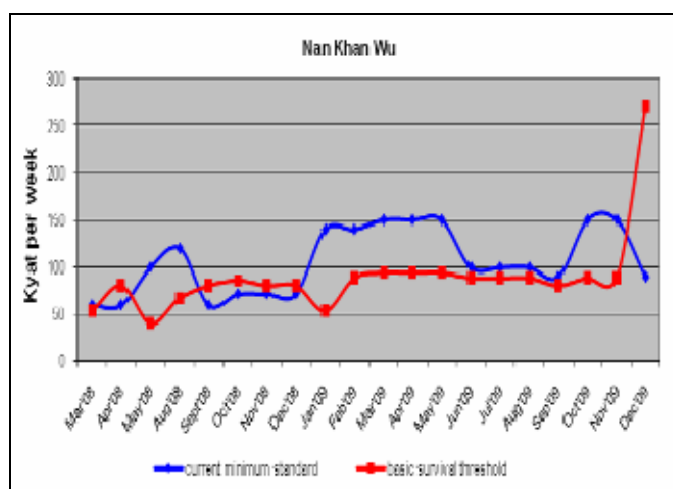
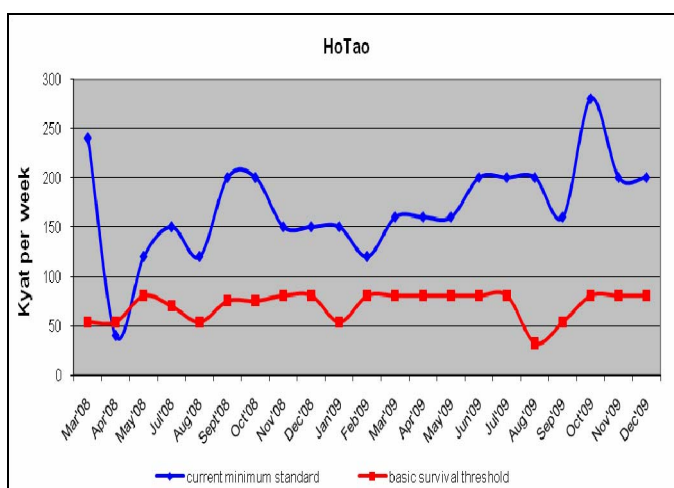
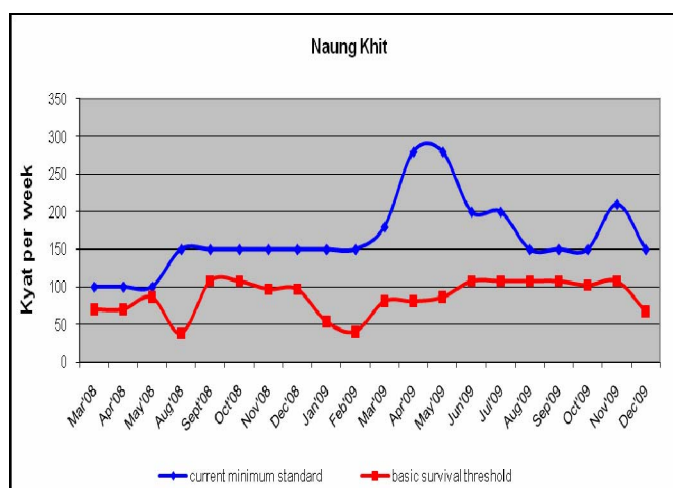


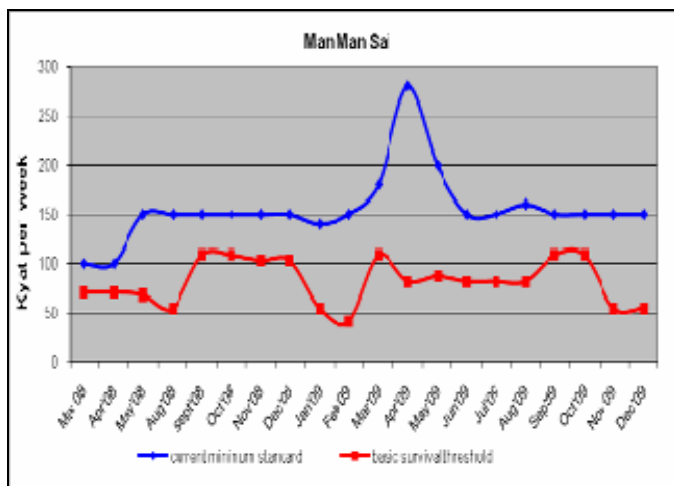
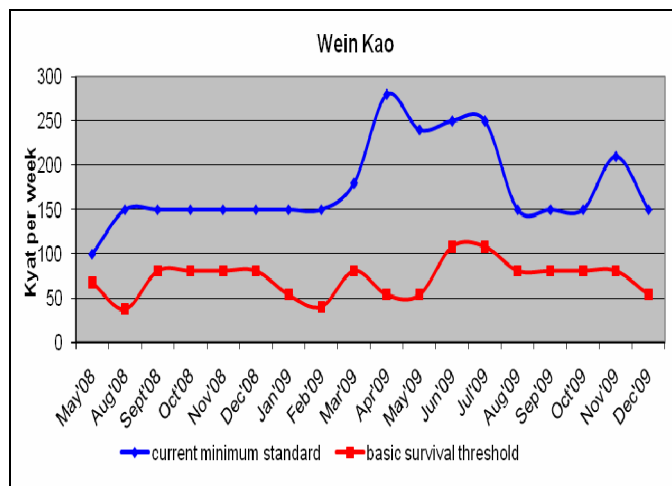
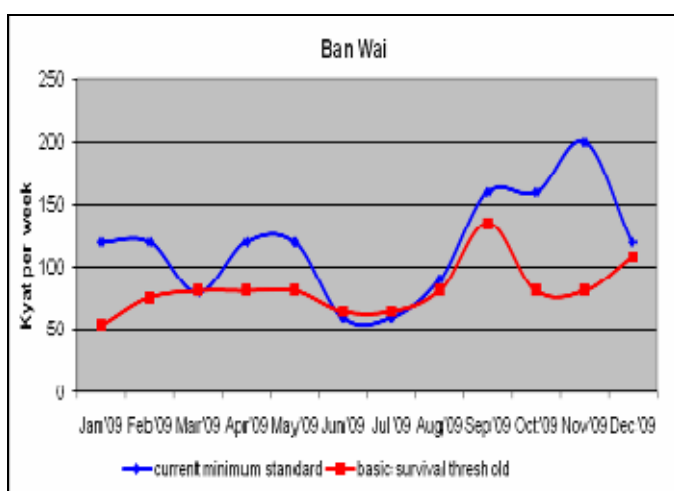
During this period, most of Wa areas depict relatively good food availability. However, Man Tun, Mong Pawk, Mong Phen depict sudden food insecurity trends for the month of September and Nan Khan Wu, in December.

Wages and employment opportunities in Man Man Sai were stable (15Yun/day and 5 day per week) in this period. In September, the highest rice price was reported (5Yun/Kg) in Ban Wai while 2Yun/Kg. was the lowest reported price in HoTao. Average wages and job opportunities in Wa area was 18Yun/Day and 4 day per week respectively.

Average household of 5.4 with 2 earners.





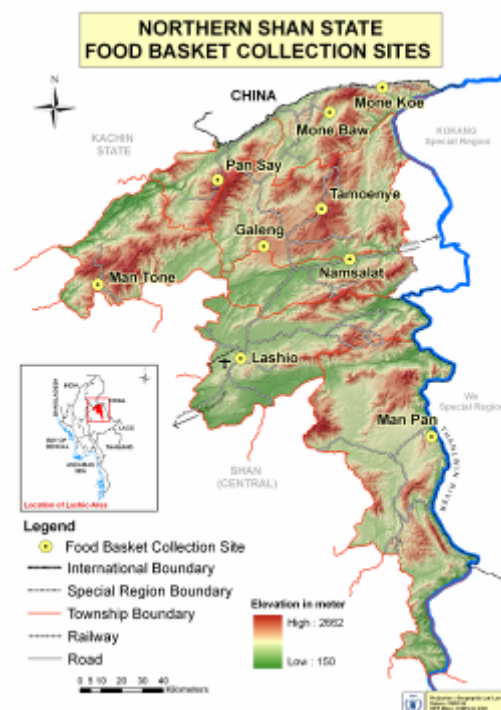


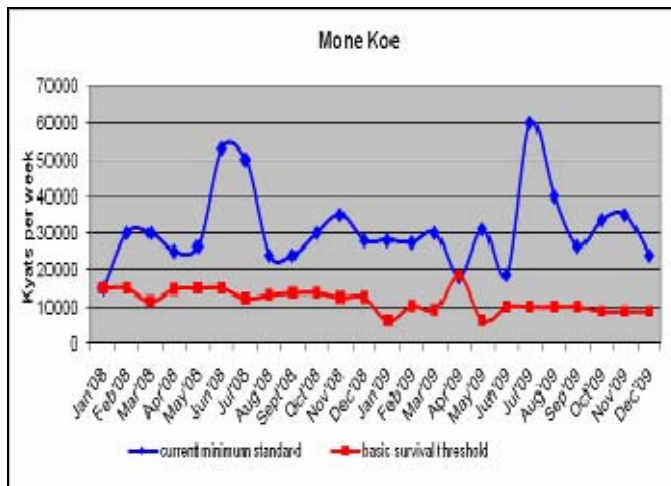
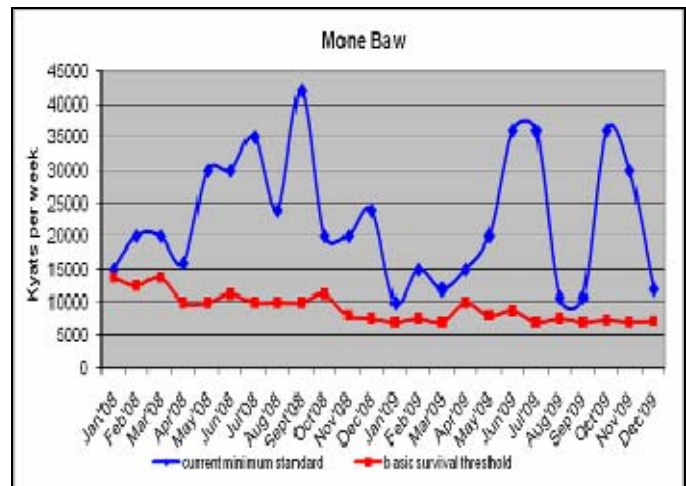
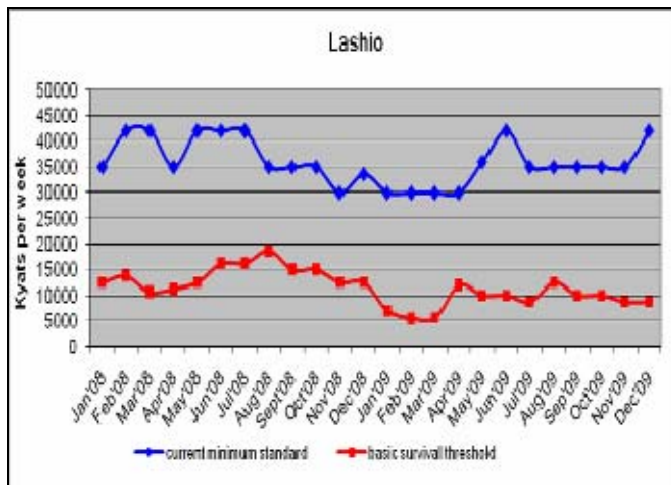
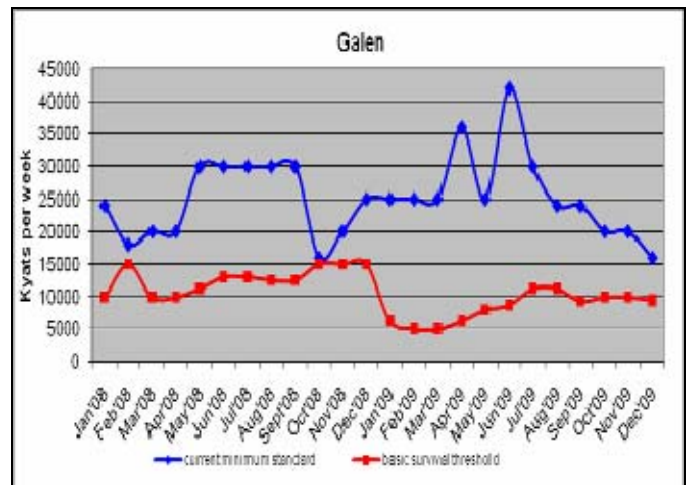
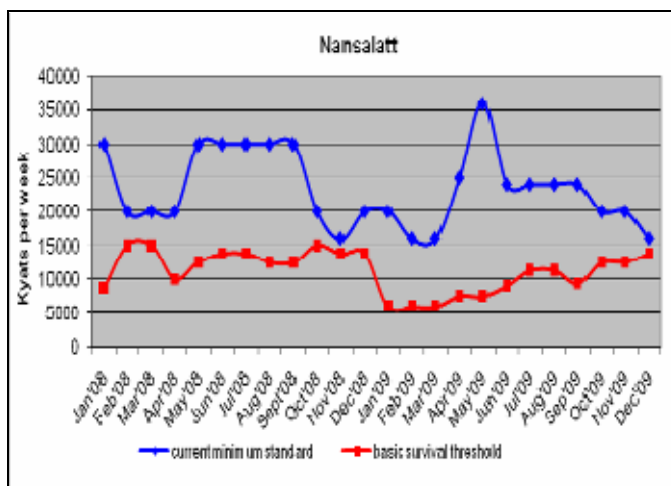
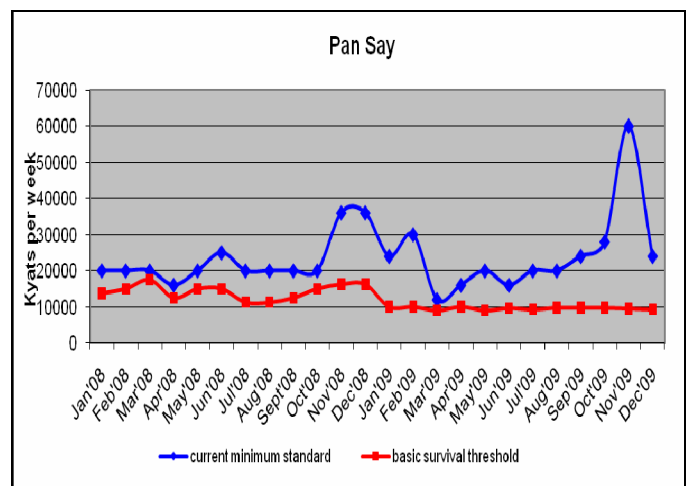
Northern Shan State: Lashio Area

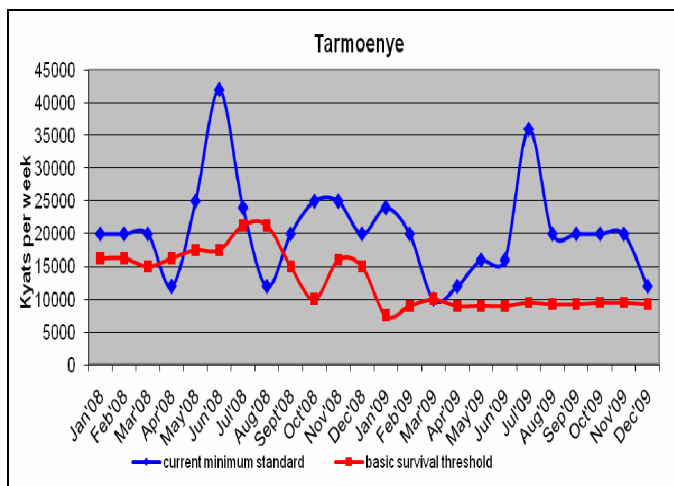
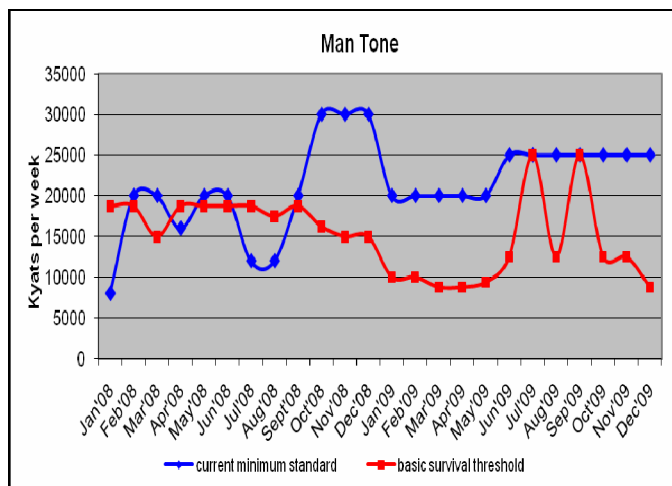
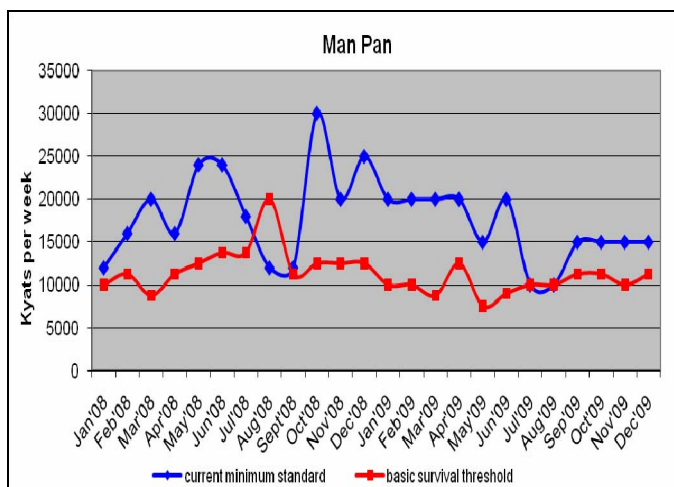
The disparity between income generation and food security was clearly seen across Lashio areas during all four month. It implies that most of Lashio areas could be classified as being food insecure during the period September – December 2009.

In September, the highest rice price of 1000 Kyats / Kg was recorded in Man Tone. There was no change in the highest rice price (500 Kyat/Kg.) and the lowest rice price (280 Kyat/Kg.) for the months of October and November. The average wage (4500 Kyat/Day) and employment rate (5 days per week) could be seen in Lashio area during September to December.

Average household of 5 with 2 earners.





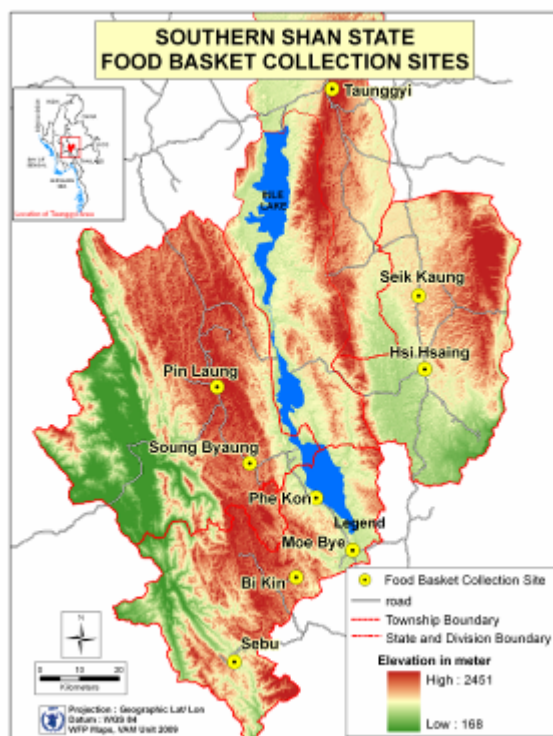


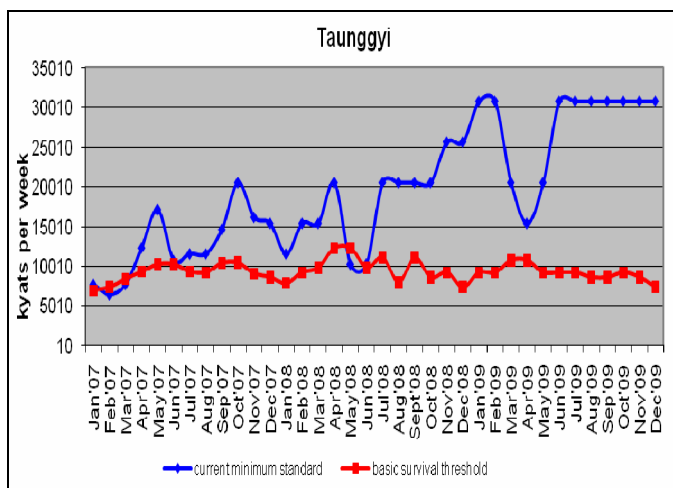
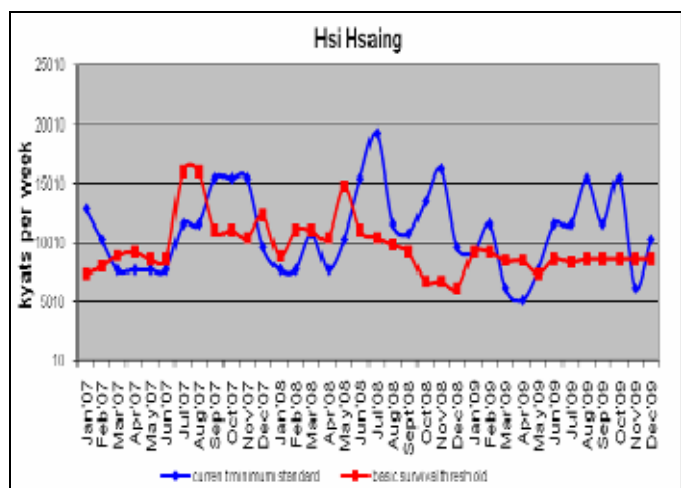
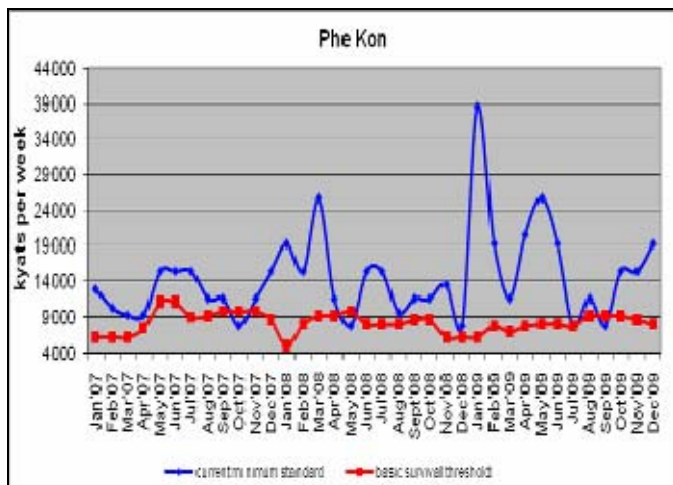
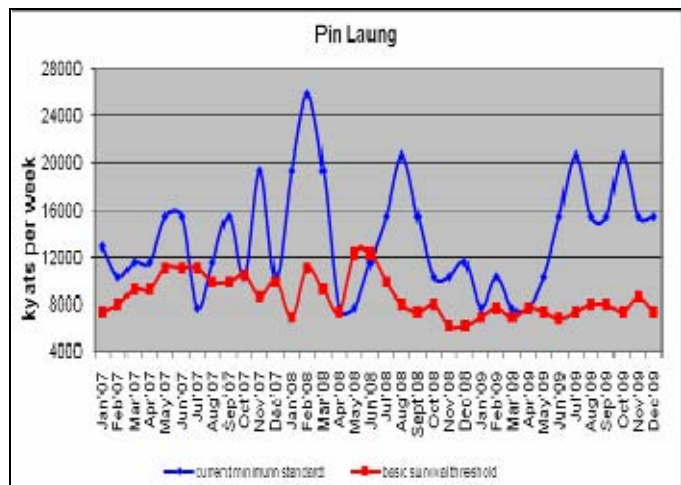
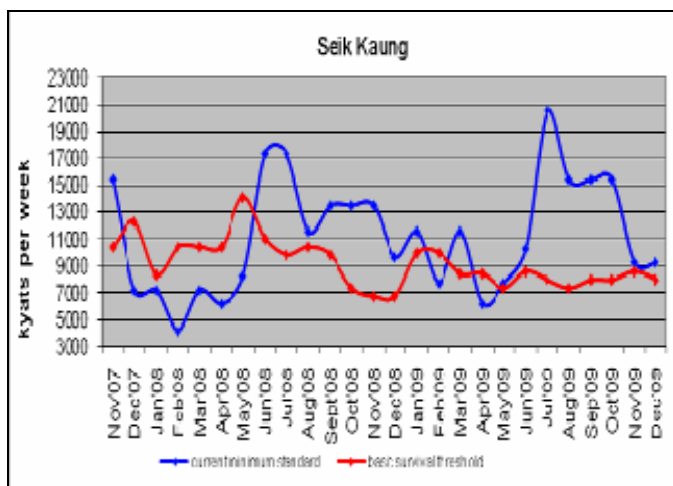
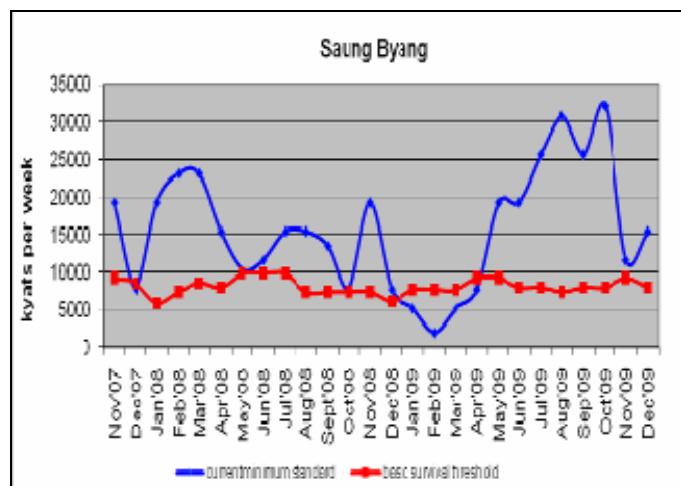
Southern Shan State: Taunggyi Area

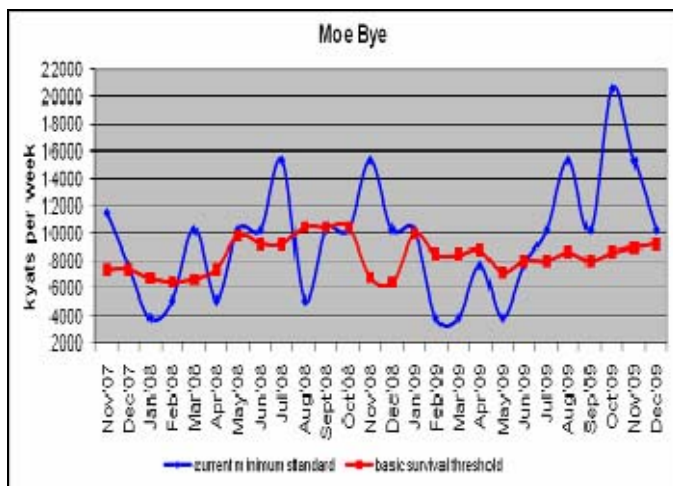
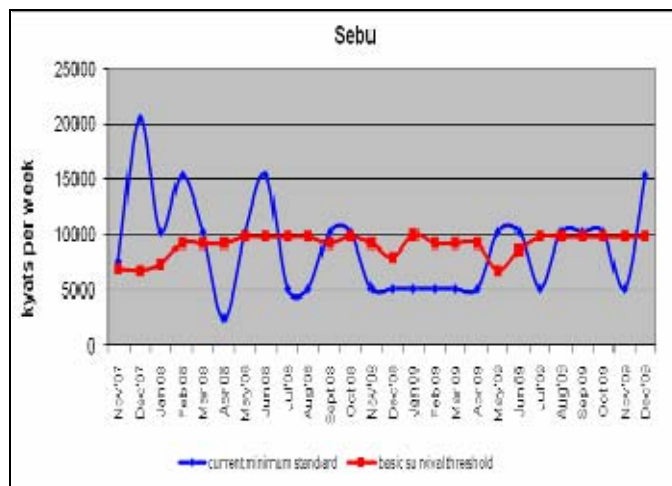
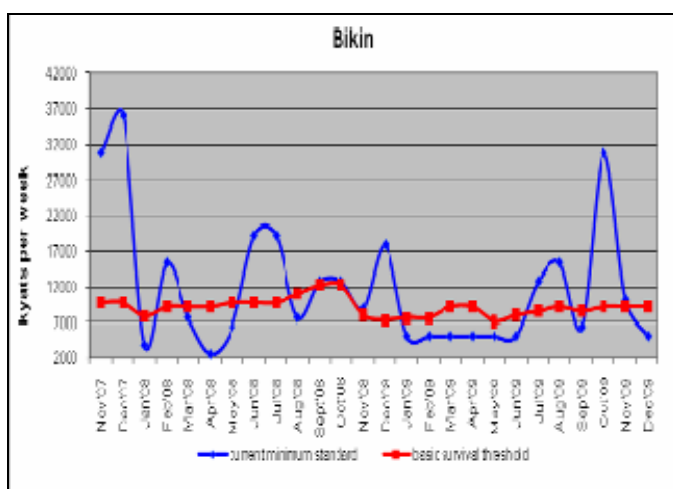
Though Basic Survival Threshold trend line remained nearly constant, Current Minimum Standard trend line fluctuated in most areas of Taunggyi. With respect to Taunggyi, Pin Laung, Seik Kaung, Saung Byang and Moe Bye; a relatively stable situation is seen. In contrast Sebu and His Hsaing depict a food insecure situation for the month of November.

The highest price of rice (400 Kyats/Kg.) and the highest wages (3000Kyat/Day) were recorded in Taunggyi area for this four month period. Bikin and Sebu reported the lowest employment day (1 day per week) while Saung Byang and Phe Kon reported the highest employment availability at 5 Days/Week.

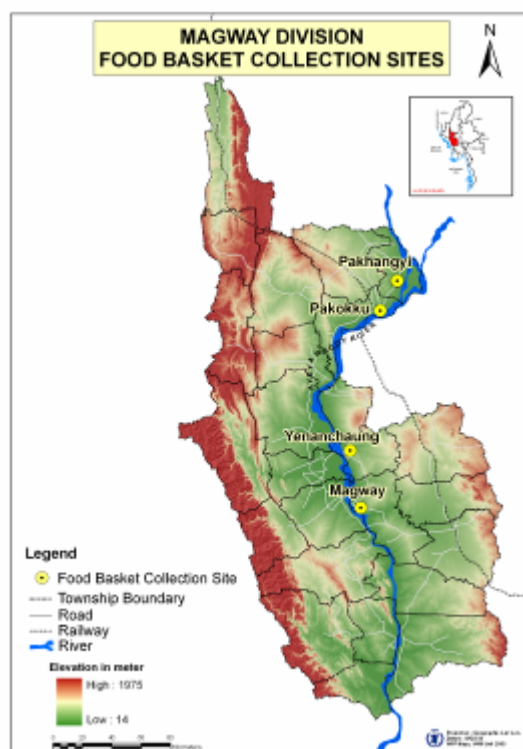
Average household 4.92 with 2.57 earners.







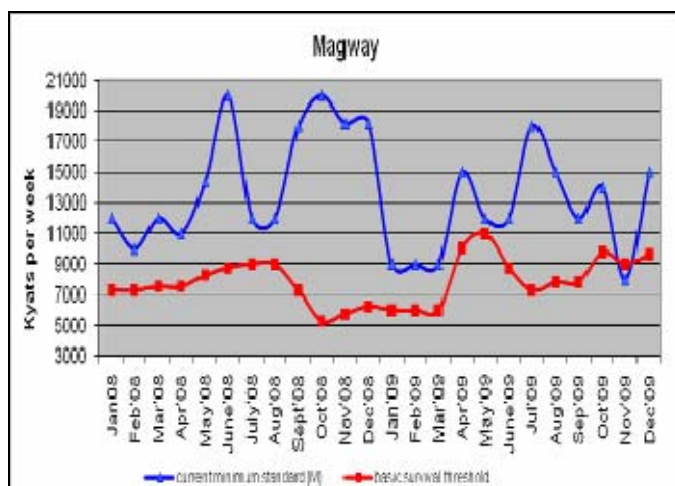
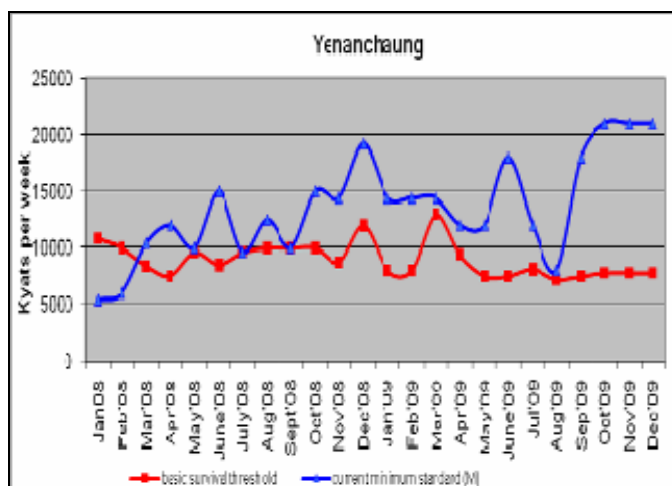
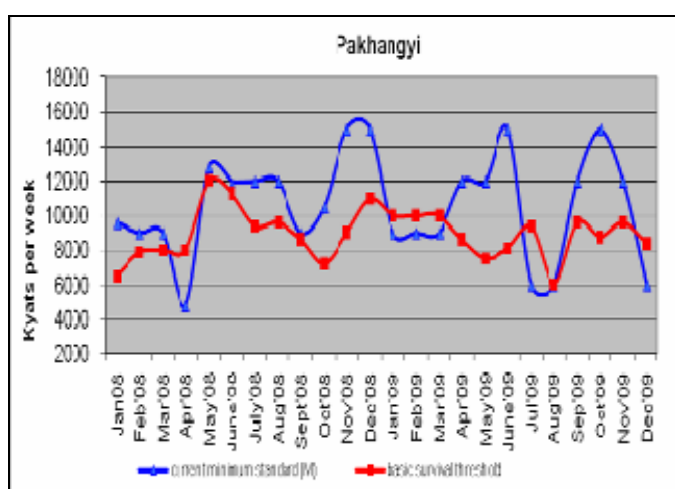
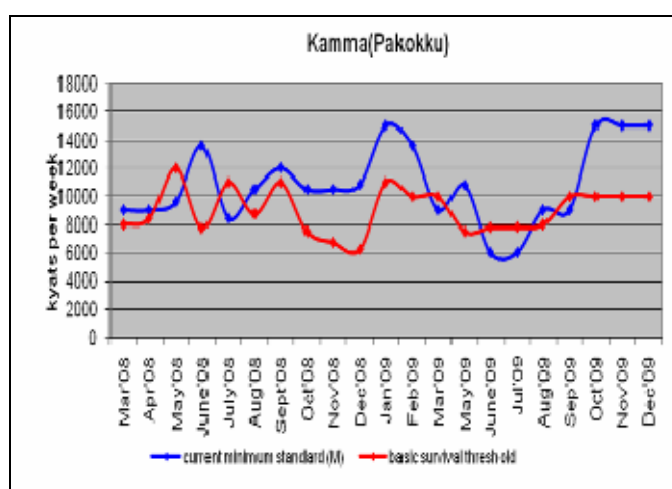
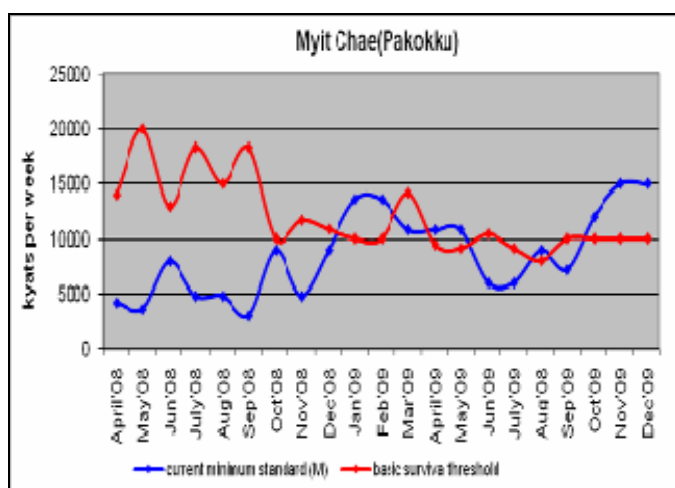
Dry Zone: Magway Area



For Magway, income availability was higher than the Basic Survival Threshold in September, October and December but lower in November. Significantly, the gap between income and expenditure at HH level was highly positive for Yenanchaung implying that it was food secure.

The price of rice, wage rates and job opportunities were stable in Pakokku area during this period. In September, the lowest rice price (300Kyat/Kg) was recorded in Yenanchaung whereas wages for casual labor was 1500 Kyats/Day. The average number of day employed was 5 days per week.

Average household 5 with 2 earners.

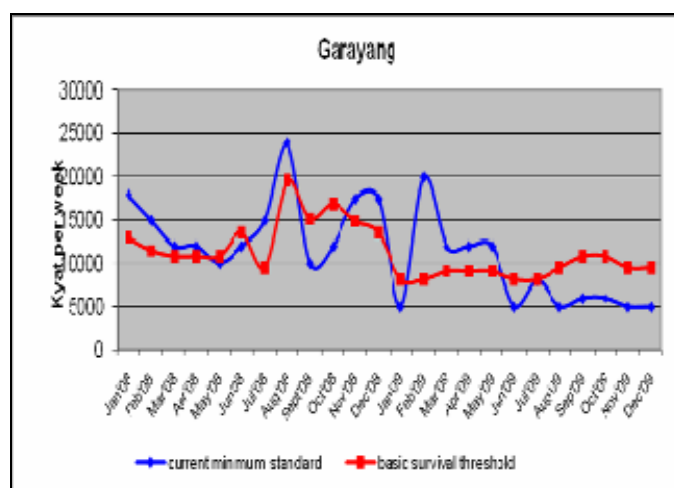
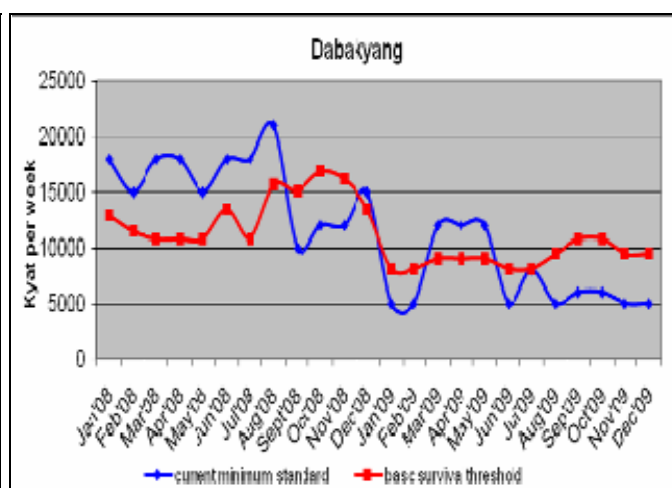
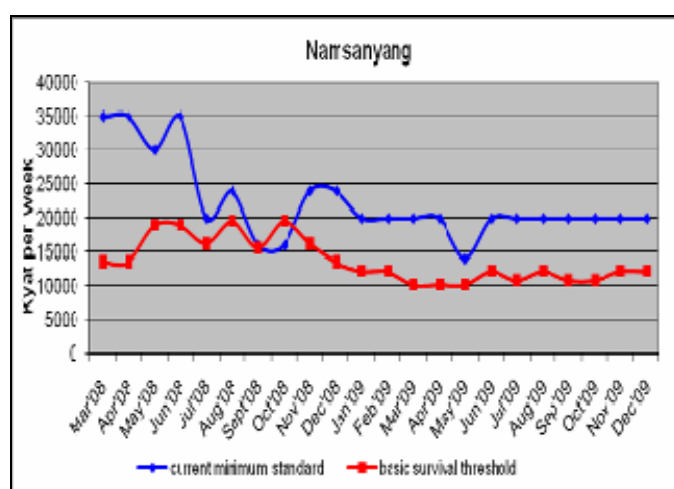
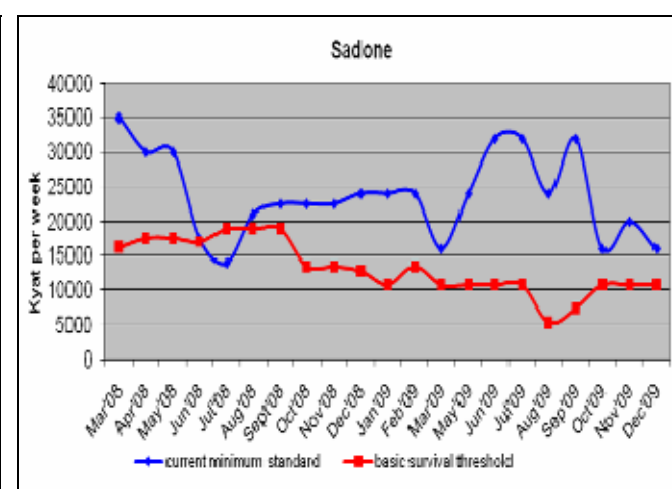


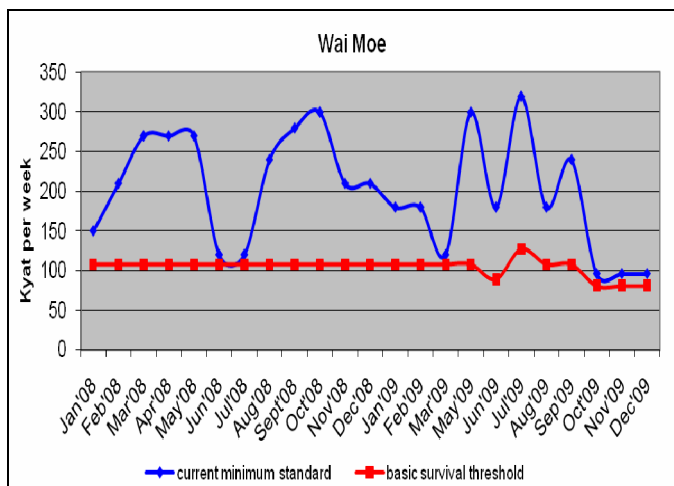
Kachin State: Special Region I and II

Garayang, Dabakyang can be classified as food insecure while relatively food secure areas were Namsanyang, Sadone and Wai Moe.

The average price of rice has slightly increased across Kachin area during this period. In September, the highest employment rate of 4 days per week could be seen in Sadone and Wai Moe. Wage rates fell across Kachin in the months of November and December.

Average household 5.4 with 2 earners.



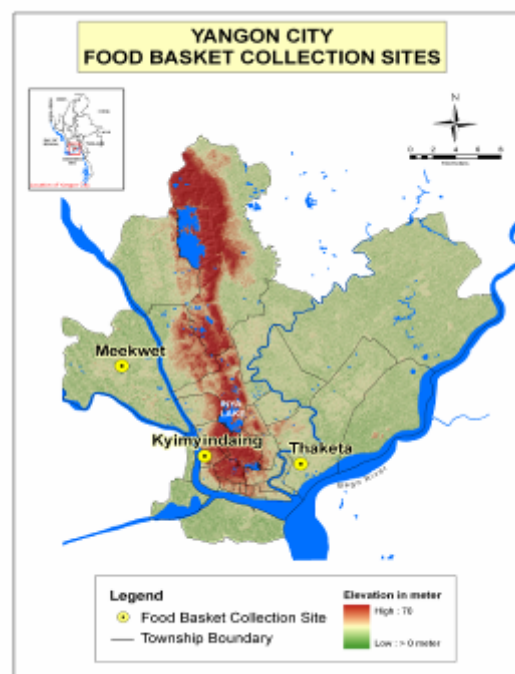
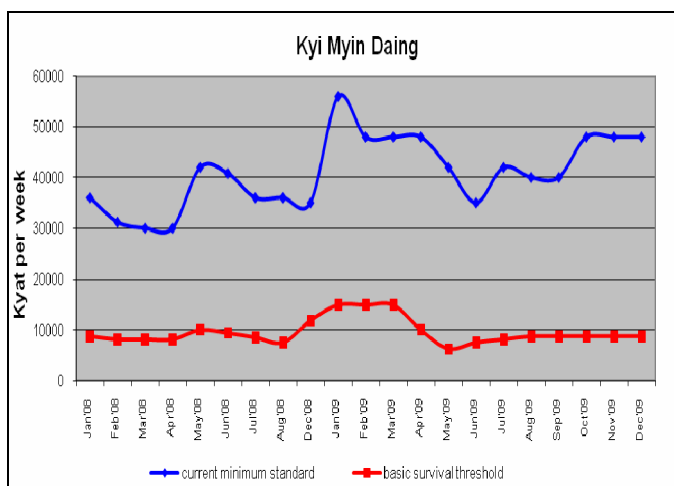
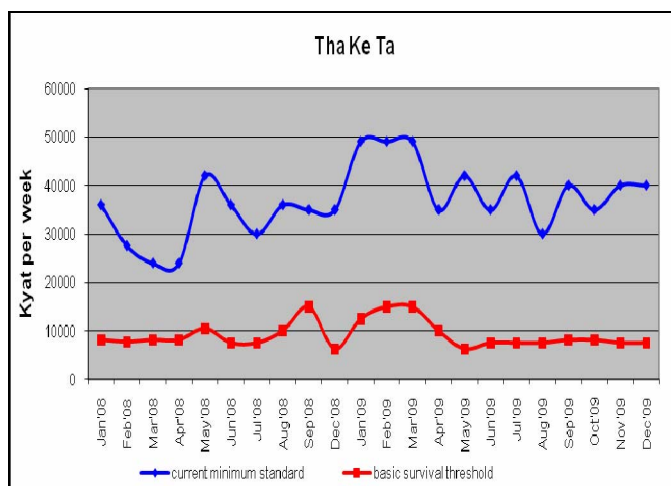


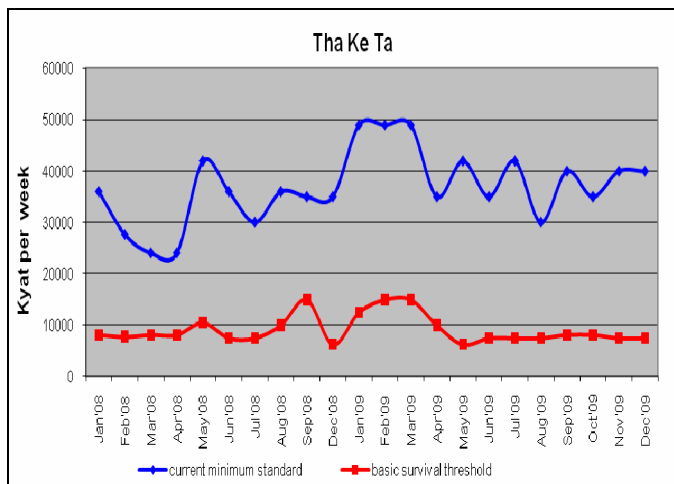
Yangon Area

In Yangon areas- Kyi Myin Daing, Tha Ke Ta, Mee Kywat (HlaingTharYar) the condition is relatively stable and food secure.

Yangon reported an average rice price of 325 Kyats/Kg, at least 5 day per week of employment and 3000-4000 Kyat/Day average wages.

Average household 5.4 with 2 earners.





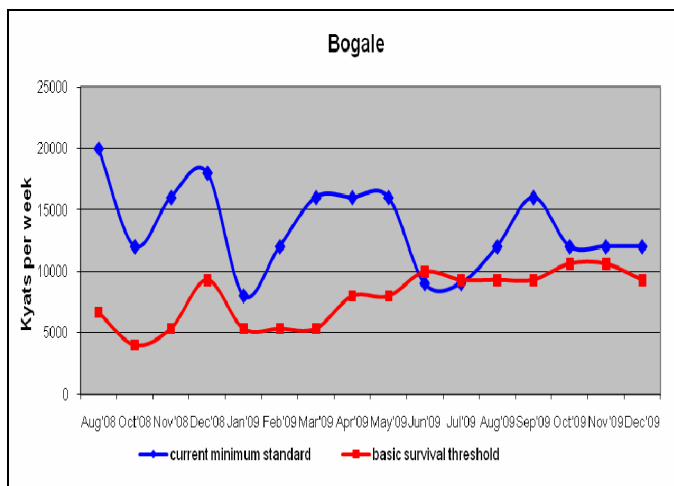
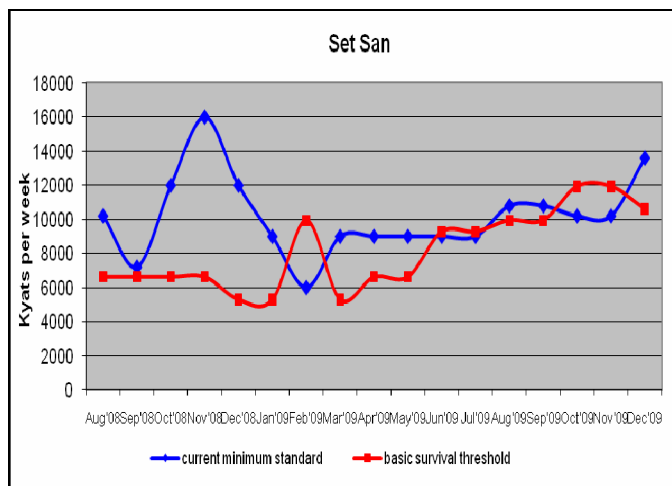
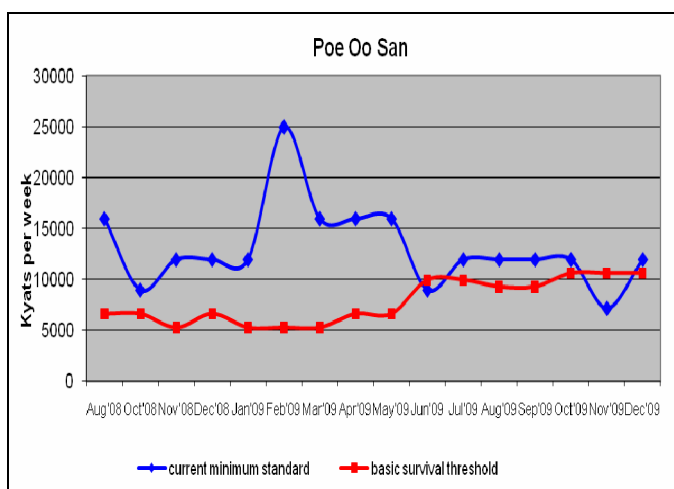
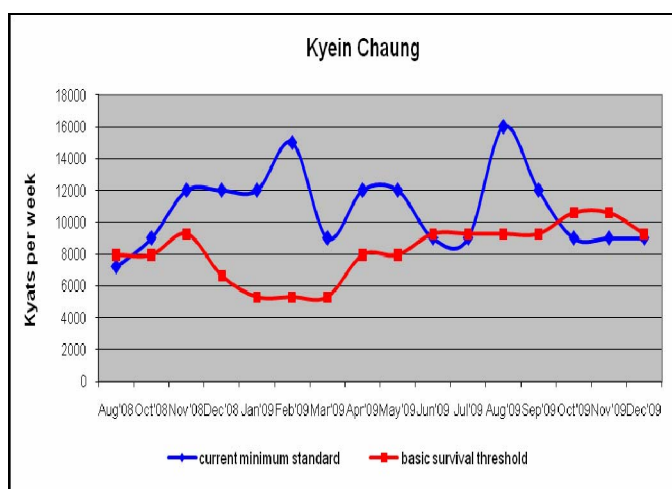
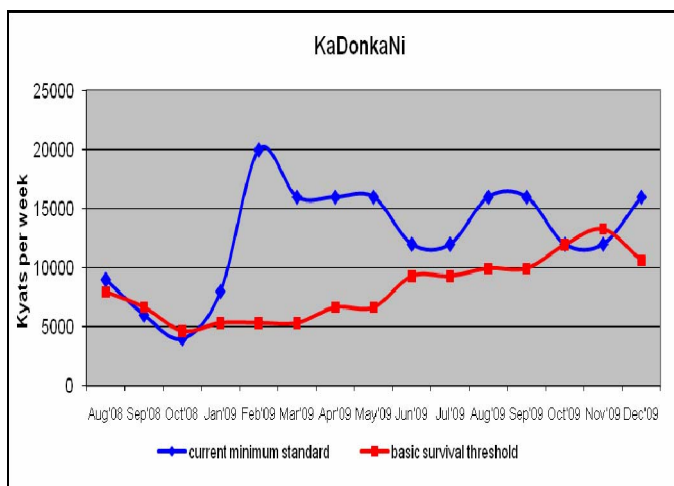
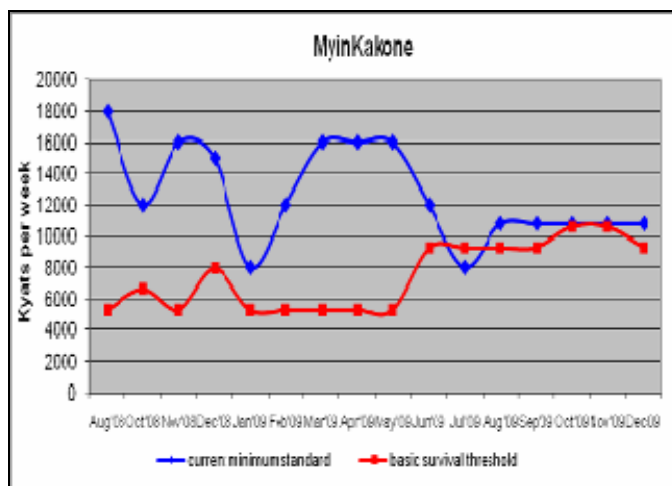
Delta (Bogale, Laputta)



Delta (Bogale)

Some areas outside Bogale Township depicted lower food security for a 2 month period (October & November). The main reason for this is probable a sudden and temporary increase in rice prices. Job availability was 3 day per week on average and the wages, 2000Kyat/Day.

Average household 5.3 with 2 earners.

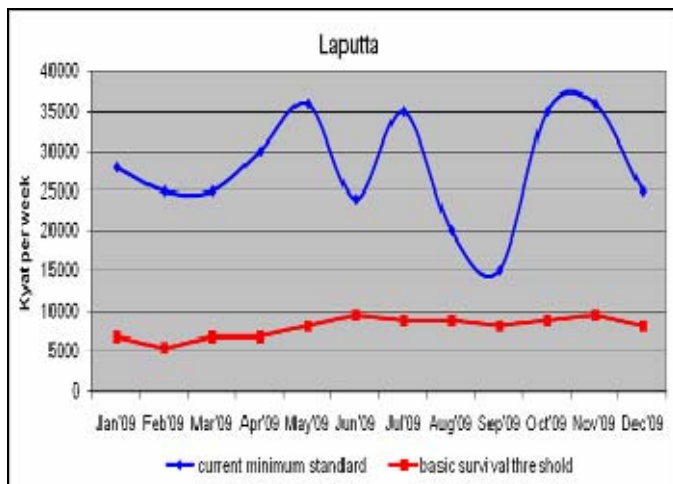
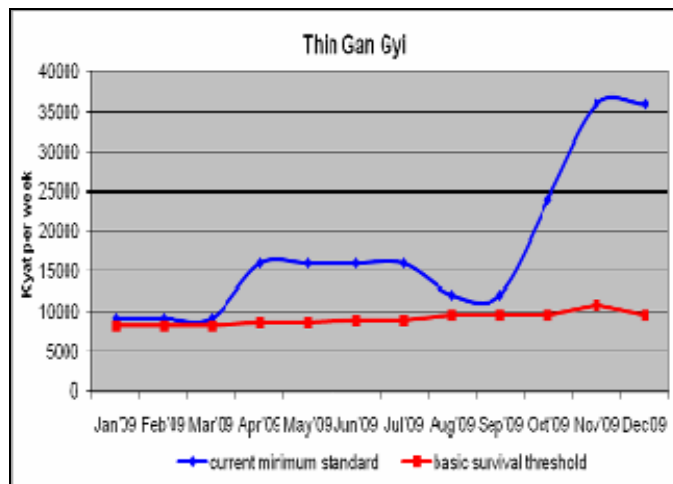
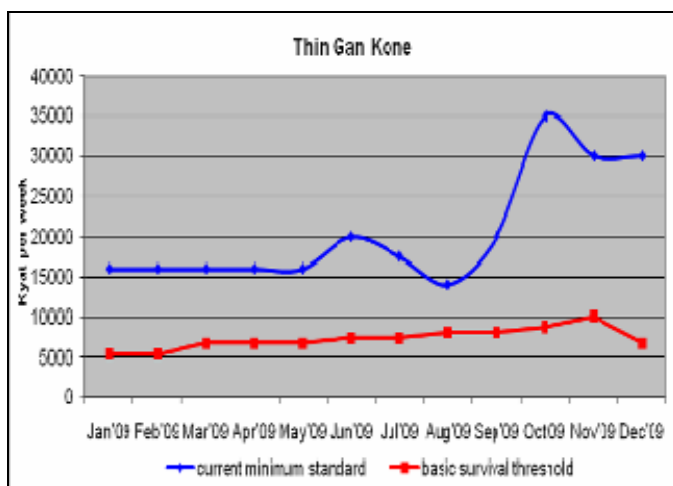
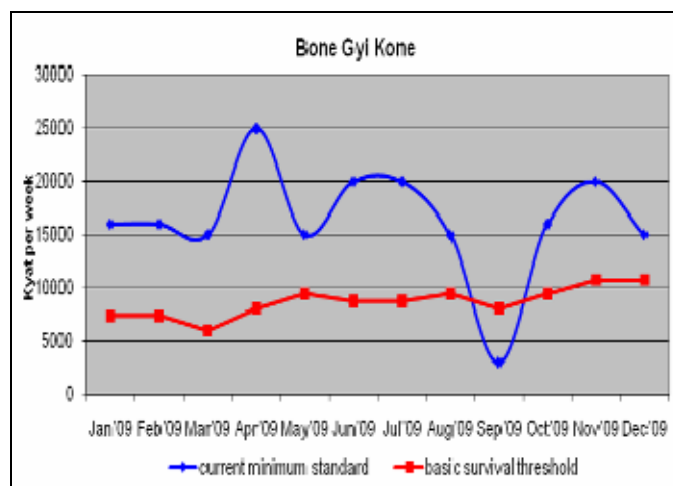
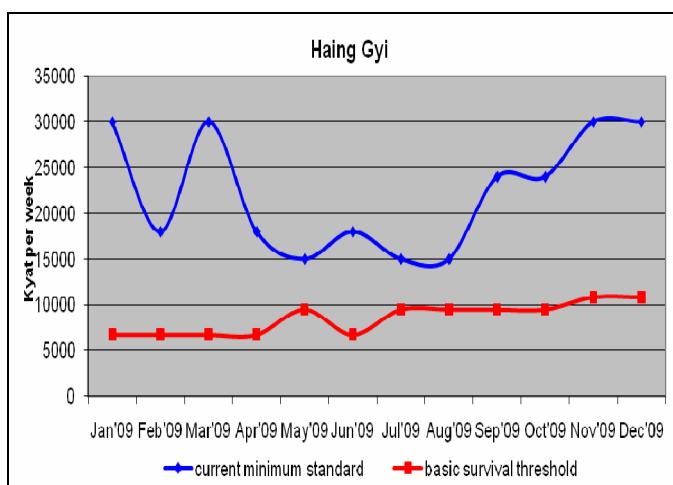
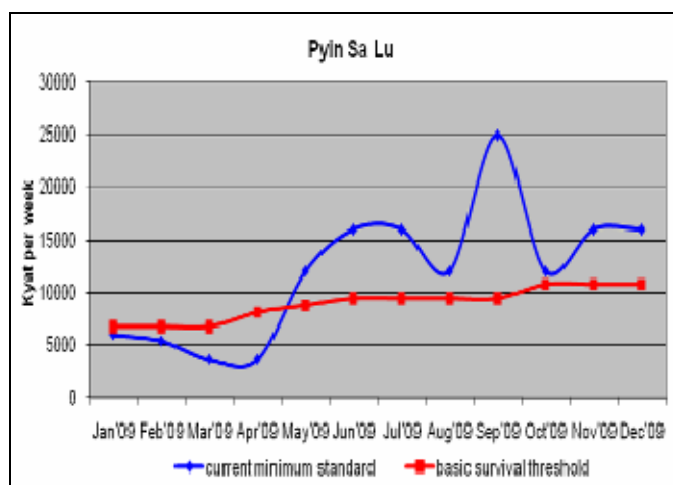


Delta (Laputta)

For Laputta, the gap between income generation and food security was noticeably wide. Laputta depicts an overall secure position with regard to food security for the period September to December.

The average price of rice has slightly increased during the course of four months. Employment has remained stable at 5 days per week. The lowest wages (1500Kyats/Day) were reported in Bone Gyi Kone and Pyin Sa Lu during September and October and the highest daily wage rate (2500 Kyats/Day) in Laputta and Thin Gan Kone.

Average household 5.3 with 2 earners.



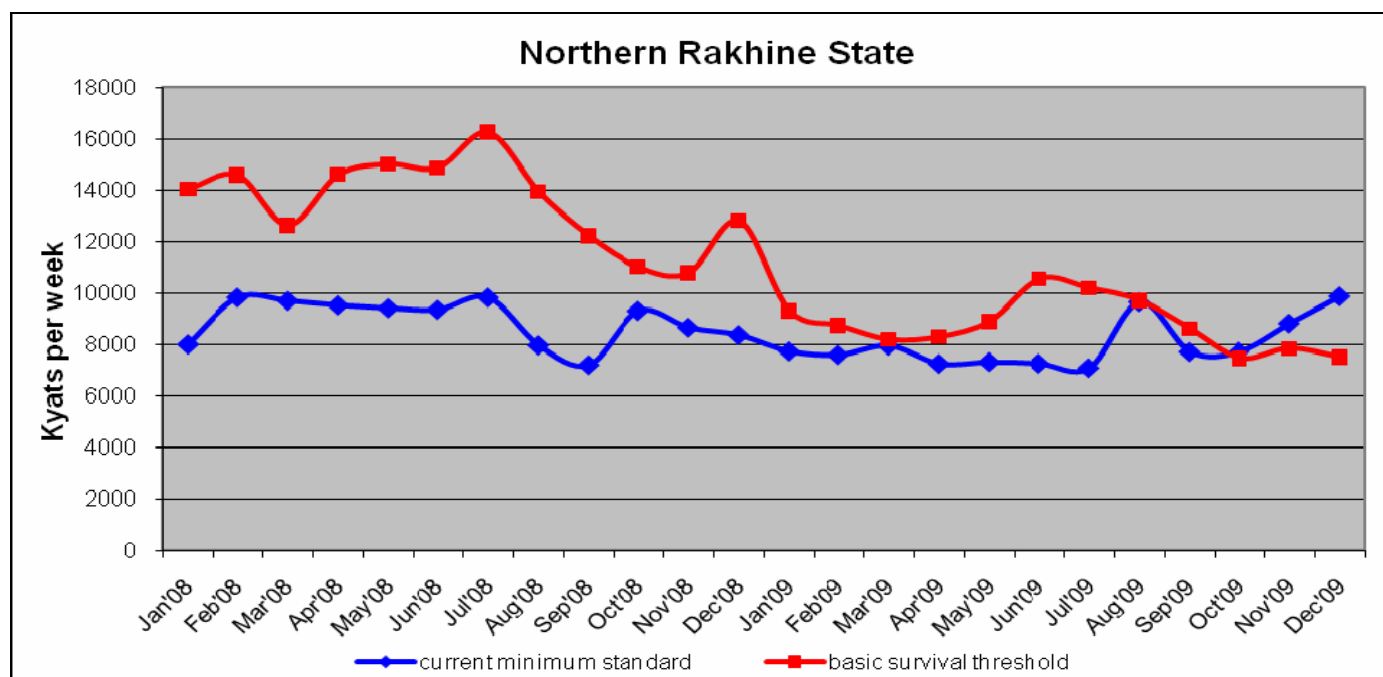
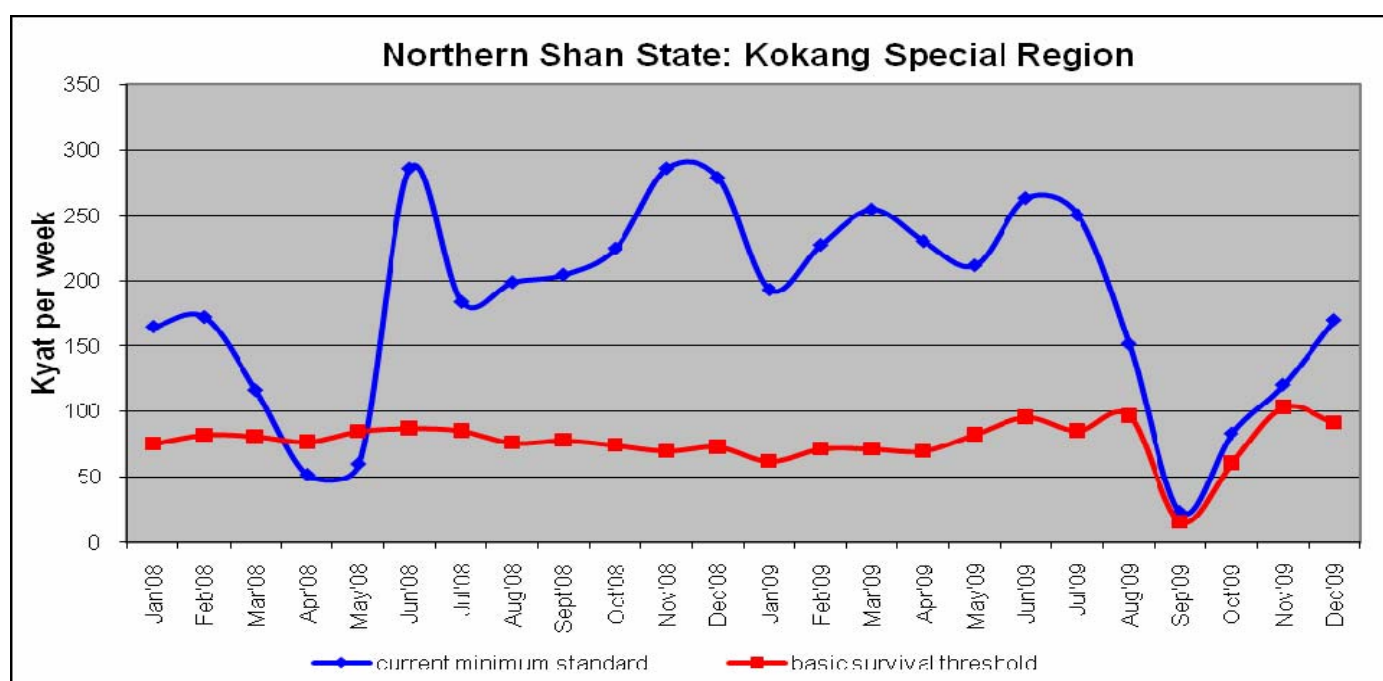
Section C: Comparison of the Current Minimum Standard & the Basic Threshold Rate for the Period January 2008 to December 2009

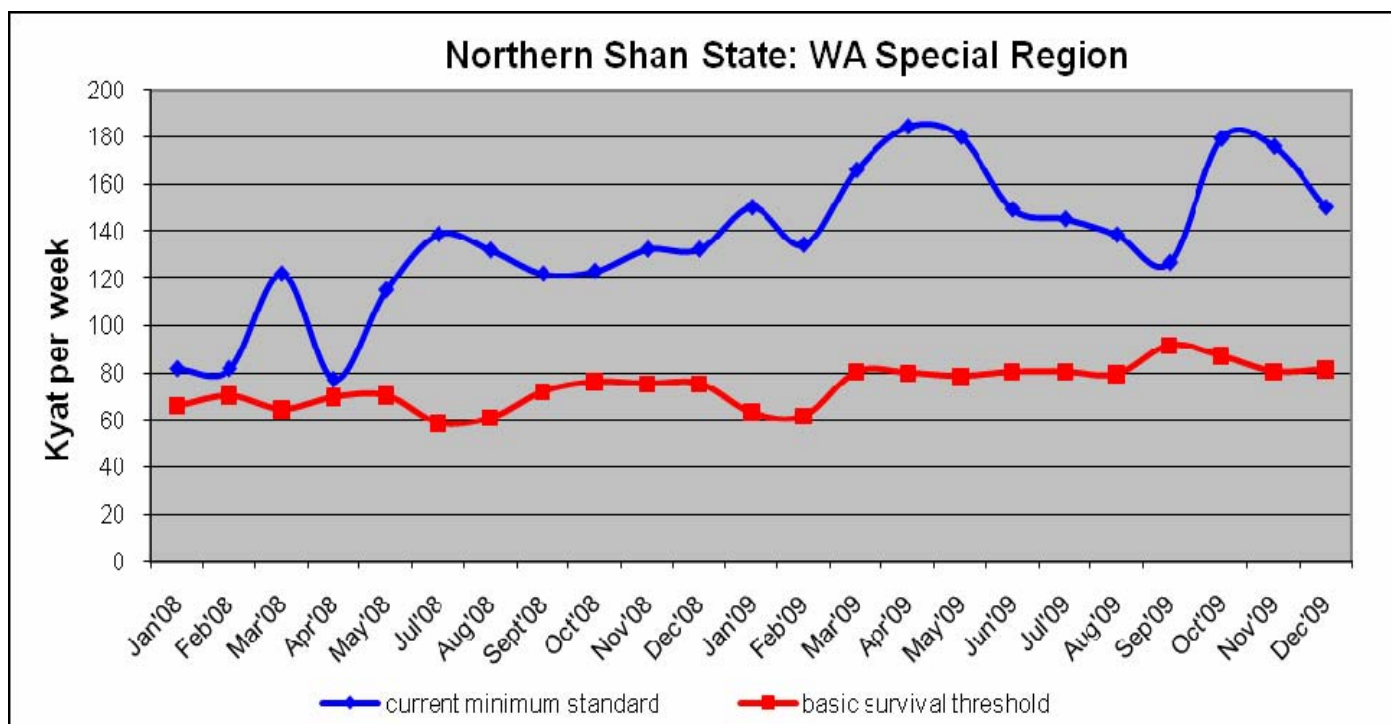
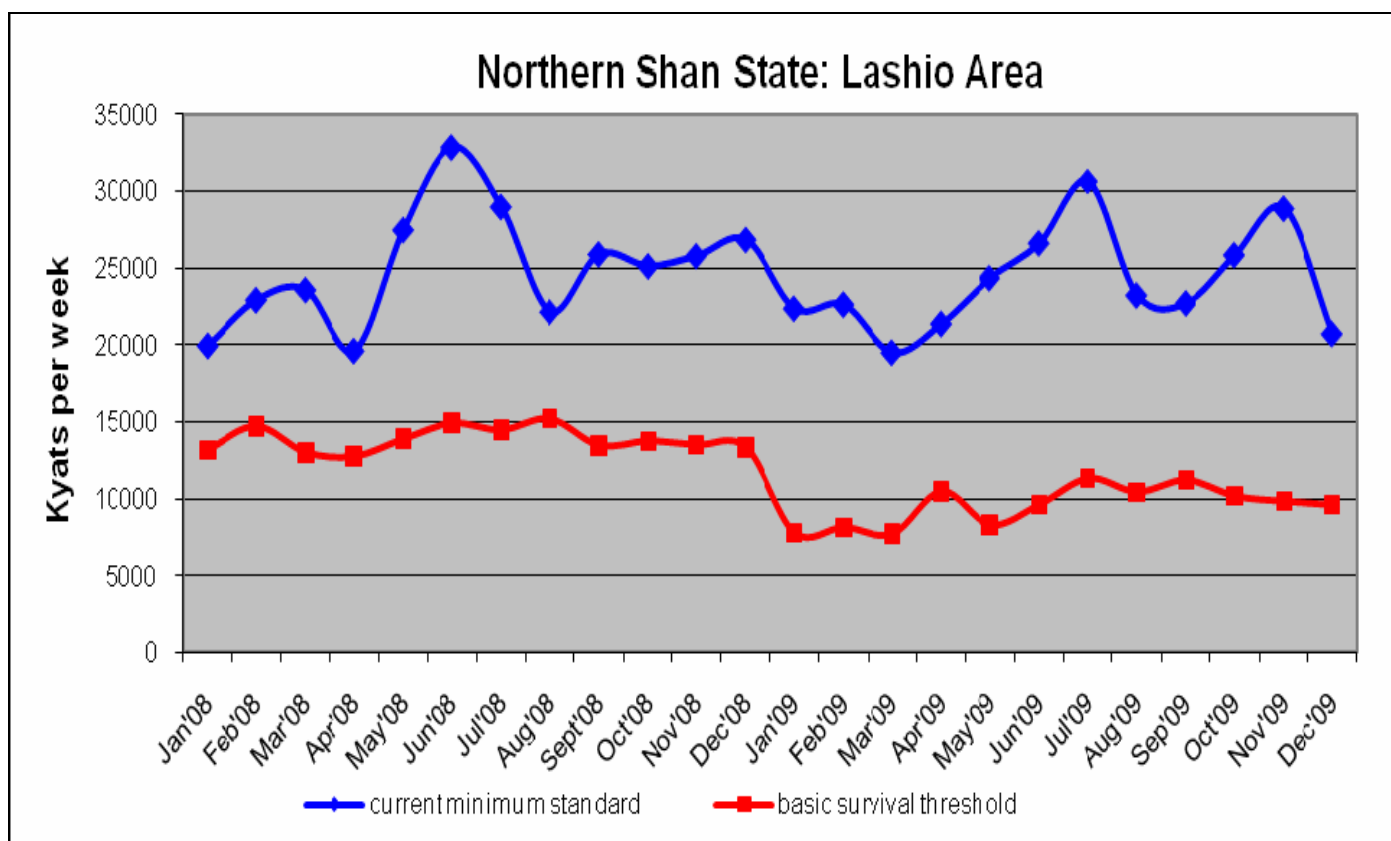
Calculation method:

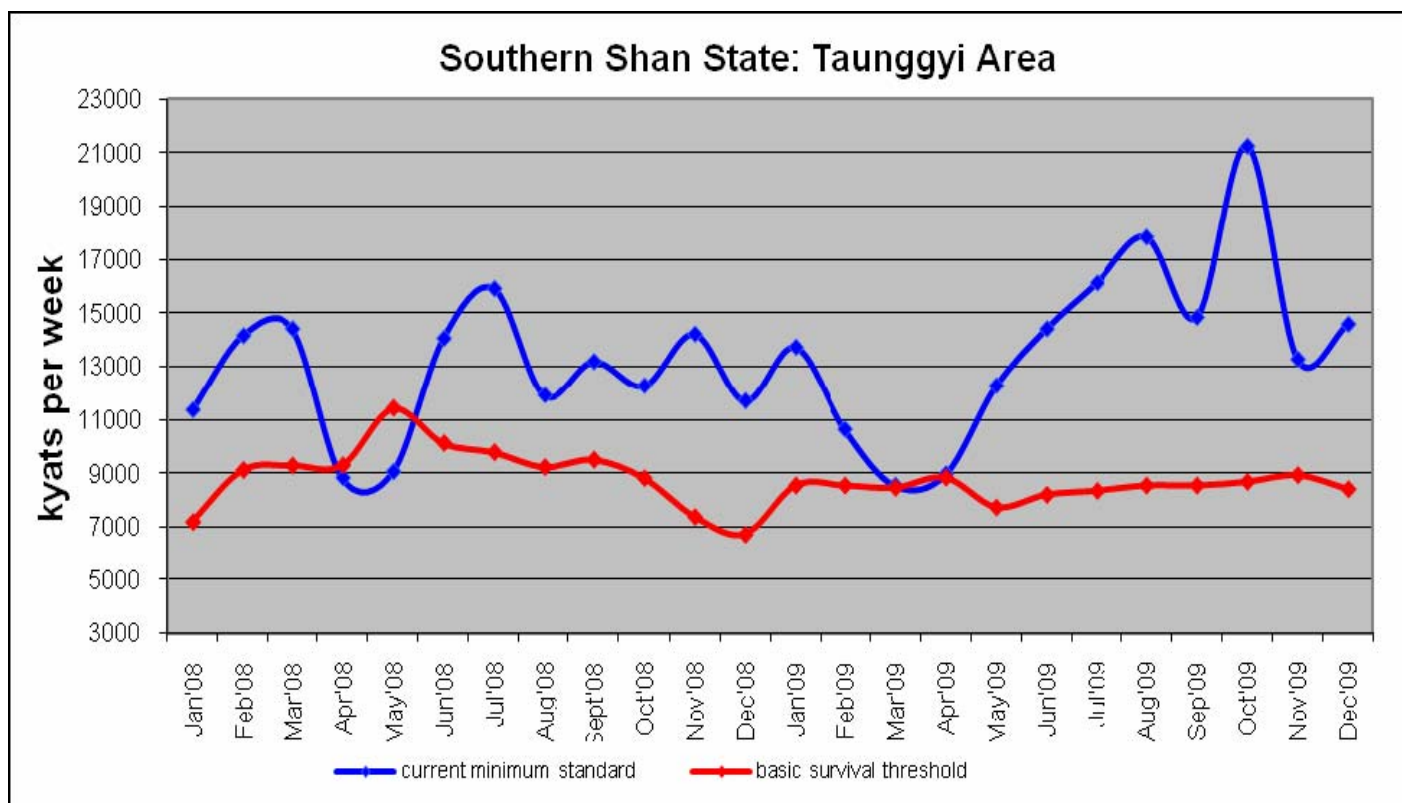
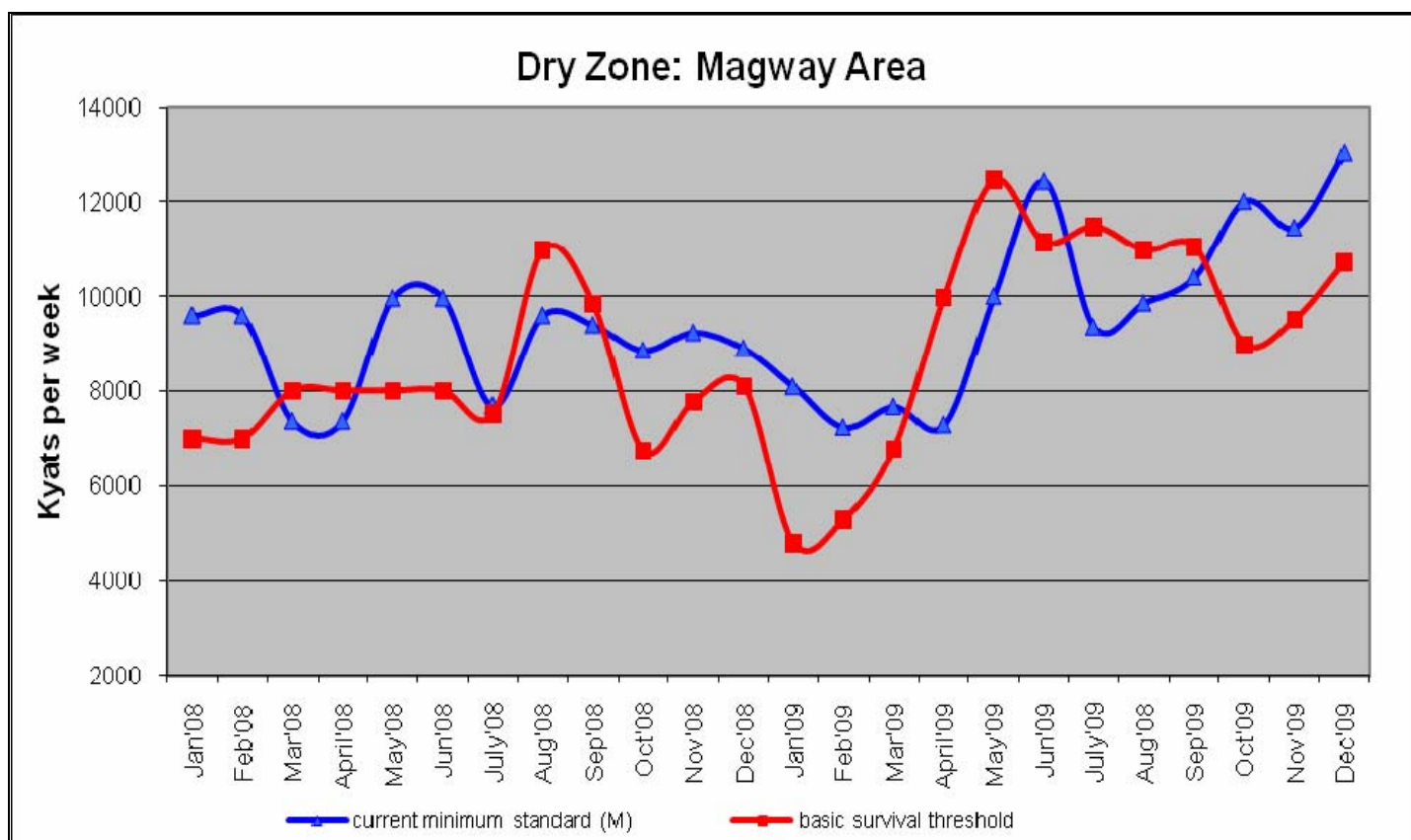
The two lines in attached charts denote the following:

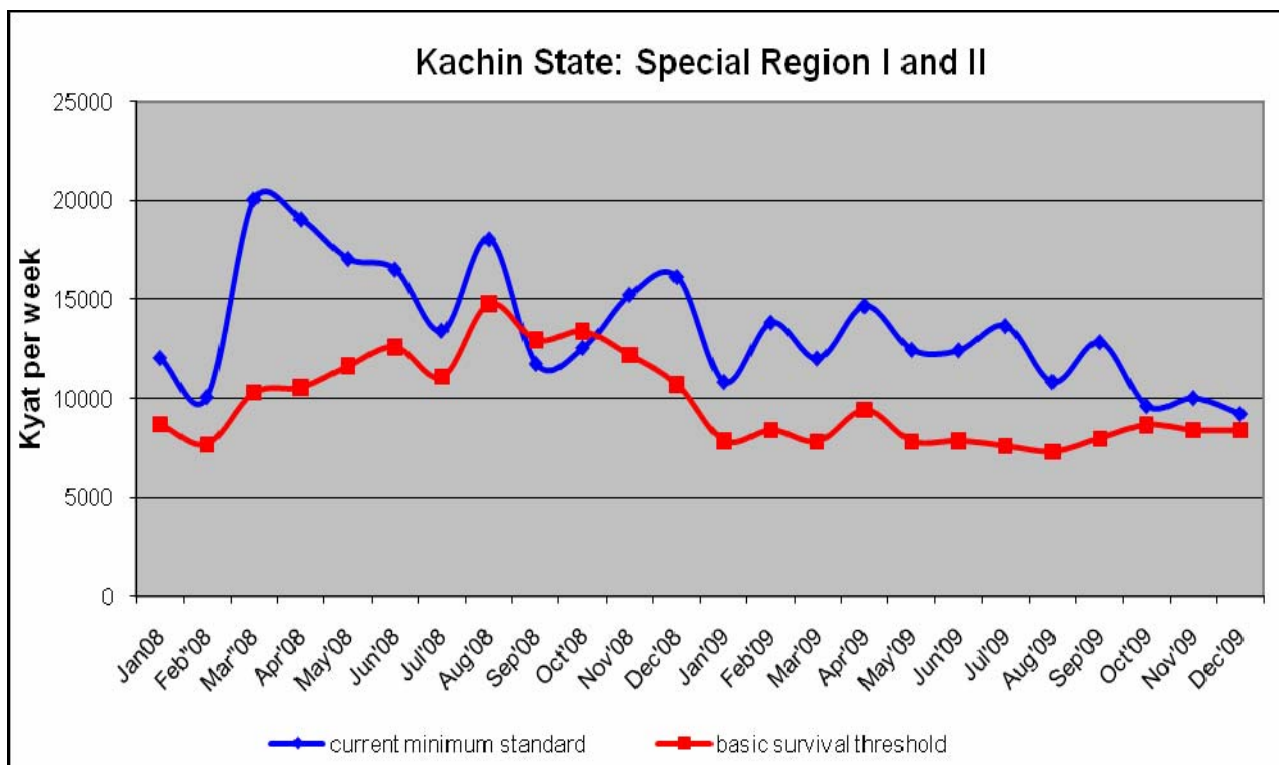
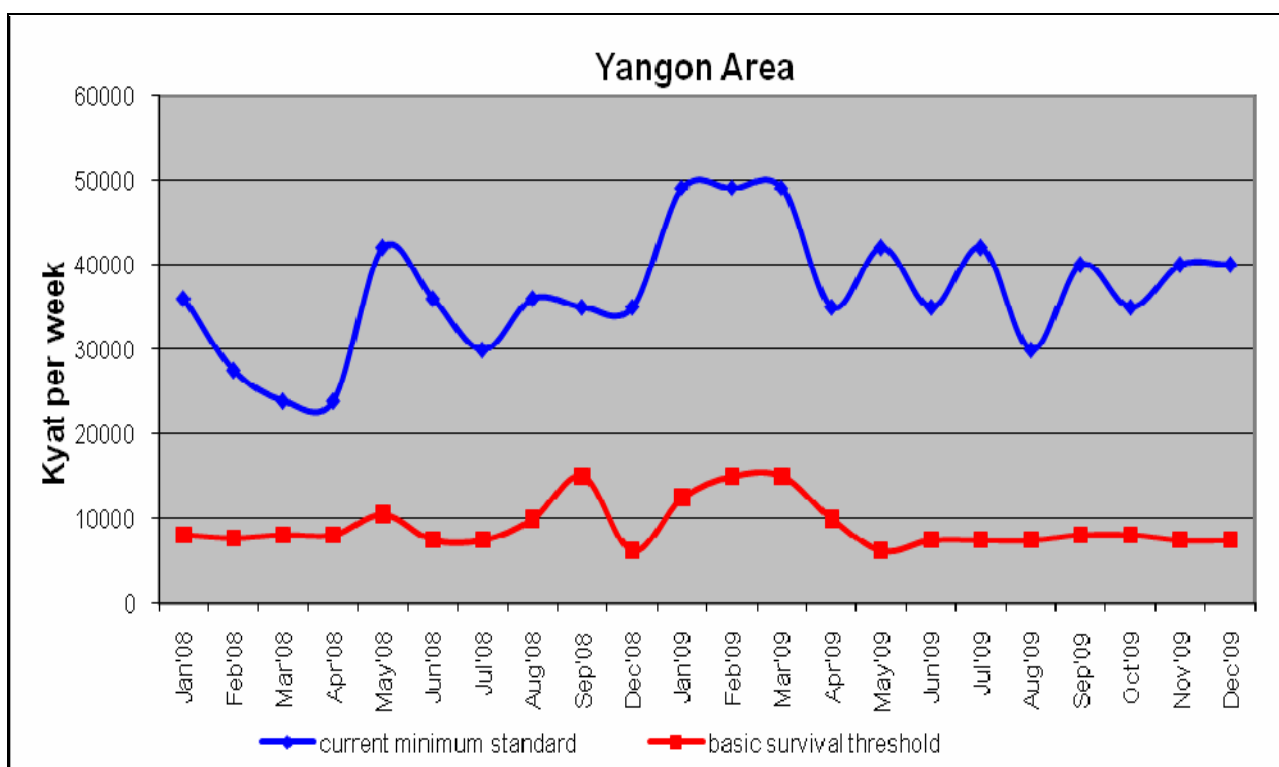
BLUE: current minimum standard (the average weekly income of a poor household), derived from the formula: [number of earners] x [no of days of employment] x [daily unskilled wages]

RED: basic survival threshold (the minimum expenditure per household per week to survive, only rice), derived from the formula: [0.5 kg cheap rice price] x [number of persons per household] x [seven days per week]. These calculations take into account "compulsory collateral expenditures" in urban areas (weekly):









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