



# NOHA WINTER SCHOOL

## Humanitarian – Development Nexus

University of Pavia - Italy  
27 November - 1 December 2017

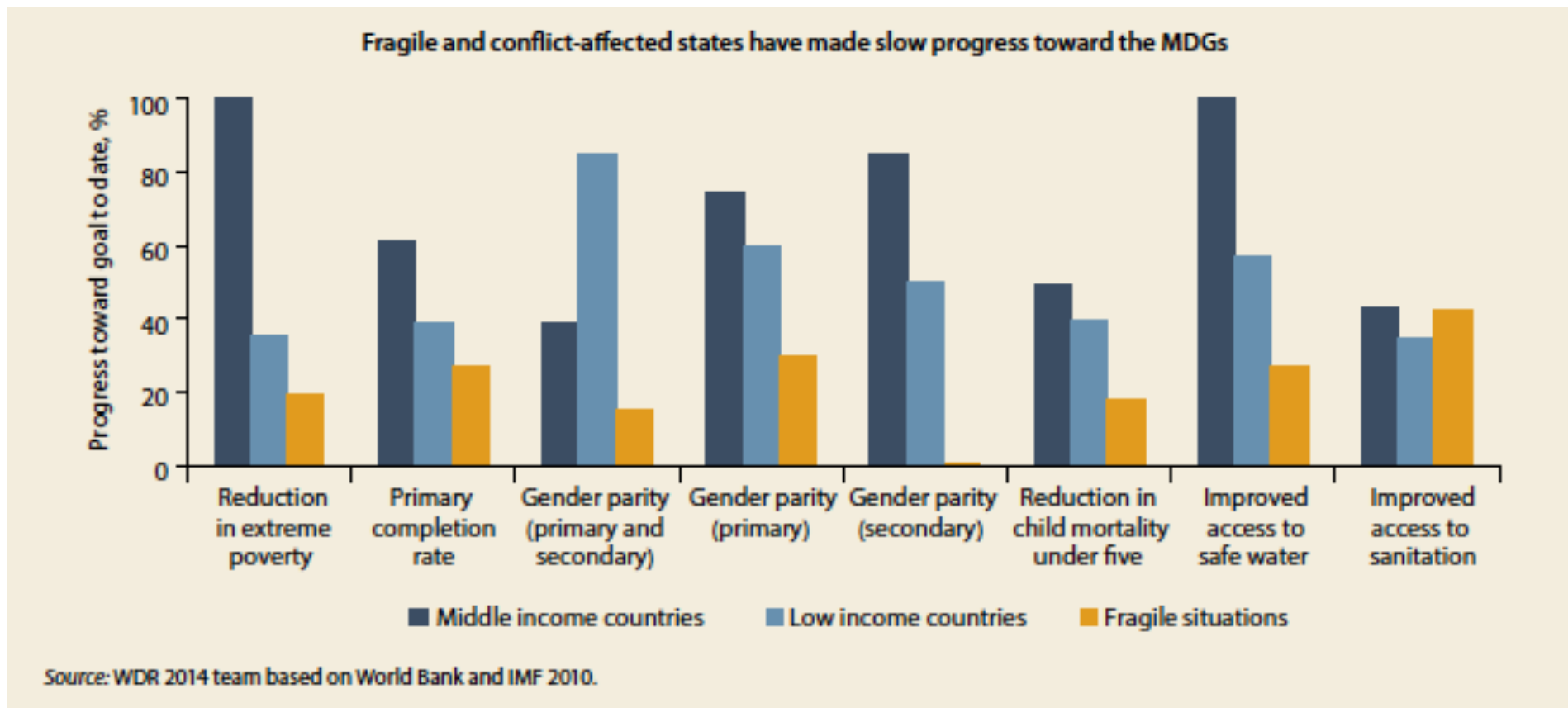
Introduction on the H-D nexus  
concept and debate

# Humanitarian – Development Nexus

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- Revival of a debate focused on Linking Relief Rehabilitation and Development
  - Core idea is the need to link and create synergies between short-term relief measures and longer term development programmes
- Increasing awareness that extreme poverty and crises are connected and that separation between humanitarian and development aid creates conceptual, institutional, financial and programmatic gaps

- Approx. 87% of people living in extreme poverty are in fragile and vulnerable countries



# Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development

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- Concept created during the food crises of middle 80's in Sahelian Africa
- The links between systemic factors – vulnerability –disasters had to be recognised and acted upon
- Humanitarian crisis: an acute phase of a chronic crisis / long-term endemic food crises.

# Background of the revival

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- World Humanitarian Summit (Istanbul 2016)
  - Collective outcomes overcoming HD divide
  - New way of Working
  - Localisation
  - Overstretched resources require a coordinated approach
- Complex / Long term crises linked to conflicts and political processes
  - Early action, crisis prevention/ management
- Major Refugee / migratory Crisis
  - Humanitarian crisis, but focus on root causes
- Risks and disasters linked to the impact of climate change
- Resilience agenda

# The “New Way of Working”

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- “2030 Sustainable Development Goals reference frame for humanitarian and development actors to contribute to a vision of a future where no one is left behind”
- World Humanitarian Summit: “Agenda for humanity” not just meet needs, but working towards reducing people’s level of vulnerability and humanitarian needs
- NWOW: a commitment by the Secretary General, 9 UN Agencies, the WB and others to work together with a “collective outcomes” perspective transcending HD divide
- “Humanitarian principles are immutable (in particular in conflict crises), but respect for the principles and better coordination are not mutually exclusive”

# Collective outcomes

## What does a collective outcome look like?



USE COLLECTIVE OUTCOME AS THE TARGET TO PLAN TOWARDS

## Collective Outcome

Eliminate new cholera outbreaks  
and reduce transmission by x%

MEETING NEEDS AND REDUCING RISKS AND VULNERABILITIES.

Achieving the collective outcome over 3-5 years  
would represent X% progress towards SDG 3.3  
to combat waterborne diseases by 2030.



# HD Nexus and Refugees Crisis

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- Displacement and the needs of displaced people, once conceived mostly in terms of HA, on the development agenda
- Thinking to refugees just in these terms can impede or delay the achievement of sustainable solutions, protracted displacements and dependence on humanitarian assistance.



# Humanitarian / Development aid: a cultural and operational divide?

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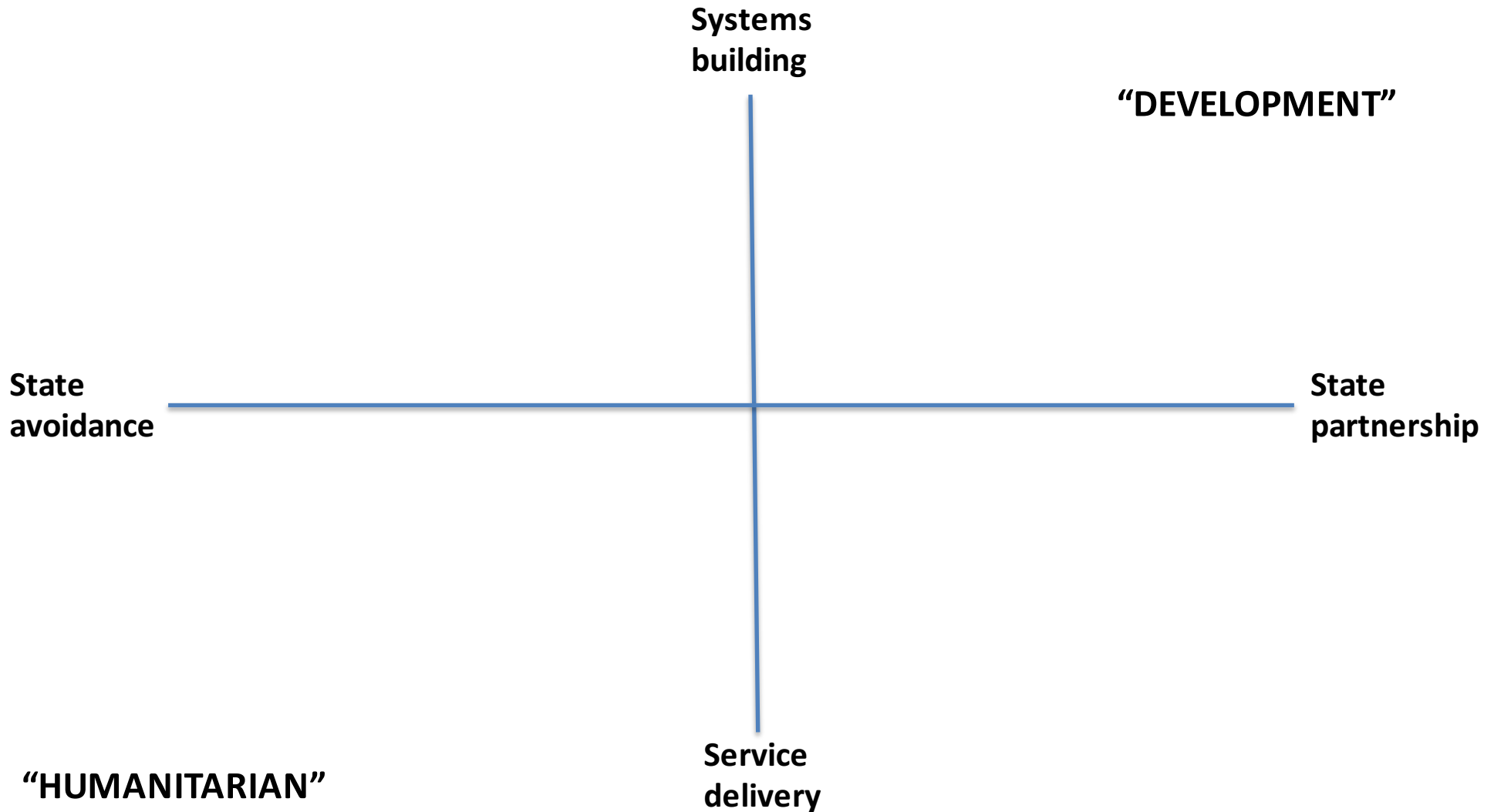
- Humanitarian action

Short term measure: save lives, alleviate suffering, based on the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, service-delivery response, direct hand-out of goods, focus on maximising impact vs. cooperative processes that could weaken the principles, saving lives vs. saving societies

- Development assistance

Long term oriented, reduce poverty, promoting human rights, good governance, civil society ... tends to cooperate with the government, long-term system building, transformative approach

# The traditional spectrum of aid



# Continuum vs. Contiguum

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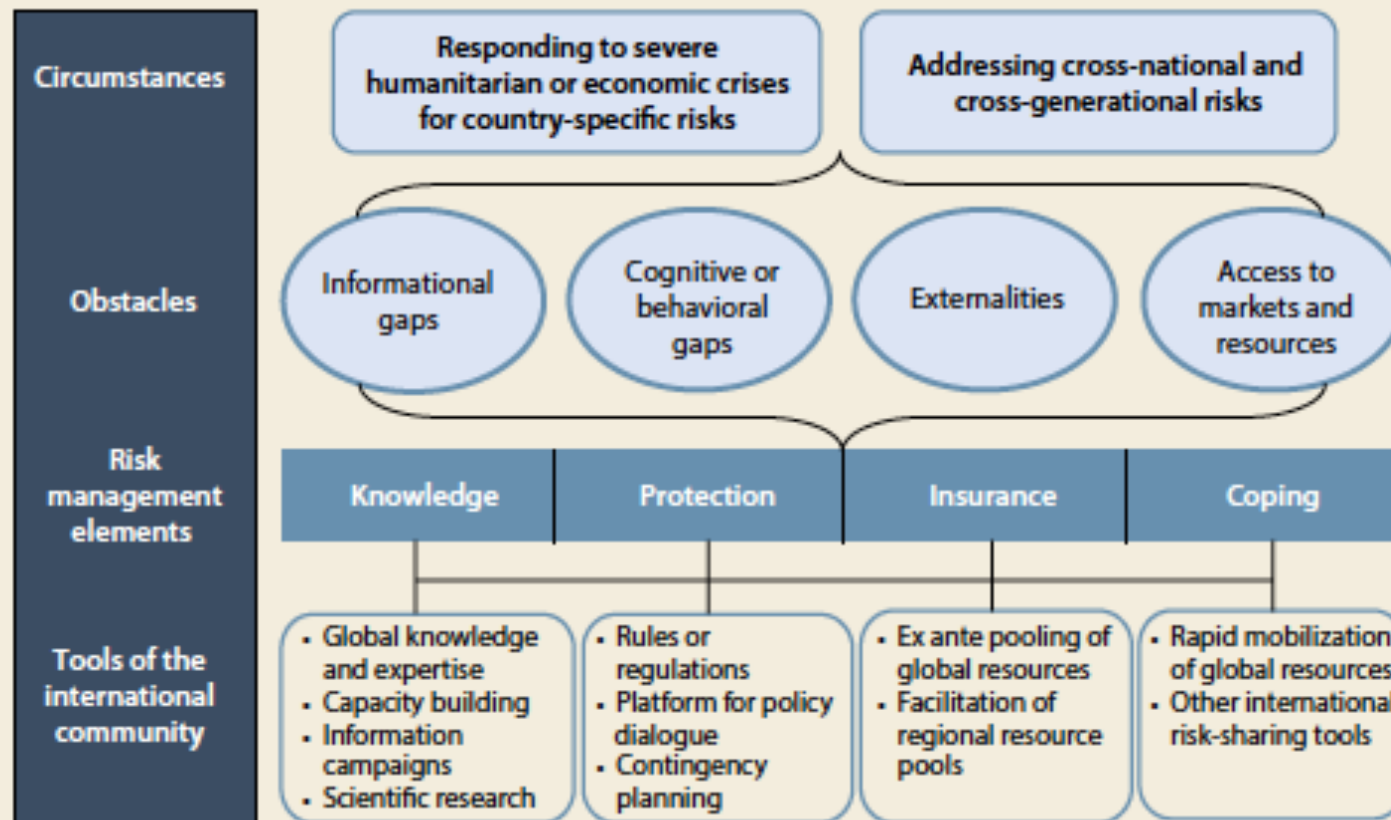
- Rarely a strict succession (continuum). Most frequently the phases co-exist at the same time (contiguum)
  - Different needs at the same time
  - Different kinds of assistance and aid instruments co-exist and overlap

# From the perspective of the development processes

- Even in areas where long term development plans are being implemented, emergencies may occur and, unless they are given a proper attention, they will hamper the effectiveness of developmental strategies, disrupting economic and social development
- Disaster risk reduction (mitigation and preparedness measures) should be integrated in the development process

# EX. World Dev Report 2014

**DIAGRAM 8.2** *Role of the international community*



Source: WDR 2014 team.

# From the perspective of relief and recovery action

- Negative consequences of protracted relief assistance
- Relief and reconstruction are not seen as simply restoring the status quo ante, but also seeking improvement of living conditions
- The participation of beneficiaries, target groups and host communities is crucial in decision making and implementation at all stages in response and recovery
- We cannot ignore long term needs of affected groups e.g. livelihood opportunities, land, access to basic services, support for vulnerable groups
- Crucial to understand “how people fall into crisis”

# “Grey zones”

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Highly differentiated in dimension, intensity and extension:

- Chronic / protracted crises
- Complex / human made / post-conflict crises

On these background relief and reconstruction tend to develop in a long term or even permanent condition.

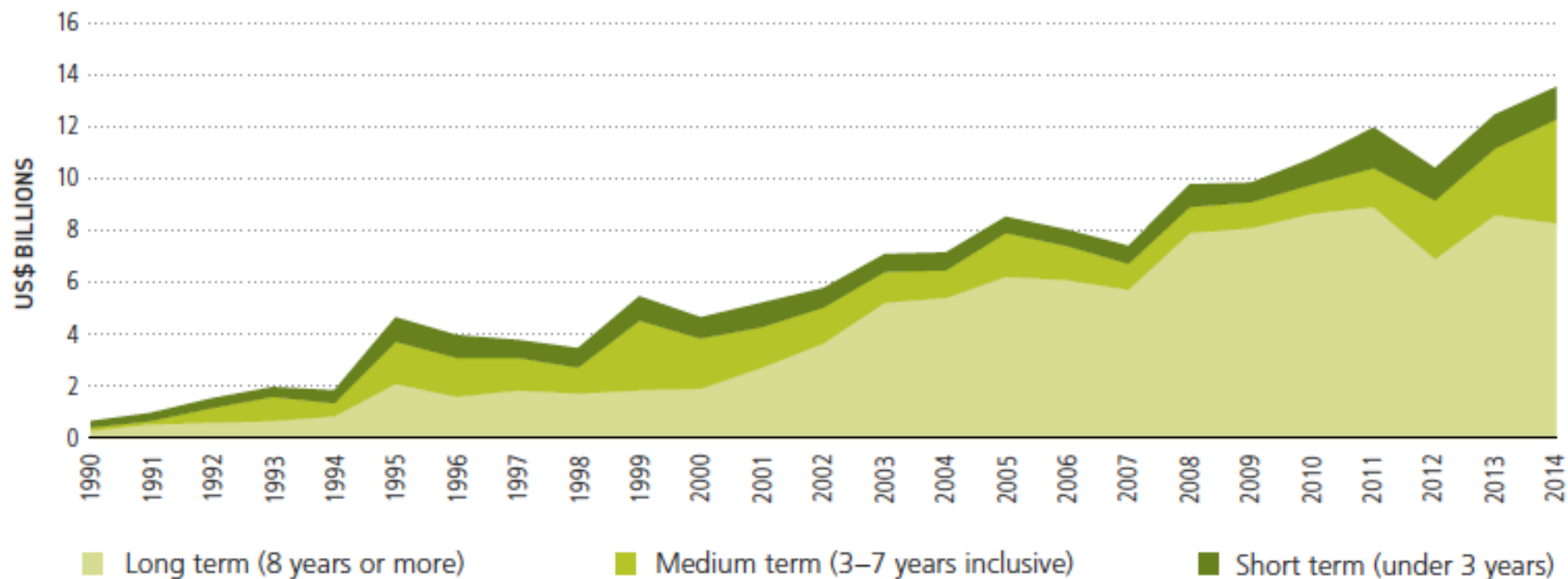
# Chronic / protracted crises

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- Disaster as the acute phase of structural crisis requiring structural interventions.
- Cyclical disasters caused by natural hazards affect the same regions, countries and communities
- By definition challenge the traditional boundaries that separate emergency relief and developmental programming

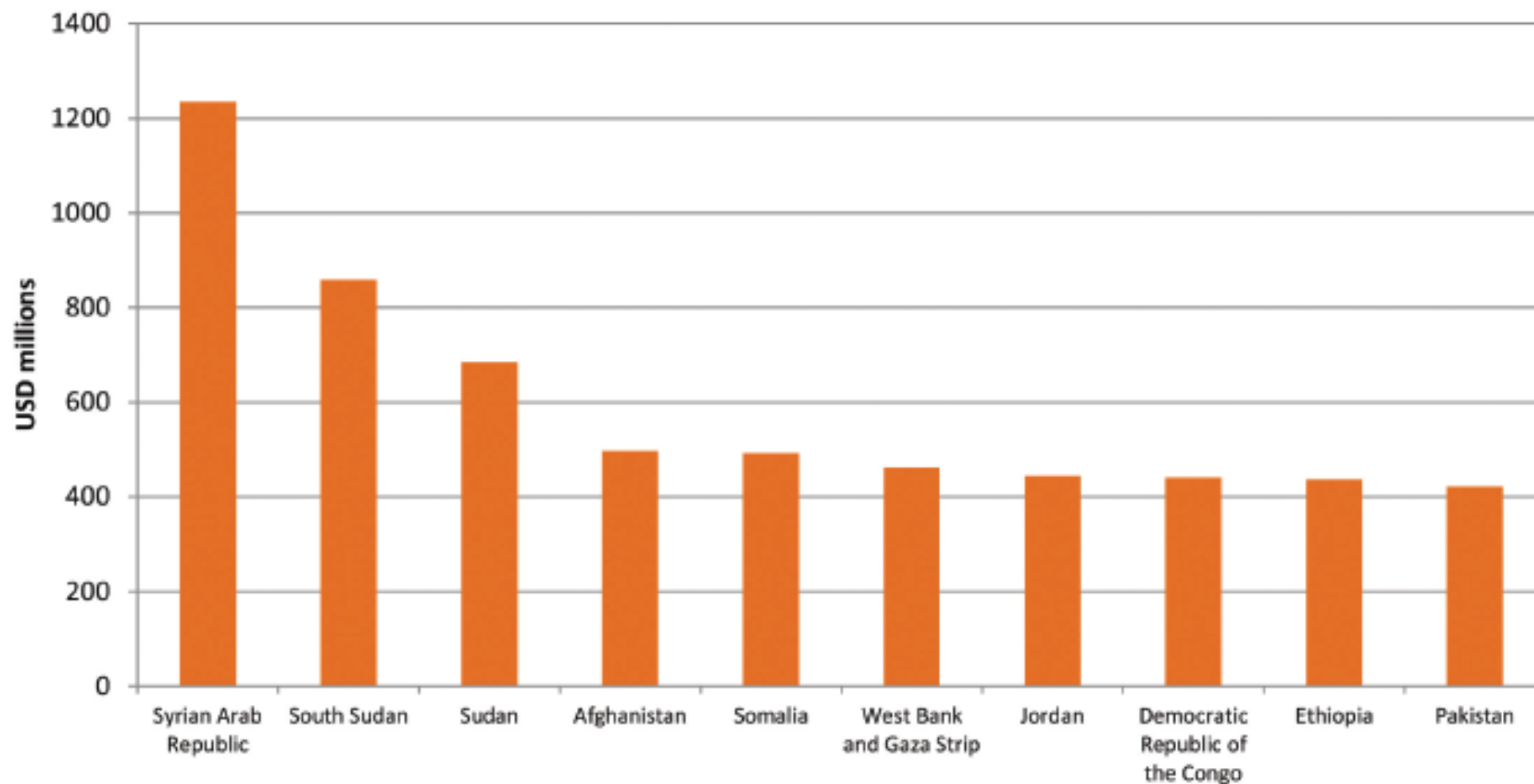


## Long-, medium- and short-term recipients of official humanitarian assistance, 1990–2014

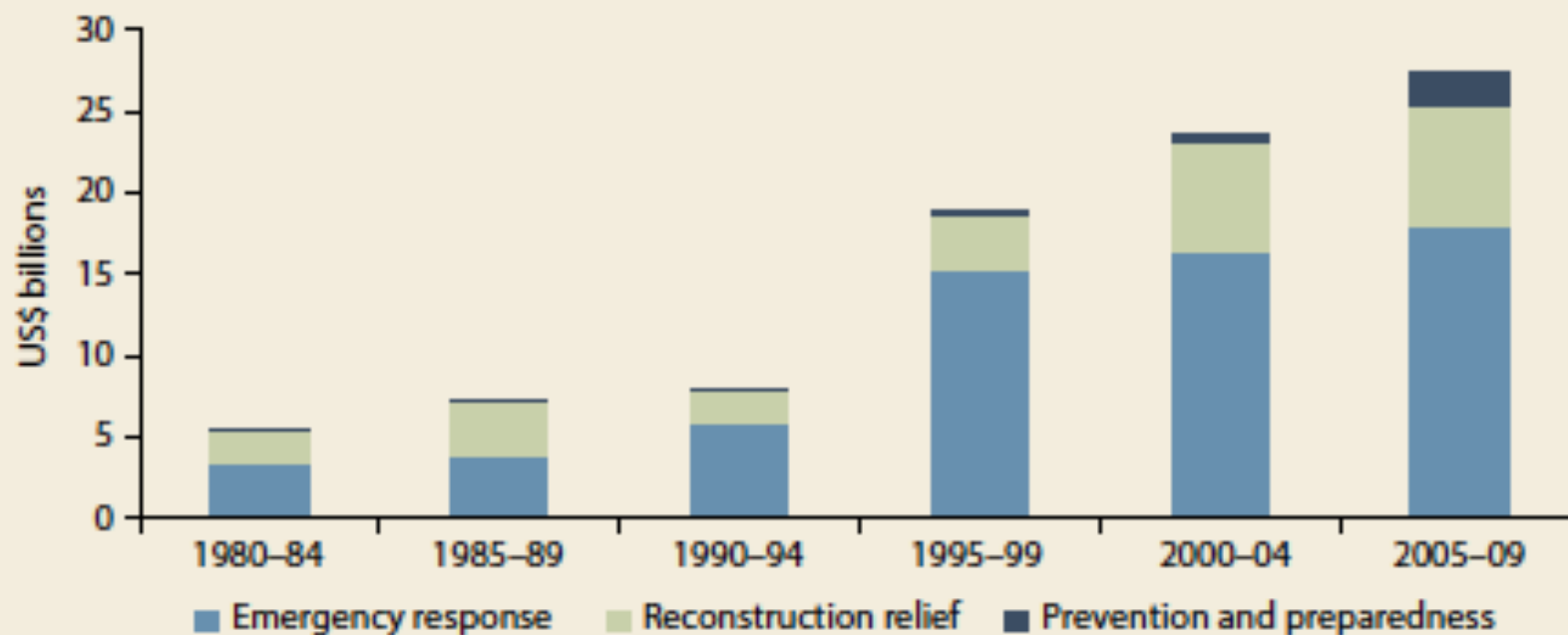


Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD Development Assistance Committee and UN Central Emergency Response Fund data

## Top 10 recipients of total DAC humanitarian aid, 2012-2014



**FIGURE 8.3** *Disaster-related donor assistance has focused more on coping than preparedness and prevention*



Source: WDR 2014 team based on data from AidData Aid Activity (database).

# HD Nexus: challenges

- The identification of minimum thresholds of well-being and resilience capacities is central to justify an external intervention supporting vulnerable communities
- Concepts like risk, thresholds, vulnerability, standards are conceived and analysed in different terms by pure humanitarian and development actors
- Different interpretations of the principles of humanitarian action
- Perceived risk of politicisation of aid

# HD Nexus: challenges

- Political contexts characterised by armed conflict and widespread violence require long-term engagement
- International actors (UN, Bilat. Actors) are pushing towards coherent and coordinated approaches (Crisis management, missions integrating political, state and peace building, HA, development): challenge for the principles of HA

# HD Nexus: challenges

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- International, regional, local organisations with different cultural backgrounds and perceived mandates working side by side
- The majority of the actors are multi-mandate organisations: humanitarian and development oriented approaches combined
- Departments tend to think and operate according to perceived identities and mandates (ex linear transition, phase thinking, exit strategies)

# HD Nexus: challenges

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Lacking comprehensive solutions H-D Nexus has been usually currently carried out through:

- extended interpretation of the “humanitarian mandate” by humanitarian aid departments
- Thematic program tools that can be considered as opportunities to promote the approach (ex. thematic facilities cross-cutting sectors)
- Facilities for long and short-term aid programming in specific fragile contexts. Ex EC Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP)
- Simple withdrawal of humanitarian aid actors and a “let’s see what happens” attitude ([http://www2.urd.org/IMG/pdf/LRRD\\_0912.pdf](http://www2.urd.org/IMG/pdf/LRRD_0912.pdf))

# HD Nexus: Opportunities

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- Greater flexibility in aid management and programming
  - In development growing consensus on adaptive methodologies to design, monitor, and evaluate programs focused on learning and local context
  - In humanitarian context multi-year funding (ex. Pooled Funds)



# HD Nexus: Opportunities

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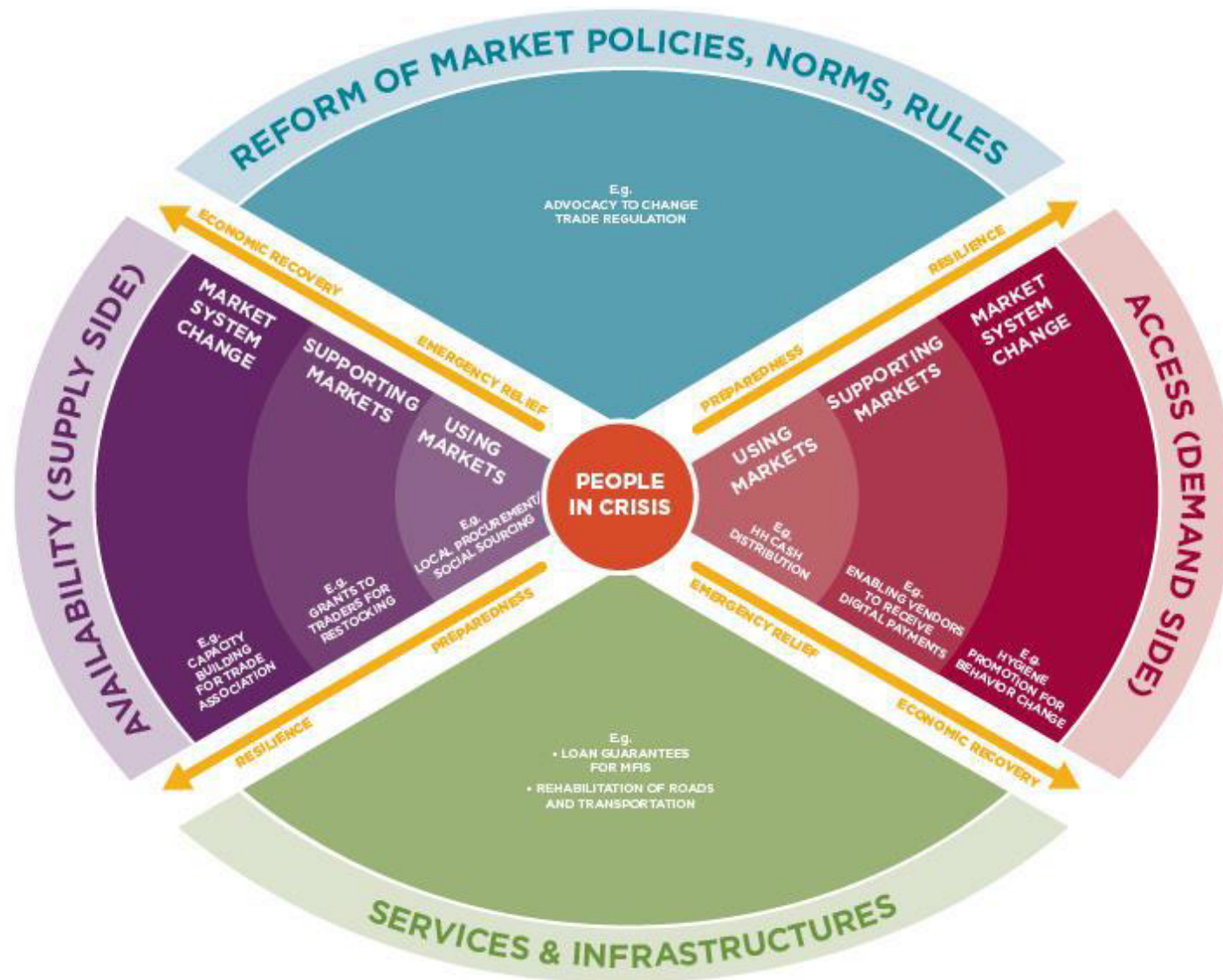
- New tools
  - Ex. the Crisis Modifiers: small grants to top up development programs and quickly address increasing needs in case of a shock or localized disaster as a way to protect development investments
- Answer to the lack of perspectives for short term funds and lack of flexibility of long term programmes

# HD Nexus: Opportunities

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- tools developed in the humanitarian sector are consistent with a nexus perspective.
  - Humanitarian cash transfers are standard practice in relief (social safety nets crucial tool of poverty reduction)
  - Strongly connected with processes that are typical of the development culture (ex. Market analysis)

# Using Market in crises



# Conclusions

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- A matter of culture (reciprocal recognition) and tools that that could ease adaptation and collaboration
  - Are humanitarian aid and development cooperation mutually excluding sectors competing on resources?
  - Is it possible to share an analysis of the situations and get a common understanding of the possibilities and comparative advantage of intervening with a “trasformativa” logic or with a principled, life saving approach?

# Reading list

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