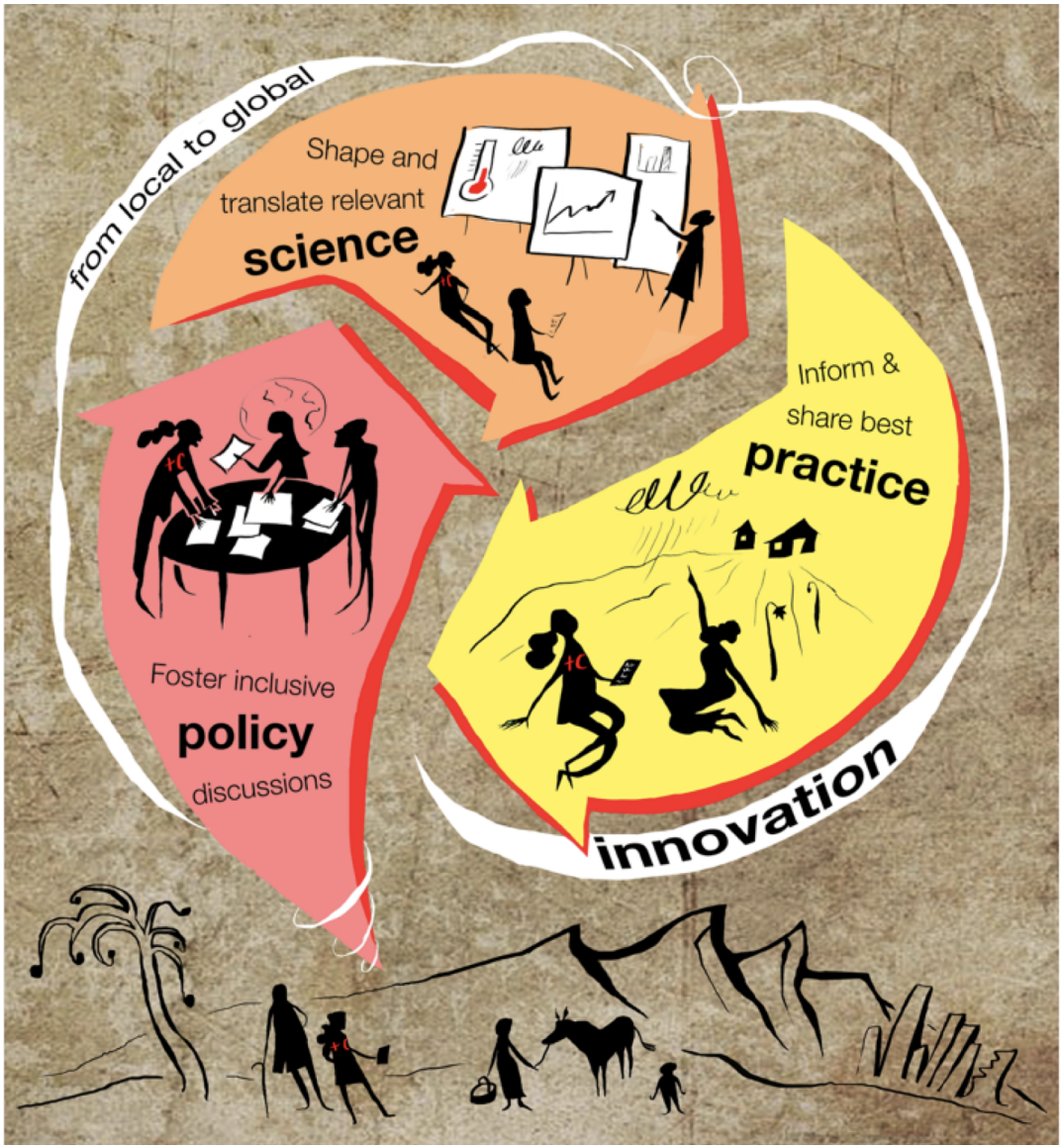
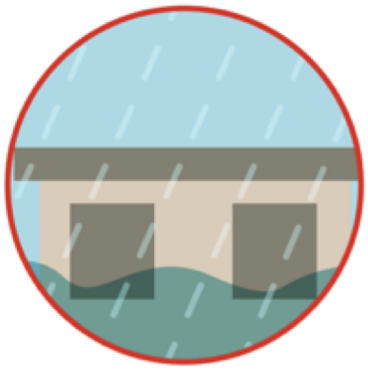
What's the forecast for humanitarian use of forecasting tools?

Rebeka Ryvola, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

Climate Centre



Climate Centre

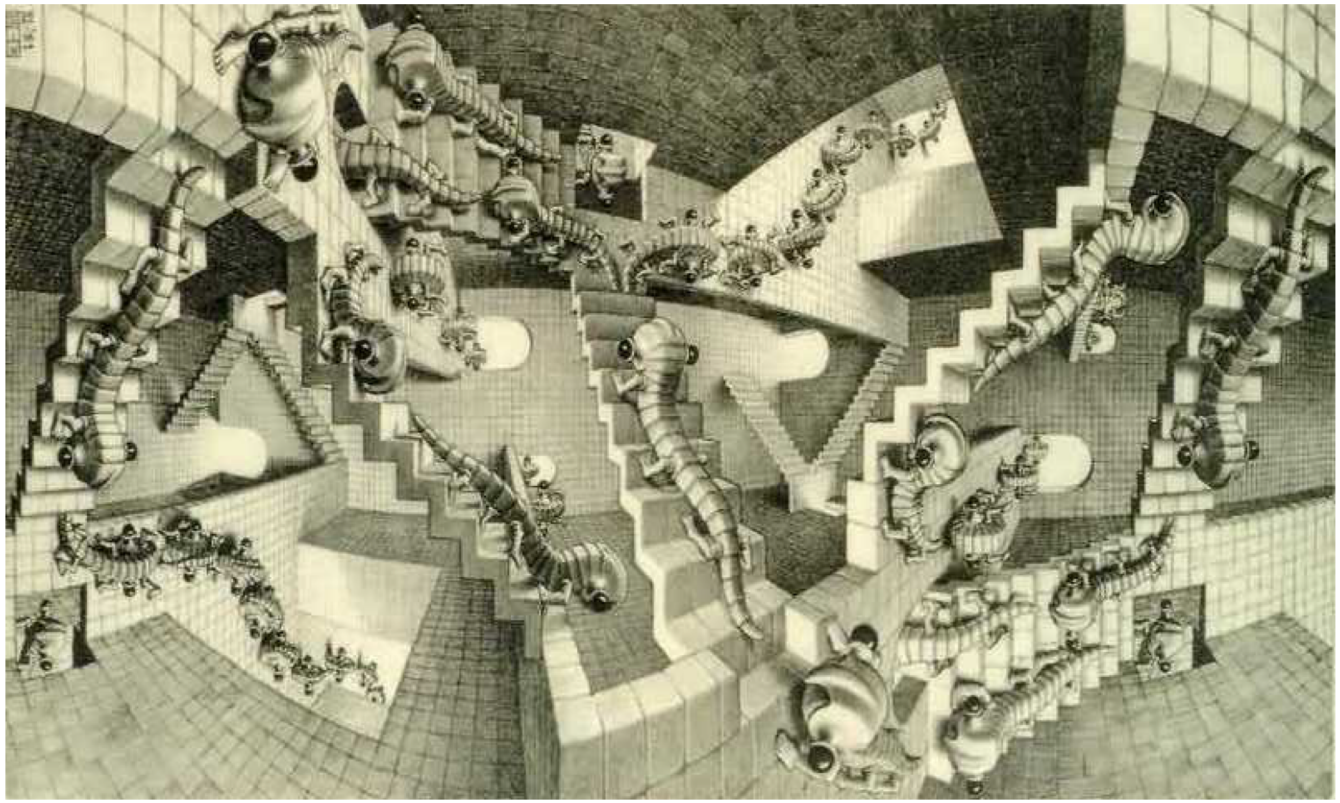


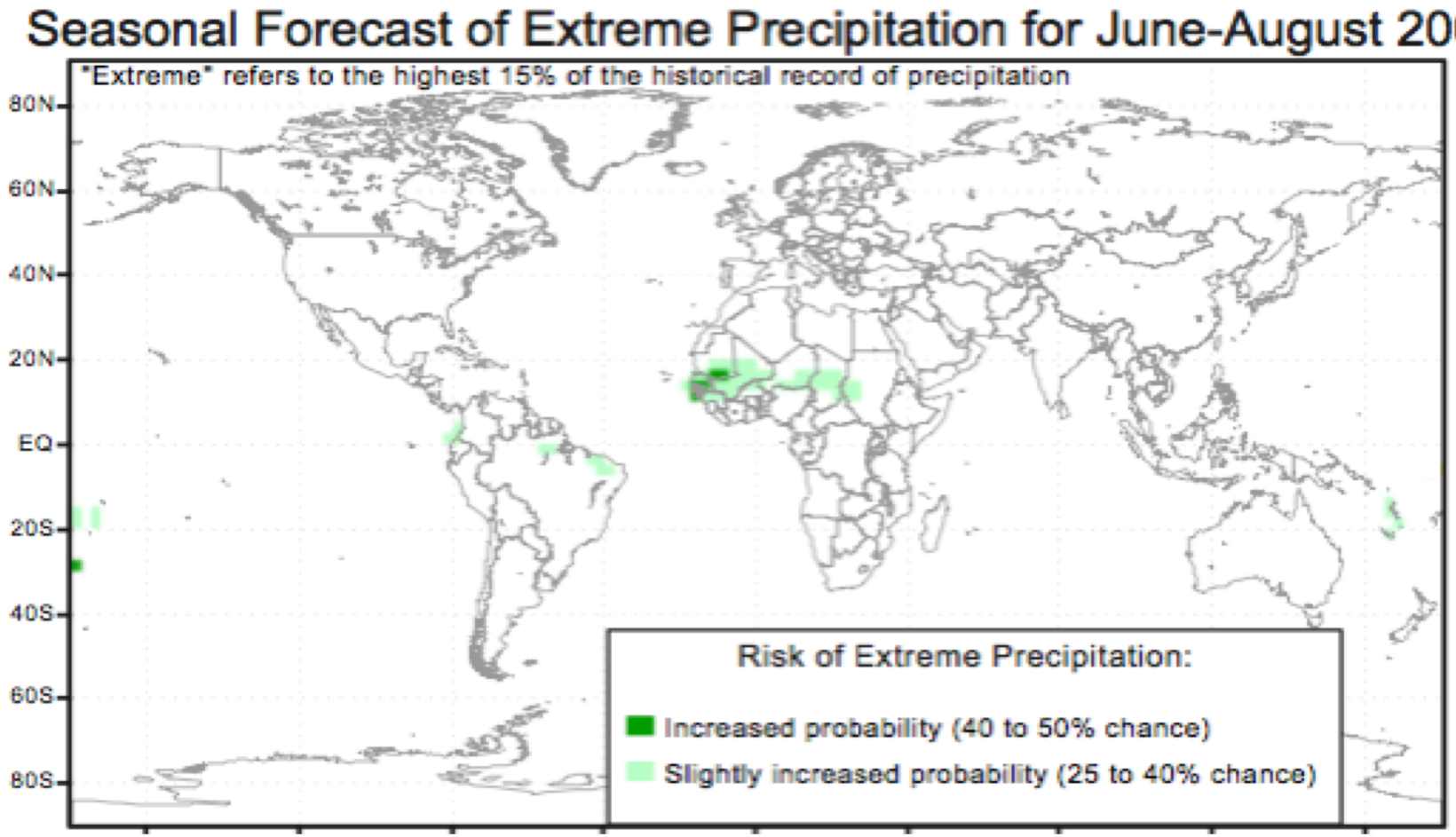
Traditional intervention:
To respond and send funds
once a disaster has occurred.

Early actions
based on forecasts:
To respond before a potential event
using hydrometeorological forecasts.

Paying for Predictions

A game on information, decisions and consequences





Given what we know as of May 15 2008, we can say that, in the areas of West Africa highlighted in the map, there is an enhanced probability of extreme precipitation for the period June-August 2008. In other words, the probability of seeing precipitation that would rank in the top 15% of the historical record is now enhanced to between 40% and 50%".

GROUND RULES

1. **Game = *simplified* representation of reality**
   No questioning of game rules

2. **Decisions are individual**
   But consultation with team is encouraged

3. **You win or lose beans**
   Beans cannot be shared - Start with 10

4. **We will play 10 rounds**

WINNERS & LOSERS

Losers: *Most pompoms (humanitarian crises)*

Winning Player: *Most resources*

Winning Team: *Fewest crises*

If tied: Most Long-Term Investment

Flood Risk Depends on Upstream Rains

Local

Upstream

Flood if 10+

(~16% chance)

YOU

(DISASTER MANAGER)

Long-Term Investment

Stay sitting for no action:
No beans

Early Action

Stand up for flood preparedness:
Pay 1 bean for Early Action

Long Term

(Stay Sitting)

✓

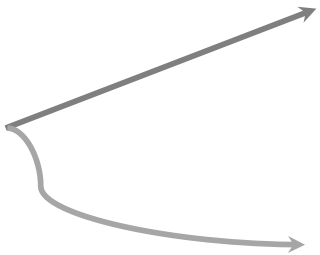
The picture can't be displayed.

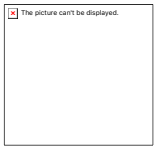
No Flood

Oh No!! (‘Long-Term’ investment reallocated)

Pay 4 – or *CRISIS*

Long Term
(Stay Sitting)

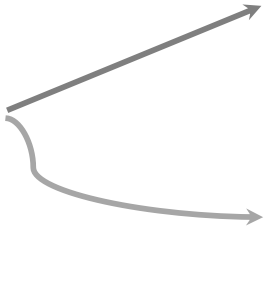




Do Nothing,
No Flood`

Oh No!! (‘Long-Term’ investment reallocated)
Pay 4 – or *CRISIS*

Early Action
(Stand Up – Pay 1)



Act in Vain
(Beans gone)

Hero !

Not enough beans to pay?

Crisis!

(get pompom)

LET'S PLAY!

Two practice rounds

GET A REGIONAL EARLY WARNING?

~Half of provinces will have info about likely rains

- Cost of transparent cup: XX beans

- Highest bidders get the investment

Provinces that get Early Warning can see regional die before decision, throughout game.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- **New dice**
- **Increased unpredictability!**

WHO WINS?

Discussion...

- “What”
- “So what”
- “Now what”
- Other insights …

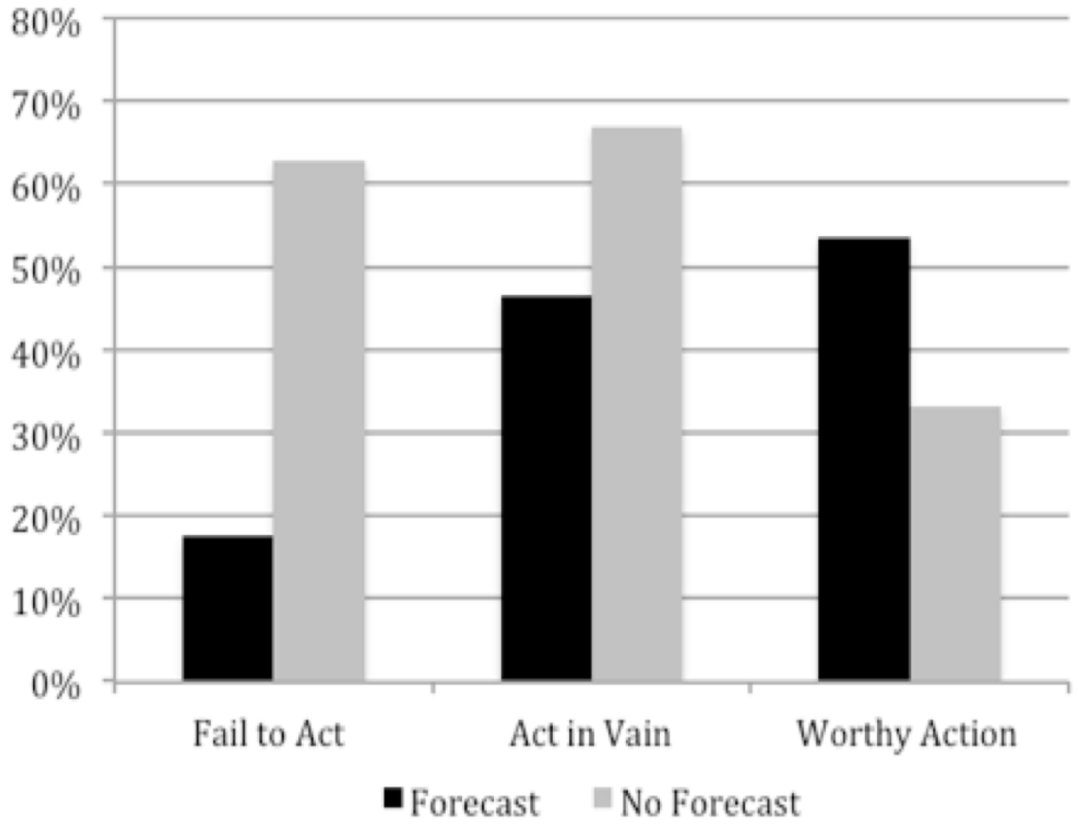


Figure 6: *Gameplay data reveals that participants who had access to the seasonal forecast were significantly less likely to "fail to act" (defined as the proportion of disaster occurrences when inaction was chosen), as well as significantly less significant to "act in vain" (defined as the proportion on instanced of action that were followed by no disaster), while improving proportion of "worthy action".*