



UGANDA RED CROSS SOCIETY

National Headquarters: Plot 551/555 Rubaga Road P.O. Box 494, Kampala. UGANDA.



Decision Support Systems

Forecast Based Financing for Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation.

PRESENTED BY
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Uganda Red Cross Society Brief

- *Largest indigenous humanitarian organisation in Uganda.*
- *Auxilliary to the government.*
- *Mandated by the government to play a key role in Disaster management cycle.*
- *Started in 1964 as a majorly relief organisation.*
- *Today, widen our scope to include disaster development with disaster risk redcution projects accross the high risk communities in Uganda.*
- *We bring innovation and creativity to disaster management interventions.*



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Forecast Based Financing:

- Worldwide investments in disaster risk reduction (DRR) have shown tremendous returns when compared to losses and expenses that have been avoided after a hazard strikes. However, humanitarian and development organizations currently invest only in DRR actions to reduce *long-term* risk of disaster, such as livelihood diversification or structural modifications to the environment.
- Beyond these programs, other *shorter-term* actions that can be taken to enhance both institutional preparedness (such as prepositioning stocks) as well as community preparedness (Such as temporal livestock shifting out of a floodplain or even temporal granaries raised in flood plains) that could drastically reduce the impact of a hazard before it occurs.

However, these actions are routinely overlooked, and disaster response is only scaled up after the hazard strikes.



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Science-based forecasts of rainfall and temperature:

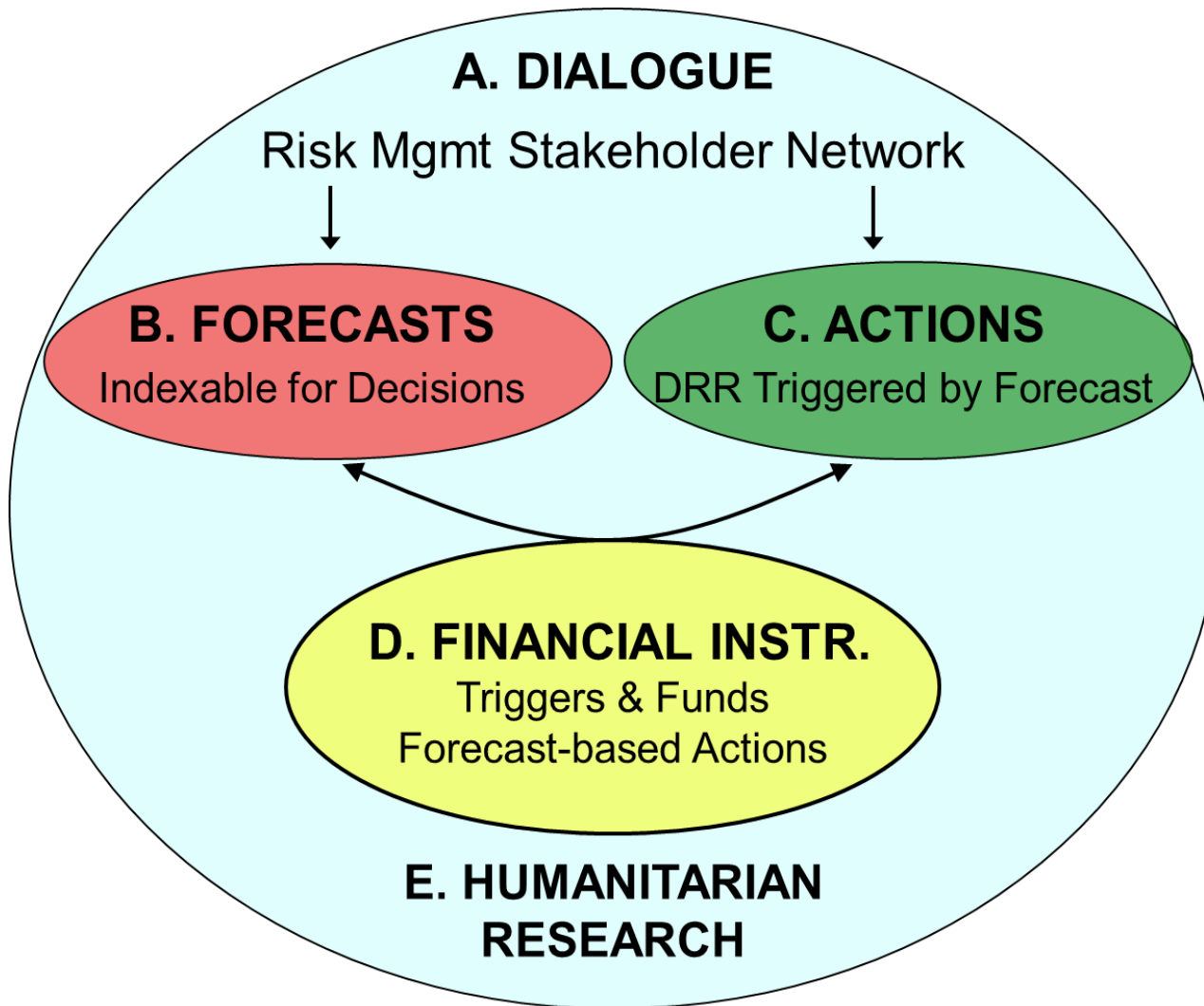
A Memorandum of Understanding between URCS and National Meteorological Authority. The Met office provides URCS with these forecasts that indicate a heightened risk of disaster occurrence. These forecasts can anticipate extreme events, and also act as an alert to us and the community.

We know that Climate and weather services enable forecasting at different timescales (imminent storm warnings, seasonal rainfall forecasts based on El Niño, etc.), yet the humanitarian sector vastly underutilizes this knowledge in its efforts to reduce losses among the most vulnerable.



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Anticipatory humanitarian action:

After a forecast is issued, taking these short-term actions can save lives and livelihoods. However, the challenge is that the hazard occurrence is a probability which is not 100%.

Humanitarian actors could then be reluctant to invest based on a forecast, for fear of occasionally *acting in vain*.

However, there are many inexpensive short-term, cost-effective actions which could save money, time, and livelihoods after a disaster.



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Partnerships:

We are implementing this with the support of the German Red Cross (funding from Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development through the German Red Cross with a full six year budget of 2.2 million EUR..

Technical assistance from the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre who have supported the development of the Standard operating procedures, SOPs.

We also have an MoU with the National Meteorological Authority that supply us with the forecasts that also act as the triggers for the necessary short term actions to be under taken.



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The Preparedness Fund:

- A funding mechanism for the anticipated humanitarian actions.
- Funds disbursed ahead of the anticipated disaster occurrence to support the implementation of the agreed actions.
- Science based fore-casts act as the triggers for the actions to be undertaken.
- A total of 100,000 EUR has been allocated for this as the preparedness fund but specific to the targeted regions implementing the Climate Change Adaptation project i.e. Teso and Karamoja sub regions.



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.....The Preparedness Fund:

- We hope to generate evidence for the improved effectiveness of humanitarian programming which invests both in long-term DRR actions as well as short-term forecast-based actions.
- The process began by defining all possible DRR actions; then divided according to long-term planning or short-term forecast-based actions, thus sharpening the traditional long-term DRR analysis.
- These predefined actions are used to develop robust *standard operating procedures* (SOPs) that link each type of forecast with suitable action. Forecasts with more certainty (ie: imminent flood warning) can be linked to more difficult or expensive actions than more general seasonal forecasts.



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- **Main Hazards** in the targeted region: water logging, flash flooding and prolonged dry spells.

The **Climate Change Adaptation project** works with communities on long term DRR measures (Diversified agricultural production, access to water and natural resource management)

WHILE

The **Preparedness fund** will be a mechanism to prevent disaster losses arising from the hazards.



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Examples of Early actions:

<p>Forecast: Likely that the next 3 MONTHS will be unusually wet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Obtain emergency food and water supplies•Eliminate malaria breeding sites•Recruit and train volunteers	<p>Forecast: Heavy rainfall possible in the next WEEK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Train volunteers on flood protocol•Transport emergency kits to rural locations•Train communities on hygiene for water-borne disease	<p>Forecast: Rain likely in next few HOURS; high water upstream</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Develop beneficiary targeting and registration system•Provide basic medical supplies to clinics•Move supplies to most at-risk locations
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- This type of **preparedness fund** is important in a changing climate where intensity and frequency is expected to get worse.
- The Red Cross has an active presence in vulnerable communities across the world and we aim to bring new creative ways of dealing with risks.
- Given this growing demand under human and financial resource constraints, the humanitarian sector cannot successfully manage rising climate risks using “business as usual” approaches.
- A climate-smart, more cost-effective risk reduction approach is needed to link science-based forecasts with adaptive early action to enhance resilience in the most vulnerable communities.



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THANK YOU