Examples of market based interventions

**Direct relief interventions:**
- Conditional or unconditional cash or cash vouchers
- Commodity/service vouchers
- In-kind (market aware)

**Indirect support**: 
- Increasing trader access to capital (e.g. grants)
- Rehabilitation of market infrastructure and storage
- Supporting transport by improving roads or providing transport subsidies
- Directly facilitating access to supplies

**‘Market strengthening and development’**: 
- Skill development and employment creation
- Increasing access to financial services
- Supply and value chain interventions
- Supporting trader associations
- Enterprise development
- Increasing local production through sustainable agriculture

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**Market based interventions in South Sudan**

This briefing note aims to clarify what market based interventions are, and when they might be feasible in the South Sudan context.

**What are “market based interventions”?**

Market based interventions include a range of activities that may be employed in development or humanitarian emergency response. They are not specific to a sector, can be used to address a range of needs, and may involve affected people directly or indirectly.

Direct relief interventions increase access of targeted people to particular goods and/or services and include conditional (e.g. cash-for-work) or unconditional transfers, delivered either as direct cash, or through vouchers. These examples of cash transfer programming are an alternative to an in-kind response and require a functioning market system with a reliable supply.

Indirect interventions include ‘indirect support’, which includes temporary interventions that address needs by restoring markets, and ‘market strengthening and development’, which is a longer term approach to economic recovery, the improvement of incomes and livelihoods.\(^1\)

In an emergency context, direct relief interventions, and indirect support activities are the most relevant interventions in the short term, and at times, a combination of approaches may be appropriate.

**Are market based interventions feasible as a humanitarian response in South Sudan?**

WFP’s recent Rapid Market Assessment report highlights many of the challenges impacting the feasibility of direct interventions in South Sudan. These include the uncertain nature of the current political conflict and its impact on trade flows, seasonal access, variable food availability, poor infrastructure and the low number of service providers.\(^2\) Despite these challenges, there is potential for carefully designed market based interventions.

In areas where the conflict has cut off supply routes, and uncertainty about the future of the conflict remains, market based interventions are unlikely to be a realistic option. However, in more stable areas of the country, effective relief interventions, indirect support or market strengthening and development interventions, designed around seasonal variability, are all potential responses.

In between, more challenging opportunities exist to intervene in markets with altered supply chains and reduced market capacity through indirect support, which itself may help to create an environment where direct relief interventions are possible.

Regardless of the opportunities, the choosing a type of response requires an analysis of the need, market, including the comparison of different responses in terms of cost, safety, the potential impact on non-beneficiaries, preferences.

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2. WFP (2015) South Sudan Rapid Market Assessment
For questions or feedback, contact the working group via the FSL cluster - info.southsudan@foodsecuritycluster.net