



THE INFLUENCE OF MARKET SUPPORT INTERVENTIONS ON HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY

About this evidence synthesis

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The database, website and academic journals searches took place between June and August 2016.

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Series editors

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ABBREVIATIONS

BEAM	Building Effective and Accessible Markets
CAHW	Community animal health worker
CaLP	Cash Learning Partnership
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CTP	Cash transfer programme
DEC	Disasters Emergency Committee
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
ECHO	EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department
EMMA	Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis
ETB	Ethiopian Birr
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
HH	Household
IDS	Institute of Development Studies (University of Sussex, UK)
INGO	International non-governmental organization
NGO	Non-governmental organization
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
PHP	Philippine Peso
PVP	Private veterinary pharmacies
RAIN	Revitalizing Agricultural/Pastoral Incomes and New Markets
UK	United Kingdom
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There is growing consensus on the need to consider and support markets as part of humanitarian responses. It is assumed that this support will increase the impact of responses – yet to date such assumptions are rarely supported by data and strong evidence. This evidence synthesis, commissioned by the Humanitarian Evidence Programme¹ and carried out by a team of independent and multidisciplinary consultants, represents the first ever attempt to **identify, synthesize and evaluate the existing evidence on the influence of market support interventions on household food security in humanitarian crises**. It aims to:

- verify the quality of existing evidence
- help researchers identify the strengths and weaknesses in such evidence, and thus recognize potential improvements and opportunities for future research
- assist practitioners and policy makers in evaluating the impact of choices and investments based on the evidence, and assessment of this evidence.

Definitions and scope

Market support interventions are activities that support existing market systems to improve the situation of crisis-affected populations. **They are a form of market-based programming.**

This synthesis looks at **market support interventions** targeting market actors, service or infrastructure providers that sell or buy products and services that are ultimately available to consumers.

It sets out to compare and analyse evidence of the impacts of such interventions to reduce negative coping mechanisms and improve the **food security of crisis-affected populations in humanitarian settings**.

Food security 'exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life' (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2006, p. 1).

The primary research question is: **What is the influence of market support interventions on household food security in humanitarian crises?**

The focus on food security enabled a deeper understanding of the available findings and subsequently more pertinent, focused and detailed analysis. Furthermore, there is more experience of market support interventions in the food security sector.

The evidence synthesis process entailed the following steps.

- Developing a rigorous, peer-reviewed protocol for the synthesis methodology aligned with a published guidance note for evidence synthesis in the humanitarian field (Krystalli and Ott, 2015).
- Comprehensive screening of existing research and documentation as per the defined protocol.
- Selecting those studies that met the minimum quality criteria set out in the protocol² for detailed analysis.
- Analysing the strength of these studies and their findings.

¹ The Humanitarian Evidence Programme is a partnership between Oxfam GB and the Feinstein International Center at Tufts University. It is funded by the UK government's Department for International Development (DFID) through the Humanitarian Innovation and Evidence Programme.

² These include the type of study and its methodology; type of programme participant and the context; type of intervention; and type of outcomes measured. Full details are provided in Section 2.2 of this report.

- Synthesizing and assessing the quality of the evidence in response to the following seven secondary research questions.
 - What are the project parameters that drive the inclusion and exclusion of market support interventions in humanitarian crises?
 - What are the potential barriers and enablers to market support interventions (contextual and institutional ones)?
 - What effects of market support interventions are measured?
 - What is the influence of interventions supporting traders on household food security in humanitarian crises?
 - What is the influence of interventions supporting market services and infrastructures on household food security in humanitarian crises?
 - Who are the main actors targeted for market support activities? Are there any specific exclusion factors?
 - What are the gaps in research evidence on market support approaches?

As part of the process, the research team first developed a **theory of change** for how market support interventions may lead to improved household food security (Figure 0.1).

Figure 0.1: Theory of change: The influence of market support interventions on food security. Source: The research team

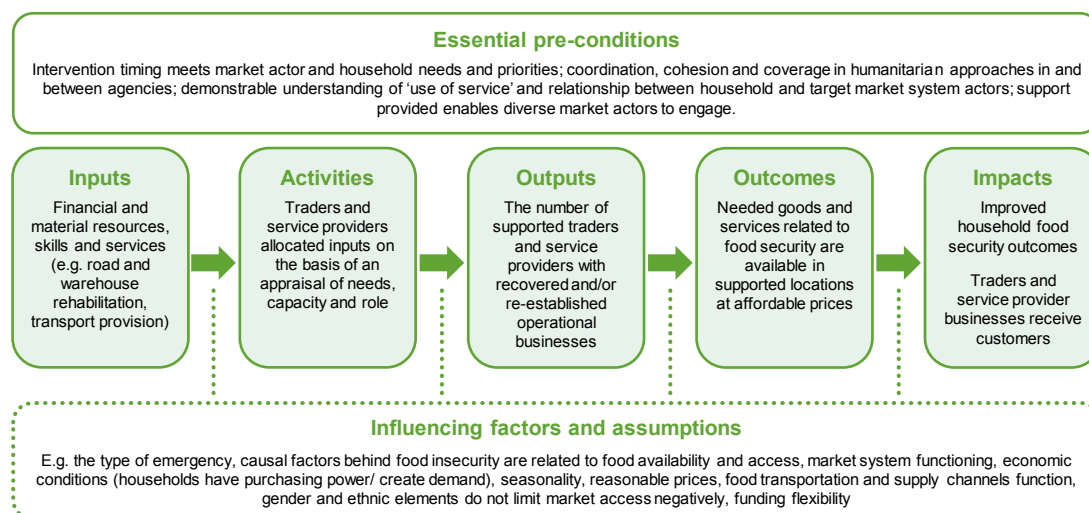


Figure 0.1 illustrates how providing a range of **inputs** (financial, material, technical and services) and **activities** to market actors, services and infrastructure providers contributes to improving **outputs** for the markets crisis-affected populations rely on (by recovering, expanding or building market capacity in some way). This contributes to **outcomes and impacts at the household and market actor level**: it ensures that the goods and services crisis-affected people need are available, at affordable prices, while providing markets and service providers with customers and restoring or improving the affected population's pre-crisis situation. For the scope of this evidence synthesis, the relevant household-level improvement is reduced household food insecurity or reduced use of negative coping mechanisms (e.g. selling productive assets).

What evidence was eligible for synthesis?

In total, 6,216 records were obtained through keyword searches from 25 online sources, and 65 from key informants.³ During the first stage 6,046 studies were excluded as they did not present the outcomes of market support interventions on household food security. The full text for the remaining 148 studies⁴ was then screened. As highlighted, only seven records were eligible for inclusion in the full analysis and synthesis of evidence as per the quality criteria agreed in the protocol.

³ The database, website and academic journals searches took place between June and August 2016.

⁴ Taking into account that some records were duplications and the full text for five records could not be obtained.

Of the seven eligible studies:

- all are published in English
- all were published since 2008 (and 5/7 since 2014), even though the search extended back to 1990
- six employ qualitative research methods and one uses mixed (quantitative and qualitative) methods
- one is a peer-reviewed journal article. It is also noted that one is a rapid review; one is a working paper; two are international non-governmental organizations (INGO) case study briefings; and two are evaluations.

The seven eligible studies focused on market support interventions that:

- were in response to humanitarian crises of varying lengths – the shortest being under six months and the longest over five years
- were parts of larger humanitarian programmes
- were implemented by INGOs, in contexts where multiple agencies and government entities were providing assistance
- took place in Ethiopia (three), Haiti (one), Pakistan (one) and the Philippines (two) – two low income and two middle income countries
- were in response to both slow-onset drought and rapid-onset disasters (floods, earthquake and a super typhoon) (three and four studies respectively)
- took place in rural or urban/peri-urban contexts (four and three studies respectively)
- engaged a range of market actors including livestock traders, animal healthcare providers, shelter material traders, blacksmiths and *sari-sari* (grocery) store owners
- engaged with a range of populations, with varied connections to local markets, including livestock-owning pastoralists, small business owners and vulnerable households provided with vouchers to access products and services.

What is the influence of market support interventions on household food security in humanitarian crises?

While individual studies suggest that market support interventions have a positive influence on household food security and also trader income, the evidence is very limited in analytical rigor and in the diversity of examples, contexts or scale of intervention. The research team used proxy indicators (such as increased income, use of funds and beneficiary opinion) to measure intervention effect in the instances where evidence was lacking. Of 148 documents that were screened in detail, only 7 met the protocol's criteria for inclusion.

Indeed, a major finding of this evidence synthesis is the lack of evidence, both in quantity and quality. Given the lack of diversity in evidence, the team was not able to conduct a meta-analysis but instead reports on each individual study in a narrative format. The team also encountered circular referencing repeatedly in the included studies, which further brings into question both the rigour and assurance over the level of primary data collected.

The findings are summarized in Figure 0.2. Given the limited quantity and quality of suitable evidence, these findings should be viewed as exploratory only and in need of verifying through further research, as recommended in the report's conclusions.

Figure 0.2: The influence of market support interventions on household food security in humanitarian crises. Source: The research team

Findings	Interventions supporting the finding (total=7)	Location
Market support interventions positively influence the food security of crisis-affected households	5	Ethiopia Philippines Haiti
Sufficient coverage of targeted market actors is required to ensure an impact on household food security	5	Pakistan Philippines Ethiopia
Market support interventions improve the income of targeted market actors	7	Pakistan Philippines Ethiopia Haiti
Market support interventions that are part of an integrated approach have a positive influence on household food security	7	Pakistan Philippines Ethiopia Haiti
Market support interventions that are complemented with vouchers can positively influence the food security of targeted and non-targeted households	2	Philippines Haiti

With reference to the research question and despite the limited available evidence in this field, the research indicates the following findings.

Market support interventions do positively influence the food security of disaster-affected households

Five of the seven interventions included in this report demonstrate a positive influence on the food security of disaster-affected households. Of these, two studies provide the most robust evidence of influence on household food security in which more than one food-security-related indicator is applied. In one of the five studies the indicator includes a comparison with the situation before the crisis. In the remaining examples, proxy indicators illustrating household outcomes on food security were required.

For such outcomes to be realized, **the timing of market support interventions is critical**. One intervention did not positively influence food security outcomes for disaster-affected households, principally as market support activities were being implemented one year after the disaster, when households were already meeting their food needs and most traders had already re-established themselves.

Sufficient coverage of targeted market actors is required to ensure an impact on household food security

Five of the seven interventions reference the importance of ensuring sufficient coverage of market actors for programmes to have the intended household-level outcomes. The problems associated with market actor coverage and the impact this can have on positive household outcomes, including food security, are highlighted in one study. Another recommends that programmes are designed inclusively, and are open to all traders of similar type in an area. Other studies highlight the various efforts, with differing success, that were made by the programmes to gain sufficient coverage of market actors.

Market support interventions improve the income of targeted market actors

Evidence from all seven interventions included in this report illustrate that the supported market actors increased their income and by proxy (it is assumed in some studies), their own food security. Studies, however, do not provide details on how the market actors have used the income generated through the intervention. One study looks at a number of intra-dependent market actors along the same critical market chain. In this study increases in income are seen throughout the whole market system. This programme benefited from the elaboration of market system baselines and subsequent analysis to enable the identification

of key market actors and from a longer timeframe, and this evidence of income was seen two years after the activity was implemented.

Market support interventions can be part of an integrated programme approach, potentially increasing their positive influence on household food security

All of the interventions included in this evidence synthesis have been part of a wider programme, tending to be designed as small sub-components of larger complex programmes. There is some evidence that such an approach is beneficial for household-level outcomes. In one study, support to small retailers was part of a wider food security and livelihood programme that was in turn integrated with shelter, water and sanitation interventions. Evaluation indicates that beneficiaries have a positive opinion of this integrated approach since it provided a complete package to meet all post-disaster needs.

Market support interventions that are complemented with vouchers can influence the food security of targeted households

Two of the seven interventions used vouchers at household level to complement the support provided to market actors. This was to ensure that market actors would be guaranteed some business, especially where an investment was also required on the side of the market actor. For example, in the case of cash grants provided to blacksmiths, households were provided with vouchers for a range of agricultural inputs, including tools, at an input fair. Although the available data from these studies is limited, there does appear to be a positive influence on food security of targeted households. With the limited evidence available it is not possible to say how voucher- and cash-based interventions compare.

Some parameters drive the inclusion and exclusion of market support interventions in humanitarian crises

The research points to several factors that influence whether market support interventions are included or excluded in humanitarian crises: organizational interest and capacity; use of response analysis processes based on the findings of market assessments; the availability and flexibility of funding; and a willingness to try new approaches that look beyond traditional response activities.

Barriers and enablers to market support interventions

Significantly, this evidence synthesis found that most of the barriers to market support interventions were institutional rather than contextual – specifically, poor recognition of the role that market actors play in enabling economic recovery and meeting the needs of affected populations, and that market actors need support themselves to maximize outcomes for affected people.

A range of institutional enabling factors are identified, including:

- the recognition of the role market actors play in meeting the needs of affected populations and enabling economic recovery
- that government and donor policies enable the implementation of market support interventions
- programme management decision-making flexibility
- organizational capacity to consider market-based approaches at leadership, technical and operational levels and the level to which organizations have institutionalized market support interventions
- organizational learning from implementing such interventions and the willingness to openly examine failures
- programme design being informed by robust analysis that acknowledges the role of markets in the lives of affected households
- the significance of multi-sectoral sensitivity in understanding household needs
- the correct identification of market actors, as informed by interconnection to household needs
- the timing and timeliness of market support interventions.

What's the state of the evidence?

The volume of evidence on the outcomes of market support interventions on household food security in humanitarian crises is extremely limited and the overall quality weak. Of the 148 fully screened studies, 141 were excluded for the following reasons.

- They did not report on the outcomes of market support interventions that aimed to improve food security or reduce negative coping mechanisms (80/141).
- They used interventions outside the scope of this research – mostly ‘market sensitive’ approaches such as cash transfer programming rather than ‘market support’ (46/141).
- They did not report on an intervention – mostly in the case of market assessment reports (12/141).
- They did not mention that findings were based on data collected from project stakeholders (3/141).

Among the seven included studies:

- Only one is identified as mixed methods (of triangulation design); the remaining six are qualitative studies.
- None are purely quantitative. One of the qualitative studies applies sampling methods for identifying households to include in participatory appraisal methods.⁵
- One paper is peer reviewed.
- Five look at the interventions of one single agency, with little regard or reflection of the interventions and activities of other agencies, and the broader sector in the crisis.
- Only two have clearly been authored by people external to and independent from the implementing agency in question.
- There is a significant lack of contextual breadth of evidence. Just seven actual intervention examples are included; these are from four countries (Pakistan, Haiti, Philippines and Ethiopia) and cover three disaster types (typhoon, earthquake and drought).
- There is a lack of household-outcome measurements in many, and a lack of data for measuring trader outcomes.
- Only one clearly states coverage of the programme (in this particular case, 5,405 households).
- Intervention costs are not clearly recorded in programme data of any study.
- Timing of the interventions is unclear.

Conclusions

Questions on the impact of market support interventions have dogged the humanitarian community since market analysis tools were first developed. Despite concerning limitations of available evidence, including its quantity, consistency of rigour and diversity, the evidence that has been included indicates that market support interventions have had a positive influence on the food security of targeted traders and households.

Noting the lack of robust evidence in this sector in relation to the primary research question, the authors highlight that the following factors could be contributing to a lack of market-based programming and evidence in this area.

Related to the lack of evidence:

- the inadequacy and inconsistency of market support intervention programme evaluations, including, but not limited to: documentation practices, data collection, use of baselines and monitoring systems, importance of primary data, lack of independent and/or peer reviews, methodology appropriateness, and overall evidence rigour and subsequent analysis credibility.

⁵ Participatory appraisals provide a way of learning from, and alongside, community members in order to investigate, analyse and evaluate constraints and opportunities – and to make informed and timely decisions (Theis and Grady, 1991).

- humanitarian agency scope of evidence gathering tends to focus on affected households and not consider market actors sufficiently, despite the crucial role that market actors may play in achieving programme objectives
- the inclusion of evidence in humanitarian programme response decision-making is not a consistent requirement, even less so when it comes to market-related evidence. As such, the same situation analysis can lead to multiple response designs; there is little accountability regarding coherence of responses by multiple agencies in the same location (Juillard, 2017)
- evidence gathering requires pre-programme planning to ensure the required systems and processes are included within the programme implementation plan and budget.

Related to the lack of interventions:

- the lack of funding available for market support interventions, and the inflexibility of funding
- low quality and narrow scope of market assessments and market monitoring
- the market 'blindness' of many humanitarian interventions which, despite always using and having an impact on a market system, do not consistently (at best) maximize or (at worst) redress these impacts of humanitarian programme activities on markets
- the disconnect between humanitarian infrastructure support programmes and household outcomes
- the limited investment in market infrastructure support activities, both before and during crises.

As a result of this evidence synthesis and its findings, the authors have identified the following research and evidence gaps.

- Are market support interventions more effective as part of an integrated programme, or stand-alone?
- What is the cost-benefit of different market support interventions and how do we define this?
- What are the lessons learned from the market system approaches that are applicable in humanitarian contexts?
- How could organizations' compliance, risk analysis and procurement systems be modified to facilitate better engagement with smaller-scale traders and market actors in disaster contexts?
- How do we determine which market actors to work with in a market support intervention to achieve maximum impact on outcomes for affected populations, both in the immediate and medium term?
- Do conditionality and engagement conditions negatively impact smaller-scale traders and subsequent household food security outcomes?
- How are the potential positive and negative effects of market support interventions best measured in humanitarian settings?
- To what extent could humanitarian practices be positively influenced by market stakeholders' inputs?

The findings of this synthesis report have been, understandably, limited by the availability and quality of evidence into market support interventions' influence on household food security in humanitarian crises. Yet, the current absence of this evidence is, in and of itself, a critical finding of this research. The evidence base needs to grow both in size (number of studies) and more importantly in quality to enable a more rigorous evidence synthesis and subsequent learning. The gaps identified, and recommendations for further research will, it is hoped, contribute to the continued evolution of thinking in this area of humanitarian practice. Indeed, the sector cannot afford to accept such an absence of evidence rigour on market support interventions if it is to meet continued and ever-increasing humanitarian needs.

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 MARKET AND FOOD SECURITY IN CRISIS SITUATION

Markets are central to the lives and livelihoods of most of the world's population, both as a means to get access to essential commodities and services and to gain an income through selling production or labour. The majority of the world's population relies on markets to either access food or the means to produce it.

Today, food security is understood as: 'when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life' (Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 2006, p. 1). This widely accepted definition points to four dimensions of food security: food availability, food access, utilization⁶ and stability. Of these dimensions, food availability, food access and stability are more relevant to this research and can be understood as follows.

- **Food availability:** The availability of sufficient quantities of food of appropriate quality, supplied through domestic production or imports (including food aid).
- **Food access:** Access by individuals to adequate resources (entitlements) for acquiring appropriate foods for a nutritious diet. 'Entitlements' are defined as the set of all commodity bundles over which a person can establish command given the legal, political, economic and social arrangements of the community in which they live (including traditional rights such as access to common resources).
- **Stability:** To be food secure, a population, household or individual must have access to adequate food at all times. They should not risk losing access to food as a consequence of sudden shocks (e.g. an economic or climatic crisis) or cyclical events (e.g. seasonal food insecurity). The concept of stability can therefore refer to both the availability and access dimensions of food security (FAO, 2006, p. 1).

Markets do not necessarily represent a specific physical space but rather the structure or system, formal or not, in which buyers and sellers exchange commodities, services or labour for cash or other goods or services. A market system is a network of people, trading structures and rules that determines how a particular good or service is regulated, produced and accessed. A market system is comprised of many market actors, buyers and sellers (along a market chain) supported by infrastructures and services, and interacting in a trading environment shaped by institutions, rules or norms.⁷ Market systems are not geographically constrained and can operate across borders. As such, they are essential for achieving food security as they enable the exchange of goods and services, responding to the demands of their consumers (World Food Programme (WFP), 2009). Markets determine food availability and access, playing a vital role in averting or mitigating hunger by adjusting to shocks and reducing risks (WFP, 2009). However, the dimensions of food security and their causal factors are complex, dynamic and influenced by a number of elements including (but not limited to) markets.

Humanitarian crises can severely affect food security through their impacts on market function, food availability and access, and market performance. Reciprocally, the capacity of markets to positively influence food security can be hindered during crises (WFP, 2009).

For the purpose of this report we have considered that situations are labelled 'humanitarian' when actors that claim to be *humanitarian* get involved in supporting people affected by a crisis. Our analysis is not made around the common distinction between disasters caused by natural hazards (hereafter 'natural disasters') and complex emergencies (Duffield, 1996; Macrae, 2000) but instead encompasses both.

⁶ 'Utilization of food through adequate diet, clean water, sanitation and healthcare to reach a state of nutritional well-being where all physiological needs are met. This brings out the importance of non-food inputs in food security' (FAO, 2006, p. 1).

⁷ Adapted from <https://live-emma-toolkit.pantheon.io/toolkit>

1.2 MARKET SUPPORT INTERVENTIONS

There is no broadly used and accepted definition of market support interventions in the humanitarian sector. There is also no formal categorization of market support interventions or market support activities to date. This is mostly because supporting markets as an indirect way to support crisis-affected populations is a relatively new area for humanitarian actors (Oxfam and WFP, 2013).

For the purpose of this evidence synthesis, we have therefore conceptualized and defined the different types of market-based programming, as shown in Box, p. 2. Market-based programming is the practice of working through and supporting local markets (Oxfam and WFP, 2013)

Market-based programming. Source: Juillard et al., 2016

Market sensitive approaches

These are projects that consider the market context in their design and implementation. As all projects (either delivered in kind, through cash or vouchers or advocacy orientated) have an impact on markets and their wider political and institutional environment, they should all aim at adopting a market sensitive approach. Examples of programmes that are solely market sensitive include: providing households with cash, vouchers and in-kind assistance via local procurement. In these cases, market analysis indicates the suitability of the response without any financial or material support to specific market actors.

Market support interventions

Sectoral or multisectoral in nature, these projects include activities to support existing market systems. This is done by supporting specific, targeted market actors, infrastructure, service providers or elements in the prevailing market environment. The primary objective is to enable disaster-affected households to meet their basic needs. Market support activities are implemented alongside sectoral or multisectoral activities to help achieve project results. Projects tend to be implemented during preparedness, relief and recovery timeframes.

Project examples

- CTP combined with activities to support traders
- In-kind food aid purchased from local producers who receive support from the project
- Vouchers or cash grants to access water when there is support to water vendors to increase water quality
- Rehabilitating a road to allow access to a market place

Market system approaches

Implemented predominantly as development programmes, market systems approaches address the underlying causes of poor performance in specific markets that matter to people living in poverty, to create lasting changes that have a large-scale impact. They also include developing non-existing market systems or formalising the informal ones.

Project examples

- Improve the incomes of poor rural households by helping small-scale livestock farmers gain better access to markets, information, veterinary drugs and services
- Developing pro-poor financial markets
- Value chain development project
- Making markets work for poor people in urban and rural contexts

The objectives and methodologies applied in humanitarian-orientated market support intervention responses are not the same as those used in market development or market systems approaches. The main differences are in timeframe (these are multi-year programmes aiming for long-term sustainable change), objective (orientated to addressing the root causes of why markets fail to meet the needs of poor people) and target groups (the impact of change is orientated to a wider population group). Such lasting and large-scale change is achieved through interventions that 'modify the incentives and behaviour of businesses and other market players – public, private, formal and informal' on the basis of careful analysis and an understanding of a specific value chain or industry (BEAM Exchange website⁸).

Market support interventions are not a sector as such, but rather a cross-cutting approach that consists of supporting market actors, service providers or infrastructure to improve the situation of crisis-affected populations. Market support interventions can be included in pre and post-crisis responses as well as in projects aiming at long-term social change. Pre-crisis interventions could influence post-crisis households' food security. Similarly, interventions aiming at long-term social change may also influence households' food security in a post-crisis situation. While not denying the potential of these interventions, for the sake of a homogeneous final analysis, studies covering disaster preparedness or interventions aiming for long-term social change have not been included. Similarly, for the purpose of this report, market support interventions in the aftermath of a crisis do not include macroeconomic interventions to promote economic recovery, such as changes to fiscal and monetary policy or trade policies and institutions (Juillard et al., 2016).

⁸ <https://beamexchange.org/market-systems/why-use-systems-approach/> (26 April 2016)

In humanitarian settings, market support interventions are those whose goal is to improve the situation of the crisis-affected population by providing support to critical market systems that this population relies on for essential goods, services or income. After a shock, market support interventions aim at recovering, strengthening or developing the capacity of market actors, services and infrastructures that are critical to meeting and responding to the needs of affected people. Market support activities are embedded in market support interventions that could look at covering multiple needs or sector specific needs such as food security, livelihoods, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and shelter. As per its protocol, this evidence synthesis has only included market support interventions that are aiming to cover food security needs, or to cover multiple needs including food security (Juillard et al., 2016). The focus on food security enabled a deeper understanding of the available findings and subsequently more pertinent, focused and detailed analysis. Furthermore, there is more experience in market support interventions in the food security sector.

Market support interventions are people centric: they put people at the centre of the response by looking at how households in communities use and access markets to cover their needs and supporting those connections. By doing so, market support interventions will not necessarily target the most vulnerable people or those people that are most acutely affected by the crisis in terms of food insecurity. Market support interventions will rather target the market components that will have the most effect on restoring or improving the affected population's pre-crisis situation. Those activities aim to have a knock-on, indirect, positive outcome on poor and marginalized people.

Market support interventions can take several forms, including activities that support market actors, infrastructures and services. Examples of activities that can be implemented in combination with one another follow (Juillard et al., 2016).

Support to market chain actors across market system(s)

Support can be provided in kind, financially, via skills development or can take the form of services or information delivery for market chain actors. 'Market chain actors' should be understood here as all who sell and buy the product or the service so it ultimately become available for the consumer. As such market chain actors can be: importers, wholesalers, traders (of all sizes, from large retailers to petty traders) and so on.

Activities to support market chain actors include but are not limited to:

- distributing grants to market actors to restore, strengthen or develop their businesses
- in-kind distribution of commodities to market actors so they can restock
- in-kind distribution of materials to market actors so they can rehabilitate their shops
- skills development for market actors so they can restore, strengthen or develop their businesses
- sharing and gathering of information about market opportunities, licensing processes and so on with market actors so they can strengthen or develop their businesses
- facilitating access to credit by providing a guarantee of demand through an upcoming emergency project relying on local markets
- offering physical storage places or collective storage facilities to market actors
- rehabilitating a road to allow market actors access to the physical market place
- offering transportation services to market actors.

Support to market services and infrastructure

Market services and infrastructure allow the market system to function. They represent entities like financial services, transportation, roads and storage. The support can be provided in kind, through financial support or via skills development for those actors who are providing services and infrastructure to the market system. As several market systems often share common services and infrastructures such as transportation services or storage facilities, these types of activities could impact several market systems (Oxfam, 2015).

Market support intervention activities targeting market services and infrastructure include but are not limited to:

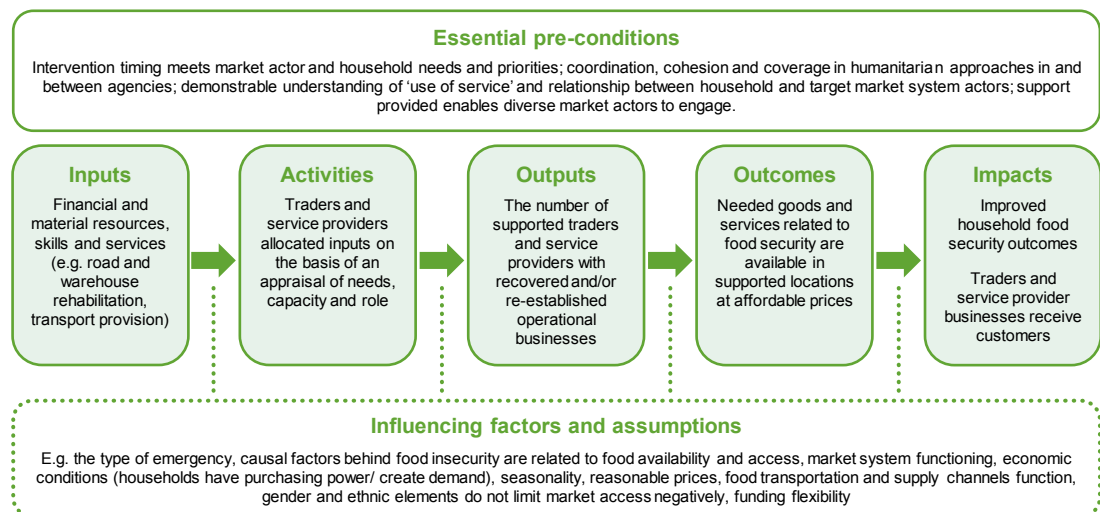
- providing grants or in-kind material to the owner of storage places so the storage capacity can be restored, developed or strengthened
- providing grants or in-kind material (including fuel) to transporters so they can restore, develop or strengthen the transportation services they offer to the market actors
- developing financial service providers' understanding of market actors' need to access credit
- facilitating the circulation of key information to transporters, owners of storage places or financial service providers so they can restore, develop or strengthen their service delivery.

1.3 HOW THE INTERVENTIONS MIGHT WORK

There are a number of steps between the provision of inputs at the market actor level, and the achievement of outcomes and impact at the household level. These steps depend on synergies between factors including: additional humanitarian activities,⁹ household priorities, household purchasing power, availability of appropriate food, market utilization and access, ethnicity and gender.

Figure 1.1 provides an updated¹⁰ theory of change on how market support interventions may lead to improved household food security.

Figure 1.1: Overarching theory of change: the influence of market support interventions on food security. Source: The research team



Market support interventions, as outlined in Section 1.2, require similar types of inputs and activities based on needs analysis ordinarily undertaken by the implementing agency or partner agencies. It should be noted that the term 'trader' is used to broadly represent a range of formal and informal trading market actors including but not limited to: wholesalers, specialist shops and traders of varying size and locality (local, regional, central rural and urban markets, city centres, ambulatory and so forth).

Pre-conditions

Essential preconditions are non-negotiable elements of the programme design that should be in place as and when the programmes are implemented. They have a significant

⁹ An example is that providing rental or school fees to households can 'release' household income for other expenses, including food.

¹⁰ The synthesis protocol provided an assumed theory of change (Juillard et al., 2016).

influence on the outcome of a market support intervention. The essential pre-conditions and their rationale comprise the following.

- The intervention timing meets market actor and household needs and priorities.** The support provided has to be well timed to enable the sought 'influence' to achieve its full potential (see Figure 1.1). The available, albeit limited, evidence indicates that this is equally important for the market actors and households. Abebe et al. (2008, p. 182) illustrate this point well, reflecting that the destocking intervention occurred late in the drought, and should have taken place earlier when the price of cattle was still relatively high. It was US\$138 per head the month before the drought being declared, compared with US\$50 at the time of destocking. Abebe et al. (2008, p.182) comment 'it is likely that pastoralists might have received twice the amount for their cattle, indicating that better contingency planning and preparation of traders are needed for future droughts'.

The importance of intervention timing. Source: The research team

There's no point in understanding 'use of service' if intervention timing is wrong

The original theory of change presented in the research protocol (Juillard et al., 2016) included an assumption on 'use of service', meaning that the crisis-affected households will use the supported traders and service providers to purchase a range of food items and to access key services. The evidence indicates that intervention timing heavily influences the use of service, not only in terms of the value of outcome, which in a destocking programme can decrease over time (Abebe et al., 2008), but also the type of market actor that is identified for support (Pelly et al., 2015).

A Save the Children Philippines cash transfer programme implemented in response to Typhoon Haiyan is included in this synthesis. With some of the Save the Children traders receiving their first cash assistance support one year after the typhoon struck the Philippines, not only did the Pelly et al. (2015) evaluation question the traders' need for support so long after the typhoon, but also if this support was still required to meet the household-level objectives of the programme (to improve household access to food).

The importance of assistance timeliness is a reflection captured in Zyck et al., (2015), which highlights a critical time when market actors needed support to maintain and/or recover disaster-affected businesses.

- There is coordination, cohesion and coverage in humanitarian approaches within and between agencies.** The realized impact of market support interventions is likely to be greater in contexts where organizations coordinate and align their activities, creating a 'critical mass' of impact. The potential positive impact created from a single or a few organizations implementing market support interventions can be negated in a context where most organizations implement contradictory or misaligned activities. The coverage, or size, of market support intervention programmes should also reflect the scale of need and objectives of the programme. 'Lack of coordination between aid agencies, and between agencies and the government, meant that there was a lack of awareness of the collective impact of interventions on local markets and businesses' (Zyck et al., 2015, p. 13).
- There is demonstrable understanding of 'use of service' and the relationship between household and target market system actors.** This is a critical element in programme design. Market support interventions need to be based on a solid analytical foundation. This knowledge base can be developed over time in both rapid onset humanitarian contexts and when the context has stabilized. In contexts that suffer from slow-onset or predictable disasters, pre-crisis market analysis would provide an opportunity to collect the data required (Juillard, 2016). Abebe et al. (2008) reflect on the need for better contingency planning and preparedness of traders for future droughts in relation to the timing of destocking interventions. It is also observed that 'many Pakistani business people, government representatives and NGO staff indicated that, in most cases, aid agencies tended to work around rather than with markets' (Zyck et al., 2015, p. 13).
- The support provided enables diverse actors that are vital to achieving household food security to engage.** Households generally use a diverse range of market actors to enable their food security. Supporting a range of actors acknowledges this diversity in practice that encompasses the multiple ways households achieve food security, from hunting and gathering practices, to own production and purchase. The support to blacksmiths provided by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in the Philippines demonstrates how the factors influencing the food security of the targeted typhoon-affected households were broadly considered, looking at their capacity to generate an income and elements that influence this (CRS, 2015). Additionally, market actors are not isolated units functioning in a vacuum, but rely on other services (such as legal, financial, information, sales advice and communication) and inputs (including the commodities they sell).

Market support intervention assistance that enables diverse actors in the market system to engage acknowledges the interaction and interdependency between market actors. This is seen in the Mercy Corps RAIN programme in Ethiopia where a market system approach was used to identify key market actors and market support interventions (Celebic, 2014).

Inputs and activities to enable humanitarian market support interventions include providing financial or material resources or skills on the basis of a rapid and brief appraisal of market actor needs and capacities. Humanitarian market analysis tools tend to be rapid in their deployment and brief in their content to enable a timely provision of assistance on the basis of a quick understanding of the context. Theoretically a rapid and brief assessment would be followed up with a more detailed one to gain a deeper understanding of the situation once adequate resources are available and/or when the context has stabilized. Even in contexts where pre-crisis mapping has taken place, an understanding of the impact of the crisis on the markets is required. The capacity and role of the trader/service provider is considered to ensure that crisis-affected households are likely to use their services.

A broad range of factors and actors can influence households' food security status. The focus of this evidence synthesis's on food security thus enables a broad range of market actors to be included in market support interventions. Humanitarian organization programmes included in this synthesis have predominantly targeted traders of varying size, formal and informal, who are engaged in providing goods (food items) and services (agricultural and livestock orientated) related to food security.

Outputs of humanitarian market support interventions are mostly reported by the number of traders and/or service providers that have used the support provided and are operational. Their ability of to be open for business following the provision of resources carries a number of assumptions, including but not limited to favourable conditions encompassing their security and safety in doing so, and the reliability of the supply chain for goods.

Outcomes relate to the level of household demand for affordable and available food items and services that are of sufficient quality and quantity to ensure and maintain household food security. Market actors respond to effective demand and not a humanitarian organizations' understanding of the needs of the affected population (ERC, 2015; WFP, 2014). Outcomes can include traders and service provider businesses having a suitable range of affordable services and goods related to food security available for purchase by crisis-affected households.

Impacts illustrate the final result of an intervention on household food security, which is the measure used to demonstrate the success of the activity.

Status improvement in food security can be measured using methodologies that relate directly to food consumption, as well as a number of methodologies that take a broader perspective of household coping strategy activities, access and behaviour. These are the indicators commonly used in humanitarian contexts:

- household or individual Dietary Diversity Score¹¹
- Food Consumption Score¹²
- self-assessed measure of food security¹³
- Coping Strategy Index and related Reduced Coping Strategy Index¹⁴

¹¹ Household food access is defined as the ability to acquire sufficient quality and quantity of food to meet all household members' nutritional requirements for productive lives. Household dietary diversity, defined as the number of unique foods consumed by household members over a given period, has been validated to be a useful approach for measuring household food access, particularly when resources for undertaking such measurement are scarce. See: <http://www.fantaproject.org/monitoring-and-evaluation/household-dietary-diversity-score>

¹² The Food Consumption Score is a composite score based on dietary diversity, food frequency and the relative nutritional importance of different food groups. It is calculated using the frequency of consumption of different food groups consumed by a household during the seven days before the survey. Scores are clustered into three groups; the results of the analysis categorize each household as having either poor, borderline, or acceptable food consumption. See: <https://www.spring-nutrition.org/publications/tool-summaries/food-consumption-score>

¹³ Although frequently used, these are household or individual self-assessments of current food security status from within a recent recall period that take into account a change in access or activity over time. Self-assessments tend to be highly subjective in nature and potentially open to manipulation.

- the common coping strategy in food insecure households of reducing meal frequency, the quantity and quality of food consumed
- access to credit and markets (physical and social)
- consumption and purchasing patterns (in terms of purchasing frequency and also frequented traders/services)
- proxy indicators such as status of livelihood activity, level of income and level and type of non-food item (such as cooking items).

Influencing factors and assumptions

A number of assumptions and influencing factors will affect the feasibility of market support interventions in achieving their objectives. As illustrated in Figure 1.1, these include the type of emergency and its impact on market function, market prices and household affordability. But, importantly, they also include the pre-emergency context especially the prevailing causal factors behind food insecurity (related to food availability and access), seasonal dimensions in food insecurity and any underlining gender and ethnic elements that may limit market access negatively.

Funding flexibility to enable humanitarian programmes to modify their activities in line with changes in the implementation context is increasingly recognized as a vital pre-condition. As contexts evolve, implementing organizations require some flexibility in how they apply their funds to meet emerging or changing needs appropriately, using adaptive programming principles. Funding flexibility would also enable organizations to implement modifications to programme interventions based on learning and monitoring data and feedback from targeted and non-targeted beneficiaries.

Stakeholders

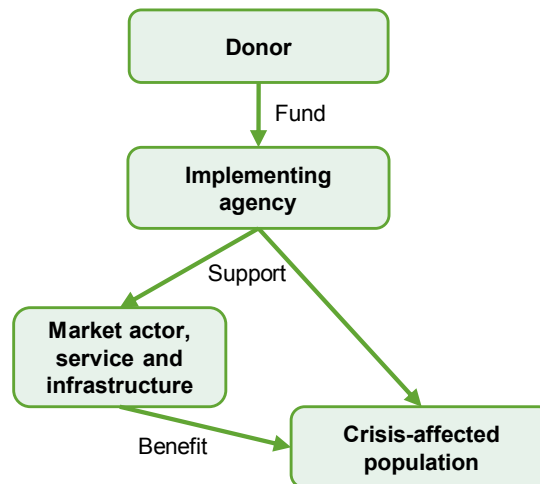
The delivery of market support interventions typically involves four types of stakeholders: the donor; the entity implementing the intervention; the market actor, service or infrastructure; and the crisis-affected population.

- The donor can be an international organization, a government body, a private foundation or an individual providing the necessary funding for the design and implementation of the market support intervention.
- The implementing entity can be an NGO, a UN agency, an organization from the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, a private sector actor¹⁵ or a governmental actor. They assess the needs of the crisis-affected population and the market situation. They then design the intervention aiming to improve food security or reduce negative coping mechanisms. To reach this objective they may directly support the crisis-affected population and/or the market system on which this population relies to cover its basic needs.
- The market, service or infrastructure actors are the recipients of the market support activity, even if the ultimate intervention objective is to improve the food security situation of crisis-affected households. Market chain actors can be: importers, wholesalers, traders (of all sizes – from large retailers to petty traders) and so on. Market services and infrastructure allow the market system to function. They represent entities such as financial services, transportation, roads and storage.
- The crisis-affected population is at the receiving end of the market support intervention, as the activities targeting market actors, services and infrastructures are aiming at having a knock-on positive outcome on this population's food security situation.

Figure 1.2 provides a visual of the resource flow in market support interventions.

¹⁴ The Coping Strategies Index (CSI) tool measures what people do when they cannot access enough food, asking a series of questions about how households manage to cope with a shortfall in food for consumption, providing a numeric score. <https://www.spring-nutrition.org/publications/tool-summaries/coping-strategies-index-field-methods-manual-2nd-edition>

¹⁵ The private sector here is defined as all for-profit businesses that are not operated by the government, ranging from small community-based businesses to national and multinational corporations.

Figure 1.2: Market support intervention stakeholders. Source: The research team

1.4 THE NEED FOR THIS EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS

While humanitarian organizations are being asked to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of their interventions and ‘do more with less’ (Al-Nasser, 2012), they are increasingly recognizing the potential role of markets in achieving not only sustainable economic development, but also higher impact humanitarian responses. As a result, market assessment and analysis has been progressively integrated into humanitarian programming and used to determine the most appropriate response and delivery mode (Maxwell et al., 2013).

Market assessments are now routinely part of humanitarian organization assessment protocols and response analysis frameworks, yet implementing activities supporting the market as a direct result of such analysis is not common, irrespective of market analysis recommendations (International Rescue Committee, 2014).

There is a growing consensus on the need to consider and support markets, but the assumption that it will lead to the increased impact of responses is rarely supported by data and strong evidence. Lack of evidence for humanitarian interventions is not uncommon, and market support is no exception: ‘High-quality evidence that can causally relate changes in the conditions of people and their outcomes to specific programmes and interventions undertaken in humanitarian assistance are clearly scarce’ (Puri et al., 2015, p. 5). No systematic review looking at market support interventions has been identified either.

The scope of this evidence synthesis was therefore directly informed by the need for more evidence on the topic and an interest from the various stakeholders consulted at the inception stage. However, regardless of the general paucity of high quality evidence in the humanitarian sector, conducting this synthesis after sufficient primary data had been collected at the project level would have resulted in more substantive findings.

1.5 OBJECTIVES

Our objective in conducting this research is to identify, assess and synthesize existing evidence on the influence of market support interventions on household food security in humanitarian crises.

We aim to answer the following research questions:

Primary research question

What is the influence of market support interventions on household food security in humanitarian crises?

Secondary research questions

- What are the project parameters that drive the inclusion and exclusion of market support interventions in humanitarian crises?
- What are the potential barriers and enablers to market support interventions (contextual and institutional ones)?
- What effects of market support interventions are measured?
- What is the influence of interventions supporting traders on household food security in humanitarian crises?
- What is the influence of interventions supporting market services and infrastructures on household food security in humanitarian crises?
- Who are the main actors targeted for market support activities? Are there any specific exclusion factors?
- What are the gaps in research evidence on market support approaches?

2 METHOD

2.1 EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS PROTOCOL

The methods employed in this evidence synthesis have been peer reviewed and are aligned with the Humanitarian Evidence Programme's guidance note for evidence synthesis in the humanitarian field (Oxfam and Feinstein International Center, 2015). A detailed protocol was prepared, peer reviewed and published in August 2016 (Juillard et al., 2016).

2.2 CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERING STUDIES FOR THIS SYNTHESIS

2.2.1 Type of study

Acknowledging the paucity of evidence in the humanitarian sector (Puri et al., 2015, p. 5), our synthesis adopts a larger scope than is recommended in Campbell and Cochrane Collaboration approaches to systematic reviewing (Higgins and Green, 2011). To answer primary and secondary research questions, we included both qualitative and quantitative research. We have considered academic articles as well as grey literature such as reports and research papers from NGOs, international organizations, government agencies and think tanks (published and unpublished).

To be eligible for inclusion, qualitative studies had to:

- state they were based on data collected from project intervention stakeholders (e.g. beneficiaries, implementing agencies, local authorities)
- clearly describe the inputs, activities, output and outcomes of the market support interventions.

To be eligible for inclusion, quantitative studies had to apply a research design able to minimize bias in the attribution of identified effects to the applied intervention, for example experimental designs (e.g. randomized controlled trials) or quasi-experimental designs (e.g. propensity score matching). Mixed-method approaches were also eligible, and the ones presenting a critical risk of bias have been treated as non-random studies.

Publication types that were considered ineligible include personal blogs, commentaries, diaries, opinion pieces, workshop reports, literature reviews, marketing material such as 'lives stories' of individual shopkeepers, newspapers articles, magazine articles, guidelines and legal proceedings/court documents.

Studies published from 1990 onwards have been included. To our knowledge humanitarian interventions started to consider markets in the aftermath of the Bam earthquake in Iran in 2003, but we did not want to exclude the possibility of some market support activities occurring before 2003. In addition, the 1990s saw a massive change in the way humanitarian assistance was implemented with the creation of United Nations agencies – such as the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – and with the development of humanitarian evaluations in the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide (Borton, 1996). It was therefore unlikely that we would identify any relevant study before this date. Any study published before 1990 has been excluded.

Searches were conducted in English, but studies were not excluded from the evidence synthesis on the basis of language, as documents were still considered if a French or English translation existed.

2.2.2 Types of participants and context

Studies targeting market actors and services or infrastructures were considered for inclusion. Interventions that did not target market actors, services or infrastructures specifically were excluded.

All market actors, services or infrastructure providers were included regardless of their age, gender, disability, health status, literacy, pregnancy status, parental status, specific status according to the Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols, ethnic or religious belonging, volume of trade, type of goods or services offered and type of customer.

Market actors can be defined as all those who sell and buy products or services so that these ultimately become available for the consumer. Market services and infrastructure enable the market system to function. They represent entities like financial services, transportation, roads and storage.

Study populations include the market actors, services and infrastructures (targeted directly by the market support activities) and the crisis-affected population (to be impacted indirectly by the market support activities).

This evidence synthesis focused on interventions that attempted to improve the food security (as defined in Section 1.1) of people affected by humanitarian crises by including activities supporting the market.

Humanitarian actors have defined the expression 'humanitarian crisis' as follows: 'an event or series of events that represents a critical threat to the health, safety, security or well-being of a community or other large group of people, usually over a wide area' (Humanitarian Coalition, 2015). The expression, however, is intrinsically ambiguous as it associates 'crisis', that is the set of problems people may face, with the word 'humanitarian' originally associated in the four Geneva Conventions (First Geneva Convention, 1949) with impartial *actors* providing relief in conflict settings,¹⁶ as well as their *activities* and *duties*.

Bearing in mind these critiques, this evidence synthesis has not avoided the expression 'humanitarian crisis' as it is widely used in the literature. Yet to overcome the challenge of delineating 'humanitarian crises', we have considered that situations are labelled as such when actors that claim to be *humanitarian* get involved in supporting affected people: 'there is humanitarian aid quite simply when groups claim to implement humanitarian action and organize to this end an intervention apparatus applying to other social groups' (Dozon and Atlani-Duault, 2011, p. 400).

The geographical scope is global. Such crises can have one or several direct origins: internal or international conflict; ethnic cleansing; genocide; large-scale epidemics; natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, droughts; economic shocks and inflation or a mix of several events. Studies examining any type of crisis in any environment (urban, rural or camp) have been included.

Studies not reporting on a specific crisis or type of crisis have been excluded.

2.2.3 Types of interventions

This evidence synthesis focuses on market support interventions supporting market chain actors or market services and infrastructures. A detailed description of these categories is provided in Section 1.2.

Studies are included if the described intervention was aimed at improving the food security situation of crisis-affected populations or reducing negative coping mechanisms. We have not used a restrictive definition of negative coping mechanisms and have included all interventions that state that they intend to reduce these. If an intervention contains several

¹⁶ See the expression 'International Committee of the Red Cross or any other impartial humanitarian organization' appearing in all four 1949 Geneva Conventions.

components, including at least one looking at either improving food security or reducing the coping mechanism, it has been considered for inclusion.

Studies reporting on interventions designed by any actors (NGOs, UN agencies, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, private sector actors and government actors) in the aftermath of a 'humanitarian crisis' to indirectly benefit affected people have been included.

Studies were not excluded on the basis of intervention length though most humanitarian projects have a maximum duration of 12 months (for instance in alignment with European Commission funding regulations). However, studies examining preparedness interventions or interventions with the objective of long-term social change have been excluded. Similarly, studies looking at macroeconomic interventions to promote economic recovery, such as changes to fiscal and monetary policy or trade policies and institutions, have been excluded.

2.2.4 Type of outcome measured

To address both primary and secondary research questions we included studies reporting on the effects of market support interventions on household food security or on household adoption of negative coping mechanisms.

We define food security outcomes as:

- better diet diversity
- increased food quality
- appropriate food quantity
- better access to food security related markets (physical, social and financial)
- reduced number of negative coping mechanism related to food consumption (reduction of meal frequency, the quantity and quality of food consumed).

More specifically, we intended to extract data on the following outcome measures for food security:

- household or individual Dietary Diversity Score
- Food Consumption Score
- self-assessed measure of food security
- Coping Strategy Index
- proxy indicators such as increased household income and lower prices (key here is affordability in relation to household income).

We included market support interventions intending to assist market actors, services and infrastructure and reporting on the following outcomes:

- business restoration
- business strengthening
- business development.

Those outcomes were measured using the following indicators:

- volume of trade
- trader-reported income
- number and diversity of customers
- number and diversity of suppliers.

We do not place any specific restriction on the way the outcome is measured or the duration of the outcome measurement. Therefore, we did not exclude any study from the evidence synthesis due to unreliable measurement outcomes. The strength and validity of the outcome measurement was considered at the quality appraisal stage.

2.3 SEARCH METHOD FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF STUDIES

To be as comprehensive as possible our search strategy included academic databases (with open and restricted access), institutional websites and academic journals. The search was undertaken between June and August 2016.

We searched the following databases:

- Google Scholar
<http://scholar.google.com/>
- ScienceDirect
www.sciencedirect.com/
- PubMed
www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed
- Scopus
<https://www.scopus.com/>
- Bielefeld Academic Search Engine
<https://www.base-search.net/about/en/>
- ELDIS
<http://www.eldis.org/>
- ELLA (Evidence and Lessons from Latin America)
<http://ella.practicalaction.org/>

We hand-searched the following academic journals:

- Development and Change
[http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1467-7660](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1467-7660)
- Third World Quarterly
<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/ctwq20>
- Disasters
[http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1467-7717](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1467-7717)

Finally, we manually searched the following websites:

- 3ie (International Initiative for Impact Evaluation)
<http://www.3ieimpact.org/>
- ALNAP
<http://www.alnap.org/resources/results.aspx?tag=606>
- BEAM (Building Effective and Accessible Markets) Exchange
<https://beamexchange.org/resources/>
- Building Markets
<http://buildingmarkets.org>
- Cash Learning Partnership
<http://www.cashlearning.org/markets/markets>
<https://dgroups.org/groups/calp/calp-en>
 - Department for International Development, UK (DFID)
<http://r4d.dfid.gov.uk/>
 - European Commission
http://ec.europa.eu/echo/_en
 - GSDRC
<http://www.gsdrc.org/publications/>
 - Humanitarian Library
<http://humanitarianlibrary.org/>
 - International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC)
<http://www.ifrc.org/en/publications-and-reports/>
 - Markets in Crises Dgroup
<https://dgroups.org/dfid/mic>

- Microlinks
<https://www.microlinks.org>
- Overseas Development Institute
<http://www.odi.org/projects/2659-markets-crises-transitions>
- SEEP
<http://www.seepnetwork.org>
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
<https://www.usaid.gov/data>
- World Bank
<http://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/reference>
- World Food Programme
<http://www.wfp.org>

We developed search strings for each database, whether academic or institutional, based on a declination of four concepts:

- market support activities
- crisis
- food security
- influence.

We used a combination of these four search strings to explore the academic databases. We used Boolean operator 'OR' to link each key aspect to their synonyms, and operator 'AND' to combine several notions. Search strings were first tested by the research team and adapted iteratively to adjust to the specificities of each database. Our search terms and a record of all searches are presented in Appendices A and B respectively.

The databases from the websites we manually searched use simple search functions, making long search strings irrelevant. The proposed strings were therefore adapted to suit each database as appropriate. For some of them, we used a single search term: 'market' and then 'food security' to ensure we harvested as much information as possible in all of the relevant literature.

Beyond electronic searches, the research team also reached out to a number of sources thought to be able to provide relevant literature on the influence of market support interventions on household food security.

- We contacted our advisory board and asked for any relevant studies.
- We shared a message asking for relevant literature through the BEAM Exchange blog; the InterAction-led shelter group, the Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP) Market working group, the Logistics Cluster and the WASH cluster mailing lists, and both the CaLP and the market in crisis discussion groups.
- A backward citation search was conducted: the research team reviewed the bibliography of each document rated as fit for inclusion to find further studies that the designed search strings may not have detected.
- A forward citation search was conducted via Google Scholar to search for all studies citing the seven included studies. Out of the seven, only Abebe et al. (2008) had been cited by other articles and studies. This may be due to four of the seven documents having been recently published (since 2015), a reflection of the relative recent emergence of this type of humanitarian intervention.

2.4 DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

2.4.1 Selection of studies

The screening and selection of studies occurred in two steps. Exclusion filters are detailed in the evidence synthesis protocol (Juillard et al., 2016, p. 31).

In the first step, all titles and abstracts resulting from the search were screened by one of the two main researchers. The list of websites was divided between the two main researchers. Five percent of the hits of each researcher were scanned by the other to compare results and ensure consistency in the inclusion and exclusion of the screened studies. The level of agreement was high considering the clear criteria set in the protocol (Juillard et al., 2016). Studies were classified as either 'excluded' or 'included for step 2.' All studies classified as 'included for step 2' were registered in Zotero.¹⁷

In the second step, the full texts of all studies classified as 'included for step 2' were screened by the same researchers. For the sake of consistency, and as for step 1, a randomly selected sample of five percent of the studies was double-screened by the other researcher. Studies were classified as 'included' or 'excluded' and the reason for exclusion was recorded. The list of all excluded studies after full text screening and the reasons for exclusion is presented in Section 7.2.

2.4.2 Data extraction

A detailed coding sheet, presented in Appendix C, was specifically developed for the synthesis and used for each of the included studies. The two researchers extracted and coded all of the included studies. A randomly selected sample of four studies was double-coded by the other researcher. The information extracted included information about the context, the intervention, the population, the outcomes and the findings.

2.4.3 Quality appraisal of included studies

Following data extraction, both researchers appraised the quality of each study. For the purpose of this evidence synthesis, a specific quality appraisal template was developed, following the template developed by Langer et al. (2014). It is a mixed-methods critical appraisal tool with three modules: one for each of qualitative studies, quantitative studies and mixed-methods studies. The tool is presented in Appendix D. For each category (e.g. design, conduct, data, context), the tool suggests four rankings from weakest to strongest. Studies were rated weakest if none of the criteria listed under each item were met, and rated strongest if all the criteria were met. For the middle two, researchers discussed each selected study to ensure consistency in the grading.

Considering the low number of included studies and the overall poor quality of the studies, we decided not to exclude any study based on quality criteria. The quality of each included study was rated by both researchers. This synthesis and its findings discuss the differences in quality and the reliability of the analysis depending on the quality of each study.

2.4.4 Data synthesis

The data synthesis process started with a face-to-face workshop in London that all research team members attended. An overview of all the data extracted was prepared by the two main researchers, which the other team members consulted before the meeting. The purpose of this workshop was to update the theory of change presented in Section 1.3. It also served to identify trends and prepare for the thematic synthesis.

¹⁷ Zotero is an online tool for the collection, organization, citation and sharing of documents and articles.

Studies identified to address our research questions were heterogeneous in terms of design, population, intervention and outcomes measured. They each described one to two interventions but none included comparable outcomes. Therefore, each study's details are presented individually with a narrative synthesis; we did not conduct a meta-analysis of data.

Similarly, we intended to analyse data by gender, age, status or ethnicity. However, the data available is too thin to allow such disaggregated analysis.

3 SEARCH RESULTS

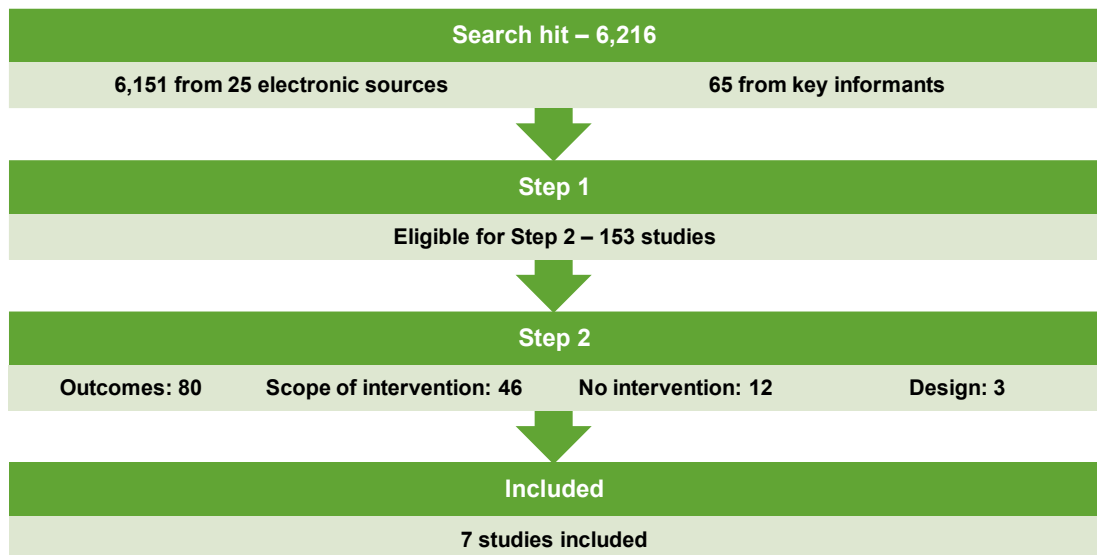
3.1 RESULTS OF THE SEARCH

The search was conducted between June and August 2016. We identified a total of 6,216 records: 6,151 from electronic sources (e.g. websites, references) and 65 records from our requests to key informants. During the first step we excluded 6,046 studies as they did not present the outcomes of market support interventions on household food security. All studies were then included in Zotero, which identified 17 duplicates. Full-texts of the remaining 153 studies were then sought. We obtained all full text studies, bar five that were not available. We screened the full text of those 148 studies as part of the second step, during which we excluded a further 141 studies. Most of these (80) were excluded because they did not report on the outcomes of market support interventions aiming to improve food security or reduce negative coping mechanisms. They appeared at first to be interventions that supported market actors. On further inspection, they were in fact interventions that used market actors to deliver assistance – for example voucher programmes. Other reasons for exclusion were:

- out of scope intervention (46): those were mostly studies that describe market sensitive approaches such as cash transfer programming
- study does not report on intervention (12): these were mostly market assessment reports
- study does not mention it is based on data collected from project stakeholders (3): due to our very broad inclusion criteria, only three studies were excluded because of their design.

As a result, seven studies were selected for inclusion in our evidence synthesis. Their data was extracted and coded, and each one included a detailed quality appraisal performed for the data.

Figure 3.1: Search results. Source: The research team



3.2 CHARACTERISTICS OF INCLUDED STUDIES

We included seven studies, reporting on seven different interventions that discussed the influence of market support interventions on household food security in the aftermath of a crisis; see Section 7.1 for a list of included studies. Only one of the included studies (Celebic, 2014) is identified as mixed methods (of triangulation design); the remaining six are qualitative studies. No studies included in the evidence synthesis are purely quantitative. One of the qualitative studies (Abebe et al., 2008) applies sampling methods for identifying households to include in participatory appraisal methods.

Celebic (2014) includes two interventions of relevance to this research from the same programme in Ethiopia – Revitalizing Agricultural/Pastoral Incomes and New Markets (RAIN): destocking and animal health supply chain support. We treat this dataset as a single study due to the homogeneity of context, programme and beneficiaries. When required it has been analysed separately.

Although Carter (2016) does not look at specific interventions, the paper does reference a number of intervention types and reflects on the state of market support interventions at the global level. Zyck et al. (2015) briefly cite five market-related interventions following the 2010 floods in Pakistan. However, we have included only one of these, due to its outcome resulting in the restoration and maintenance of food markets. The other interventions (providing loans and grants to businesses, supporting relationships between suppliers, and subsidizing transport costs) did not state outcomes that were confidently related to food security or reducing the adoption of negative coping mechanisms.

The quality of the findings is related to the types of studies included in this evidence synthesis (Figure 3.2). Although all the papers are published, only one is published in a peer-reviewed publication.

Figure 3.2: Types of study included in evidence synthesis. Source: The research team

Document and author	Type of study
Impact of a commercial destocking relief intervention in Moyale district, Southern Ethiopia (Abebe et al., 2008)	Journal article
Economic and market resilience before and after shocks (Carter, 2016)	Rapid review
Revitalizing agricultural/pastoral incomes and new markets (Celebic, 2014)	Evaluation report
Support to the local tool market post-Typhoon Haiyan, Philippines (Catholic Relief Services (CRS) 2015)	Study brief ¹⁸
Philippines Haiyan response – A multi-sector review of the use of market analysis and the design and implementation of CTPs (Pelly et al., 2015)	Evaluation report
The Haiti Earthquake: An Urban Solution (Young and Henderson, 2010)	Study brief
Markets in crisis: the 2010 floods in Sindh, Pakistan (Zyck et al., 2015)	Working paper ¹⁹

Figure 3.3 indicates that the quality of the findings that could be reliably extracted from these seven papers is generally poor. Apart from Carter (2016) and Zyck et al. (2015) the documents are very agency orientated, with little regard to or reflection of the interventions of other agencies.

¹⁸ A study brief can be understood as a summary of one specific subject, the contexts, rationale and findings.

¹⁹ A working paper is used to share ideas about a topic or to elicit feedback before submitting to a peer-reviewed conference or academic journal.

Figure 3.3: Quality of documents included in the evidence synthesis. Source: The research team based on the mixed-methods critical appraisal tool (Langer et al., 2014)

Document	Defensible	Appropriate sample	Rigorous in conduct	Credible in claim	Attends to context	Reflexive	Selection bias	Bias due to baseline confounding	Outcome reporting bias	Bias in selection of results reported
Mixed methods approach										
Revitalizing agricultural/pastoral incomes and new markets (Celebic, 2014)	Arguable	Functional sample	Considerate conduct	Arguable claims	Context central	Consideration	High risk of bias	Critical risk of bias	High risk of bias	High risk of bias
Qualitative approach										
Impact of a commercial destocking relief intervention in Moyale district, Southern Ethiopia (Abebe et al., 2008)	Defensible	Appropriate sample	Considerate conduct	Credible claims	Context central	Consideration				
Philippines Haiyan response – A multi-sector review of the use of market analysis and the design and implementation of CTPs (Pelly et al., 2015)	Arguable	Functional sample	Considerate conduct	Arguable claims	Context central	Consideration				
Economic and market resilience before and after shocks (Carter, 2016)	Critical	Critical sample	Considerate conduct	Credible claims	Context central	Consideration				
Markets in crisis: the 2010 floods in Sindh, Pakistan (Zyck et al., 2015)	Arguable	Critical sample	Critical conduct	Arguable claims	Context central	Consideration				
Support to the local food market post-Typhoon Haiyan, Philippines (CRS, 2015)	Not defensible	Flawed sample	Flawed conduct	Not credible	No context attention	Unreflective				
The Haiti Earthquake: An Urban Solution (Young and Henderson, 2010)	Not defensible	Critical sample	Flawed conduct	Not credible	Context mentioned	Unreflective				

There is a significant lack of contextual breadth and quality of evidence available, as represented in the selected documents. The number of interventions is limited to four countries (Philippines, Ethiopia, Pakistan and Haiti) and three disaster types: rapid onset disasters (floods, earthquake and a super typhoon) and a slow-onset disaster (drought).

The market support interventions described in the included studies target market actors (four interventions) and support market service providers (three interventions), see Section 3.4.

Carter (2016) and Zyck et al. (2015) offer limited data on specific interventions. However, they provide an overview of market support interventions at global and country level respectively, and reflect on trends in the humanitarian sector. Of the seven documents included in this research, four of them are cited in one other (Carter, 2016). This level of circular referencing is indicative of the lack of evidence in this sector.

With only two of the reports clearly having been authored by an agent external to the implementing agency (Carter, 2016; Zyck et al., 2015), the evidence synthesis questions the level of unseen organizational bias in the reports. The Save the Children evaluation in the Philippines clearly includes a cash transfer programme (CTP) researcher and external markets consultant in the evaluation team. However, without clarity on the leadership, roles and responsibilities of the members of the evaluation team, it is unclear to what extent including a researcher and external party ensured neutrality in the presentation of findings.

The research team evaluated the risk of bias for Celebic (2014) due to its application of a mixed-methods approach. As the study presented a critical risk of bias, mostly because of a lack of clear detail on baseline characteristics, it has been treated as a non-random study.

Publication bias, that is, the underreporting of studies establishing a negative or mixed evaluation finding (Franco et al., 2014), is inherent to social sciences, and thus the results should be treated cautiously.

3.3 CHARACTERISTICS OF EXCLUDED STUDIES

We screened the full text of 148 studies, out of which 141 were excluded and seven were included. The reasons for exclusion are given in Section 7.2 and summarized here.

- 56 percent (80 studies) did not report on the outcomes of market support interventions aimed at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
- One third (46 studies) looked at an intervention outside of the scope of research, mainly cash transfer programming that supported crisis-affected populations with no complementary support to market actors.
- Less than 10 percent (12 studies) did not report on an intervention.
- Less than 2 percent (three studies) were excluded because of their design. This is quite unusual for a systematic review/evidence synthesis, even when focusing on humanitarian settings (see for example Doocy and Tappis (2016), where half of the studies were excluded after a full-text screening due to study design). This is due to the broad inclusion criteria of our evidence synthesis.

3.4 DESCRIPTION OF INTERVENTIONS

In this section, the seven interventions included in the evidence synthesis are synthesized, with key information including humanitarian crisis, geographical location, number of households assisted and budget size summarized in Figure 3.4.

1. Philippines Haiyan response – A multi-sector review of the use of market analysis and the design and implementation of CTPs (Pelly et al., 2015)

In response to Typhoon Haiyan (November 2014), Save the Children Philippines is one of around 45 agencies that chose to implement CTP to meet the various needs of the affected population. Through cash-based assistance, the programme aimed to restore and diversify the livelihoods of the most vulnerable/landless households in targeted rice and corn farming communities severely affected by Typhoon Haiyan in the Leyte Province of Region VIII. Market support interventions were implemented for 12 months from January to December 2014 as part of an integrated programme approach and included support to 500 small-scale grocery stores (*sari-sari* stores). Market support activities included conditional cash grants, working capital and skills development. The cash grants were given in two instalments and varied in value²⁰ between the two locations in which the interventions were implemented. The training was mandatory and conducted before the first cash grant instalment was disbursed. One of the main objectives of the market support activity was to improve market recovery and subsequently the affected populations' access to food and non-food products.

Save the Children Philippines and Save the Children UK's Humanitarian Technical Unit commissioned this study to review the agency's use of CTP and market-based responses in the Haiyan response. The study's objectives are to contribute to Save the Children UK's global agenda on the inclusion of market analysis in response analysis and project implementation, and the need for evidence on the role of market-based programming in supporting market recovery. The study is also intended to contribute to learning on the design, implementation and monitoring of multi-sector CTP, integrated programming and the potential value for money of these approaches.

²⁰ The Western Leyte team set the value of the grant at PHP 14,000 (US\$315) and the Iloilo team set the value at PHP 25,000 (US\$562). (Exchange rates calculated using InforEuro exchange rate for January 2014.)

2. Impact of a commercial destocking relief intervention in Moyale district, Southern Ethiopia (Abebe et al., 2008)

A decade ago in Ethiopia, the importance of safeguarding livestock assets in pastoral areas during drought was recognized in the National Policy for Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Management. The policy required each district to respond to drought by preparing an action plan that described interventions to save livestock, including the supply of feed and water, veterinary inputs, livestock purchase centres and mobile abattoirs. However, these types of emergency livestock-related interventions were not widely applied and food aid had remained the dominant response in pastoral areas since emergency interventions began in the 1970s. Until 2006, the potential for destocking as a drought response in pastoral areas of Ethiopia was limited, despite there being a strong rationale for its application.

This paper describes a piloted commercial destocking intervention in Moyale district in the far south of Ethiopia during the drought of early 2006. Two livestock traders from an initial group of 21 were provided with loans and introduced to the areas requiring destocking.

The intervention led to the purchase of an estimated 20,000 cattle valued at US\$1.01 million. The pilot involved 5,405 households that benefitted from an income from destocking that was used to buy food, care for remaining livestock, meet various domestic expenses, support relatives, and either pay off debts or augment savings.

The destocking component was included as part of a longer-term programme (Pastoralist Livelihood Initiative) that aimed to 'mitigate the impact of drought and other shocks by sustainably improving preparedness, livelihoods and incomes of pastoralists.'

3. Revitalizing agricultural/pastoral incomes and new markets (Celebic, 2014)

This document presents the evaluation of the relief-to-development programme 'Revitalizing Agricultural/Pastoral Incomes and New Markets' (initially known as RAIN and then RAIN+ with additional funding) implemented in Ethiopia by Mercy Corps that was extended from three years to five years (from 2008–2013). Humanitarian financing was used as a bridge for relief-to-development activities in the Somali and Oromia regions of Ethiopia.

Programme activities addressed the immediate needs of drought-affected populations during the food price crisis in an area prone to recurrent humanitarian emergencies, often triggered by climatic events (droughts, ill-timed rains resulting with floods) and further complicated by conflict, insecurity and inadequate governance. The project aimed to: prevent food insecurity and livelihoods collapse via improved preparedness; protect the existing productive asset base to strengthen and diversify livelihoods; and promote market-based business models, local economic development, and economic integration and trade with neighbours.

The animal health services and economic recovery, and to a much lesser extent the market system programme components of the wider RAIN programme, are of relevance to this research. The animal health services intervention included providing various forms of support (information sharing and networking, business grants, subsidies, capacity building and skills development) to key actors along the animal healthcare supply chain that provided animal healthcare services in defined localities in the Somali and Oromia regions. Key actors included wholesalers (based in Addis Ababa) that provided certified veterinary medicines, private veterinary pharmacies (PVPs) and community animal healthcare workers (CAHW) or 'para-vets' based rurally.

Due to a drought that occurred during the programme implementation period, a destocking activity was undertaken within the market system programme component. 17 livestock traders were identified, provided with loans and connected with communities in need of commercial destocking. Over 8,000 small ruminants and 478 cattle were destocked.

4. Economic and market resilience before and after shocks (Carter, 2016)

This publication provides a rapid overview of the state of evidence on humanitarian and disaster risk reduction interventions that aim to 'reinforce economic resilience in view of anticipated shocks and support economic recovery after a shock, both in situations of natural

disasters and conflict' (Carter, 2016). Particular attention is paid in the overview to interventions supporting markets critical to affected populations in crises (e.g. markets for basic needs and services, labour markets) as opposed to markets with development opportunities.

On the basis of the rapid analysis undertaken, the report highlights the limited evidence on the economic impacts of indirect market support interventions. This is demonstrated by the fact that three evidence case studies cited in this report are included in this evidence synthesis: Zyck et al., (2015), Celebic (2014) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS, 2015).

This report provides useful insights into the challenges and opportunities the humanitarian sector faces in undertaking and documenting market-based interventions. The report reflects on the factors that contribute to the lack of evidence and provides recommendations to further the sector's ability to generate the evidence required.

5. Markets in crisis: the 2010 floods in Sindh, Pakistan (Zyck et al., 2015)

As part of a series of Overseas Development Initiative (ODI) publications related to markets in crisis, this study looks at how markets and businesses in Sindh province were affected by the 2010 floods. The research reflects on what determined business survival, the extent that people derived resilience as a result of market activity and whether aid efforts supported market resilience and recovery.

The document provides general information on the types of market-based activities implemented and insights into programme decisions, and their impact on the business sector. Five market-based interventions following the 2010 floods are cited in this report, of which only one intervention (by Oxfam and Save the Children) can be included in this evidence synthesis due to its outcome resulting in the restoration and maintenance of food markets. No information is provided on the market support activities undertaken by these agencies.

The authors highlight how humanitarian sector actors adjusted their programmes to be less market distorting when they realized that they were having a negative impact on the market. The document implies that this level of market awareness has continued and has influenced decision making in humanitarian programme design in response to the subsequent floods of 2011, 2012 and 2013.

6. The Haiti Earthquake: An Urban Solution (Young and Henderson, 2010)

In response to growing interest in urban humanitarian programming in the humanitarian sector, this short and concise paper was written to share Oxfam's urban programme approaches in Haiti in response to the devastating earthquake of 2010. The paper was crafted within a short time-frame following the earthquake and the onset of the market support interventions.

Although brief in detail, the paper outlines the different types of assessments undertaken before designing the longer-term food security and livelihood response analysis to inform decision making. The inclusion of market analysis was seen as pivotal to taking a more market-orientated approach to the emergency and early recovery programmes. The paper outlines the various programme responses that Oxfam developed, the targeting methodologies, the activities and impact.

Oxfam took an integrated programming approach and included market analysis in decision making, retaining markets' centrality to the lives and livelihoods of the affected households. The programme provided cash grants and fuel efficient stoves to canteen/restaurant owners with the aim of improving the food security situation for vulnerable households through the rehabilitation of livelihoods with improved access to basic services. It included 195 canteens, each providing meals to 80 people five days a week for eight weeks. The canteens provided work to small restaurant owners who were unable to restart their businesses due to lost resources.

7. Support to the local tool market post-Typhoon Haiyan, Philippines (CRS, 2015)

The support to blacksmiths was an activity born out of livelihood and supply chain analysis undertaken alongside the affected household needs analysis. CRS was keen to identify and support the market chain actors who were relevant for the early recovery of Typhoon Haiyan-affected households. Although not originally planned, in 2014 CRS decided to support five blacksmiths with cash grants of US\$230 to enable targeted farming households to re-engage in their agricultural activities. These households were struggling to recover livelihoods due to their loss of tools and the destruction of the local agricultural tool manufacturing sector. The analysis highlights the importance of local tool manufacturing to local farmers.

The conditionality of the cash grant, in which 300 tools had to be produced for sale at a CRS-organized agricultural input fair, was abandoned as it created a disincentive to the blacksmiths (especially to smaller-scale blacksmiths) who did not have the capacity to guarantee meeting such a condition.

This study brief provides an insight into how needs of crisis-affected households should be understood in an integrated manner, considering not only their needs from the household perspective, but also their ability to recover their livelihoods as market actors (consumers and suppliers of goods and services). The programme also illustrates how households rely on a number of market actors of varying size that may be overlooked or underestimated without the appropriate analysis.

Figure 3.4: Summary of included documents: intervention results (listed alphabetically). Source: The research team

Document and author	Country ²¹	Humanitarian crisis	Who did the programme assist?	Intended outputs	Number of market actors assisted	Number of households (HH) assisted	Approx. coverage	Programme cost (US\$)	Implementing agency	Donor agency
Impact of a commercial destocking relief intervention in Moyale district, Southern Ethiopia (Abebe et al., 2008)	Ethiopia (*)	Drought 2006–2007	Livestock traders	Linking traders to communities Trader purchases of livestock Provide drought affected HH with income	2 (Of an initial group of 21 that indicated interest)	5,405	Not available	2 million	Consortium of 4 NGOs led by Save the Children	USAID
Economic and market resilience before and after shocks (Carter, 2016)	Global	All disasters	Various	Various: restore/strengthen businesses	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Various	Unclear; GSDRC research
Revitalizing agricultural/pastoral incomes and new markets (Celebic, 2014)	Ethiopia (*)	Relief to development	Market actors involved in animal health	Strengthen, develop and restore businesses in animal healthcare and livestock traders Pastoralist HH resilience through improved animal health services	Wholesalers: Approx. 1 PVPs: Strengthen 5; Establish 4 CAHW: Approx. 397	Animal health – N/A	States animal health-care coverage as 'patchy'	20.7 million for the whole programme	Mercy Corps	USAID
		Drought 2011	Livestock traders	Linking traders to communities Trader purchases of livestock Provide drought affected HH with income	Livestock traders: 17		N/A	N/A	Mercy Corps	USAID
Support to the local tool market post-Typhoon Haiyan, Philippines (CRS, 2015)	Philippines (**)	Typhoon Haiyan	Blacksmiths (lost business)	Recover blacksmith business Support agricultural HH livelihood recovery	5 blacksmiths	5,250	Not available	Not stated	CRS	Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), CAFOD

²¹ World Bank Classifications noted: (*) Low income; (**) Lower-middle income.

Document and author	Country ²¹	Humanitarian crisis	Who did the programme assist?	Intended outputs	Number of market actors assisted	Number of households (HH) assisted	Approx. coverage	Programme cost (US\$)	Implementing agency	Donor agency
Philippines Haiyan response – A multi-sector review of the use of market analysis and the design and implementation of CTPs (Pelly et al., 2015)	Philippines (**)	Typhoon Haiyan	<i>Sari-sari</i> traders	Restore businesses Ensure HH access to food and non-food items	615 <i>sari-sari</i> traders (in 2 locations)	2,338	Not available	For this specific intervention: not available	Save the Children Philippines	Multiple including: DFID and EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO)
The Haiti Earthquake: An Urban Solution (Young and Henderson, 2010)	Haiti (*)	Earthquake	Canteen/restaurant owners	Restore business Provide food to urban poor and vulnerable	195 canteens	3,662	Not available	Not available	Oxfam	Multiple including: DEC, ECHO, AusAID, DFID
Markets in crisis: the 2010 floods in Sindh, Pakistan (Zyck et al., 2015)	Pakistan (**)	Floods	Traders	Recover and restore business	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Oxfam and Save the Children	Unclear: ODI publication

3.4.1 Interventions' settings

The interventions are located in four countries: Ethiopia (three examples), Pakistan (one example), the Philippines (two examples) and Haiti (one example).

Of the four countries, two are classified as middle-income:²² the Philippines (Pelly 2015 and CRS, 2015) and Pakistan (Zyck et al., 2015). The work from Carter (2016) provides a global overview of market support interventions, citing three of the examples listed in other included studies.

The Ethiopian and the CRS Philippines interventions are focused in rural areas, while the Save the Children Philippines, Haiti and Pakistan interventions are more orientated towards urban and peri-urban locations.

The two rural Ethiopian interventions were implemented in response to drought, which is a slow-onset disaster. The Philippines, Haiti and Pakistan examples were in response to rapid-onset natural disasters: a super typhoon, earthquake and floods respectively.

3.4.2 Interventions' objectives

The Ethiopian interventions aimed to support pastoralist households that owned livestock by targeting key market actors involved in the livestock market system, specifically livestock traders and animal healthcare service providers.

A key component of Mercy Corps' integrated RAIN programme was to increase the resilience of market systems that pastoralist households rely on; this require targeting market actors involved in providing animal health services. By supporting the animal health service sector, the programme aimed to have a wider impact beyond the beneficiary group directly engaged in the RAIN programme (Celebic, 2014).

Both the Philippines and Haiti interventions were aimed at assisting disaster-affected households by supporting small-scale businesses: *sari-sari* stores in the case of Save the Children, canteen owners in Oxfam's intervention, and blacksmiths in the CRS example. Targeting market actors was seen as a means to ultimately support vulnerable food insecure households and farming communities affected by the disaster.

²² This review uses World Bank classifications for low and middle-income countries, see: <http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-and-lending-groups>

The CRS Philippines and Oxfam Haiti interventions linked vulnerable households to the supported market actors with vouchers. In doing so, the businesses were guaranteed trade for the duration of the programme. Equally vulnerable households were able to access services or products that they needed.

3.4.3 Targeting market actors

In Abebe et al. (2008), livestock traders were invited to attend a workshop with local government representatives to discuss the planned activities and opportunities. Interested traders then visited the pastoral areas before agreeing to be part of the destocking programme.

In the destocking element of the programme (Celebic, 2014), Mercy Corps identified traders with the capacity to undertake the operation, developed appropriate financial mechanisms and supported the legalization of agreements. Its ability to identify potential actors was enhanced by its role in the livestock sector, and knowledge of the various associated actors.

In the animal healthcare supply chain response, Mercy Corps (Celebic, 2014) used a series of trade fairs and capacity building events to identify interested PVPs and CAHWs.

Despite using targeting criteria, Oxfam's Haiti programme report (Young and Henderson, 2010) mentions difficulties in targeting both households and small business owners in an urban context with underlying chronic poverty, and cites the important role of local partners in this activity.

It is not clear how the blacksmiths involved in CRS's market support programme were identified. However, the initial conditionality of the cash grant put into place a form of 'self-targeting' as it attracted blacksmiths with a higher capacity (the condition required blacksmiths to produce a specific number of tools).

Save the Children's market support interventions in the Philippines targeted traders who met the criteria of being affiliated with a trader association, unable to restart their business, and remote. However, the evaluation indicates that the criteria were not always followed and should have been modified to reflect learning and changes in the implementation context, such as the rate of market recovery (Pelly et al., 2015). Poor understanding and application of the targeting criteria created tension between targeted and non-targeted traders, especially those that had already restarted their activities using loans (and thus increased their financial burden) (Pelly et al., 2015).

3.4.4 The activities and intended outputs

Two interventions, Celebic (2014) and Abebe et al. (2008), supported **household destocking** through the identification and support of commercial livestock destocking agents. Activities included identifying these potential destocking agents (through networking and outreach activities) and creating links between these actors and pastoralist households interested in selling animals. In both cases, interest-free loans were provided to traders and repaid within an acceptable timeframe.

- In both examples, loans were provided to livestock traders as working capital. In the case of Abebe et al. (2008), this was an interest-free loan of US\$25,000. Traders involved in the Mercy Corps programme received a loan of Ethiopian Birr (ETB) 250,000 (US\$14,546) that was repaid within 110 days, with a reported average income per trader of ETB 75,000 (US\$4,364)²³ (Celebic, 2014).
- In both of these examples, the intended output was two-fold: (a) to enable households to sell their animal stock at as reasonable a price as possible during the crisis and (b) to provide households with an income that could be used to meet household and livelihood needs.

²³ Values for 23 September 2011 calculated using <http://www.exchangerates.org.uk> (23 September 2016).

The RAIN programme implemented by Mercy Corps (Celebic, 2014) strengthened the capacity of the **animal healthcare service sector** to enable it to provide suitable and certified medicines and animal healthcare advice to livestock-owning households in the targeted areas. This was achieved through a number of activities at multiple levels of the market chain – the intended output being to strengthen and develop animal healthcare businesses that pastoralist households rely on.

- **PVPs:** Subsidies (goods and then transport); capacity building/skills development (business plan development etc.) and cash grants (business expansion grant of US\$1,500 towards the business plan with PVPs also investing between US\$2,132 and US\$3,684).
- **Wholesalers based in Addis Ababa:** Awareness raising and information sharing activities to create better links with PVPs. Discussions related to identifying market opportunities in the Somalia and Oromia regions.
- **CAHWs:** In-kind support of 102 para-vet kits, capacity building, market linkages – linking PVPs and CAHWs and trade fairs at capacity building sites.

The intervention cited by Pelly et al. (2015) includes activities that **support disaster-affected traders** that provide households with food and non-food items. In this example, disaster-affected households also receive cash support for livelihood recovery, cash grants to access basic food needs and vouchers for fresh food items. However, the links between these activities and the market support interventions are weak and could have been strengthened, creating a more comprehensive programme: 'In both locations the Food Security and Livelihood teams also ran conditional cash transfer (CCT) programmes to support livelihoods. These programmes should have been aligned with the trader support programmes' (Pelly et al., 2015, p. 35).

Save the Children targeted a total of 605 **sari-sari traders** in two locations (Estancia and Leyte), as well as traders engaged in selling shelter materials. The targeting criteria used and the amount of cash support to *sari-sari* owners varied between these two locations (between Philippine Peso (PHP) 14,000 and PHP 25,000),²⁴ but the approach of providing conditional cash was the same. The primary objective of the programme was to improve market recovery, and thus the population's access to food products, with a secondary objective of supporting livelihoods recovery for the *sari-sari* store owners.

Oxfam and CRS implemented market support intervention programmes with strongly linked activities at the **market actor** and **affected-household levels**. Market actors received grants to enable them to provide services – agricultural tools (CRS, 2015) and cooked food (Young and Henderson, 2010) – and vouchers were distributed to affected households to enable their access to these services. The objectives of both programmes were primarily to meet the needs of affected households, and secondly to support the rehabilitation and recovery of market actors, as they too are victims of the disasters.

The CRS intervention also included organizing **agricultural input fairs** in which voucher-receiving households could redeem agricultural tools and other inputs according to their requirements. Participation at the fairs also enabled blacksmiths to expand their customer base (CRS, 2015).

3.4.5 Coverage of the intervention in relation to the need

None of the documents provide a clear understanding of programme coverage in relation to need – or in relation to the activities of other agencies to develop a sense of overall coverage between implementing organizations. Indeed, Carter (2016) cites that current market support interventions tend to be small scale, which is one of the factors that contributes to the lack of evidence of the economic impact of such activities. Zyck et al. (2015) mentions that the lack of coverage of market support contributes to its low impact.

²⁴ As per InforEuro exchange rate for January 2014, PHP 14,000 was the equivalent of US\$315 and PHP 25,000 of US\$562.

The Save the Children report indicates that the implementation teams did not have information about the total number of traders or the coverage of targeted traders. This, coupled with a lack of clarity on targeting criteria, resulted in a number of challenges. For instance, 'It is also not known how many other traders there were in the targeted markets. Food security and livelihood staff mentioned however that the trader support programmes had created tensions between supported and non-supported traders. The non-supported traders were seriously upset and their situation raises a concerning question on exclusion' (Pelly et al., 2015, p. 33).

The Ethiopian destocking and animal healthcare programmes demonstrate the importance of livestock to the local population, but there is a lack of robust and consistent information on the scale of need compared with the coverage of commercial destocking agents, animal healthcare workers or veterinary pharmacies.

The destocking intervention cited in Abebe et al. (2008) targeted 5,405 households, but the research team is unaware of the representation of this number of households in relation to the total in the affected area. Celebic (2014) mentions the number of traders involved in the destocking exercise (17) and number of animals sold, but does not mention the number of households supported, or what proportion these households represent in the affected area.

3.4.6 Interventions' timeframes

Both Ethiopian livestock destocking programmes (Abebe et al., 2008; Celebic, 2014) were implemented in response to droughts (on two separate occasions) and the decreasing livestock prices that resulted from the failing livestock health and subsequent value. Both of these programmes were implemented over approximately six to nine months. The destocking programme evaluated by Abebe et al. (2008) notes that the intervention occurred late in the drought – the drought was declared in November 2005 but destocking took place in March 2006.

The Mercy Corps RAIN programme was a multi-year effort that was extended from three to five years with additional funding and a no-cost extension. Within this five-year period, the animal healthcare supply chain programme was implemented. The timing of the programme was aligned to the objectives (linking relief to development); and the programme's capacity to integrate a destocking component when the drought occurred illustrated its flexibility in modifying activities to the context and the needs of the target population.

Save the Children Philippines initiated its humanitarian activities quickly after the super typhoon caused devastation, as the activities targeting traders took place between November 2013 and October 2014, depending on the programme site. The programmes lasted approximately 12 months, as some trader grants were provided close to the first anniversary of the typhoon (Pelly et al., 2015).

Both the Oxfam and CRS market support interventions (in Haiti and the Philippines respectively) were implemented within a short timeframe after the disasters occurred and lasted less than six months in duration.

3.4.7 Costing of the interventions

As indicated in Figure 3.4, only one market support intervention documents its cost (Abebe et al., 2008). This may be because market support interventions are sub-activities of larger programmes.

Abebe et al. (2008) and Pelly et al. (2015) include a cost-benefit analysis and value for money calculation, respectively. However, in the case of Pelly et al. (2015), market support interventions are not included in the analysis.

The cost-benefit analysis from Abebe et al. (2008, p. 172) undertook the steps listed here, with the following findings.

- Considering traders' minimum estimate of the number of cattle purchased and the value of these cattle, the total value of cash transferred to pastoralist households was calculated to be US\$1.01 million.
- Cash benefits to households were compared against costs incurred by the implementing agencies.
- In terms of aid investment, the approximate cost-benefit ratio for this intervention was 41:1.

4 FINDINGS

Given the limited quantity and quality of evidence suitable for inclusion (see Figure 3.1), the results should be viewed as exploratory and in need of verification through further research. The lack of evidence motivated us to provide recommendations on improving the collection and publication of evidence (see Section 6.2). With reference to the research question, and the limited available evidence in this field, the research indicates the following findings.

4.1 FINDINGS RELEVANT TO THE PRIMARY RESEARCH QUESTION

4.1.1 Market support interventions do positively influence the food security of disaster-affected households

Five out of the seven interventions included in this evidence synthesis (Abebe et al., 2008; Celebic, 2014;²⁵ CRS, 2015; Young and Henderson, 2010) demonstrate a positive influence on the food security of disaster-affected households. The destocking programme documented by Abebe et al. (2008) and the animal health programme implemented by Mercy Corps (Celebic, 2014) provide the most robust evidence of influence on household food security. They describe studies in which more than one food-security-related indicator is applied, indicating a positive outcome. In Oxfam's intervention, one indicator was used to illustrate household outcome, including a comparison with the situation before the earthquake (Young and Henderson, 2010). In the remaining examples proxies were required.

In the case of Save the Children (Pelly et al., 2015), the timing of the intervention negated the potential positive influence of the market support activities.

Figure 4.1 illustrates the influence of market support interventions on market actors and households demonstrated in the interventions included in this report. It highlights the lack of outcome measurements in many of the studies, underlining the lack of robust evidence in the sector in relation to this research question. Proxy indicators of outcome (and associated implications) were required in more than one instance, as the figure highlights.

There is a lack of data for measuring trader outcomes. Celebic (2014) provides the most relevant data, offering information on each market actor and providing comparisons with pre-programme timeframes where possible.

²⁵ In both the livestock destocking programme and animal healthcare supply chain support programme.

Figure 4.1: Influence of market interventions on market actors and household outcomes. Source: The research team

Document and author	Market actor outcome	Household outcome
Impact of a commercial destocking relief intervention in Moyale district, Southern Ethiopia (Abebe et al., 2008)	No detail available Proxy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trader repayment of loan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Households earned approx. US\$184 from sale of livestock 79% of income from destocking was used to purchase local goods or services: food for people (28%), feed for animals (19%), trucking fees (12%), human medicines (9%), veterinary care (6%), and clothes (5%). Money was also used to pay school fees, wipe out debt, offer support to relatives and augment savings
<i>Animal healthcare support intervention</i> ²⁶ Revitalizing agricultural/pastoral incomes and new markets (Celebic, 2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addis Ababa drug importer/wholesaler increased the quantity of product sold in Somali Region by 70% PVP: Average overall sales increased by 80% CAHW average profit increased by approx. 69% from the beginning of the programme to end of 2012 33% increase in CAHWs services households in Fafan zone over two years CAWH purchase of inputs from PVPs increased by 52% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved livestock health and assumed livestock health as 16% of sampled pastoralists and agro-pastoralists used the services provided by CAHWs regularly, with 11% purchasing drugs from them Households access and use local veterinarian services to purchase drugs as most drugs are purchased directly at PVPs
<i>Destocking intervention</i> Revitalizing agricultural/pastoral incomes and new markets (Celebic, 2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Destocking traders generated an average income of ETB 75,000 (US\$4,364),²⁷ after the repayment of a loan of ETB 250,000 (US\$ 14,500)²⁸ Reinforced positive commercial links between destocking traders and drought-affected communities 	No detail available Proxy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drought-affected families reduced the damage from ongoing drought by salvaging some value from animals that were condemned anyway, and saving the remaining ones, thus creating a basis to renew the herd once the drought was over
Support to the local tool market post-Typhoon Haiyan, Philippines (CRS, 2015)	No detail available Proxy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% of business came from CRS fairs Funds used to purchase raw materials, re-establish workspace, repay equipment and provide transportation to the blacksmith to acquire needed inputs 	No detail available Proxy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tools were the third most purchased commodity at the fair (70% of all sales) Implication that agricultural households were able to restart farming activities using tools and other inputs that were also part of the wider CRS programme
Philippines Haiyan response – A multi-sector review of the use of market analysis and the design and implementation of CTPs (Pelly et al., 2015)	No detail available Proxy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traders appreciated the programme Markets distorted '... the programme seems to have worsened the relationship between supported and non-supported traders' (Pelly et al., 2015, p. 36) 	No detail available Proxy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Limited impact on households' access to commodities' (Pelly et al., 2015, p. 62)
The Haiti Earthquake: An Urban Solution (Young and Henderson, 2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses restored and an income generated 73% of canteen owners would continue in the restaurant business after the canteen programme ended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in average number of meals per day from 1.6 after the earthquake to 2.1 during the programme (compared with the 2.6 average before the programme)
Markets in crisis: the 2010 floods in Sindh, Pakistan (Zyck et al., 2015, p.13)	No detail available Proxy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Maintain and revive markets for fruit and vegetables' 	No detail available Proxy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability of food items from supported shops

²⁶ See document for more data on outcomes. Due to a lack of space, these findings have been selected.

²⁷ Value for 23 September 2011 calculated using <http://www.exchangerates.org.uk> (23 September 2016).

²⁸ Value for 23 September 2011 calculated using <http://www.exchangerates.org.uk> (23 September 2016).

The influence of interventions supporting traders

Of the seven interventions included in this evidence synthesis, four of them include support for traders (Abebe et al., 2008; Celebic, 2014; Pelly et al., 2015; Zyck et al., 2015). The intervention cited by Zyck et al. (2015) does not include household outcomes, but states that food markets were restored and recovered, therefore ensuring the availability of food items for disaster-affected households.

One intervention (Pelly et al., 2015) did not positively influence food security outcomes for disaster-affected households due to a number of factors, of which timeliness was the most relevant. Save the Children's market support activities were still being implemented up to one year after the typhoon, even though households were already meeting food needs using other means and the majority of traders had already re-established themselves (Pelly et al., 2015). Figure 4.1 clearly illustrates the influence of the remaining two interventions on household food security.

The influence of interventions supporting market services and environment

Three interventions included in this evidence synthesis targeted service providers, such as canteen owners, animal healthcare actors (such as CAHWs and pharmacies) and blacksmiths (Celebic, 2014; CRS, 2015; Young and Henderson, 2010). As shown in Figure 4.1, the available evidence indicates that this largely had a positive influence on households and traders.

Unfortunately, none of the included intervention reports include evidence on the influence of interventions supporting market-related infrastructure on household food security.

Finally, by influencing others to replicate the approach, the interventions may have indirectly contributed to the food security of additional households. According to Abebe et al. (2008), the destocking activities motivated other commercial livestock traders to buy animals, resulting in the purchase of 3,778 male cattle from the Moyale area. The influence of the approach used in this intervention contributed to the development of national guidelines on destocking in pastoral areas of Ethiopia, and informed the development of the global Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards.

Indirectly related to the replication of activities, Zyck et al. (2015) mention the importance of organizational learning. Relying on the lessons from the 2010 market support interventions, humanitarian organizations have replicated the approach during subsequent floods and emergencies in 2011, 2012 and 2013 (Zyck et al., 2015, p. 19).

4.1.2 Sufficient coverage of targeted market actors is needed to ensure an impact on household food security

Problems associated with market actor coverage and the impact this can have on positive household outcomes, including food security, is highlighted in Zyck et al. (2015). Reflecting on the challenges faced in the Philippines, Pelly et al. (2015, p. 37) recommend to 'design your programme inclusively, so that all traders of similar type in an area can join the programme.'

In the destocking programmes documented by Abebe et al. (2008) and Celebic (2014), efforts were made to gain sufficient coverage of livestock traders in the areas in which destocking was needed. In Abebe et al. (2008) meetings were held between livestock traders, the implementing agency and local government to encourage trader engagement in the geographical areas that required destocking. Lack of interest among the potential traders covered (as the number of interested traders decreased from 21 to 2) is explored in Abebe et al. (2008). They cite potential challenges related to insecurities in the affected pastoralist areas, such as important ethnic, cultural and religious differences between the traders and the households. Aspects that affected the effectiveness of the cited destocking programmes are summarized in Box, p. 33.

The effectiveness of destocking on household food security. Source: Abebe et al., 2008; Celebic, 2014

Aspects that supported the effectiveness of destocking responses on the food security of pastoralist households included (but are not limited to) the following.

1. **Contextual knowledge:** The agencies understood the context and populations well. They understood that the drought was resulting in the loss of livestock herd value and that households needed an income to protect their other livestock and meet household needs
2. **Use of service:** The pastoralist households needed a livestock trader to whom they could sell their livestock before the animals died/lost too much value
3. **Networking:** The market actors were introduced/supported in reaching out to the pastoralist households by agencies and/or local government
4. **Precedence:** Implementing agencies had knowledge of previous programmes that had supported pastoralists in this way.

CRS (2015) modified the cash grant provided to blacksmiths from conditional to unconditional, as the condition imposed on the blacksmiths (the production of at least 300 tools) was seen as a limitation affecting their engagement in the programme and subsequently coverage.

4.1.3 Market support interventions improve the income (and assumed food security) of targeted market actors²⁹

Evidence from all seven interventions included in this evidence synthesis (Abebe et al., 2008; Celebic, 2014; CRS, 2015; Pelly et al., 2015; Young and Henderson, 2010; Zyck et al., 2015) illustrates that supported market actors increased their income and by proxy, their food security. Some examples follow.

- **Blacksmiths** supported with grants saw an increase in their income from participating in the programme, with 50 percent of their business following the typhoon coming from CRS-organized fairs (CRS, 2015). The programme also provided them with a broader customer base, new skills (from trainings provided) and assets (that were purchased with the grants received) (CRS, 2015).
- **Livestock traders** involved in the destocking programme documented by Abebe et al. (2008) and Mercy Corps (Celebic, 2014) imply sufficient trader income as loans provided were repaid within an assumed agreeable timeframe.³⁰
- Increases in income across the **animal healthcare supply chain**, from a wholesaler based in Addis Ababa to the CAHW at a rural level, is well documented in Celebic (2014). This programme benefits from market system baselines and subsequent analysis to enable the identification of key market actors, and a longer implementation timeframe, since there is evidence of raised income two years after the activity implementation.
- **Canteen owners** supported by Oxfam following the Haiti earthquake in 2010 saw a decrease in unemployment and an increase in income, for example 'Average income doubled from 20 percent to 40 percent of the income received prior to the earthquake'. Furthermore, '27 percent of them [canteen owners] could start or rebuild another economic activity thanks to the canteen programme' (Young and Henderson, 2010, p.10).

²⁹ Income seen as a proxy for food security.

³⁰ Assumed as an agreeable timeframe as there were no comments (negative or positive) linked to the timeframe that loans were repaid.

4.1.4 Market support interventions can be part of an integrated programme approach, potentially increasing their positive influence on household food security

All of the interventions included in this evidence synthesis have been part of a wider programme, an observation also cited in Carter (2016, p. 4); ‘... market support interventions tend to have been small sub-components of larger complex programmes.’

- The Mercy Corps animal healthcare project was one of three programme sectors implemented in the same geographical area, the others being agriculture and food security, and WASH (Celebic, 2014).
- The Oxfam canteen owner support activities were also part of a wider food security and livelihood programme in which assistance was provided to a number of affected groups in specific urban areas of Port-au-Prince (Young and Henderson, 2010).
- The CRS programme supporting blacksmiths was implemented alongside other activities that provided typhoon-affected agricultural households with the necessary inputs to restart their livelihoods (CRS, 2015).
- Save the Children’s Typhoon Haiyan response supporting *sari-sari* store owners was part of a wider food security and livelihood programme that was integrated with shelter, water and sanitation programmes (Pelly et al., 2015). The Save the Children evaluation indicates that beneficiaries have a positive opinion of integrated programmes: ‘Beneficiaries and community leaders welcomed the integrated approach as a complete package, which met all their needs – shelter, latrines and a source of income. During the interviews, the beneficiaries mentioned that it had allowed them to use the money as intended and provided them with better quality shelters and improved livelihoods’ (Pelly et al., 2015, p. 46).

As such, the findings of this research look at market support interventions as part of integrated programmes.

4.1.5 Market support interventions complemented with vouchers can influence the food security of targeted households

Of the seven interventions included in this evidence synthesis, two (CRS, 2015; Young and Henderson, 2010) used vouchers at household level to complement support provided to market actors. This was to ensure business for the market actors, especially where an investment was required on the side of the market actor. In the case of the CRS intervention, the cash grant provided to blacksmiths was initially conditional on the production of 300 tools for sale at CRS-organized agricultural fairs where CRS beneficiaries could apply their vouchers to access agricultural inputs. This conditionality was dropped as it marginalized smaller-scale blacksmiths (CRS, 2015).

Although the available data from these evidence sources is limited, there does appear to be a positive influence on the food security of targeted households that were provided with vouchers to redeem with supported market actors. Available evidence does not indicate whether vouchers are more appropriate in such instances than cash or in-kind modalities, as per the following two examples.

- ‘Blacksmiths met the demand for locally produced tools, which enabled programme participants to resume their agricultural activities’ (CRS, 2015, p. 3).
- The Oxfam Haiti canteen programme led to the increase in the average number of meals a day consumed by their targeted households, from 1.6 after the earthquake to 2.1 during the programme (Young and Henderson, 2010, p. 10).

Evidence on the influence on non-voucher receiving household food security is less clear. In the CRS study (2015), blacksmiths note that 50 percent of their business following Typhoon

Haiyan was not from CRS-organized fairs (where farming households spent their vouchers on seeds, tools and other agricultural inputs). By implication, the non-voucher-recipient households were also able to resume agricultural activities thanks to the market support activities.

4.1.6 Market support interventions can be implemented in a range of contexts and response types

The breadth of contexts in which market support interventions were implemented in the included studies is limited in number, as only four countries are included (Ethiopia, Haiti, Pakistan, Philippines). Still, no contextual barriers have been reported, which seems to illustrate that market support interventions can be implemented in various contexts following different types of crises.

4.2 THE PROJECT PARAMETERS THAT DRIVE THE INCLUSION OF MARKET SUPPORT INTERVENTIONS IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES

The research points to the following parameters as influencing the inclusion or exclusion of market support interventions in humanitarian crisis. Considering the heterogeneity of the findings, they are not listed in order of magnitude of influence.

- **Organizational interest and capacity.** All the interventions included in this evidence synthesis were implemented by agencies with ongoing organizational investment and interest in market system approaches and market support interventions (CRS, Mercy Corps, Oxfam and Save the Children). Zyck et al. (2015) reference the internationally known organizations Oxfam, Save the Children and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as supporting markets in Pakistan following the 2010 floods.
- **Response analysis processes that include market assessment findings.** Including market analysis as part of response analysis enables an understanding of the context and the role of market actors in influencing outcomes at household level. The Save the Children programme lacked this depth of analysis, which affected the quality of its market support interventions (Pelly et al., 2015).
- **Funding availability and flexibility.** In three programmes, the market support interventions were not part of the initial implementation plan and the flexibility of available funding enabled their inclusion (Abebe et al., 2008, Celebic, 2014;³¹ CRS, 2015).
- **Looking beyond traditional responses.** Both destocking interventions cited the interest and willingness to try new approaches to support pastoralist households during a drought when their livestock (and source of food and cash income) decreases in value. In addition to indicating a positive influence at the household level, the intervention led by Save the Children and documented by Abebe et al. (2008) indicates strong preferences for destocking approaches compared with the default response of food aid for pastoralist households. Organizations may be more inclined to try new approaches in contexts where they have intervened repeatedly.

4.3 THE BARRIERS AND ENABLERS TO MARKET SUPPORT INTERVENTIONS

The most comprehensive rationales for including a market support intervention are provided in Celebic (2014) and Abebe et al. (2008), where the role of markets in the lives of the pastoralists is clearly outlined. Both CRS and Oxfam cited the inclusion of market analysis

³¹ The destocking element of the Mercy Corps programme.

as part of the needs assessment process as being instrumental in their decision to undertake a market support intervention.

The Mercy Corps RAIN programme rationale for working with the animal health input supply chain actors is based on the well-researched supposition that if the markets for inputs were improved in terms of quality, quantity and timeliness of inputs, the population would buy the products according to their needs, thus improving the quantity, quality and timeliness of supply in the area (Celebic, 2014).

In the destocking interventions cited in Abebe et al. (2008) and Celebic (2014) the rationale for including market support interventions is linked to the context and the reliance of pastoralist households on the livestock destocking market as a means for releasing capital from the sale of condemned animals.

For organizational reflection and learning purposes, Pelly et al. (2015) evaluate the extent to which market analysis is included in Save the Children's response analysis and decision making. Findings indicate that there had been little analysis of the need for the *sari-sari* support programme. In fact, the document states, '... there are no programme descriptions outlining the exact reasoning behind the programmes, their objectives, and the way they were supposed to function. It is thus difficult to understand the exact chain of reasoning' (Pelly et al., 2015, p. 32).

The evidence synthesis found more institutional barriers and enablers to market support interventions than contextual ones. While limited in quantity, the contrasting operational contexts included in this synthesis illustrate the possibility of implementing effective market support interventions in urban and rural contexts, middle and low-income countries, and following rapid as well as slow-onset disasters. The evidence synthesis has highlighted the importance of programme design on the ability of market support interventions to influence on household food security, reflecting many of them in the revised theory of change (see Section 1.3).

Abebe et al. (2008) cite differences between trader and household religion, ethnicity and culture as a potential barrier to traders engaging in destocking activities.

Institutional barriers and enablers to market support interventions identified in the evidence include the following.

Institutional barriers

- **Poor recognition of the role market actors play** in meeting the needs of affected populations and in supporting economic recovery following a disaster, and the support needs of market actors (especially smaller businesses) who are also disaster affected (Zyck et al., 2015).
- **Organizational capacity as a barrier to organizational uptake of market support intervention** – as cited by Carter (2016) and Zyck et al. (2015) – and the ability to use market assessment data effectively in programme design and decision making.

Institutional enablers

- **Programme management decision-making flexibility that enables the inclusion of unplanned but justifiable activities.** Such flexibility enabled the inclusion of market-based approaches in Ethiopia and for CRS in the Philippines. Both Abebe et al. (2008) and Celebic (2014) understood that a shift in programme activity was needed as the drought emerged and the livestock herds of their target populations were starting to lose their value. In both cases, the destocking components of their programmes were not planned. CRS had not planned the blacksmith programme but following the analysis, it recognized the importance of using local agricultural tools to target households (CRS, 2015).

- **Organizational capacity (leadership, technical and operational) to consider market-based approaches.** It is no coincidence that organizations that have institutional interest and experience in market-based programming had documents that were included in the evidence synthesis. CRS, Mercy Corps, Save the Children and Oxfam represent a growing number of humanitarian and early recovery agencies that are interested in and have invested in market-based approaches.

- **Organizational learning** Some of the objectives of the Save the Children evaluation in the Philippines were to improve institutional learning and knowledge about market-based approaches, and to evaluate to what extent market analysis was used in response decision making (Pelly et al., 2015). Zyck et al. (2015, p. 13) discuss organizational reflection and learning as a driver for change when reflecting on the 2010 floods: 'By early 2010 aid agencies had come to realise the impact they were having on markets, and began to take corrective action and operate in less market-distorting ways.'

Oxfam's application of market analysis in the Haiti response included in this synthesis was largely due to organizational interest, technical leadership and capacity on the ground. The presence of a coordination group (situated around the use of cash programming) enabled and emboldened this approach (Young and Henderson, 2010).

- **Programmes are designed using analysis that acknowledges the role of market systems in the lives of the affected household.** Understanding how the disaster has affected markets for basic needs – and livelihoods – following a disaster acknowledges that households have always and will likely always rely on market actors to meet their daily needs. A variety of assessment tools were used to enable this analysis, including but not limited to supply chain analysis (CRS, 2015) and Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis (EMMA) (Young and Henderson, 2010). The Mercy Corps programme was based on an in-depth understanding of the supply chain of veterinary inputs (Celebic, 2014). Carter (2016) underlines the importance of this analysis, but also cites the challenges of undertaking such analysis in a timely manner by referencing ODI Markets in Crisis reports that cite the following challenges: lack of expertise, insufficient time, serious operational constraints, and insufficient coordination and consolidation of assessments.

The importance of including market analysis in programme design is highlighted in Young and Henderson (2010, p. 13), who state in their lessons learned: 'The EMMA analysis is vital... and indicates the choice of activities, livelihoods programmes and packages and thus has an impact on targeting, implementation structure and exit strategies.'

- **Affected population multi-sector needs and priorities are identified and understood temporally.** A multi-sector understanding of household needs is required to ensure that the correct market actors are targeted at the right time. Organizations with a fixed mandate in a single sector undertaking needs assessments may not identify priority needs.

CRS (2015) illustrates how a broad analysis of agricultural input needs and related markets led to understanding the importance of locally produced tools for typhoon-affected households. This in turn drove their inclusion of a market support intervention for blacksmiths, which they had not previously considered.

The rationale behind Save the Children's and Oxfam's integrated programme approaches in the Philippines and Haiti respectively was to ensure that needs across sectors were addressed, so that the outcomes of one sector were not undermined by unmet needs in another (Pelly et al., 2015; Young and Henderson, 2010).

- **Household needs are linked to market actors, and programme design incorporates identifying the right market actors.** All the interventions illustrated the importance of understanding the relationship between market actors and households in relation to how their food security needs are met. The RAIN programme evaluated by Celebic (2014) provides a longer relief-to-development and pastoral lens to household needs, identifying the vital role of animal health market actors to longer-term household resilience and food security. The Haiti canteen programme supported by Oxfam illustrates how food security needs in an urban context are often addressed through street food vendors in a rural context (Young and Henderson, 2010).

- **Putting the affected population needs into the supply chain to determine the market intervention programme strategy and scale.** Placing household needs in a supply chain framework is needed to understand market capacities (now and in the future) required to meet needs and to understand what interventions, with which actors, will have the greatest impact. By undertaking this action, organizations can identify what support needs market actors require to meet assessed affected population needs (the scale and coverage of the programme), therefore enabling the desired 'influence' of the intervention.

Although CRS (2015) and Young and Henderson (2010) undertook rapid analyses that linked needs analysis to supply chain/market analysis, there was no rationale included in their reports on programme intervention scale. The destocking programme documented by Abebe et al. (2008) involved an open invitation to traders interested in engaging in destocking activities. It is important to ask is if this targeting approach leads to private sector agents providing the coverage needed based on the business opportunities identified. Mercy Corps' animal healthcare market support programme harnessed a pre-existing network of service providers; however, no understanding of pre and post-network coverage is provided (Celebic, 2014). An assumption commonly made is that markets will go where there is a demand. In some rural and remote areas, this may not always be the case, and other inhibitors and drivers play a role. An element missing from Mercy Corps' research is to what extent coverage was achieved post implementation and if incentives are needed to ensure more remote and rural areas are provided with the services they need.

- **Intervention timing and timeliness enables market actor response.** The likelihood that businesses will restart or recover their pre-existing economic activities decreases as time passes (Pelly et al., 2015; Zyck et al., 2015). In the examples provided by Abebe et al. (2008), Celebic (2014),³² CRS (2015) and Young and Henderson (2010), the organizations understood the need for immediate action, and the importance of timeliness for the market actors and households supported.

4.4 THE MEASURED EFFECTS

With reference to the seven interventions cited in this evidence synthesis, and consistent with the research question and the understanding of food security outcomes (see 2.2.4), the following indicators were used to measure the effect on food security of the included interventions:

- household or individual Dietary Diversity Score
- Food Consumption Score
- self-assessed measure of food security
- Coping Strategy Index
- proxy indicators such as increased household income and lower prices (key here is affordability in relation to household income).

In the majority of the included documents, there is a lack of clarity around indicator choice, selection and application.

In terms of how they were measured, the majority used:

- monitoring
- market assessment
- focus group discussion
- desk review
- household survey
- key informant interviews.

³² Destocking example

In most cases, except Abebe et al. (2008) and Celebic (2014), the approach to measuring the impact of market support interventions is weak and inconsistent, with variable information relating to how participants involved in evaluations were identified and why. There is also poor referencing of outcome indicator findings to specific outcome measurement tools (i.e. the origins of the findings and methodologies applied are not clear, thereby questioning the validity of the findings).

Although the interventions acknowledged the role of market actors in the achievement of programme objectives, the inclusion of these actors into programme baselines and monitoring systems was poorly undertaken in most cases (with the exception of Abebe et al. (2008) and Celebic (2014)). The data collected at various points in the programme cycle that was made available in the cited interventions tended to be orientated towards the households involved rather than the market actors.

The lack of available and consistent measuring indicators compelled researchers to make some assumptions regarding programme effect (see Figure 4.1). In these instances, the researchers used related and available evidence as a proxy to indicate the outcome or effect. This included: market actor opinion, increased income, appreciation for an activity, debt repayment and use of funds generated.

Therefore, outcome measures for market actor productivity and by assumption increased food security included:

- volume of trade
- trader reported income
- trader assumed income (on the basis of sales etc.)
- number of customers
- number and diversity of suppliers (wholesalers).

The lack of robust baseline data mitigates the ability of interventions to illustrate their effects on households. Mercy Corps' RAIN programme has the most robust pre-intervention analysis, perhaps due to its duration and market-orientated programme approach in which market system baselines were developed prior to programme intervention (Celebic, 2014).

4.5 THE MAIN TARGETED MARKET ACTORS

Approaches targeting market actors appeared to vary from agency to agency with fairly mixed results. Some examples follow.

CRS (2015) realized that providing a conditional grant was marginalizing smaller-scale blacksmiths who were worried that they would not be able to meet the conditionality. The conditionality was removed during programme implementation.

Save the Children (Pelly et al., 2015) developed and applied (though inconsistently) targeting criteria and conditionality to the conditional grants provided. The lack of transparency and understanding of the targeting criteria, coupled with the lateness of its application, led to confusion and resentment in the trading community, especially among those who were not included in the programme and had re-established their activities by indebting themselves.

In both destocking programmes, livestock traders were invited to meetings in which their interest was gauged. In both examples, they were provided with loans to support their activities. In the case of **Mercy Corps**, the traders themselves requested the loan (Celebic, 2014). One programme contracted significantly fewer traders than those who initially showed an interest: from forty traders who were involved in initial meetings to two (Abebe et al., 2008).

Although the documents do not provide insight into these figures, it is assumed that the size of the loan or potential profits may not have been sufficient for the market actors; perhaps mainly attracting large-scale operators that had the financial capital and capacity meant that 'only two traders felt that a link with local traders and concentrations of pastoralists would be worthwhile' (Abebe et al., 2008, p. 172).

Oxfam provided non-repayable grants to canteen owners using targeting criteria that included previous knowledge and an analysis of household wealth to target the more vulnerable populations: 'the selection criteria... sought to select the very poor and the poor.' Faced with challenges of targeting in a context of chronic urban poverty and vulnerability, help from partners was required (Young and Henderson, 2010, p. 9).

Therefore, a synthesis of the available evidence seems to indicate that the type of support provided to the market actor can create an exclusion factor, and a form of 'self-selection' in targeting that potentially favours the more established and capable market actor. Of course, such a conclusion would require additional research but reflects findings from Zyck et al. (2015), in which the targeting of larger traders by NGOs appeared to be common practice due to restrictive procurement and compliance measures imposed by the agencies. In short, smaller traders are marginalized due to their lack of access to the financial means to enable their engagement in an intervention.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 SUMMARY OF MAIN RESULTS

Research question: *What is the influence of market support interventions on household food security in humanitarian crises?*

The evidence-based findings summarized here and discussed in more detail in Section 4 are supported by a very small number of studies (seven) of relatively low quality and contextual breadth, thus limiting the strength of the findings and recommendations.

Indeed, the major finding of this evidence synthesis is the lack of evidence, both in quantity and quality. Considering the heterogeneity of evidence, we were not able to conduct a meta-analysis but have instead reported on each individual study in a narrative format. The possibility of a poor evidence base was highlighted as a potential risk in the research protocol (Juillard et al., 2016).

A range of effect-measuring indicators coherent with the cited interventions and the research question were identified and applied (see Section 4.4) to measure the effect of the interventions. Individual studies suggest the positive influence of market support interventions on household food security. Market support interventions that are complemented with vouchers can also positively influence the food security of targeted and non-targeted households. All the market support interventions included in this synthesis are small components of larger humanitarian programmes, within a context of multiple agencies and government entities providing assistance. Hence, it is not possible to conclude on the influence of stand-alone market support interventions.

We also found a positive effect of market support interventions on the food security of the supported market actors. This result is mainly drawn from using the proxy of increased trader income. Findings suggest that to influence household food security, the number of targeted market actors should reach a critical mass. Sufficient coverage of targeted market actors seems to ensure a positive effect on food security of crisis-affected households.

The following section describes the implication of the evidence synthesis findings on wider policy and practice in the sector. Before drawing conclusions, however, it is important to discuss the quality and applicability of evidence, as well as the strength of the synthesis process.

5.2 OVERALL QUALITY AND APPLICABILITY OF EVIDENCE

The search encompassed all known websites that collate and share market-related information and research in this field of enquiry. In addition, we reached out to most of the market practitioners in the humanitarian sector asking for any other literature. As such, we are confident that our research is comprehensive.

The criteria for inclusion were kept extremely broad to include all types of qualitative studies as long as they stated that they were based on data collected from project stakeholders (e.g. beneficiaries, implementing agencies, local authorities), and clearly described the inputs, activities, output and/or outcomes of the market support interventions. In addition, no study was excluded based on quality assessment. Still, we identified only seven studies that met the inclusion criteria that we defined in the protocol.

In addition, we encountered circular referencing in the included studies: several studies refer to the same interventions, and for which the body of evidence is weak. This is illustrated by Carter (2016), who presents the state of evidence on the economic impacts of 'market support' interventions before and after a shock. The report heavily relies on the interventions presented in a CRS scoping study (unpublished), which in turn captures three of the other interventions included in the present synthesis (Zyck et al., 2015; Celebic, 2014; CRS, 2015). This process results in findings being drawn and generalized from extremely weak evidence. It also seems to reflect a lack of primary data collection.

Therefore, the authors conclude that this very narrow body of evidence is representative of the size and quality of the available evidence on market support interventions in the humanitarian sector. The applicability of evidence is compromised by the poor quality of the evidence, as highlighted in Section 3.2. No quantitative data has been identified; hence the findings rely solely on poor qualitative evidence that was largely assembled by actors from the implementing agencies, which makes drawing conclusive findings from this synthesis a challenge.

5.3 LIMITATIONS AND POTENTIAL BIAS IN THE SYNTHESIS PROCESS

The present synthesis is the result of a detailed and comprehensive protocol that has been peer reviewed (Juillard et al., 2016). In addition, the research team benefited from guidance of the advisory board.

A potential source of bias could be that both main researchers are technical experts and therefore may have orientated the prioritization of websites to search from, based on the reputation of the hosting body. This risk was mitigated by the wider team composition, which also includes a researcher with an academic but non-technical background and a senior supply chain expert. The team also benefited from the support of Laurenz Langer, a systematic review expert. Considering the time and resource limitations, it was not possible to search all potential websites, so the team had to prioritize based on our best professional judgment. We made sure, however, to include both humanitarian and non-humanitarian-oriented websites to harness the largest sample of potential studies for inclusion.

As a result, we are confident that we reduced the risk of bias in the evidence synthesis process as far as was practical and relevant, and that the subsequent findings in this synthesis were not impacted.

5.4 DEVIATIONS FROM PROTOCOL

The final report differs from the protocol in two aspects. Firstly, the list of websites and journals to hand search was reduced and prioritized based on the research team's best professional judgment. Considering the poor quality of the search function of most of the websites and the available resources, this was needed to allocate sufficient time for the subsequent synthesis. Similarly, due to time constraints, the team had no chance to explore the use of the GRADE-CERQual approach.³³ Considering the overall quality of evidence, the added value of the approach could have been in any case limited.

Secondly, the theory of change developed in the protocol was updated and enhanced to reflect the findings from the synthesis. The causal pathway remained valid but a few essential pre-conditions have been added, as shown in Figure 1.1, due to their influence on intervention outcomes.

5.5 SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES WITH OTHER STUDIES AND REVIEWS

During our systematic search for evidence, we did not identify any other systematic review or evidence synthesis of market-based programming in humanitarian crisis. We only found one systematic review that conducted a statistical meta-analysis looking at cash-based approaches in humanitarian emergencies (Doocy and Tappis, 2016). Cash-based approaches are market *sensitive* interventions but are not considered to be market *support* interventions; therefore there was no overlap between these two reviews.

³³ CERQual ('Confidence in the Evidence from Reviews of Qualitative research') is an approach for assessing how much confidence to place in findings from qualitative evidence syntheses.

A parallel can be made between our findings and those from the development sector and market system programmes. Based on the BEAM Exchange website,³⁴ it appears that there is also a lack of robust evidence on the impact of such interventions, with most evidence coming from case studies. Most of the evidence that is available in the development sector looks at the impact of market support on traders' or smallholder farmers' livelihoods (such as Sikwela, 2013; Asharf, 2008; Cavatassi, 2009). The same proxy of increased income is used in those studies to measure the impact on food security: 'While greater commercialization does not guarantee improved food security, often it does improve food security' (Wiggins, 2013).

Lastly, our inability to identify quality evidence and to collate generalizable conclusions on the influence of market support interventions on household food security is consistent with recently published articles. These also spell out the dearth of reliable evidence on influence and, in particular, impact measurement (for example, Puri et al., 2015; Doocy and Tappis, 2016).

³⁴ <https://beamexchange.org/evidence/evidence-map/> (26 April 2016).

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE AND POLICY

Questions on the impact of market support interventions have dogged the humanitarian community since market analysis tools were developed following the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004, when the humanitarian community cautiously tip-toed into market-based programming using cash transfer programmes as an entry point.

Despite the paucity of available evidence, this evidence synthesis illustrates a largely positive influence of market support interventions on household food security and also trader income. However, the evidence is very limited in terms of quantity, analytical rigour, diversity of examples and contexts, and intervention scale.

The lack of available research from a range of humanitarian contexts is indicative of market-based interventions being a relatively new and emerging humanitarian response activity. This reflects limits in evidence available on market-based programming more broadly (Carter, 2016).

On the basis of the literature reviewed in this evidence synthesis process, the authors suggest that the lack of evidence may be due to the following factors.

There is a lack of funding available for market support interventions, and non-flexible funding

Considering the funding for all cash transfer programming is itself estimated to be only 6 percent of overall humanitarian funding (High Level Panel on Humanitarian Cash Transfers, 2015), we can reasonably speculate that funding for market support interventions is significantly less.

Humanitarian contexts and market capacity can evolve rapidly and dramatically following a disaster, potentially rendering initial programme decisions inappropriate, or quickly invalid. Funding flexibility is vital to enable innovative programming that embraces contextual change, as illustrated in three of the interventions included in this evidence synthesis (Abebe et al., 2008; Celebic, 2014; CRS, 2015). Inflexible funding pipelines and decisions limit agencies' capacities to adjust the delivery modality on the basis of changes to the operational context and/or new information. Humanitarian organizations are still often required to make stark and immovable modality choices between cash and in-kind support, rather than being encouraged towards blended and agile modalities, and integrating market support interventions and market monitoring. Funding flexibility, as part of adaptive programme approaches, could encourage organizational learning and evidence-based decision-making prior to changes in programme activities being possible. Zyck et al. (2015) cite organizational learning as a key outcome of market support interventions.

Market assessment and market monitoring are of low quality and narrow scope

The lack of market assessment tools to adapt and apply in humanitarian contexts was previously a challenge. Current challenges appear to be related to the following factors.

- Understanding markets in complex situations and volatile environments. Market assessment and analysis has proved to be a challenge in areas of protracted and complex conflicts such as South Sudan (Mosel and Henderson, 2015).
- The expertise needed to develop market support interventions on the basis of assessment findings (Zyck et al., 2015).
- Capturing the dynamic nature of markets. Monitoring protocols are needed for agencies to know what indicators must be followed to assess the achievements of market support interventions and make operational decisions (Logistic Cluster, 2016).

- As agencies struggle to define what a successful market intervention should look like, they limit the monitoring to price monitoring, and often only to the direct commodity sold by specific market actors, not to other connected commodities and market actors within the market system and broader supply chain. Market intervention monitoring indicators, especially in humanitarian contexts, are also not currently available.³⁵
- There is no real ownership in the international humanitarian architecture for continuous market monitoring in emergency response to inform modality decision making. This lack of ownership has repercussions on coherence in response analysis across all market actors (Logistic Cluster, 2016).

All humanitarian operations aim to use the market, in one or more ways, but they do not yet support it before and after a crisis, nor redress any negative impact of humanitarian interventions on the market system

Many of the excluded reports from this evidence synthesis appeared at first to be interventions that supported market actors. On further inspection, they were in fact interventions that used market actors to deliver assistance – for example, voucher programmes. No support (financial or otherwise) was provided to the market actor.

Humanitarian organizations are still looking at markets from an agency-centric perspective (i.e. how can we as an organization use the market to deliver our response?) as opposed to adopting a holistic and people-centred view (i.e. how do people access and use markets to meet their needs?). This agency-centric perspective can negatively impact smaller traders and, it can reasonably be concluded, their sustainable food security.

WFP programmes in Lebanon and Jordan provide such an example. Although traders have benefited from being part of a voucher programme (in which WFP beneficiaries redeem e-vouchers at pre-identified shops), no support seems to be given to the traders beforehand. An evaluation of their programmes indicates that smaller traders with less capacity are marginalized as a result (WFP, 2014). It could further be argued that in this, and other agency examples, the need to reach a large scale with a cash/voucher intervention has markedly driven programme modality towards working only with those traders who can work at scale. This not only eliminates the potential for small to medium traders to participate in the specific agency activity, but potentially harmfully impacts their businesses and livelihoods overall. There is a need to further evaluate the impacts of these large-scale interventions – positive and negative, short and medium term – and not only on the beneficiary and targeted market actors, but the untargeted market actors who are often an integral part of the affected community and the affected market system. As a sector, we need to better and more consistently define ‘coverage’ and demythologize our preconceptions on the size and number of market actors we should be working with. Rather we should define whole market system indicators and outcomes for our support interventions. Only by applying a greater level of rigour and objectivity to our modality and programme design in these activities will we be able to evidence our long-term impact.

Furthermore, market support interventions can be implemented before a shock, to strengthen market systems so they can better serve people in case a crisis hits. Pre-crisis interventions could influence post-crisis households’ food security. Similarly, interventions that aim at long-term social change may also influence households’ food security in a post-crisis situation. Investing in supply chain preparedness and infrastructure can save money and time in future responses (Logistic Cluster, 2016)

Humanitarian infrastructure support programmes do not include household outcomes

Improved infrastructure can have a significant impact on household outcomes (Jones and Howarth, 2012; Viatte et al., 2009). A review of humanitarian infrastructure improvement programmes, often termed ‘special operations’ by the WFP, indicates the absence of household-related outcomes, as there are only outputs. The potential impact of improved infrastructure interventions is illustrated by a nationwide, non-humanitarian programme (and

³⁵ The Cash Learning Partnership is commissioning a consultant in October 2016 to develop market-monitoring indicators.

therefore excluded intervention) funded by DFID in Nepal that indicated an average increase in household income of 218 percent (Jones and Howarth, 2012).

Moreover, humanitarian supply chains represent between 60 and 80 percent of all humanitarian spending (Logistic Cluster, 2016). It could be asked: what is the percentage of these funds that was spent on activities that could be defined as 'market support interventions,' and more importantly what is the impact at household level that has been realized due to such activities? Considering the international community's focus on achieving 'better, safer and more efficient aid' at the World Humanitarian Summit of 2016, these questions require some attention.

Humanitarian market support interventions mostly target market actors

Although based on scant data, the findings indicate that humanitarian organizations tend to support traders more than market actors and infrastructures that facilitate and enable the market, including: service providers, warehousing, roads and road repair, linkages to financial support, transportation support and micro-finance provision. The infrastructure component of a market system is vital in ensuring and supporting market function, potentially reaping greater benefits as multiple actors (short and long term) will use them.

Poor documentation practice by humanitarian sector actors, including private sector donors, limits accountability and learning

Private sector actors support other private sector actors following a disaster (Zyck and Randolph, 2014). This was also evident following Typhoon Haiyan, as documented by Brown (2015). Coca-Cola and Procter and Gamble, in partnership with USAID, rebuilt and restocked 1,000 *sari-sari* stores and trained their owners. Brown cites the substantial contributions of the private sector to recovery and reconstruction in the form of financial donations from companies, corporate foundations and employee-giving campaigns, and donations of products and expertise. However, the research team made multiple attempts to access information related to private sector interventions in the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan but with little success.

If the humanitarian community is to work more closely together with other actors who are increasingly engaging in providing relief, recovery and reconstruction (such as the private sector, and also faith groups), there is a need for common standards in documentation practices across all 'humanitarian' interventions, whoever is implementing them, to enable learning and accountability. That could also have implications for research.

Cash transfer programmes require humanitarian actors to actively acknowledge markets and market actors, forcing them to see what role these market actors can, could and should play in humanitarian response. Despite the existence of literature based on recent disasters that endorses including market actors in humanitarian responses (ALNAP, 2014; Bailey, 2014; Peschka, 2007; SEEP, 2007; Zyck and Randolph, 2014), humanitarian actors still struggle to understand how to include market actors vital to the survival and livelihoods of the affected populations in their programmes. Perhaps humanitarian actors are building their confidence in CTPs (Harvey, 2015) before treading with more confidence into the arena of market support interventions, rather than building integrated and complementary institutional strength in both.

6.2 IMPLICATIONS FOR RESEARCH

The limited number of studies included in this evidence synthesis indicates a clear need for more and better-designed primary data collection and research to document the influence of market support interventions.

Future research should aim to embed data collection, starting in the inception stage of the response, to measure changes in household situations using clear indicators that should remain constant throughout the whole project.

A reflection on the quality of documents available for review indicates that most humanitarian programme evaluation documentation is undertaken for the benefit of the organization or donor (e.g. as an output related to a programme grant) or for consumption in the wider sector. Trends in new approaches require documentation for the dissemination and ultimate distillation of good practice. The sector does not yet apply evaluation methodologies that foster rigour and credibility in findings and discuss the appropriateness of the research methodology. Recent debates on CTP efficiency and effectiveness have challenged the sector, prompting evidence on cash programme efficiency and outcomes to be documented. However, this is not the norm.

Given the limited documentation available on the effectiveness of market support interventions, this report highlights the following significant gaps.

- Are market support interventions more effective as part of an integrated programme, or stand-alone?
- What is the cost-benefit of different market support interventions and how do we define this?
- What are the lessons learned from the market system approaches that are applicable in humanitarian contexts?
- How could organizations' compliance, risk analysis and procurement systems be modified to facilitate better engagement with smaller-scale traders and market actors in disaster contexts?
- How do we determine which market actors to work with in a market support intervention to achieve maximum impact on beneficiary outcomes, both in the immediate and medium term?
- Do conditionality and engagement conditions negatively impact smaller-scale traders and subsequent household food security outcomes?
- How are the potential positive and negative effects of market support interventions best measured in humanitarian settings?
- To what extent could humanitarian practices be positively influenced by market stakeholders' inputs?

7 REFERENCES

7.1 STUDIES INCLUDED IN EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS

Abebe, D., Cullis, A., Catley, A., et al. (2008). *Impact of a commercial destocking relief intervention in Moyale district, southern Ethiopia*. *Disasters* 32, 167–89.

Carter, B. (2016). *Economic and market resilience before and after shocks* (GSDRC Helpdesk Research Report 1328).

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) (2015). *Support to the local tool market post-Typhoon Haiyan, Philippines*.

Celebic, Z. (2014). *Revitalising agricultural/pastoral incomes and new markets*.

Pelly I., De Wild, D. and Inarra, C. (2015). *Philippines Haiyan Response – A multi-sectoral review of the use of market analysis and the design and implementation of CTPs*. Save the Children.

Young P. and Henderson E. (2010). *The Haiti Earthquake: An Urban Solution*. Oxfam

Zyck, S., et al. (2015). *Markets in crisis: the 2010 floods in Sindh, Pakistan*. Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG) Working Paper. ODI.

7.2 EXCLUDED STUDIES

Study	Reason for exclusion
Abebaw, D., n.d. <i>The Impact of a Food Security Program on Household Food Consumption in Northwestern Ethiopia: A Matching Estimator Approach</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Adams, L. (2006) <i>Learning from cash responses to the tsunami: case studies</i> . ODI.	Out of scope interventions.
ADE (2016). <i>Evaluation of the Use of Different Transfer Modalities in ECHO Humanitarian Aid Actions 2011–2014</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Albu, M. and Murphy, E. (2007). <i>Market Analysis Tools in Rapid-Onset Emergencies. Phase One Report</i> .	Study does not report on interventions.
Alix-Garcia, J., Bartlett, A. and Saah, D. (2012). <i>Displaced Populations, Humanitarian Assistance and Hosts: A Framework for Analyzing Impacts on Semi-urban Households</i> . <i>World Development</i> , 40(2), 373–86.	Out of scope interventions.
Allen, K., n.d. <i>A Market Support Programme to Address an Urban Food Crisis in Zimbabwe</i> .	Out of scope intervention.
ALNAP (2014). <i>Flood disasters: Learning from previous relief and recovery responses</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Anderson, K., n.d. <i>Food price spikes and poor, small economies: What role for trade policies?</i> Eldis.	Out of scope intervention.
Arthur, P.K., n.d. <i>Food security and sovereignty in Africa: issues, policy challenges and opportunities</i> . Eldis.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.

Study	Reason for exclusion
Asgary, A., Anjum, M.I. and Azimi, N. (2012). <i>Disaster recovery and business continuity after the 2010 flood in Pakistan: Case of small businesses. International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction</i> 2, 46–56.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Asharf, N., Giné, X. and Karlan, D. (2008). <i>Finding Missing Markets (and a disturbing epilogue): Evidence from an Export Crop Adoption and Marketing Intervention in Kenya.</i>	Out of scope intervention.
Audsley B., Halme, R. and Balzer, N. n.d., <i>Comparing cash and food transfers: a cost-benefit analysis from rural Malawi</i> , WFP.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Babu, S.C. and Sanyal, P. (2016). <i>Impact of market access on food security – application of factor analysis.</i>	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Bailey, S. (2014). <i>Humanitarian crises, emergency preparedness and response: the role of business and the private sector: A strategy and options analysis of Haiti.</i>	Out of scope interventions.
Bailey, S. and Hedlund, K. (2014). <i>The impact of cash transfers on nutrition in emergency and transitional contexts – A review of evidence.</i>	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Banjade, J., n.d. <i>Graduating from Food Aid and Productive Safety Nets in Ethiopia.</i> USAID Microlinks.	Study design.
Barbelet, V. and Goita, M.D. (2015). <i>Markets in crises: the conflict in Mali.</i> HPG Working Paper, ODI.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Barnes, M.J. and Kayondo, A. (2012). <i>Formative evaluation of World Food Programme's Livelihoods Programme, Karamoja, Uganda.</i>	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Brady, C. and Mohanty S. (2013) <i>Market analysis for preparedness: the urban informal settlements of Nairobi.</i> Oxfam.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Buchanan-Smith, M. and Jaspars, S. (2007). <i>Conflict, camps and coercion: the ongoing livelihoods crisis in Darfur. Disasters</i> 31, S57–S76. doi:10.1111/j.1467-7717.2007.00349.x.	Study does not report on an intervention.
Bulte, E., n.d. <i>Integrated Development Programs in Sub-Saharan Africa: Does a Multi-Faceted Market-Based Approach to Food Crops Stimulate Food Security and Agricultural Development in the Breadbasket of Tanzania.</i>	Full text not available.
Burke, J. and Fan, L. (2014). <i>Humanitarian crises, emergency preparedness and response: the role of business and the private sector - Indonesia case study.</i>	Out of scope interventions.
Caccavale O.M., Flaming T. and Laliq M. (2015), <i>Exploring Food Assistance Programmes: Evidence for Lebanon, Market assessment</i> , WFP.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Casaburi, L, Glennerster, R, Suri, T and Kamara, S (2014). <i>Providing collateral and improving product market access for smallholder farmers: a randomized evaluation of inventory credit in Sierra Leone, 3ie Impact Evaluation Report 14.</i> New Delhi: International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie).	Out of scope intervention.
Causal Design, n.d., <i>Beyond meeting immediate needs: The Impact of Electronic Cash Transfer Approaches on Disaster Recovery and Financial Inclusion</i> , Mercy Corps, Philippines.	Out of scope intervention.
Cavatassi, R., Gonzalez M., Winters P. et al. (2009). <i>Linking Smallholders to the New Agricultural Economy: The Case of the Plataformas de Concertación in Ecuador.</i> FAO.	Out of scope intervention.
Chand, R., n.d. <i>Reorienting state intervention in foodgrain markets in India to improve food security, regional equity and efficiency.</i> Eldis.	Full text not available.

Study	Reason for exclusion
Chikwanha, T.R. and Ncube, F. (2014). <i>Non-governmental organisation emergency food relief in rural Zimbabwe: Implications on labour supply and self sustenance. Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences</i> , 5(23), 91–6.	Out of scope interventions.
Chunda B. and Haydock R. (2007), <i>Sahel (Niger and Burkina Faso) Food Crisis Mid-Term Evaluation</i> , Tearfund.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Clermont, C., Sanderson, D., Sharma, A. and Spraos, H. (2010) <i>Urban disasters – lessons from Haiti Study of member agencies’ responses to the earthquake in Port au Prince, Haiti</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Cole T. (2006). <i>Market-Based Food Assistance Pilot Project - Pidie and Lhokseumawe Districts, Banda Aceh</i> , Save the Children.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Coles, C., n.d. <i>What is known about the impact of structured demand activities on resilient food systems?</i>	Out of scope intervention.
CRS (2015), <i>Capitalisation des acquis DINER Fair, Madagascar</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
CRS (2015). <i>Vendor support project progress report, Nepal</i>	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Crush, J and Frayne, B. (2011). <i>Pathways to Insecurity: Urban Food Supply and Access in Southern African Cities</i> . African Food Security Network, South Africa.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Darcy, J., n.d. <i>Disasters Emergency Committee – East Africa Crisis Appeal Kenya Real-Time Evaluation Report</i> .	Out of scope interventions.
Dawe, D., Moya, P. and Valencia, S. (2009). <i>Institutional, policy and farmer responses to drought: El Niño events and rice in the Philippines</i> . <i>Disasters</i> , 33(2), 291–307.	Out of scope interventions.
De Matteis, A., n.d. <i>Market functioning in Turkana district, Kenya</i> .	Study does not report on an intervention.
De Matteis, A. (2014). <i>Preferred form of food assistance in remote resource-poor areas: the case of arid lands in Kenya</i> , <i>Journal of Development Effectiveness</i> , 6:2, 167–95, DOI: 10.1080/19439342.2014.903288	Out of scope interventions.
De Vries, H., and Specker, L. (2009). <i>Early economic recovery in fragile states; Priority areas and operational challenges</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Devereux, S., n.d. <i>After the FACT: An Evaluation of Concern Worldwide’s Food and Cash Transfers Project in Three Districts of Malawi</i> , 2006.	Out of scope interventions.
DFID (2012) (draft). <i>Supporting infrastructure development in FCAS; Case study – South Sudan</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Domond, C., Loupeda, C. and Woller, G. (2006). <i>Client Assessment in Conflict – and Disaster – Affected Environments: The Experience of Action Contre La Misère in Haiti</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Doocy, S. and Tappis, H. (2016). <i>Cash-based approaches in humanitarian emergencies: a systematic review</i> .	Studies do not report on market support interventions outcome.
Drummond, J. and Crawford, N. (2014). <i>Humanitarian crises, emergency preparedness and response: the role of business and the private sector – Kenya case study</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.

Study	Reason for exclusion
Duffield M. (2013). <i>Disaster-Resilience in the Network Age Access-Denial and the Rise of Cyber-Humanitarianism</i> , DIIS Working paper.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Eldis, n.d. <i>An impact assessment of the regoverning markets programme: innovative practice series</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
El-Dukheri I. (2004). <i>Rationale for a Possible Market Support Program in Darfur, Sudan: A Brief Look at Markets and Food Security</i> , CARE.	Study does not report on an intervention.
El-Dukheri, I., Damous, H. and Khojali, A.M. (2004). <i>Rationale for a Possible Market Support Program in Darfur, Sudan: A Brief Look at Markets and Food Security</i> .	Study does not report on interventions.
Engel, J., Jouanjean, M.-A. and Omanga, P. (2015). <i>Infrastructure for the participation of smallholders in modern value chains: lessons from the development of warehouse certification and receipting systems for maize in Kenya</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
FAO, n.d. <i>Linking farmers to markets</i> . Eldis.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Fowler, B. and Kessler, A. (2015). <i>Measuring Achievements of Private Sector Development in Conflict-Affected Environments</i> .	Out of scope interventions.
Friedman, J. (2016). <i>Linking response, recovery and resilience to markets in humanitarian action. Urban Disaster Resilience: New Dimensions from International Practice in the Built Environment</i> , p.145.	Study does not report on interventions.
Gentilini, U. (2016). <i>The Revival of the 'Cash versus Food' Debate (Working Paper)</i> . World Bank..	Out of scope interventions.
Groupe URD (2011). <i>Real-time evaluation of humanitarian action supported by DG ECHO in Haiti 2009–2011</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Gulati, D. (2011). 33 – <i>Food and nutrition in natural and manmade disasters</i> . In Chander, S. (ed.) <i>Public Health Nutrition in Developing Countries</i> . Woodhead Publishing India, pp. 898–931. Retrieved from: http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/B9780857090041500335	Full text not available.
Harvey, P. and Adams, L. (2014). <i>Learning from cash responses to the tsunami</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Harvey, P., n.d. <i>Food aid and food assistance in emergency and transitional contexts – A review of current thinking</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Herd, C., n.d. <i>Evaluation of the Marsabit County Emergency Response Programme in Kenya</i> .	Out of scope interventions.
Hidrobo, M., Hoddinott, J., Margolies, A. et al. (2012), <i>Impact Evaluation of Cash, Food Vouchers, and Food Transfers among Colombian Refugees and Poor Ecuadorians in Carchi and Sucumbíos</i> , WFP and IFPRI.	Out of scope interventions.
House, S. (2016). <i>Humanitarian quality assurance: Philippines Evaluation of Oxfam's humanitarian response to Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda)</i> , <i>Effectiveness Review Series</i> , Oxfam GB.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Humanitarian Futures Programme (2013). <i>The Private Sector Challenge</i> . Humanitarian Futures Programme, Kings College London.	Out of scope interventions.

Study	Reason for exclusion
Husain, A. Bauer, J.M and Sandstrom, S. (2014), <i>Economic impact study: direct and indirect impact of the WFP food voucher programme in Jordan</i> , WFP.	Out of scope interventions.
ICF Consulting Services (2014). <i>Joint Evaluation of Drought Risk Reduction in the Horn of Africa and DIPECHO Central Asia and South Caucasus (2009–2013)</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
ICF Consulting Services (2016). <i>Evaluation of ECHO's intervention in the Sahel (2010–2014)</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Idris, I. (2015). <i>Economic impacts of humanitarian aid</i> (GSDRC Helpdesk research report 1327).	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Irwin, B. and Campbell, R. (2015). <i>Market systems for resilience</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Janzen, S.A. and Carter, M.R. (2013), <i>The impact of micro insurance on asset accumulation and human capital investments: evidence from a drought in Kenya</i> , Research paper 31, ILO, Micro Insurance Innovation Facility.	Out of scope interventions.
Jaspars, S. (2006). <i>From food crisis to fair trade: Livelihoods analysis, protection and support in emergencies</i> .	Study does not report on an intervention.
Jaspars, S., n.d. <i>Food security and livelihoods programming in conflict: a review</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Jensen, J., n.d. <i>Dak Achana: Pursuing Food Security with Market Engagement in Kenya</i> , USAID Microlinks.	Study design.
Jones, S. and Howarth, S. (2012). <i>Supporting infrastructure development in fragile and conflict-affected states: Learning from experience</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Kalinda, T. and Simfukwe, M. (2007), <i>Input voucher study, Zambia, Phase I: Literature Review and Planning</i> , FANRPAN.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Kamchacha, D., n.d. <i>Using input vouchers for improving access to agricultural in-puts - who are the winners and losers?</i> Eldis.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Kane, R., n.d. <i>Note from Senegal: Developing value chains to support food security</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Kleiman, S. (2013). <i>Lessons for effective resilience programmes: a case study of the RAIN program in Ethiopia</i>	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Kliest, T., n.d. <i>Assisting Earthquake Victims: Evaluation of Dutch Cooperating Aid Agencies (SHO) Support to Haiti in 2010</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Klomp, J. and Valckx, K. (2014). <i>Natural disasters and economic growth: A meta-analysis</i> . <i>Global environmental change</i> 26, 183–95.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Kulei, S. and Maes, J. (2012). <i>Reaching very vulnerable populations using value chain development: the value chain initiative programme in Kenya</i> .	Out of scope interventions.

Study	Reason for exclusion
Kusago, T. (2007). <i>Post-conflict pro-poor private-sector development: The case of Timor-Leste</i> . <i>Development in Practice</i> , 15:3-4, 502–13, DOI:10.1080/0961452050075995.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Macauslan, I. (2012). <i>Oxfam GB Emergency Food Security and Livelihoods Urban Programme Evaluation: Final Report</i> , Oxfam.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
MacSweeney, N. (2009). <i>Private sector development in post-conflict countries; A review of current literature and practice</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Maes, J. (2010). <i>Role of Cash Transfers in Pro-Poor Market Development Programs Aimed at the Ultra Poor</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Marshall, M.I. and Schrank, H.L. (2014). <i>Small business disaster recovery: a research framework</i> . <i>Natural Hazards</i> 72, 597–616. doi:10.1007/s11069-013-1025-z.	Full text not available.
McIntosh, K. and Buckley, J. (2015). <i>Economic development in fragile and conflict-affected states</i> (Topic Guide).	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Mercy Corps (2014). <i>Economic impact of the Ebola crisis on select Liberian markets</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Mercy Corps. (2015). <i>Mercy Corps emergency cash transfer program-Panyinjar County (Unity State, South Sudan): The ability of cash transfer intervention to support market continuity in times of crisis and isolation</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Michelson, H., et al. (2012). <i>Cash, food, or vouchers? An application of the Market Information and Food Insecurity Response Analysis Framework in urban and rural Kenya</i> . <i>Food Security</i> 4, 455–69. DOI 10.1007/s12571-012-0177-0.	Out of scope interventions.
Microlinks, n.d., 4.3 <i>Integrating Food Security and the Value Chain Approach</i> , USAID Microlinks.	Study design.
Mohanty S., n.d., Nairobi Urban Social Protection Programme, Oxfam.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Mosel, I. and Henderson, E. (2015). <i>Markets in crises: South Sudan case study</i> . HPG Working Paper, ODI.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Muenchenbach, M. (2014?). <i>Research proposal: Local economy development in humanitarian assistance for transition to development in post-conflict environments</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Mullinax, A., n.d. <i>The Warehouse Receipts System: Improving Food Security in the Post-Harvest Value Chain</i> . USAID Microlinks.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Murphy, O., Thomas, S., Lamb, J. and Zaman, Z. (2011), <i>Real Time Evaluation of the Kenya Drought Response</i> . September 2011, Oxfam, Kenya.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Nagaraj, V.J. 'Beltway Bandits' and 'Poverty Barons': <i>For-Profit International Development Contracting and the Military-Development Assemblage</i> . <i>Development and Change</i> 46, no. 4 (July 1, 2015): 585–617. doi:10.1111/dech.12164.	Study does not report on interventions.
Nyamwange, M. (1995). <i>Famine mitigation in Kenya: Some practices, impact and lessons</i> . <i>Middle States Geographer</i> , 28(2), 37–44.	Out of scope interventions.

Study	Reason for exclusion
ODI (2015). <i>Doing cash differently: How cash transfers can transform humanitarian aid.</i>	Out of scope interventions.
ODI. n.d. <i>The Typhoon Haiyan response</i> , ODI Humanitarian Practice Network.	Out of scope interventions.
Osorio-Cortes, L., Jenal, M. and Brand, M. (2013). <i>Monitoring and Measuring Change: The Systemic M&E Principles in the Context of the Kenya Market Assistance Program.</i>	Study does not report on an intervention.
Oxfam (2012). <i>Water Trucking Market System in Harshin</i> . EMMA.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Oxfam, n.d., <i>The sanitation marketing project in Bantayan Island, Philippines</i> . Oxfam.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Oxfam and WFP (2013). <i>Executive Brief: Engaging with markets in humanitarian responses.</i>	Study does not report on an intervention.
Pantuliano, S. (2005). <i>A 'principled' approach to complex emergencies: testing a new aid delivery model in the Nuba mountains</i> . <i>Disasters</i> , 29 Suppl 1, S52–66.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Pantuliano, S. (2007). <i>From food aid to livelihoods support: rethinking the role of WFP in eastern Sudan</i> . <i>Disasters</i> , 31, S77–S90.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Percy, R. (2014). <i>Strategic Evaluation of WFP'S Pilot Purchase for Progress Initiative (2008–2013)</i> .	Out of scope intervention.
Peschka, M. P. (2011). <i>The role of the private sector in fragile and conflict affected states</i> . IFC. (published July 2010 and updated April 2011).	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Pingali, P., Alinovi, L. and Sutton, J. (2005). <i>Food Security in Complex Emergencies: Enhancing Food System Resilience</i> . <i>Disasters</i> , 29, S5–S24.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Poulton, C., n.d. <i>The Role of Market-based Economic Development in Strengthening Food Security</i> .	Out of scope interventions.
RFSAN (2016). <i>Syria Agricultural Production and Cross-Border Trade Study Roundtable Policy Discussions Report</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Sabates-Wheeler, R. and Devereux, S. (2010). <i>Cash transfers and high food prices: Explaining outcomes on Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Programme</i> . <i>Food Policy</i> , 35(4), 274–85.	Out of scope interventions.
Sanderson, D., Knox-Clarke, P. and Campbell, L. (2012). <i>Responding to Urban Disasters: Learning from Previous Relief and Recovery Operations</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Save the Children (2015). <i>Kailahun Food for Emergency Ebola Virus Disease Support (FEEDS), Programme brief</i> . Save the Children.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Scheper, E. (2014). <i>Impact of the tsunami response on local and national capacities: Indonesia country report (Aceh and Nias)</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Seaman, J. and Leather, C. (2003). <i>Non-food aid response to food insecurity: How do we identify the most appropriate types of intervention through emergency food security assessments? Key Issues in Emergency Needs Assessment</i> , p. 50.	Out of scope interventions.

Study	Reason for exclusion
SEEP. (2007). <i>Market Development in Crisis-Affected Environments, Emerging Lessons for Achieving Pro-Poor Economic Reconstruction</i> , SEEP, US.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Shankland, S. (2013). <i>Evolving operational contexts and the role of the private sector in humanitarian action: Literature Review</i> . Humanitarian Futures Programme, Kings College London	Out of scope interventions.
Shaw, D.J. (2011). <i>Transforming Food Aid to Food Assistance. The World's Largest Humanitarian Agency</i> , pp. 262–314.	Out of scope interventions.
Shelter Cluster (2015). <i>Private Sector Coordination Pilot Study</i> , Shelter cluster, Nepal.	Out of scope interventions.
Shoham, J., n.d. <i>Assessing the Impact of Humanitarian Assistance: A Review of Methods and Practices in the Food and Nutrition Sector</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Sikwela, M. (2013). <i>The impact of farmer support programmes on household income and sustainability in smallholder production: A case study of the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu Natal farmers, South Africa</i> . Eldis.	Out of scope intervention.
Simpson, R., Bazezew Legesse, N., Phelps, L. and Modino, C. (2011), <i>Real Time Evaluation Ethiopia Drought Response</i> , Oxfam, Ethiopia.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Skees, J.R. (2000). <i>A role for capital markets in natural disasters: a piece of the food security puzzle</i> . <i>Food Policy</i> , 25(3), 365–78.	Out of scope interventions.
Smith G. (2015), <i>Cash coordination in the Philippines: a review of lessons learned during the response to super Typhoon Haiyan</i> , CaLP.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Sodhi, M.S. and Tang, C.S. (2013). <i>Buttressing Supply Chains against Floods in Asia for Humanitarian Relief and Economic Recovery</i> .	Study does not report on an intervention.
Sperling, L., n.d. <i>Long-term seed aid in Ethiopia: past, present, and future perspectives</i> . Eldis.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Standley, S. (2012). <i>Building resilience in a complex environment</i> . GSDRC.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
The KonTerra Group (2014). <i>Country Portfolio Evaluation. Uganda: an evaluation of WFP's Portfolio (2009–2013)</i> .	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
USAID, <i>Agribusiness SMEs in Malawi, assessment of small and medium enterprises in the agriculture sector and improved access to finance in Malawi</i> , LEO report 5, USAID.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Vedma, n.d. <i>Market Assistance Pilot Program (MAPP), Zimbabwe - C-SAFE (Consortium for the Southern Africa Food Security Emergency)</i> .	Full text not available.
Viatte, G., De Graaf, J. and Demeke, M. et al. (2009). <i>Responding to the food crisis: synthesis of medium-term measures proposed in inter-agency assessments</i> . FAO.	Out of scope intervention.
WFP (2013). <i>How is the Syria crisis impacting local markets?</i>	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.

Study	Reason for exclusion
WFP (2013). <i>MSU/FSG Study of the impact of WFP Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement on markets, households and food value chains.</i>	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
WFP (2014). <i>Democratic Republic of Congo – Special Focus: Is economic recovery benefiting the vulnerable?</i>	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
WFP (2014). <i>Secondary impact of WFP's voucher programme in Palestine, findings report.</i>	Out of scope interventions.
WFP (2014). <i>E-vouchers for Food Security – A potential for India's social safety nets.</i>	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
WFP (2014). <i>Lebanon – Economic Impact Study: Direct and Indirect Effects of the WFP Value-Based Food Voucher Programme, July 2014.</i>	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
WFP (2014). <i>Rwanda – Market Assessment: Towards a Market-Based Food Assistance to Refugees, October 2014.</i>	Study does not report on an intervention.
WFP (2015). <i>Standard Project Report (2015). WFP in South Sudan: Food and Nutrition Assistance for Relief and Recovery, Supporting Transition and Enhancing Capabilities to Ensure Sustainable Hunger Solutions.</i>	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Wiggins, S and Sharada, K (2013). <i>Leaping and Learning: Linking smallholders to markets in Africa.</i> London: Agriculture for Impact, Imperial College and ODI.	Out of scope intervention.
Wiggins, S., n.d. <i>Solving the food crisis by helping small scale farmers.</i>	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Wilding, J., n.d. <i>Joint Independent Evaluation of the Humanitarian Response of CARE, CRS, Save the Children and World Vision to the 2005 Food Crisis in the Republic of Niger.</i>	Out of scope interventions.
Yach, D. (2008). <i>The role of business in addressing the long-term implications of the current food crisis. Globalization and Health, 4.</i> Retrieved from: https://www.scopus.com/inward/record.uri?eid=2-s2.0-60649101477&partnerID=40&md5=2c78335c00468fc6ecb79ee6fca911de	Study not reporting on interventions.
Zwaagstra, L., Sharif, Z. and Wambile, A., et al. (2010). <i>An assessment of the response to the 2008 2009 drought in Kenya. A report to the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Kenya.</i> ILRI, (International Livestock Research Institute) Nairobi, Kenya.	Study does not report on outcomes of market support interventions that aim at improving food security or reducing negative coping mechanisms.
Zyck, S. and Armstrong, J. (2014). <i>Humanitarian crisis, emergency preparedness and response: the role of business and the private sector – Jordan case study.</i>	Out of scope interventions.
Zyck, S. and Kent, R. (2014). <i>Humanitarian crises, emergency preparedness and response: the role of business and the private sector.</i>	Out of scope interventions.

7.3 OTHER STUDIES CITED IN THIS EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS

ALNAP (2014). *Flood disasters: Learning from previous relief and recovery responses* (Text).

Asharf, N. (2008). *Finding Missing Markets (and a disturbing epilogue): Evidence from an Export Crop Adoption and Marketing Intervention in Kenya.*

Bailey, S. (2014). *Humanitarian crises, emergency preparedness and response: the role of business and the private sector – a strategy and options analysis of Haiti.*

- Borton, J. (1996). *Joint Evaluation of Emergency Assistance to Rwanda: Study III Main Findings and Recommendations*.
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- Juillard, H., Mohiddin, L., Weiss, L. (2017). *Improving the Uptake of Humanitarian Market Analysis*, Best practice report. International Rescue Committee.
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- Langer, L., Stewart, R. and Winters, N. (2016). *The impact of mobile technologies on education in low- and middle-income countries: A mixed-methods systematic review*. Department of Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation/Africa Evidence Network, Pretoria, South Africa.
- Langer, L., Stewart, R. and Winters, N. (2014). *Mixed-methods critical appraisal tool*.
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- Samuel Hall. (2012). *Evaluation of the UNHCR Shelter Assistance Programme*.
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- Wiggins, S. (2013). *Leaping and learning: linking smallholders to markets*.
- Zyck, S. and Randolph, K. (2014). *Humanitarian crises, emergency preparedness and response: the role of business and the private sector*.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: SEARCH TERMS

Concept 1 Market support activities	Concept 2 Crisis	Concept 3 Food security	Concept 4 Influence
"market support"	disaster*	"food insecurity"	influence*
"market system**"	humanitarian	"food security"	outcome*
"market service**"	Crises	"food income"	impact*
"market infrastructure**"	Crisis	"food diversity"	effect*
"value chain"	emergenc*	"food consumption score"	consequence*
trader*	conflict*	"coping strategy index"	evaluation*
"financial service provider**"	"complex emergenc**"	"Household Dietary Diversity Score"	assessment*
transporter*	war*	"meals per day"	lesson*
	refugee*	calories	result
	IDP	food	create
	displace*	"food frequency"	
	migrat*	"food basket"	
	earthquake*	"food entitlement"	
	flood*		
	tsunami*		
	cyclone*		
	hurricane*		
	typhoon*		
	storm*		
	drought*		
	landslide*		
	catastroph*		
	genocide		
	epidemic*		
	NOT: financial crisis		

* indicates a word that has been truncated in order to search for variations of the word.

APPENDIX B: RECORD OF SEARCHES

Database or site	Last date searched	Number of hits
3ie	7 June 2016	79
ALNAP	15 June 2016	141
BEAM Exchange	16 June 2016	30
Bielfield Academic Search Engine	01 August 2016	100
Development and Change	30 July 2016	26
DFID	14 June 2016	38
Disasters	30 July 2016	82
ELDIS	2 August 2016	145
ELLA	2 August 2016	16
European Commission	16 June 2016	397
Google Scholar	17 July 2016	511
GSDRC	16 June 2016	96
Humanitarian Library	16 June 2016	192
IFRC	16 July 2016	0
Markets in Crises	17 June 2016	694
Microlinks	17 June 2016	152
ODI	17 June 2016	788
PubMed	26 July 2017	100
ScienceDirect	25 July 2015	613
Scopus	29 July 2016	58
SEEP	14 June 2016	45
Third World Quarterly	30 July 2016	67
USAID	17 June 2016	14
World Bank	16 July 2016	244
WFP	16 June 2016	1,523

APPENDIX C: DATA EXTRACTION TEMPLATE

This tool has been adapted from Langer et al. (2016)

Code	Answer	Comments
Admin codes		
<i>Citation of the study</i>		
<i>Region</i>		
<i>Domain of the study</i>	Academia Grey literature	
<i>Type of study</i>	Journal article Research report Evaluation report Conference paper Book/chapter Thesis/dissertation Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) report	
<i>Research question</i>		
<i>Linked studies</i>		
Context codes		
<i>Where is the intervention conducted?</i>	Low income countries Lower middle income countries Upper middle income countries State country:	
<i>What is the type of crisis that triggered the response?</i>	Internal conflict International conflict Ethnic cleansing Genocide Large-scale epidemics Earthquakes Floods Tsunamis Droughts Economic shocks Inflation A mix of several events	
<i>What had been the impact of the crisis on physical infrastructures?</i>		
<i>At the start of the intervention, how long had it been since the crisis happened?</i>	Less than a month Less than three months Less than six Less than twelve months More than twelve months	
<i>How many sites?</i> <i>Intervention sites?</i> <i>Experimental sites?</i>		
<i>What is the setting?</i>	Rural Urban Mixed Camp	
<i>How many market actors existed before the crisis?</i>		
Population codes		
<i>How many people are targeted by the market support activities?</i>		
<i>Age</i>	Children (3–12) Youth (12–25) Adults (25–60) Elderly (>60) Mixed	
<i>Gender</i>	Male Female Both	
<i>Literacy level</i>	Literate Semi-literate Illiterate	
<i>Specific health-related status</i>	Living with disability Pregnant women Chronic diseases Other	
<i>Status</i>	Refugee Internally displaced person Host communities Local communities	
<i>Volume of trader</i>		
<i>Type of goods or service offered</i>		
<i>Type of customers</i>	Wholesalers Large retailers Petty traders Individual customers	
<i>How many crisis-affected people are impacted indirectly by the market support activities?</i>		
<i>Age</i>	Children (3–12) Youth (12–25) Adults (25–60) Elderly (>60) Mixed	
<i>Gender</i>	Male Female Both	
<i>Specific health-related status</i>	Living with disability Pregnant women Chronic diseases Other	
<i>Status</i>	Refugee Internally displaced person Host communities Local communities	
<i>Level of income</i>		
<i>Living distance to physical market place</i>	Less than a km Between 1 and 5 km More than 5 km	
<i>Level of income</i>		

Code	Answer	Comments	
Intervention codes			
What is the sector of the intervention?	Intervention aiming at covering food security needs Intervention aiming at covering multiple needs including food security Intervention aiming at reducing coping mechanism		
Who initiated the intervention?	NGOs UN agencies International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Private sector actors Government actors		
What is the intervention duration?	Less than 12 months More than 12 months		
What activities were implemented?	Support to market chain actors across market system(s) Support to market services and infrastructure		
To whom was the market support provided?	Importer Wholesalers Large retailers Petty traders Financial service providers Transporters Storage place owner Other		
What type of support was provided?	CTP support In-kind support Services (transport, storage or else) Skills development Other		
What was the goal of the activities?	Restore business Strengthen business Develop business Combination		
Describe the activities			
Outcome codes			
Which food security outcomes are targeted as regard to the crisis-affected population?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better diet diversity Increased food quality Appropriate food quantity Reduced number of negative coping mechanisms related to food consumption (reduction of meal frequency, the quantity and quality of food consumed) Better access to markets (physical, social and financial) No food security outcomes Other outcomes 		
What outcome indicators are used?	And how are they measured?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household or Individual Dietary Diversity Score Food Consumption Score Self-assessed measure of food security Coping Strategy Index Proxy indicator Other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household survey Key informant interview Focus group discussion Desk review Other
When were the outcomes measured?	Pre-test: Post-test:		
Which outcomes are targeted as regard to the market support activities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore business Strengthen business Develop business Combination 		
What outcome indicators are used?	And how are they measured?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volume of trade Trader reported income Number and diversity of customers Number and diversity of suppliers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market assessment and monitoring Key informant interview Focus group discussion Desk review Other
When were the outcomes measured?	Pre-test: Post-test:		
Findings			
What findings do they report?			
Market support activity is effective to improve the food security situation of crisis-affected population	Effect on diet diversity Effect on food quality Effect on food quantity Effect on negative coping mechanism related to food consumption Other		
Market support activity had no impact on the food security situation of crisis-affected population	Failure to have effect on diet diversity Failure to have effect on food quality Failure to have effect on food quantity Failure to have effect on reduction of negative food related coping mechanism		
Market support activity had a negative impact on the food security situation of the crisis-affected population (describe):			

Code	Answer	Comments
<i>Market support activity had other impact on the humanitarian situation of the crisis-affected population (describe):</i>		
<i>Were the market support activities feasible?</i>	Yes ('but' if applicable) No ('because') Lack of political acceptance Donor reluctance Non-functioning market Non willingness from traders Lack of market access	
<i>How has the market support activities been received?</i>	By trader: Positive Negative Mixed No information By the affected population: Positive Negative Mixed No information	
Describe the new market situation		
<i>Has the number of traders in the market been affected?</i>		
<i>Has the diversity of traders in the market been affected?</i>		
<i>Has the number of market services available been affected?</i>		
<i>Has the access to market place been affected?</i>		
<i>Has the trader/consumer interaction been affected?</i>		
Special interest		
<i>Do market support activities affect market actors differently?</i>	Consider age, gender, socioeconomic, urban, distance from market, etc.	
<i>Is the intervention aligned with the national food security policy?</i>		
<i>Is there reference to trickle down/multiplier effects?</i>		
<i>Is there reference to other interventions replicating the approach?</i>		
NOTE:		
RATIONALE:		
<i>Describe the underlying case for why market support activities were needed:</i>		
Theory of change		
<i>Hand-written diagram</i>		

Personal reflections:

APPENDIX D: CRITICAL APPRAISAL TOOL

Study type	Methodological appraisal criteria				Response		
					Yes	No	Comment/Confidence judgment
1. Qualitative e.g. (A) Ethnography (B) Phenomenology (C) Narrative (D) Grounded theory (E) Case study	I. RESEARCH IS DEFENSIBLE IN DESIGN (providing a research strategy that addresses the question)						
	Appraisal indicators: ✓ <i>Is the research design clearly specified and appropriate for aims and objectives of the research?</i> Consider whether						
	i. <i>there is a discussion of the rationale for the study design</i>						
	ii. <i>the research question is clear, and suited to qualitative inquiry</i>						
	iii. <i>there are convincing arguments for different features of the study design</i>						
	iv. <i>limitations of the research design and implications for the research evidence are discussed</i>						
	Defensible Arguable Critical Not defensible				Worth to continue:		
	II. RESEARCH FEATURES AN APPROPRIATE SAMPLE (following an adequate strategy for selection of participants)						
	Appraisal indicators: Consider whether						
	i. <i>there is a description of study location and how/why it was chosen</i>						
	ii. <i>the researcher has explained how the participants were selected</i>						
	iii. <i>the selected participants were appropriate to collect rich and relevant data</i>						
	iv. <i>reasons are given why potential participants chose not take part in study</i>						
	Appropriate sample Functional sample Critical sample Flawed sample				Worth to continue:		
	III. RESEARCH IS RIGOROUS IN CONDUCT (providing a systematic and transparent account of the research process)						
	Appraisal indicators: Consider whether						
	i. <i>researchers provide a clear account/description of the process by which data was collected (e.g. for interview method, is there an indication of how interviews were conducted/procedures for collection or recording of data?)</i>						
	ii. <i>researchers demonstrate that data collection targeted depth, detail and richness of information (e.g. interview/observation schedule)</i>						
	iii. <i>there is evidence of how descriptive analytical categories, classes, labels, etc. have been generated and used</i>						
	iv. <i>presentation of data distinguishes clearly between the data, the analytical frame used, and the interpretation</i>						
v. <i>methods were modified during the study; and if so, has the researcher explained how and why?</i>							
Rigorous conduct Considerate conduct Critical conduct Flawed conduct				Worth to continue:			

Study type	Methodological appraisal criteria				Response			
					Yes	No	Comment/Confidence judgment	
1. Qualitative e.g. (A) Ethnography (B) Phenomenology (C) Narrative (D) Grounded theory (E) Case study	IV. RESEARCH FINDINGS ARE CREDIBLE IN CLAIM/BASED ON DATA (providing well-founded and plausible arguments based on the evidence generated)							
	Appraisal indicators:							
	Consider whether							
	i. there is a clear description of the form of the original data							
	ii. sufficient amount of data are presented to support interpretations and findings/conclusions							
	iii. the researchers explain how the data presented were selected from the original sample to feed into the analysis process (i.e. commentary and cited data relate; there is an analytical context to cited data, not simply repeated description; is there an account of frequency of presented data?)							
	iv. there is a clear and transparent link between data, interpretation, and findings/conclusion							
	v. there is evidence (of attempts) to give attention to negative cases/outliers etc.							
	Credible claims		Arguable claims		Doubtful claims	Not credible		<i>If findings are not credible, can data still be used?</i>
	V. RESEARCH ATTENDS TO CONTEXTS (describing the contexts and particulars of the study)							
	Appraisal indicators:							
	Consider whether							
	i. there is an adequate description of the contexts of data sources and how they are retained and portrayed?							
	ii. participants' perspectives/observations are placed in personal contexts							
	iii. appropriate consideration is given to how findings relate to the contexts (how findings are influenced by or influence the context)							
	iv. the study makes any claims (implicit or explicit) that infer generalization (if yes, comment on appropriateness)							
	Context central		Context considered		Context mentioned	No context attention		
	VI. RESEARCH IS REFLEXIVE (assessing what factors might have shaped the form and output of research)							
	Appraisal indicators:							
	Consider whether							
	i. appropriate consideration is given to how findings relate to researchers' influence/own role during analysis and selection of data for presentation							
	ii. researchers have attempted to validate the credibility of findings (e.g. triangulation, respondent validation, more than one analyst)							
	iii. researchers explain their reaction to critical events that occurred during the study							
iv. researchers discuss ideological perspectives/values/philosophies and their impact on the methodological or other substantive content of the research (implicit/explicit)								
Reflection		Consideration		Acknowledgement	Unreflective research		<i>NB: Can override previous exclusion!</i>	
OVERALL DECISION – EXCLUDE/INCLUDE								
(study generates new knowledge relevant to the review question and complies with minimum criteria to ensure reliability and empirical grounding of knowledge)								
Sources used in this section (in alphabetical order), taken from Langer, L., Stewart, R., Winters, N. (2014). <i>Mixed-methods critical appraisal tool</i> . Campbell et al. (2003); CASP (2006); CRD (2009); Dixon-Woods et al. (2004); Dixon-Woods et al. (2006) cited in Gough 2012; Greenhalgh and Brown (2014); Harden et al. (2004) cited in SCIE and Gough 2012; Harden et al. (2009); Harden and Gough (2012); Mays and Pope (1995); Pluye et al. (2011); Spencer et al. 2006; Thomas et al. (2003); SCIE (2010).								

Study type	Methodological appraisal criteria	Response								
		Yes	No	Comment/risk of bias judgment						
<p>2. Quantitative (non-randomized; randomized controlled)</p> <p>Common non-random design include:</p> <p>(A) Non-randomized controlled trial (B) Cohort studies (C) Case-control (D) Cross-sectional analytical studies</p> <p>Most common ways of controlling for bias due to baseline confounding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matching attempts to emulate randomization • Propensity score matching and methods • Stratification where sub-groups have been compared • Regression analysis where covariates are adjusted for <p>Randomized designs: randomized controlled trial</p>	<p>I. Selection bias: (Are participants recruited in a way that minimizes selection bias?)</p> <p>Appraisal indicators:</p> <p>Consider whether</p> <p>i. there is a clear description of how and why sample was chosen</p> <p>ii. there is adequate sample size to allow for representative and/or statistically significant conclusions</p> <p>iii. participants recruited in the control group were sampled from the same population as that of the treatment</p> <p>iv. group allocation process attempted to control for potential risk of bias</p>									
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Low risk of bias</td> <td>Risk of bias</td> <td>High risk of bias</td> <td>Critical risk of bias</td> <td>Worth to continue:</td> </tr> </table>	Low risk of bias	Risk of bias	High risk of bias	Critical risk of bias	Worth to continue:				
	Low risk of bias	Risk of bias	High risk of bias	Critical risk of bias	Worth to continue:					
	<p>II. Bias due to baseline confounding: (Is confounding potentially controllable in the context of this study?)</p> <p>Appraisal indicators:</p> <p>Consider whether</p> <p>i. the treatment and control group are comparable at baseline</p> <p>ii. matching was applied, and in case, featured sufficient criteria</p> <p>iii. the authors conducted an appropriate analysis that controlled for all potential critical confounding domains</p> <p>iv. the authors avoided to adjust for post-intervention variables</p>									
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Low risk of bias</td> <td>Risk of bias</td> <td>High risk of bias</td> <td>Critical risk of bias</td> <td>Worth to continue:</td> </tr> </table>	Low risk of bias	Risk of bias	High risk of bias	Critical risk of bias	Worth to continue:				
	Low risk of bias	Risk of bias	High risk of bias	Critical risk of bias	Worth to continue:					
	<p>IF RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL, SKIP I + II AND START HERE</p> <p>Bias due to ineffective randomization: (Is allocation of treatment status truly random?)</p> <p>Appraisal indicators:</p> <p>Consider whether</p> <p>i. there is a clear description of the randomization process</p> <p>ii. the unit of randomization and number of participants is clearly stated (pay special attention to treatment and control locations/balance)</p> <p>iii. eligibility criteria for study entry are specified</p> <p>iv. characteristics of baseline and end-line sample are provided*</p>									
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Low risk of bias</td> <td>Risk of bias</td> <td>High risk of bias</td> <td>Critical risk of bias</td> <td>If critical risk of bias, treat as non-random study</td> </tr> </table>	Low risk of bias	Risk of bias	High risk of bias	Critical risk of bias	If critical risk of bias, treat as non-random study				
	Low risk of bias	Risk of bias	High risk of bias	Critical risk of bias	If critical risk of bias, treat as non-random study					
	<p>III. Bias due to departures from intended interventions (Was the intervention implemented as laid out in the study protocol?)</p> <p>Appraisal indicators:</p> <p>Consider whether</p> <p>i. the critical co-interventions were balanced across intervention groups</p> <p>ii. treatment switches were low enough to not threaten the validity of the estimated effect of intervention</p> <p>iii. implementation failure was minor and unlikely to threaten the validity of the outcome estimate</p> <p>iv. it is possible that intervention was taken by the controls (contamination and possible crossing-over)**</p> <p>v. it is possible that knowledge of the intervention group affects how the two study groups are treated in course of follow-up by investigators?***</p>				<p>**whilst challenging in terms of estimating impact, spillover effects might be an important finding in itself (e.g. teachers read to pupils/village/family members)</p> <p>***consider only in extreme cases in which preferential treatment is clearly evident; blinding in general not expected in social interventions</p>					
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Low risk of bias</td> <td>Risk of bias</td> <td>High risk of bias</td> <td>Critical risk of bias</td> <td>Worth to continue:</td> </tr> </table>	Low risk of bias	Risk of bias	High risk of bias	Critical risk of bias	Worth to continue:				
	Low risk of bias	Risk of bias	High risk of bias	Critical risk of bias	Worth to continue:					

Study type	Methodological appraisal criteria				Response		
					Yes	No	Comment/risk of bias judgment
<p>2. Quantitative (non-randomized; randomized controlled)</p> <p><i>Common non-random design include:</i></p> <p>(A) Non-randomized controlled trial (B) Cohort studies (C) Case-control (D) Cross-sectional analytical studies</p> <p><i>Most common ways of controlling for bias due to baseline confounding:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matching attempts to emulate randomization • Propensity score matching and methods • Stratification where sub-groups have been compared • Regression analysis where covariates are adjusted for <p><i>Randomized designs: randomized controlled trial</i></p>	<p>IV. Bias due to missing data (attrition) (Are the intervention groups free of critical differences in participants with missing data?)</p> <p>Appraisal indicators:</p> <p>Consider whether</p>						
	i. outcome data are reasonably complete (80% or above)						
	ii. If 'no', are missing data reported?						
	iii. If missing data: are proportion of participants and reasons for missing data similar across groups?						
	iv. If missing data: Were appropriate statistical methods used to account for missing data? (e.g. sensitivity analysis)						
	v. If not possible to control for missing data, are outcomes with missing data excluded from analysis?						
	<p>Low risk of bias Risk of bias High risk of bias Critical risk of bias</p>				Worth to continue:		
	<p>V. Outcome reporting bias (Are measurements appropriate, e.g. clear origin, or validity known?)</p> <p>Appraisal indicators:</p> <p>Consider whether</p>						
	i. there was an adequate period for follow up****						****in many social science interventions, follow-up is not required to coincide with the start of the treatment; further, longer periods of follow up are often required to measure changes. In the context of education, the question of retention – in particular when dealing with short intervention periods (< 1 month) – is of major interest.
	ii. the outcome measure was clearly defined and objective						
iii. outcomes were assessed using standardized instruments and indicators							
iv. outcome measurements reflect what the experiment set out to measure							
v. the methods of outcome assessment were comparable across experiential groups							
<p>Low risk of bias Risk of bias High risk of bias Critical risk of bias</p>				Worth to continue:			
<p>VI. Bias in selection of results reported (Are the reported outcomes consistent with the proposed outcomes at the protocol stage?)</p> <p>Appraisal indicators:</p> <p>Consider whether</p>							
i. it is unlikely that the reported effect estimate is available primarily because it was a notable finding among numerous exploratory analyses							
ii. it is unlikely that the reported effect estimate is prone to selective reporting from among multiple outcome measurements within the outcome domain							
iii. it is unlikely that the reported effect estimate is prone to selective reporting from among multiple analyses of the outcome measurements							
iv. the analysis includes an intention to treat analysis? (If so, was this appropriate and were appropriate methods used to account for missing data?)*****						*****usually in clinical randomized controlled trials, rare in social science: only rate if conducted	
<p>Low risk of bias Risk of bias High risk of bias Critical risk of bias</p>							
OVERALL RISK OF BIAS:							
Sources used in this section (in weighted order): Cochrane (2014); Stewart et al. (2014); Stewart et al. (2012); Higgins et al. (2011); Greenhalgh and Brown (2014); Pluye et al. (2011); Gough et al. (2007)							

Study type	Methodological appraisal criteria	Response		
		Yes	No	Comment/confidence judgment
<p>3. <i>Mixed-methods</i></p> <p>Sequential explanatory design The quantitative component is followed by the qualitative. The purpose is to explain quantitative results using qualitative findings. E.g., the quantitative results guide the selection of qualitative data sources and data collection, and the qualitative findings contribute to the interpretation of quantitative results.</p> <p>Sequential exploratory design The qualitative component is followed by the quantitative. The purpose is to explore, develop and test an instrument (or taxonomy), or a conceptual framework (or theoretical model). E.g., the qualitative findings inform the quantitative data collection, and the quantitative results allow a generalization of the qualitative findings.</p> <p>Triangulation designs The qualitative and quantitative components are concomitant. The purpose is to examine the same phenomenon by interpreting qualitative and quantitative results (bringing data analysis together at the interpretation stage), or by integrating qualitative and quantitative datasets (e.g., data on same cases), or by transforming data (e.g., quantization of qualitative data).</p> <p>Embedded/convergent design The qualitative and quantitative components are concomitant. The purpose is to support a qualitative study with a quantitative sub-study (measures), or to better understand a specific issue of a quantitative study using a qualitative sub-study, e.g., the efficacy or the implementation of an intervention based on the views of participants.</p>	<p>I. RESEARCH INTEGRATION/SYNTHESIS OF METHODS (assessing the value-added of the mixed-methods approach)</p> <p>Applied mixed-methods design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sequential explanatory design ● Sequential explorative design ● Triangulation design ● Embedded design <p>Appraisal indicators:</p> <p>Consider whether</p>			
	<p>v. the rationale for integrating qualitative and quantitative methods to answer the research question is explained [DEFENSIBLE]</p>			
	<p>vi. the mixed-methods research design is relevant to address the qualitative and quantitative research questions, or the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the mixed methods research question [DEFENSIBLE]</p>			
	<p>vii. there is evidence that data gathered by both research methods was brought together to inform new findings to answer the mixed-methods research question (e.g. form a complete picture, synthesize findings, configuration) [CREDIBLE]</p>			
	<p>viii. the approach to data integration is transparent and rigorous in considering all findings from both the qualitative and quantitative module (danger of cherry-picking) [RIGOROUS]</p>			
	<p>ix. appropriate consideration is given to the limitations associated with this integration, e.g., the divergence of qualitative and quantitative data (or results) [REFLEXIVE]</p>			
<p>For mixed-methods research studies, each component undergoes its individual critical appraisal first. Since qualitative studies are either included or excluded, no combined risk of bias assessment is facilitated, and the assigned risk of bias from the quantitative component similarly holds for the mixed-methods research.</p> <p>The appraisal indicators only refer to the applied mixed-methods design. If this design is not found to comply with each of the four mixed-methods appraisal criteria below, then the quantitative/qualitative components will individually be included in the review:</p>				
<p>Mixed-methods critical appraisal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research is defensible in design 2. Research is rigorous in conduct 3. Research is credible in claim 4. Research is reflective 	<p>Qualitative critical appraisal:</p> <p>Include/exclude</p>	<p>Quantitative critical appraisal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Low risk of bias 2. Risk of bias 3. High risk of bias 4. Critical risk of bias 		
<p>Combined appraisal:</p> <p>Include/exclude mixed-methods findings judged with _____ risk of bias</p>				
<p>Section based on Pluye et al. (2011). Further sources consulted (in alphabetical order): Creswell and Clark (2007); Crow (2013); Long (2005); O’Cathain et al. (2008); O’Cathain (2010); Pluye and Hong (2014); Sirriyeh et al. (2011).</p>				

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