



Feinstein  
International Center

Strengthening the humanity and dignity of people in crisis through knowledge and practice

## **Evidence for Market Based Food Assistance Programming: A Response Analysis “Road Map”**

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Humanitarian Health and Logistics Conference

Mexico City

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# Evidence for Market-Based Programming: The Response Analysis Question

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2004: Levine and Chastre et al. “Missing the Point”

Since ~2005:

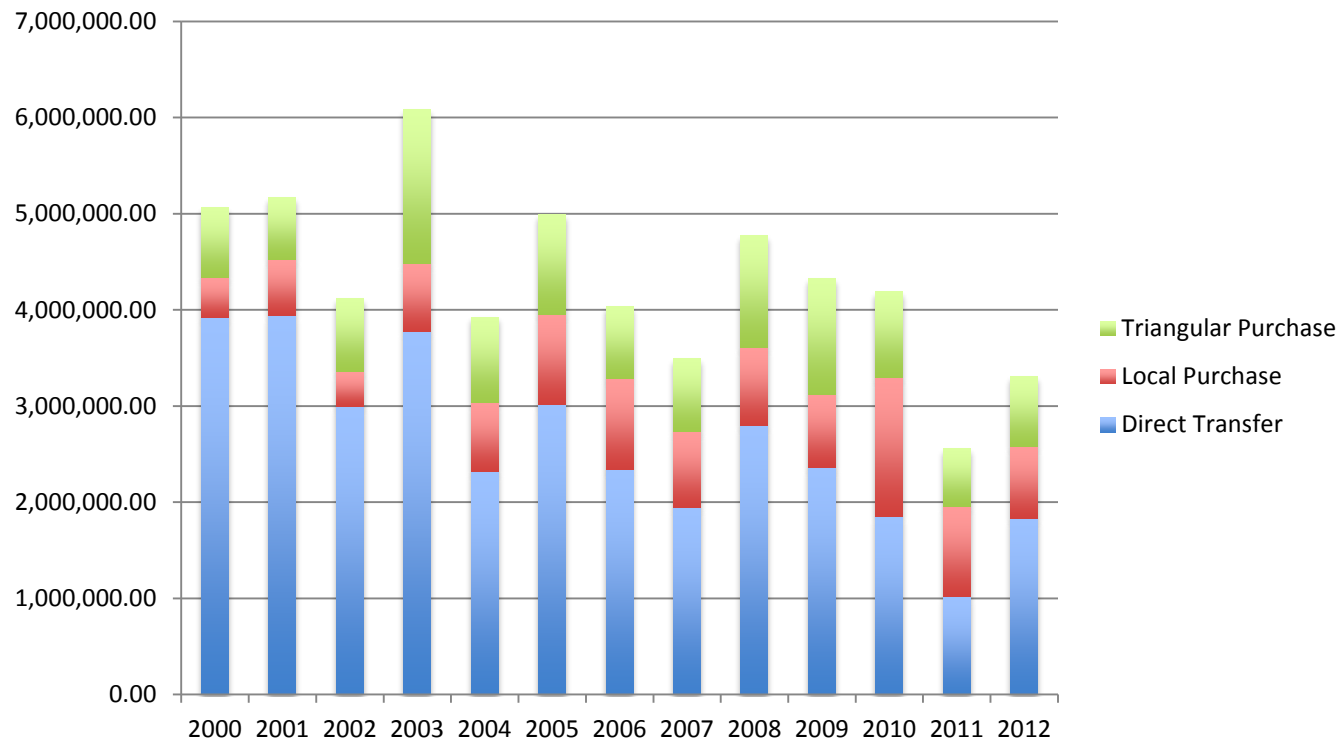
- Major efforts to *improve food security analysis*
- Many *new response options* in food security emergencies and chronic vulnerability

Research question:

*Is improved analysis driving response choice?*

# Changing Donor Resources

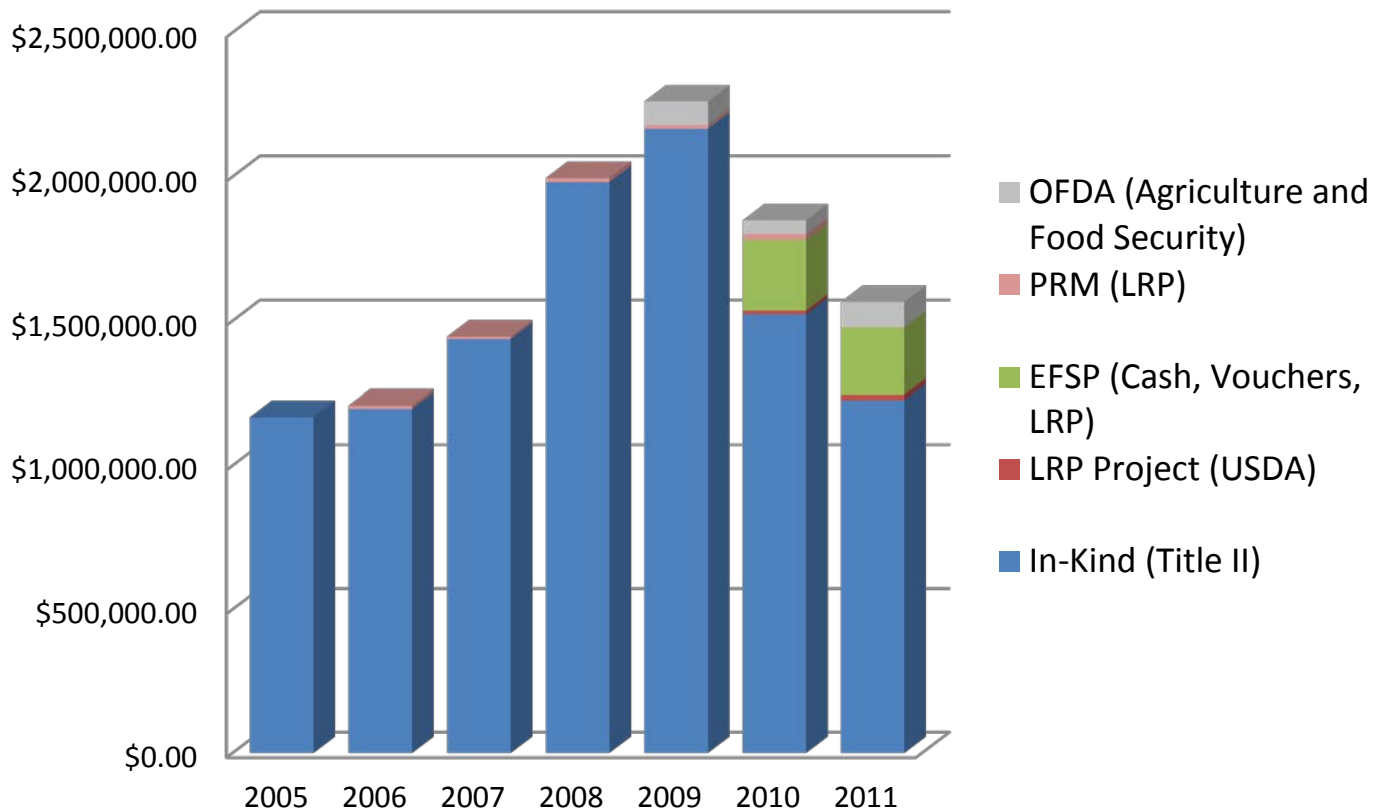
Humanitarian food aid 2001–2012, by source (MT)



Source: WFP-FAIS

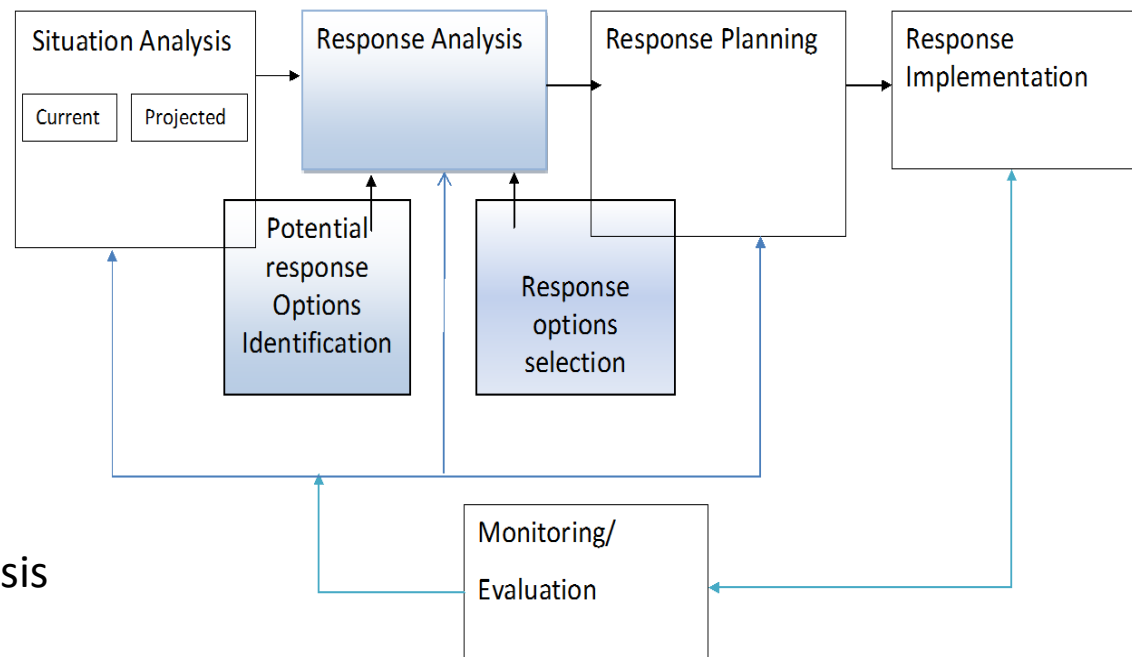
# Changing Donor Resources

**U.S. International Emergency Food Assistance Funding by Program Type, FY2005-2011**



# What is Response Analysis?

- *“Link between situational analysis and program design”* (IPC)
- *“The analytical process by which the objectives and modality of program response options are determined, and potentially harmful consequences are minimized”* (Study Team definition)



Situating Response Analysis  
(FAO 2011)

# Factors Shaping Response Choice

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- **Situational analysis**

- Needs assessments
- Causal analysis
- Projection/forecast

- **Feasibility analysis**

- Market assessment
- Donor resources
- Organizational capacity
- Partner agency capacity
- Government policy
- Access and security
- Timeliness
- Record of past programs
  - M&E records/ Lessons learned
- Logistics
- Cost of compliance
- Influence of large agencies
- Conditionality/targeting considerations

- **Internal context**

- Organizational considerations
  - Mandate and mission
  - Objectives in field
  - Capacity and skill set

- **Appropriateness considerations**

- Internal comparison of response options
- External analysis of gaps in response
- Risk assessment/prevention of unintended consequences
  - Market distortion risks
  - Staff security and safety
  - Recipient community security
  - Risk of theft, diversion, or corruption
  - Reputational/legal risks to agency
  - Do no harm analysis
- Cost effectiveness
- Assessment of recipient preferences
- Evidence of post-distribution dynamics

# Response Analysis: The “Road Map”

(Baseline Vulnerability)



## Needs assessment

- Prevalence (who, how many, how severe?)
- “Gap” (how much, how long?)
- Spatial/temporal dimension (where, when?)

## Causal analysis

- Underlying causes (why?)
- Trends (direction over time?)

Situation Analysis

## 1<sup>st</sup> Order Response Options

1. Assistance to protect consumption? (Food assistance)
2. Assistance to protect nutritional status (Nutrition support)
3. Assistance to protect income/production? (Livelihoods support)
4. Other forms of support?(Water, health)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Order Options

General food distribution  
Market (cash/voucher)

SFP/TFP; IYCF; micro-nutrient programs

LH assistance/resilience  
Assets protection

Other

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Order Options

Conditionality  
Targeting

Fairs or shop-based

Food/nutrition products

Food basket/ value of transfer

Response Analysis

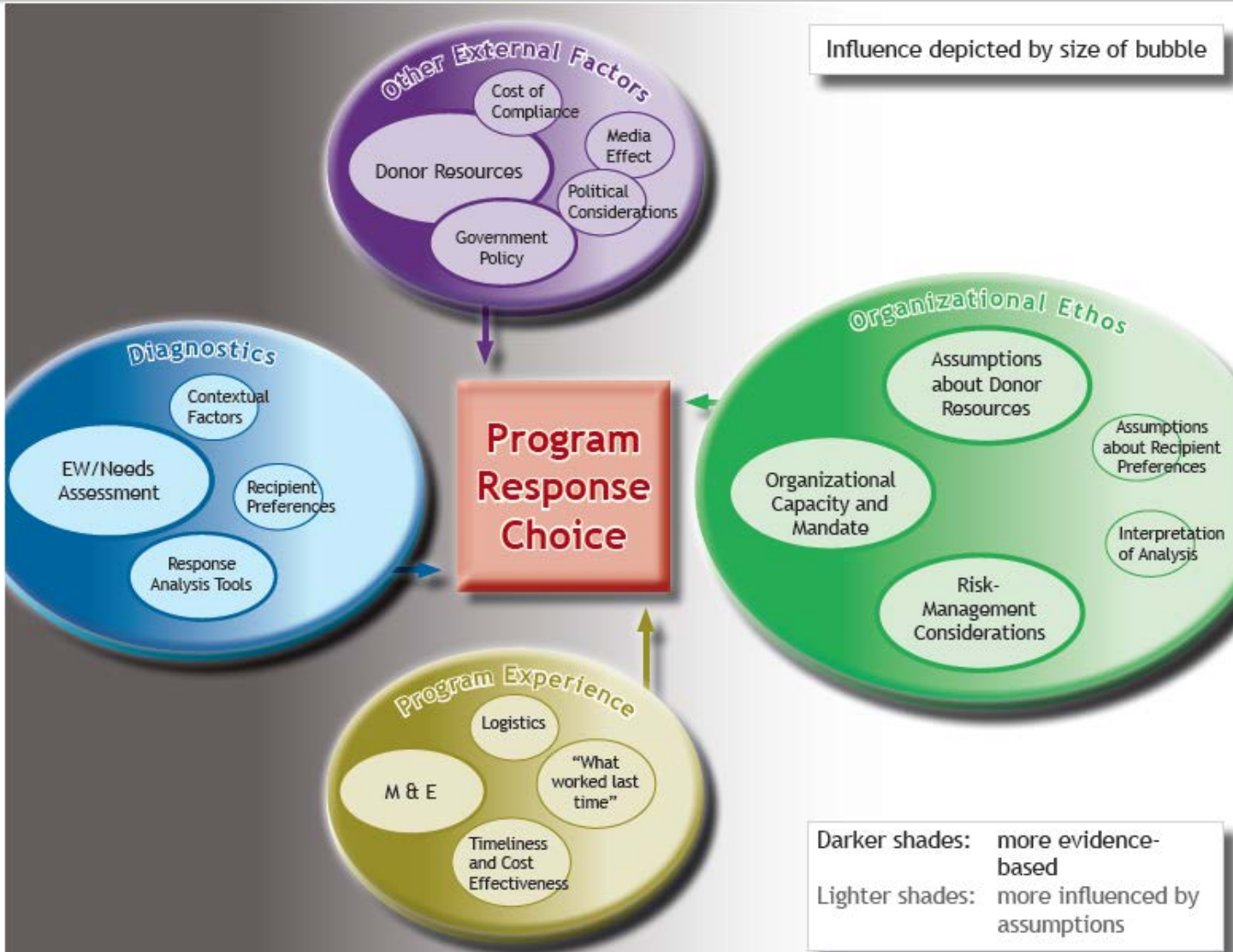
## Cross-Cutting Considerations

Procurement (LRP)	Access/security	Capacity	Recipient preference	Logistics
Government policy	Partnerships	Risk assessment	Lessons learned/ M&E	Gender

Proposal Writing/ Detailed Program Design

Program Design

# Factors shaping response choice: Importance and influence of evidence





# Response Analysis: Next Steps

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## **So what? Are programs more “evidence-based”**

- Lots of different kinds of “evidence”
- Clearly more than just needs assessment
- Response analysis tools are based more on logical analysis than empirical analysis
- A good, empirical data base about “what works best under what conditions?” is still not a reality
- More research needed—by both agencies and donors required—beginning from situational analysis and response choice but looking at implementation/management and especially impact



# Feinstein International Center

Strengthening the humanity and dignity of people in crisis through knowledge

## *HPN published our paper on this research*

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## Network Paper

### Response analysis and response choice in food security crises: a roadmap

Commissioned and published by the Humanitarian Practice Network at ODI

**Daniel Maxwell, Heather Stobaugh, John Parker and Megan McGlinchy**

**HPN**  
Humanitarian Practice Network  
International Policy Centre

**In brief**

- The range of response options available to deal with food security crises has increased significantly, requiring more choices on the part of implementing agencies. While significant effort has gone into planning needs assessments and situation analysis to inform programme response choices, there is still often a disconnect between the kind of information typically provided by assessments and the kind of information that response choice requires.
- Many agencies are attempting to diversify and refine response strategies, and a number of tools have been developed to facilitate the process of response analysis. However, from one vantage point, there is little in the way of consensus among them and certainly no overall 'roadmap' to help field staff understand the overall process of response analysis, and determine which tools to use, much less how to use them effectively.
- This Network Paper provides guidance to decision-makers by presenting response analysis and the overall process of response choice from several different perspectives. This is not a prescriptive tool. Rather, it is an in-depth discussion of the process of making an appropriate response choice, and an analysis of the most important factors involved in that choice.

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