


Group discussion: An emerging research and policy agenda

- Conference participants discussed in twos and threes three key questions described in the next slide. The group discussion was facilitated by Ed Carr (rapporteur).
- The points submitted by the groups were summarised by Ed Carr, Lisa Schipper and Siri Eriksen as a starting point for a short plenary discussion
- The points emerging from the discussion are listed in this document

**International Conference: Humanitarian Policy and Practice in a Changing Climate,
1-2 December 2016, Felix Conference Centre, Oslo**

Part of Session 4: Can humanitarian actions create space for transformational change?

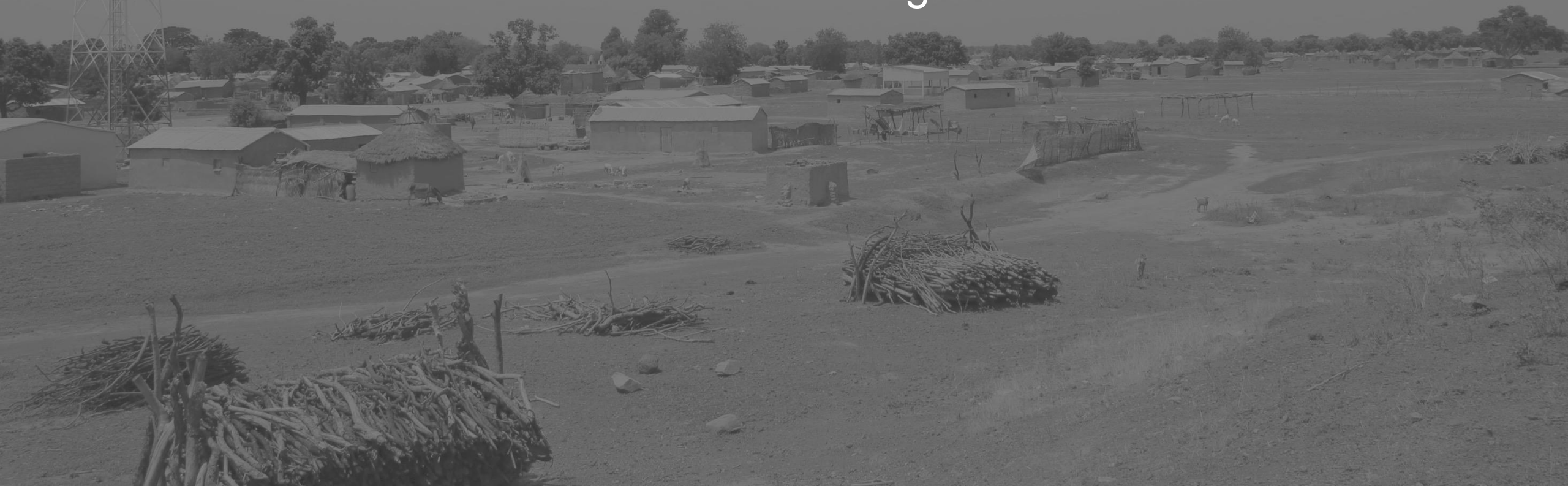


Humanitarian aid and climate change adaptation - where now?

1. What communications/publications should we produce/work on now?
2. What are the key research questions to be addressed, and how?
3. How does the themes of this conference inform larger agendas?

Who are the actors we need to influence?

- Funding agencies
- Researchers – especially to get them to think of research in the context of humanitarian actors and organizations



What publications/communications should we produce/work on now?

General principle: communications should be accessible, but make recommendations where possible

- Research uptake meeting with decision-makers
 - Bringing together findings of all four projects
- Series of media articles on research findings
- Dialogue between research, humanitarian actors, and governments
- Develop audience-specific sets of recommendations
- Communicate findings on where climate change adaptation and mitigation fit into the humanitarian agenda
- Employ some of the games for communication to spread the lessons of the project

What publications/communications should we produce/work on now?

- Article: How does reducing risk free up the local/indigenous development of resilient pathways/livelihoods/etc.?
- Article: How does humanitarian aid produce transformation, whether or not it is intended?
 - What changes does DRR and response catalyze now?
 - Through what pathways are these changes/transformations catalyzed?
- Article: How to work within the constraints of humanitarian response to set up resilient livelihoods and adaptation pathways?
 - How does reducing risk free up the local/indigenous development of resilient pathways/livelihoods/etc.?
- Article: Challenging the resilience agenda
 - Clearly articulate how it can be used productively
 - Warn against its use to keep things the same
 - Warn against its use to make the vulnerable also the responsible

What are the key research questions to be addressed, and how?

- Is the worry about loss of power an underlying reason why we don't transfer lessons better?
- Does opening up space for contestation lead to transformational change?
- Does reducing risk create space for transformational change?
- How do we better engage diverse understandings of root causes of vulnerability?
- How can we productively characterize the tension between long-term focus (new, political) and humanitarian principles (old, neutrality)
 - How can we productively think across long-term and short-term concerns?
- How can we design humanitarian response to avoid maladaptation?
- How can we build greater communication, understanding, and cooperation between humanitarian and development actors?
- How can we operationalize adaptation and mitigation in a manner that contributes to humanitarian/development accountability to affected populations?

How do the themes of this conference inform larger agendas?

- Efforts to avoid maladaptation
- Informing the respective roles of development and humanitarian actors in a changing climate
- Providing evidence for the efficacy of greater funding flexibility that enables work across humanitarian response and development
- Interaction with/informing the revision of Sphere standards to take long-term trajectories into account
- Challenging the resilience agenda
 - Clearly articulate how it can be used productively
 - Warn against its use to keep things the same
 - Warn against its use to make the vulnerable also the responsible
- Inform how humanitarian actors can contribute to the achievement of the SDGs
- Inform how climate agreement-related funds are disbursed, especially under national climate plans