**WORKSHEET 4: KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

Before going to speak to key informants, check local news sources to find out whether there have been any notable events or changes in the area that may be affecting food prices. Many things can affect food prices, including: abnormal weather patterns in the area or elsewhere in the foodshed (drought, above normal rainfall, etc.), new policies or recent enforcement of regulations affecting commodities, sudden changes to transportation infrastructure, dock workers on strike affecting food imports, changes in supply or demand, among other things.

Key informants can be market heads or chiefs, knowledgeable traders, local government officials, or community leaders.

Suggested questions for investigating each topic are below. Not all questions may be necessary depending on the situation.

**5.1 Intervention** (note to analyst: be careful not to ask leading questions. Look for whether the changes correspond to the timing of the intervention and commodities involved)

* + Since when have you noted changes in the market compared to normal?
  + What have the changes been?

***What are you looking for?*** *Without asking leading questions which would prompt a key informant to pin price changes on the intervention, you are looking for whether the timing of the intervention corresponds to changes in prices.*

**5.3 Supply shocks**

* Have there been recent events affecting the levels of food supply in the market? Which commodities have been affected?
* Have production levels of [specific commodity] changed from what is normal during this time of year?
* Have there been any disruptions in the supply chain for food coming to this market?
* Has the number of traders operating in or supplying this market changed?

***What are you looking for?*** *The answers to these questions should give you information on whether there have been sudden changes in the supply/availability of the commodity(ies) in question, causing changes in prices.*

**5.4 Demand shocks**

* Have there been recent events that have affected the food demand levels within this market? (Probe for: **increased** demand due to sudden population increase, local crop failure, increased prices of substitute commodities, OR **decreased** demand due to difficulty accessing the market, conflict, outmigration, or lost livelihoods/income.)
* If demand has increased, do traders think they can build up supplies to meet the demand increase?

***What are you looking for?*** *The answers to these questions should give you information on whether there have been sudden changes in the demand of the commodity(ies) in question, causing changes in prices, and whether the market actors will be able to meet the change in demand.*

**5.5 Trader capacity/actions**

* Actions: competition amongst traders (*aimed at market head/chief, not necessarily directed at traders themselves*)
  + Have there been any changes to the number of traders operating in or supplying this market? *(a reduction in the number of traders might make collusion easier)*
  + Are you aware of any cooperation amongst traders to set prices for [specific commodity]?
* Trader capacity (*directed to traders of the commodity under question*)
  + Has your access to credit or capital changed such that it has affected the amount of supply you are able to bring into the market?
  + Have there been any other changes in your operations that have affected your capacity to do business?
* Volumes of sales *(directed to traders to assess whether demand has changed)*
  + Have your sales volumes changed recently? What do you think has caused any changes in the volumes of your sales?

***What are you looking for?*** *These questions should help determine whether traders are colluding to set prices, and whether they are able to meet the demand of the market.*

**5.7 Policies**

* Has this market been affected by any new policies that have changed supply, increased prices, altered regulations, etc?
* For traders: has your stock or supply chain been affected by this policy? Is it more difficult to obtain or keep stock now?

***What are you looking for?*** *You trying to find out if there have been any changes in regulations or other policies that have affected traders, supply chains, etc.*

**5.8 Inflation rates**

* How has inflation rate changed lately?
* Has it had an effect in this market on food prices?
* Are prices changes commensurate with national inflation rates?

***What are you looking for?*** *Investigate whether key informants attribute any price changes in the market to overall inflation rates in the country.*

**5.9 Currency exchange rates**

* Has the exchange rate changed significantly in the past {six months}?
* Have changes in exchange rates been affecting food prices in this market?

***What are you looking for?*** *These questions should inform whether interviewees view the exchange rate as a factor in changing prices.*

**5.10 Fuel prices**

* Have recent changes in fuel prices affected food prices in this market?

***What are you looking for?*** *Key informants may be able to estimate whether fuel price increases or decreases have altered prices in the market under question.*