



COMPACT  
2025

# Malawi Forum

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# **From Relief to Resilience: Lessons for Breaking the Food Insecurity Cycle**

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# Introduction

- Frequent natural and man-made disasters
- Vulnerability to climate change and variability
- Globalization and its impacts on the domestic economy
- High level disruptions – saving lives – diversions of resources
- Households go in and out of poverty, malnutrition, and hunger
- Is moving from relief to resilience building a solution?

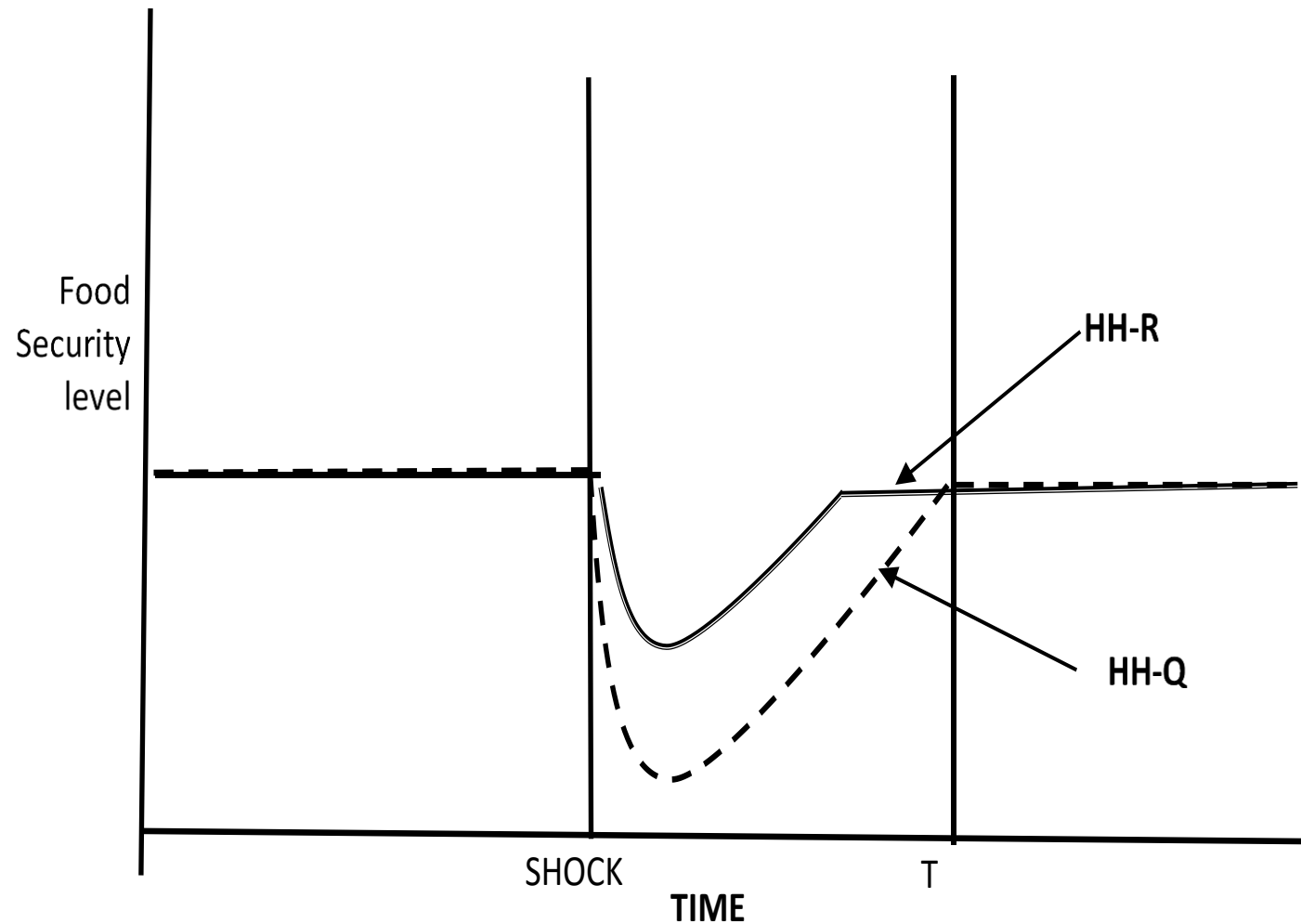
# Resilience analysis framework

- Breaking the cycle of food insecurity
- Going beyond emergency interventions
- Bounce back better than before
- Appropriate interventions needed
- Can we apply resilience lens to development programming and implementation?

# Resilience framework

Source: Hoddinott, 2014

Notes: HH-R = Beneficiary household; HH-Q = Non-beneficiary household



# Defining Resilience in Malawi

*The National Resilience Strategy defines resilience as the ability of urban and rural communities, households, and individuals, to withstand, recover from, and reorganize in response to crises, so that all members of Malawian society can develop and maintain their ability to benefit from opportunities to thrive (NRS, 2017)*

# Initiatives on the ground



# Approach to NRS in Malawi




*“Strengthening **people’s capacity** for resisting, coping, recovering, and bouncing back from shocks and extreme events requires well **targeted** and **long-term investments** that recognize that adaptation to a changing climate must be tackled at **multiple scales**” (NRS, 2017).*

# Assessment of Food Insecurity Response Program 2016-17

- Food crisis of 2016/17
- 6.7 million people were affected
- Largest emergency intervention in the history
- Several issues in the design and implementation
- HRC formed a taskforce to assess FIRP
- IFPRI conducted the assessment between July-October 2017 in 2 phases
- Funded by UNRCO (multiple donors)

# What lessons from the FIRP 2016/17?

**INGO CONSORTIUM EMERGENCY & RESILIENCE BUILDING RESPONSE TO THE 2016-2017 FOOD CRISIS IN MALAWI**

german cooperation  
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

22,500

UKaid  
from the British people

**INGO Consortium CASH RATION CARD** No CALINGARI 14386

Beneficiary Name: Nametuwe Kafantemanyi Sex (M/F): M Age 60

District: Dedza Signature of Thumb Print of Beneficiary

Name of TA: Chilikumwende

Name of GVH: Richard

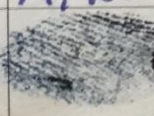
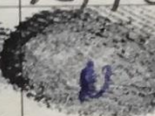
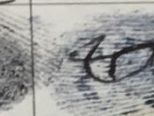


Village: Richard Family Size 7





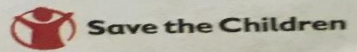
Exit Date:

Registration Date (dd/mm/yy) 05 / 09 / 16

Graduation Date (dd/mm/yy)   /  /   M 4 F 3

Cash Distribution Point: Kamwengi School

Month	Oct 2016	Nov 2016	Dec 2016	Jan 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2017	May 2017
Date		<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>22</u>		
Amount		<u>14,900</u>	<u>16,900</u>	<u>23,200</u>	<u>23,800</u>	<u>22,500</u>		
Signature of Thumb Print of Beneficiary								

# Resilience programming and execution: Dimensions

- Information Systems and Early Warning System
- Resilience of the policy system ( political economy of relief to resilience)
- Institutional resilience
- Resilience of market systems
- Resilience of social systems (social capital and society Vs individuals)
- Resilience of local governance

# Mainstreaming Resilience: Basic requirements

- Measurements – identifying the poor and the vulnerable – MVAC vs IPC
- Adequate and effective funding
- Indicators of wellbeing and causal factors
- Effective implementation

# Mainstreaming Resilience: Basic requirements

- Tracking results through effective monitoring and evaluation system
- Moving pilot successes to scaling up
- Programs to pull people out of poverty
- Preventing them from falling back into poverty trap
- Build productive assets for avoiding shock effects

# Multi-sectoral Approach to Relief – single shock can result in multiple risks!!

- Systems Approach
- Nutrition
- Food security
- Agriculture
- Health
- WASH
- Education
- Protection



# Multi-sectoral Approach to Relief and Resilience

- How each sector functioned on the ground?
- What are the opportunities to bring the sectors together for resilience?
- How to build the local institutions for collective action?

# Multi-sectoral Approach to Relief and Resilience

- How to build sustainability in the programming?
- How to scale up success during relief interventions?
- What examples of intersectoral linkages?
- Preparing local government structures for relief to resilience continuum

# Multi-level Approach to resilience building

- National level programming and execution
- District level programming
- District level structures modified for resilience building
- Community level institutions
- Household resilience

# Moving from Relief to Resilience: State functions

- Converting good pilots into scaled up programs
- Bring in the private sector to play its role
- Facilitate non-state actors continue to engage for capacity building
- Policy and programmatic interventions / innovations (eg: Link production to finance – post harvest to value chains)

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# What are successful examples

- Livestock insurance in Kenya
- Ethiopian productive safety net program
- Katrina in New Orleans and recent flooding in Houston and Puerto Rico
- Orissa cyclones in India
- Earthquakes in China
- Tsunami disasters in Indonesia
- Others – how resilience mainstreamed?

# Lessons from the past paradigms

- Why past paradigms failed (farming systems research; livelihood approach; microfinance movement)
- What lessons for Resilience programming
- Scaling up challenges – national systems; development partners; absorptive capacity of the local systems
- Connecting innovations to funding opportunities

# FIRP – Focused Group Discussions



## Moving from Relief to Resilience: Lessons

- Drought is the trigger – but chronic food insecurity due to repeated shocks is the cause for distress
- Recognizing the collective failures: chronic nature of food insecurity (entitlements); market failure; institutional failures; governance failures
- One trigger can lead to multiple risks – hunger, nutrition, health, asset loss, migration, neglect for the vulnerable, and protection issues

# Moving from Relief to Resilience: Lessons

- Calling for multi-sectoral approach to relief and resilience building
- Leaving some groups behind because they are not viable is not an option under relief and resilience pathways
- Permanent damage to the livelihoods – long recovery period if not intervened in time – so timely intervention is key

# Moving from Relief to Resilience: Lessons

- Market access to the commodities that are promoted as part of resilience building
- Productive safety net should prevent asset loss and protect from income loss
- Monitor asset recovery at the individual level and community level

# Moving from Relief to Resilience: Lessons

- Information exchange on lessons learned from one district to the other (role of open media)
- Use the existing structures but strengthen them to be flexible
- Strengthen accountability at all levels

# Moving from Relief to Resilience: Lessons

- Emergency interventions should not compete with existing scalable resilience programs
- Interventions should reduce continued dependency
- Multi-year programming

# Moving from Relief to Resilience: Lessons

- Resist sectoral diversions that ignores resilience building
- Evidence based implementation (who generates evidence? And how to make evidence transparent?)
- Allowing for mistakes and at the same time learning for improving the process

# Concluding Remarks

- Global move towards resilience programming
- Specific lessons from past disasters help
- Understand political economy of disasters – keep technical and political considerations separate
- Resilience program should break the dependency (poor targeting)
- Considerations to cultures and customs
- Avoid doing more harm than good in the long run

# Discussion Questions

- Which programs or institutions are best situated to provide both immediate relief and long-term development, and what changes need to be made to improve them further?
- How can accountability, coordination, and communication across sectors and levels of government be improved?
- What are some key opportunities to integrate specific development goals such as food security and nutrition into relief and resilience programs?
- What are the knowledge systems and evidence needed that Compact2025 can help to address to increase impact of programs and institutions?