

# Effectiveness of economic development interventions in humanitarian settings in low- and middle-income countries: a mixed-methods systematic review

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# ◆ OUTLINE

- ◆ WHY THIS REVIEW
- ◆ RATIONALE
- ◆ USING A MID LEVEL THEORY (MLT) APPROACH
- ◆ OUTCOME CATEGORIES
- ◆ PRELIM FINDINGS
- ◆ GAPS AND FUTURE RESERACH

## ◆ WHY THIS REVIEW

- ❖ CEDIL setup to identify and address important gaps in evidence synthesis to inform more effective policy
- ❖ The Centre has developed a middle-level theories approach to explain how programmes work in a plurality of contexts and how interventions can be designed and adapted to novel contexts.
- ❖ Identified evidence gap on economic interventions providing economic opportunities to populations affected by humanitarian crisis.
  - *Focus on transition from relief to sustainable development.*
  - *Programmes with potential of restoring **economic independence, dignity, and self-reliance***

## ◆ RATIONALE

### Humanitarian settings

*natural disasters* (broadly classified as biologic, climate-related, or geophysical) and *political unrest and armed conflicts*.

*In these settings, new economic opportunities → restore livelihoods and facilitate creation of new integrated communities*

**Programs** must be designed effectively to meet specific needs of target populations

**Populations** require developing **new skills, training** and economic opportunities leading to **self-reliance** and develop **new livelihoods** to rebuild lives in the aftermath of the crisis

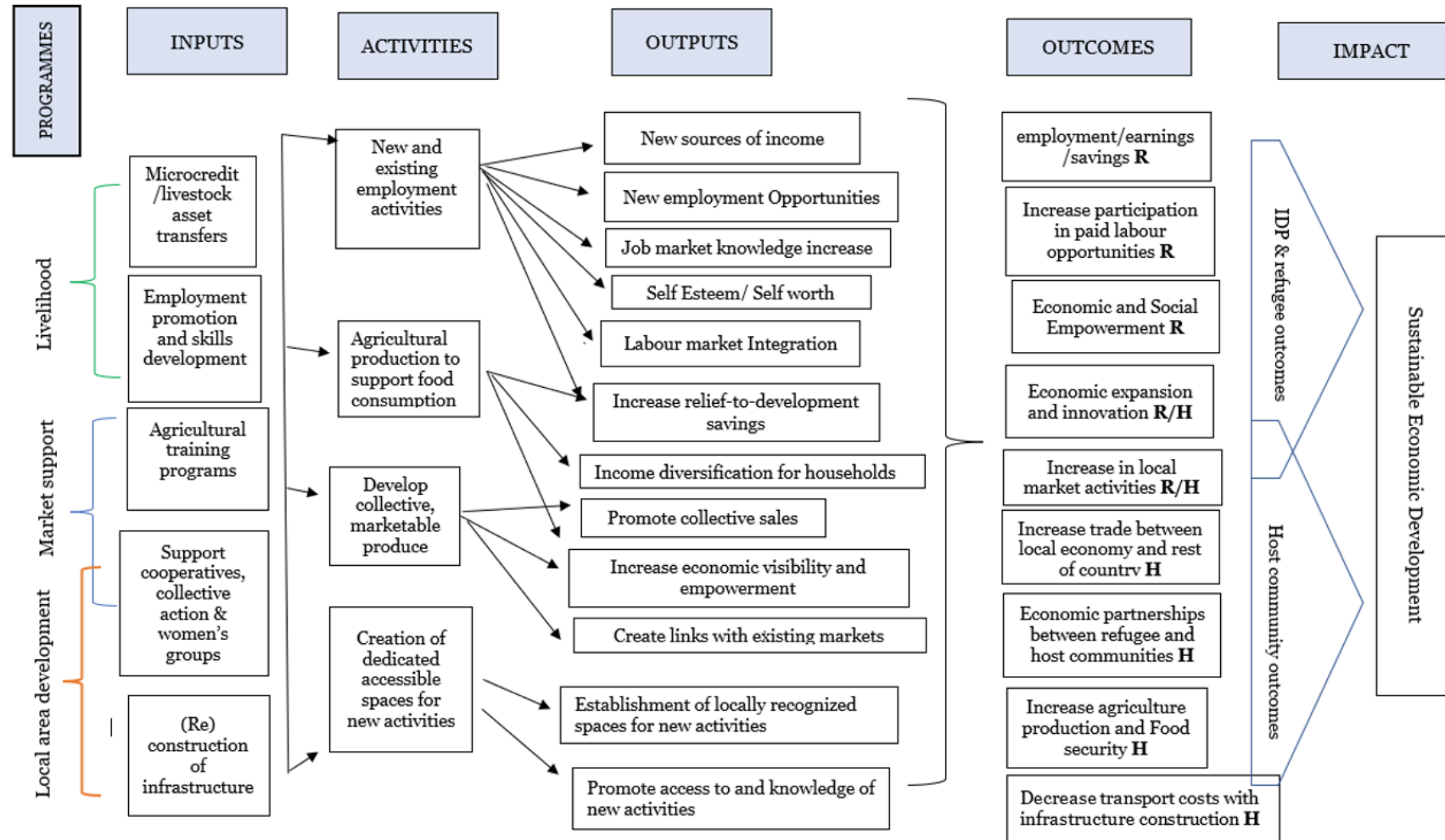
## ◆ MID-LEVEL THEORY APPROACH TO CAUSAL PROCESS

This review cuts across different humanitarian settings and populations

MLT (causal process Theory of Change) appropriate framework to identify causal pathways to impact which are transferable across different humanitarian settings and draw from the existing evidence

Important for understanding how interventions generate sustainable impacts.

# MLT: A CAUSAL PROCESS THEORY OF CHANGE



Legenda: **R** indicates intended outcomes for Refugees (both post-conflict and natural disaster affected populations). **H** indicates outcomes that are likely to affect the Host populations

## ◆ ASSUMPTIONS

Availability of facilities for training.

Accessible and context appropriate content of training.

Knowledge of local needs and trading practices for (re)construction of infrastructure.

Market knowledge for the timely sale of produce.

Access to natural capital or other assets required for productive activities.

Promotion of job opportunities through adequate communication.

Advertisement of new skilled workforce to facilitate integration in the labour market.

Social capital for procurement and marketing channels.

No political obstacles to new businesses, e.g. licensing requirements and harassment by authorities.

Mobility of refugees and IDPs.  
Attitudes towards investment in new job opportunities.  
Improved physical and mental health post-disaster.

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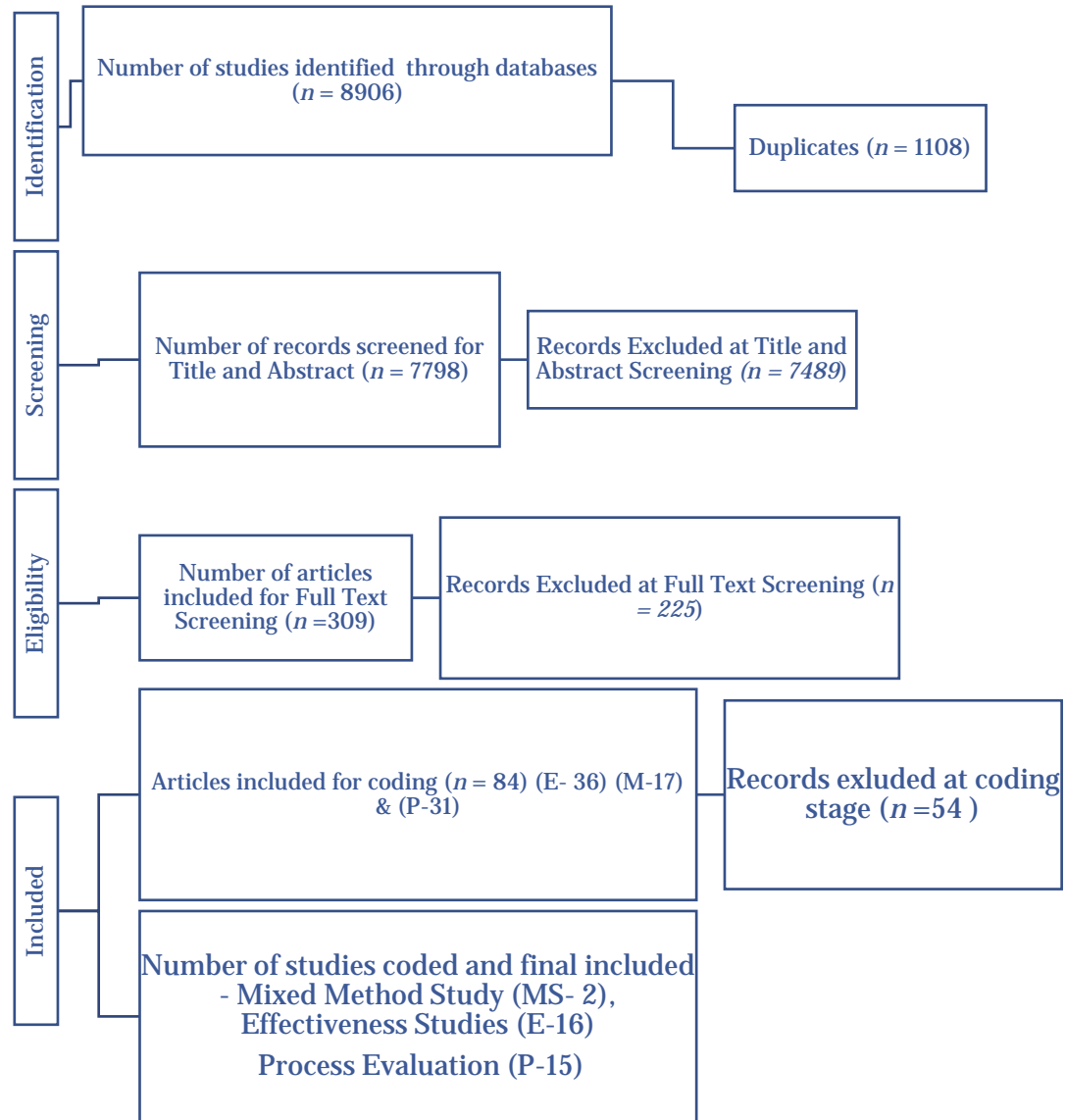
# ◆ OUTCOME CATEGORIES

Outcome category	Examples
Economic outcomes	Income, poverty, employment, earnings, and savings Economic empowerment, Economic stability (e.g., livestock/animal assets, reduced credit), Economic recovery, Market system
Food Security and nutrition	Food security (e.g., dietary diversity, <u>macro</u> and micronutrient intake), Child nutritional status.
Mental health and Psycho-Social Health	Mental Health (Anxiety, Depression, and stress)  Psycho- Social Health (Self-esteem and self-worth; Psychosocial wellbeing, Self-confidence, Investment behaviour; attitudes to refugee populations; social cohesion.)
<u>Physical Health</u>	Physical Health (Morbidity, Mortality)
Others	Language skills

# STUDY DESIGNS

- *Process evaluations and qualitative studies*
- *Effectiveness evaluations (RCT and QE)*
- *Mixed methods studies*

# ◆ PRISMA



## ◆ VERY PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

- ❖ Overall effect size of economic interventions on economic outcomes positive and significant
- ❖ Studies with livelihood programs have largest positive effects
- ❖ The overall effect size social outcomes is small (not statistically significant)

## ◆ MODERATOR ANALYSIS (PRELIMINARY)

<u>Average effect size</u>	<b>Coeff.</b>	<b>Std. err.</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>P&gt;t</b>	<b>[95% conf. interval]</b>	
<u>Ln(GDP_PPP)</u>	<b>0.20</b>	0.04	5.59	0.00	0.11	0.29
ROB	<b>0.77</b>	0.07	11.49	0.00	0.60	0.94
Program duration ( <u>months</u> )	<b>0.02</b>	0.00	8.25	0.00	0.01	0.02
Setting (1= <u>conflict affected</u> )	<b>0.81</b>	0.09	8.71	0.00	0.57	1.04
Type of control (1 = Active)	<b>0.27</b>	0.10	2.64	0.05	0.01	0.53
Constant	<b>-5.89</b>	0.94	-6.27	0.00	-8.30	-3.47

	<u>Number of obs</u>	11
REML estimate of between-study variance	<u>tau2</u>	0.003
% <u>residual variation due to heterogeneity</u>	<u>I-squared_res</u>	47.92%
Proportion of between-study variance explained	<u>Adj R-squared</u>	96.74%
Joint test for all covariates	<u>Model F(5,5)</u>	36.62
<u>With Knapp-Hartung modification</u>	<u>Prob &gt; F</u>	0.0006

## ◆ SUMMARY

- ❖ First Mixed method SR on econ intervention in humanitarian settings
- ❖ Novelty of combining causal pathways for common needs across populations in different humanitarian situations
- ❖ Very limited/no literature on impact on host population (CEDIL funded SHARPE exception)
- ❖ Where do we go from here?

# Thank you.

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