

## MARKET SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT AND FRAGILE CONTEXTS

Lessons from Practice

MERCY CORPS
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MARKET SYSTEMS ICEBREAKER!



# Key principles of how we take an MSD approach?

Market system change
Facilitation
Partnerships



## Why an MSD approach?

Sustainability

Scale

**Impact** 



# MSD PROGRAM EXAMPLE

Agricultural markets in Uganda



## What were the market assessment findings?

Production potential

- · Good soil fertility
- · High farmer interest and strong market demand

Agricultural skills and services

- · Very weak farmer knowledge and skills
- Absence of government or private extension services

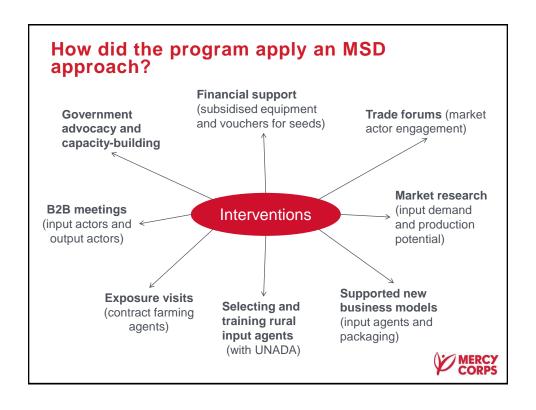
Agricultural inputs

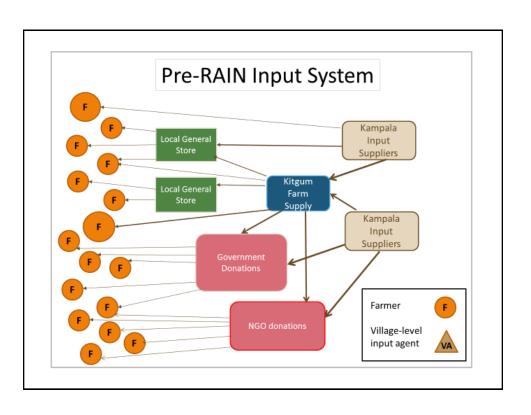
- Only one distributor in the region, and quality and range poor
- · Very limited outreach to farmers
- Farmers lacked information and access about inputs

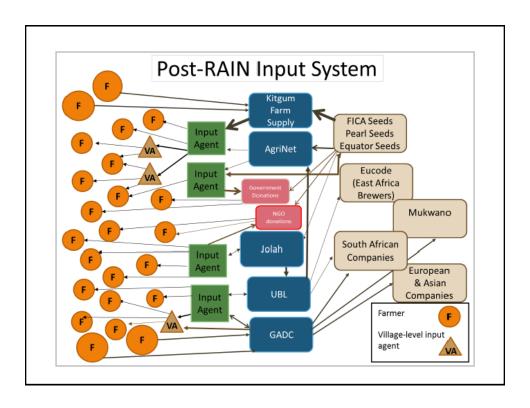
Demand-side

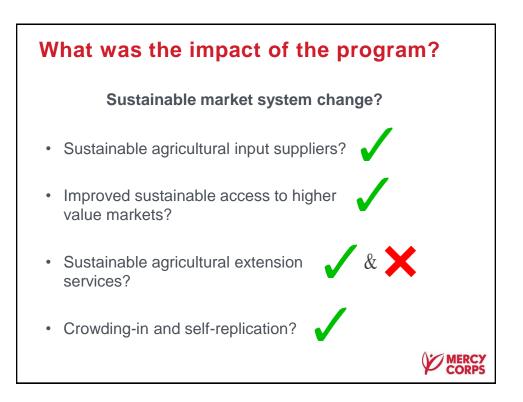
- Primarily selling to local markets
- Contract farming potential, but poor perceptions among businesses







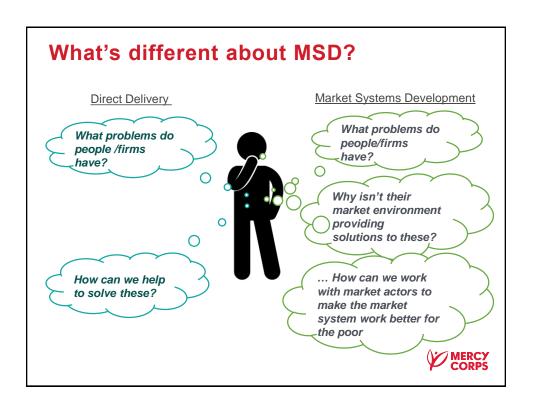




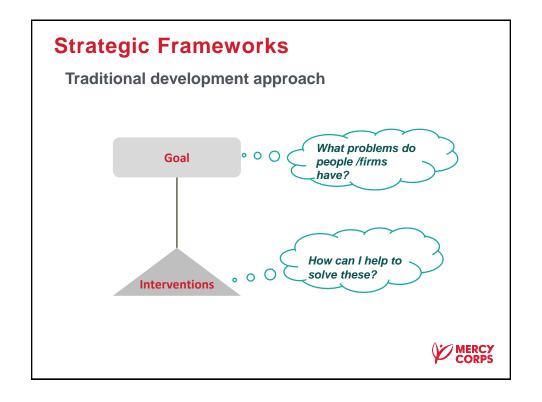
#### What was the impact of the program?

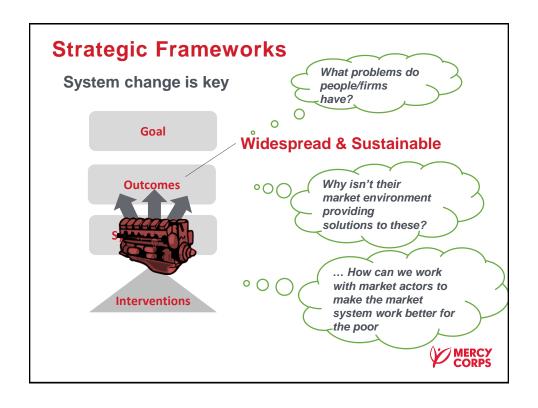
#### Impact on beneficiaries?

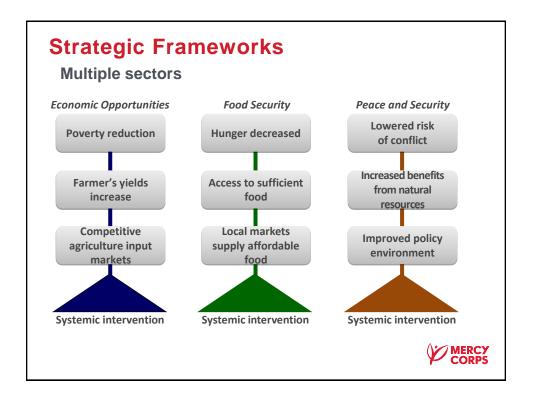
- More than 100,000 farmers accessed inputs, highervalue markets and financial services
- Yields, quality and sales increased (\$10 million increase in sales during program)
- Incomes increased (52% of households increased income in final year alone)
- Increased savings (70% of households increased their savings)





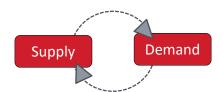






## What is a Market System and What is MSD?

What is a market?



- Transactional
- Exchange for goods and services
- Economic or non-economic

"Societal and economic needs define markets"
Porter and Kramer



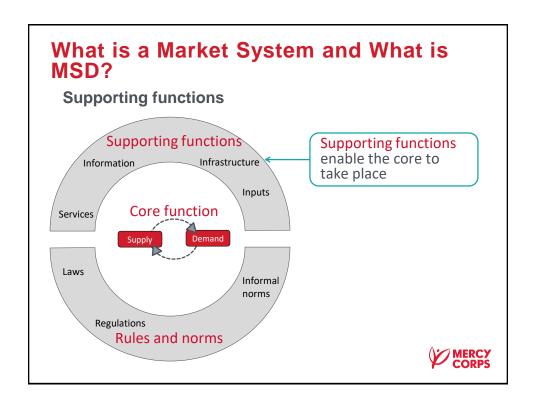
## What is a Market System and What is MSD?

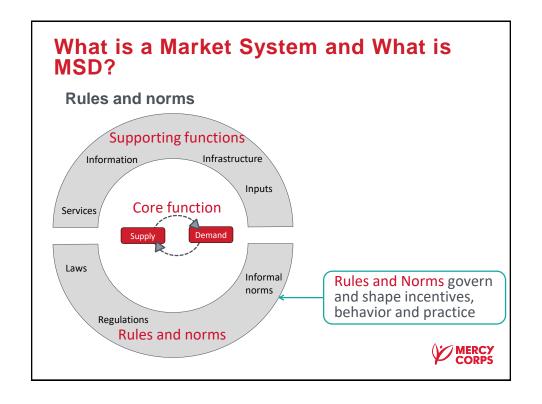
What is a market system?

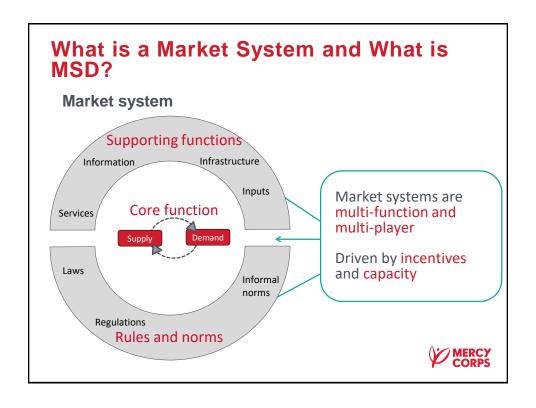


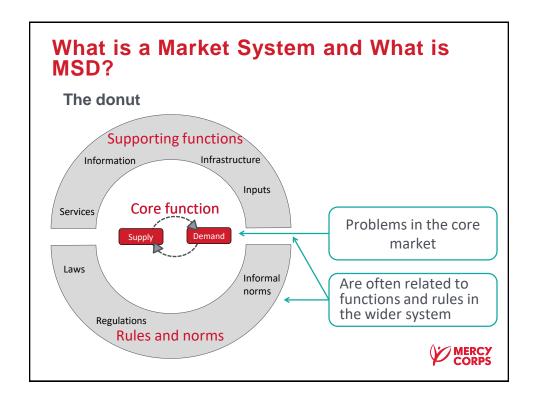
Relates to delivery of goods or services

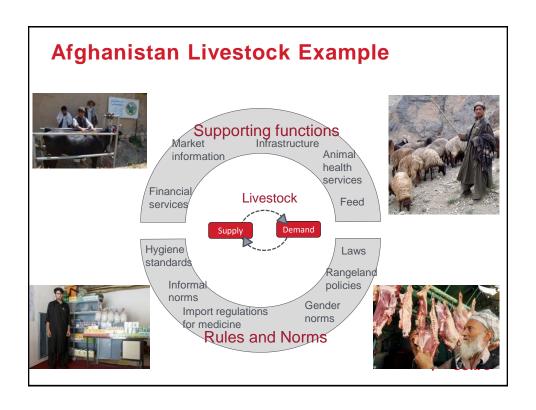


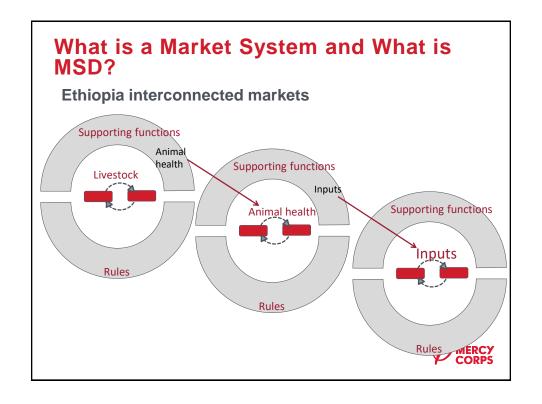


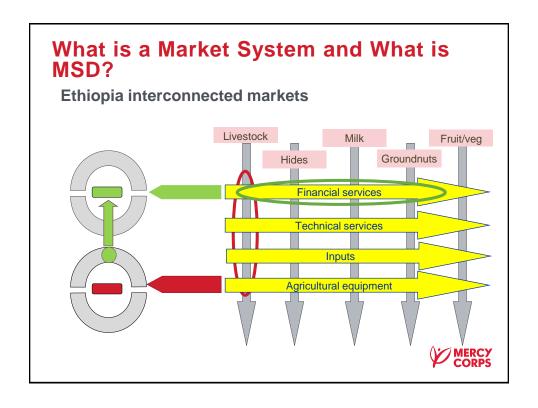


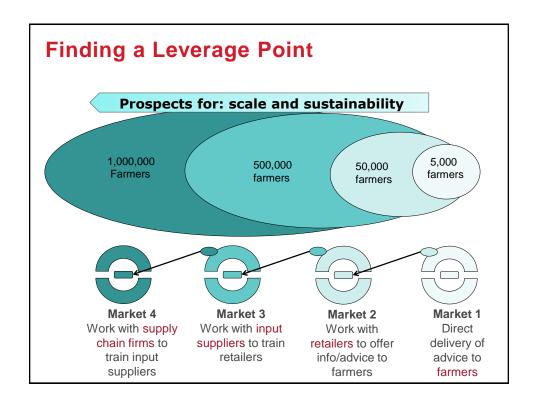














## Resilience in a Crisis: Syria Research





# Market Systems in Crisis Shocks to market actors can undermine coping and recovery Goal Widespread effects! Interventions

#### **Syria Program Summary**

- Food security, bread market
- 5-year multi-round program
- Cross-border in active conflict zones
- Almost \$50 million, funded by USAID Food for Peace







#### **Main Problems**

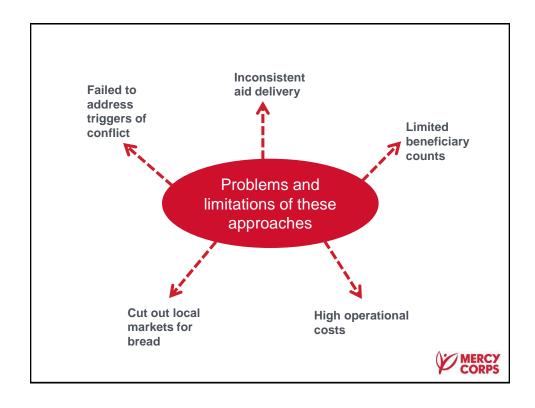
- Spiking/volatile bread prices
- Market access and movement restricted by conflict
- Households need access to bread, a staple food item
- Volatile bread prices trigger additional conflict

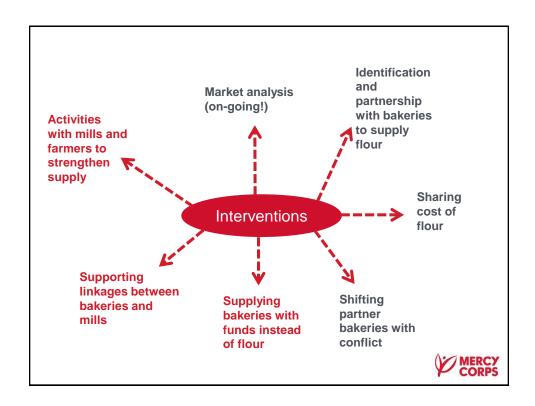


# How were agencies addressing these problems?

- Direct delivery of food baskets to households
- Cross-border convoys of food







#### What was the impact of the program?

#### Success in sustaining markets?

Partner bakeries able to stay open, serving 100,000 people per day



Bread prices stayed relatively stable in program areas





# Key principles of how we take a market systems approach?

Market system change

**Facilitation** 

**Partnerships** 



Key principles of how we take a market systems approach? And in crisis?

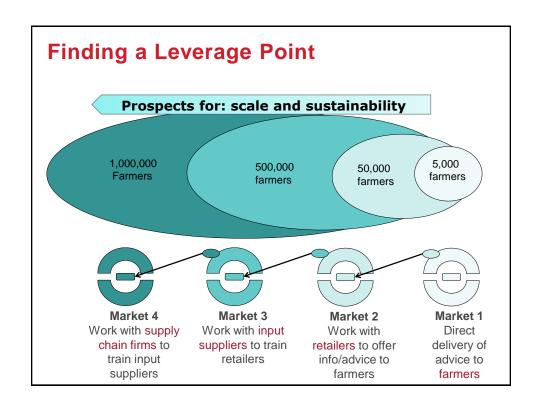
Market system change

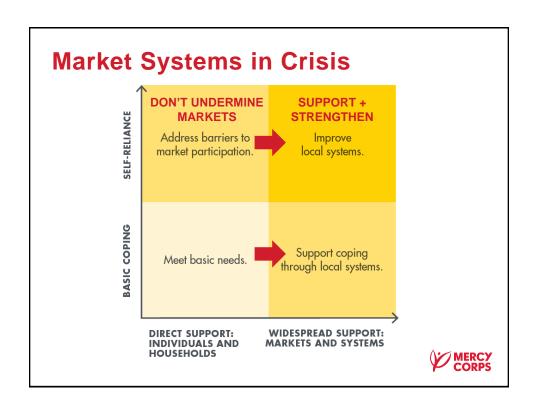
**Facilitation** 

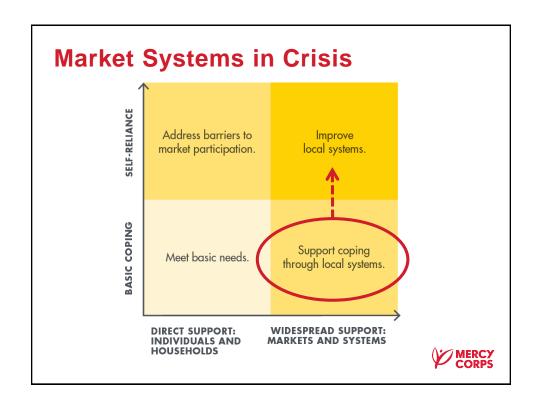
**Partnerships** 

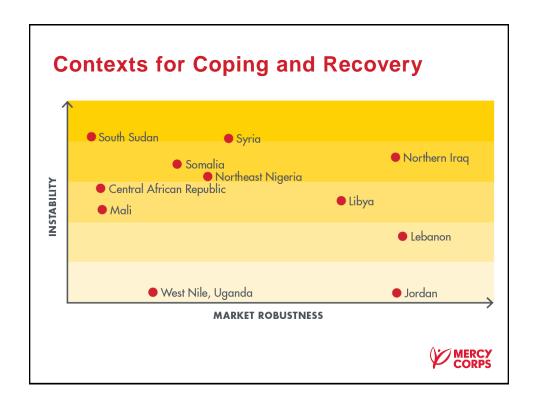
**Market safeguarding** 

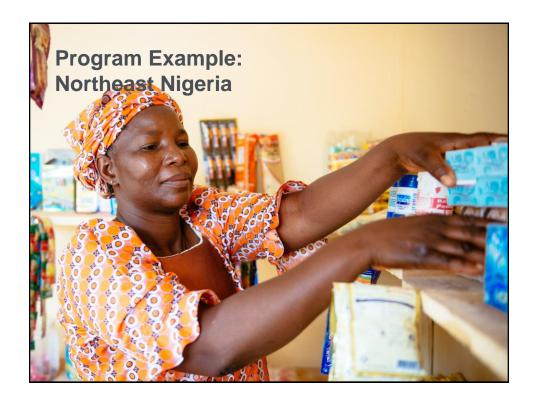












## **Program Summary**

- >\$5 million from Bill and Melinda Gates
   Foundation and GIZ
- \$15 million EU Funding for Recovery and Resilience
- Strengthening input supply
- Developing market for new breed of poultry







#### **Main Problems**

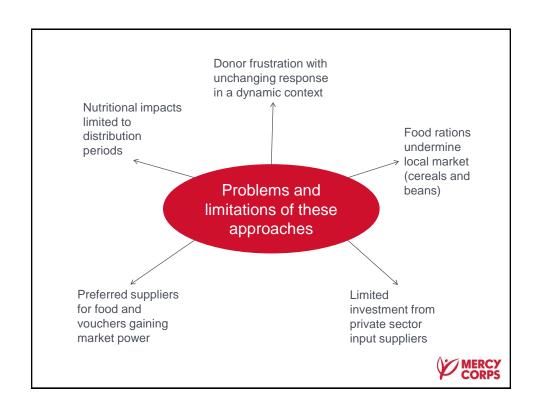
- On-going conflict, resurgence of Boko Haram conflict following declaration of defeat
- High transit fees and restricted access due to curfews, roadblocks, and conflict
- Population movement limited outside of garrison towns
- Breakdown of businesses activity over years of crisis

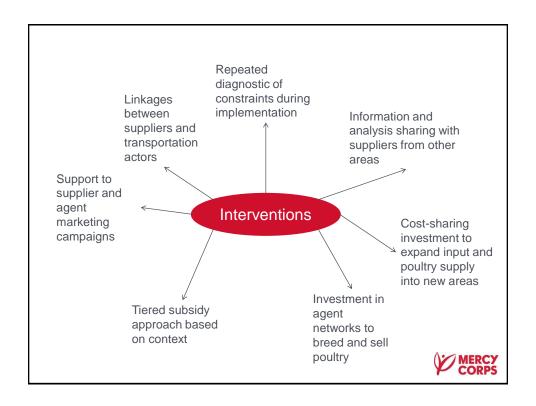


# What approach were aid agencies taking?

- Direct delivery of food aid to households
- Direct delivery of inputs to households
- Food voucher programming







#### What was the impact of the program?

Success in sustaining markets?
Success in market systems change?

Reduction in low-margin petty trading among agents



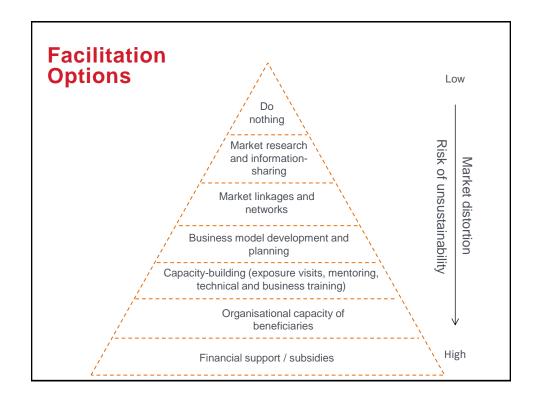
Increase in profits for agents, and self-reported improvements in recovery



95% interest in continuing as agents

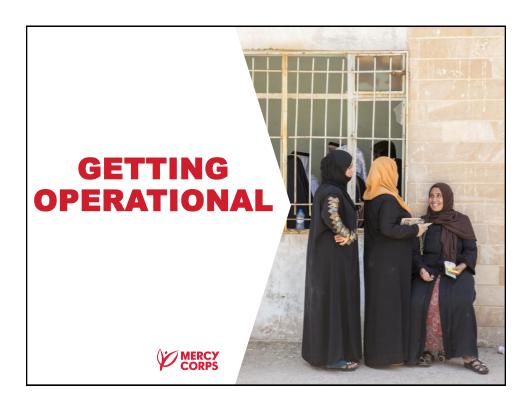










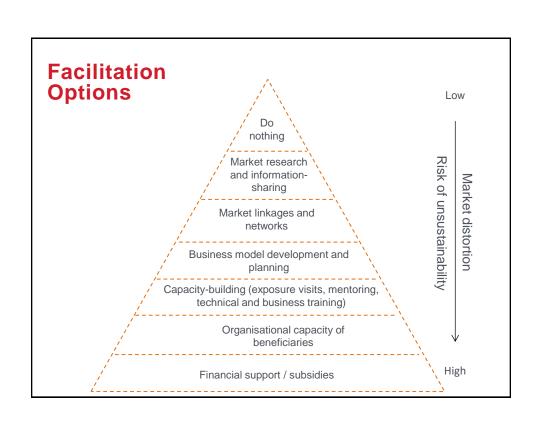


#### MSD in South Sudanese Refugee Response

#### Context

- Protracted displacement (expected up to 10 years)
- Geographically isolated with thin markets
- Opportunities and risks in refugee host dynamics
- · Aid impacting markets
- Forward thinking government policies





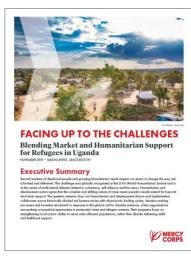
#### **Market Evidence**

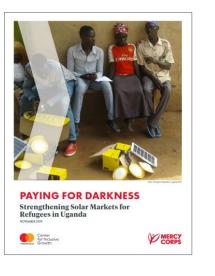
- Agriculture:
  - 75% redemption rate for coupons
  - 66% increase in purchases from season 1 to 2
  - · Preference for PS extension services
- Energy
  - Solar market estimated at 97,000 individuals (20,000 households) and 35,000 businesses
  - Current pilot sales: 3,600





## Lots of Learning!









#### **Operational Lessons**

- Tendency to view vulnerable groups homogenously
- Vulnerability and capacity infrequently considered together
- Funding and prioritization of analysis and learning limited
- Limited mechanisms to partner with businesses quickly (including informal businesses)
- Field-level information sharing limited by silo-ed communication channels
- Donors' cross-cutting perspectives can help influence response



## **DISCUSSION**

What are implications for policy?

What are implications for implementation?

What are key questions for future learning?





