

# Cross-border fish traders and food security

My project investigates the effects of the COVID-19 crisis on cross-border fish trade and how this threatens food security in Africa.

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## ABSTRACT

Informal cross-border trade is an important feature of African countries and plays a major role in improving food security by supplying cheap foods to food-deficit areas (ICTSD, 2018). Fish is a direct source of proteins and micronutrients and is considered as “rich food for poor people” (Béné and Heck, 2005).

## CONTEXT

- African countries are facing large increases in the overall number of acutely hungry people.
- Policy measures against the spread of COVID-19 include border closures and taxes on imports and exports, making cross-border trade often impossible.
- Lockdown, curfew and sanitary measures have reduced fishing activity in coastal African countries.



Fig. 1: Fish trade channels in and from Ghana before COVID-19. Source: Ayilu et al, 2016.



Fig. 2: Women fish traders selling smoked fish in Sekondi market, Ghana. Credit: Anna Fawcus from Ayilu et al, 2016.

## RESEARCH QUESTION

In what ways can the COVID-19 crisis highlight the important contribution of Ghanaian cross-border fish traders to food security?

## AIM OF THE STUDY

With a focus on gender and the urban poor, I explore the different impacts of the crisis on local populations. The aim is to reveal the importance of cross-border fish trade when borders are open.

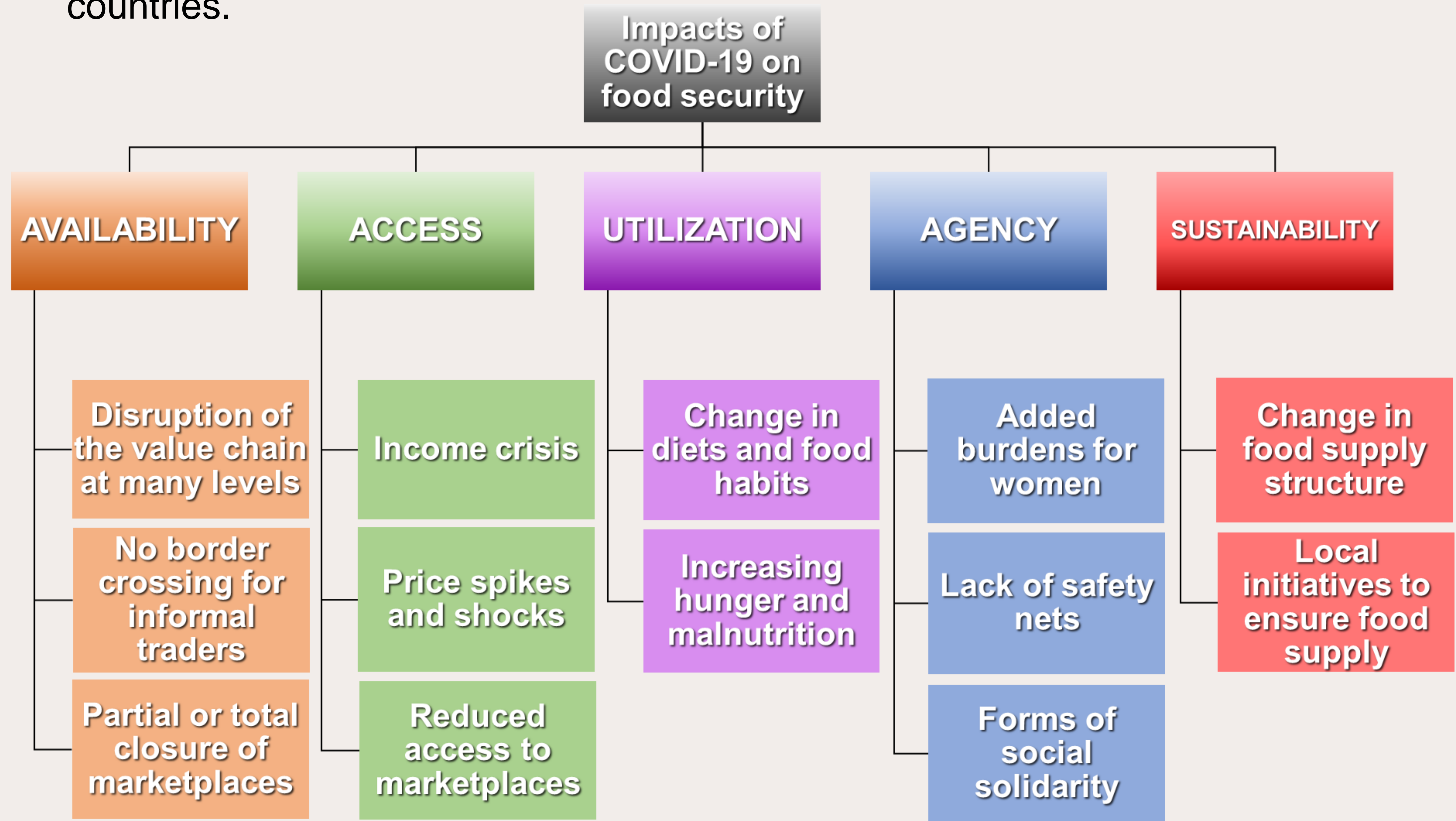


Fig. 3: Preliminary results from newspapers articles, reports and webinars analyses. Availability, access, utilization, agency and sustainability are the five dimensions of food security used in the conceptual framework.

## METHODS

- Content analysis of journal articles and grey literature sources (reports, newspapers, webinars, etc.)
- Digital surveys
- Digital interviews
- Fieldwork in Ghana and Togo (?)

## REFERENCES

Ayilu, R. K., Antwi-Asare, T. O., Anoh, P., Tall, A., Aboya, N., Chimatiro, S. and Dedi, S. (2016) *Informal artisanal fish trade in West Africa: Improving cross-border trade*. WorldFish.  
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