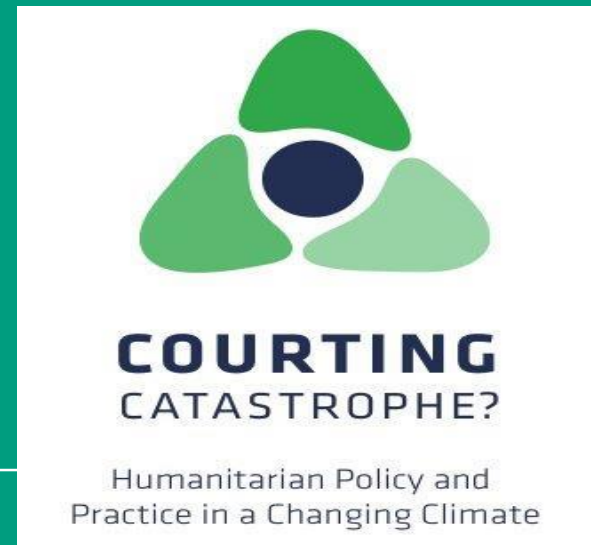


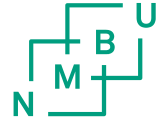
Preparing for uncertainties – moving from crisis response to emergency preparedness

Ruth Haug

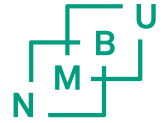
December 2016



Conflicts and Climate change cause increased need for humanitarian action



- 65.3 million forced displaced (UNHCR 2016)
- **Last 10 years: From 30 million to 130 million people in need of emergency aid** (OCHA 2016)
- UN get half the humanitarian funds needed (UNHCR 2016)



What is emergency preparedness?

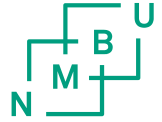
(UNISDR 2016; OCHA 2016)

The knowledge and capacity to

- Anticipate
- Respond to
- Recover from



What is shaping preparedness?



- **Reform the humanitarian system to make it less broke and/or broken:** *Most humanitarian fund is spent on long-lasting crisis, graduation out of relief a big problem, collaboration with authorities limited, little evidence on what works (Talbot & Barder 2016).*
- **Dull disasters – how planning ahead will make a difference:** *Pre-agreed, pre-financed, rules-based plan that can be implemented after disaster without the need for further political decisions (Clarke & Dercon 2016).*
- **Social protection: What does the evidence say?** *Decrease in poverty, improve food security, employment outcomes are unaffected by cash transfer or lead to increase in employment rate (Bastagli et al. 2016).*

Courting catastrophe: Malawi



- **Population:** 16 mill - 85% rural
50% poverty level (NSO, WB)
- **Droughts:** 8 serious between 1967 and 2016
- **Flooding** in 2015: 1,1 million people affected, 336,000 people displaced (EU, GFDRR)
- **Agriculture:** 45% of GDP and 85% of export earnings
- **Climate change** will increase temperature, more droughts and floods, stronger winds and waves (Bellprat et al 2015)

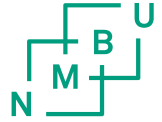


Emergency preparedness the Malawian way: **Policy reform and social protection** (input subsidizes)



IN FAVOR	AGAINST
Demand driven	Not economic viable
Higher yield	Not environmental sustainable
Socially acceptable	Integrated soil fertility should be promoted
Better food security and reduced poverty	Contested impact on food security and poverty reduction
National ownership	Too politicized buy voters
Leakage at acceptable low level	Too high leakage/corruption
Other alternatives few and more costly	Will not solve future challenges (climate change adaptation)

Lessons learned: *Emergency preparedness the Malawian way:*



- From food relief to increased agricultural productivity and improved food security
- Disregarded expert and donor advice
- National ownership, priority and prestige
- Power of voters
- Not an efficient strategy when serious flooding and drought



**COURTING
CATASTROPHE?**

Humanitarian Policy and
Practice in a Changing Climate