

Famine Early Action Mechanism

Phoebe Spencer, PhD
World Bank Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group

June 21, 2018

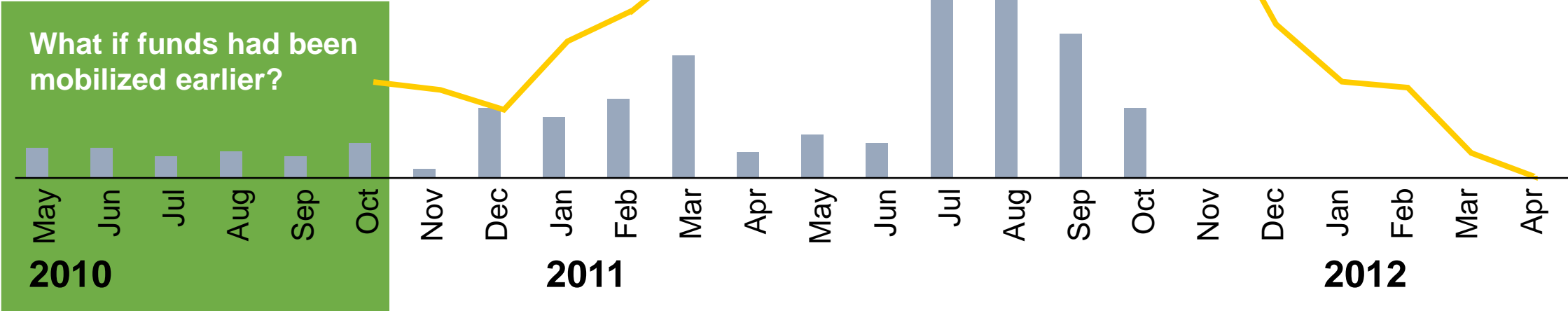
Objective: Enable more impactful famine response

■ Estimated excess deaths per month in Somalia (Oct 2010 – Apr 2012)

■ Humanitarian funding for Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya (May 2010 – Oct 2011)

Early warning signs from FEWSNET

What if funds had been mobilized earlier?



Source: Adapted from Checchi and Robinson, 2013; Bailey, 2012; OCHA Financial Tracking Service; FEWSNET

Key Elements of the Famine Early Action Mechanism (FAM)



Famine Data Analytics

- Assess probabilities of worsening food security and identify areas most likely to reach IPC4/5.
- Link probabilistic thresholds with potential funding triggers
- Improve the velocity and quality of predictive data and modeling
- Close gaps on data sources, including exploring dynamic analytics (market conditions, coping options, etc.)
- Provide comprehensive analysis of available finance



Financing

- Encourage alignment of long-term financing to support famine prevention
- Mobilize pre-agreed financing for shorter-term, early response to address escalating famine risk
- Promote a layered approach to financing across the famine risk chain



Implementation

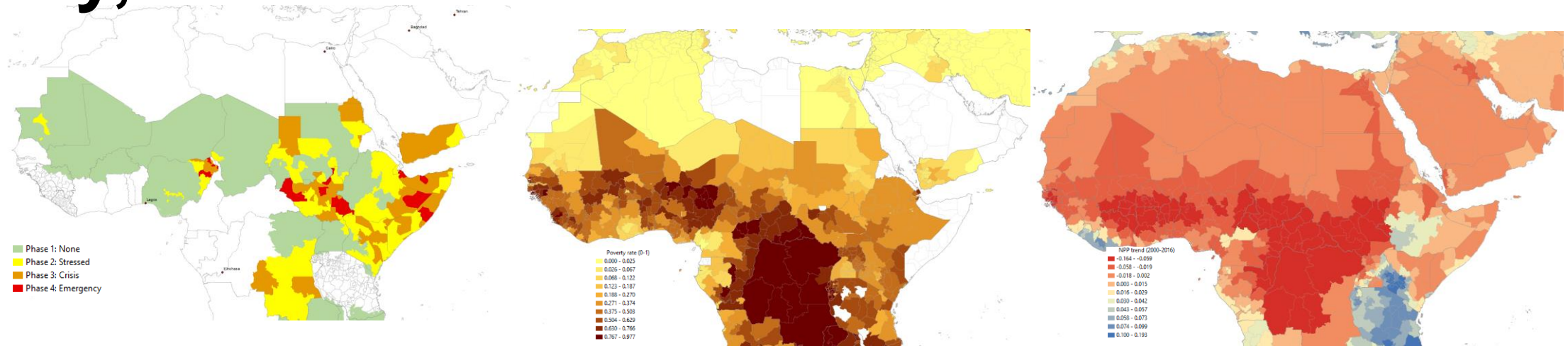
- Identify priorities for long-term systems building
- Develop pre-agreed plans to respond when famine risks escalate
- Forge strong partnerships to deliver innovative and effective interventions
- Support knowledge building to improve implementation

Predictive Analytics for Preventive Action



Identify science-based predictions tools that can trigger early mobilization of financing to avert and mitigate famine risks

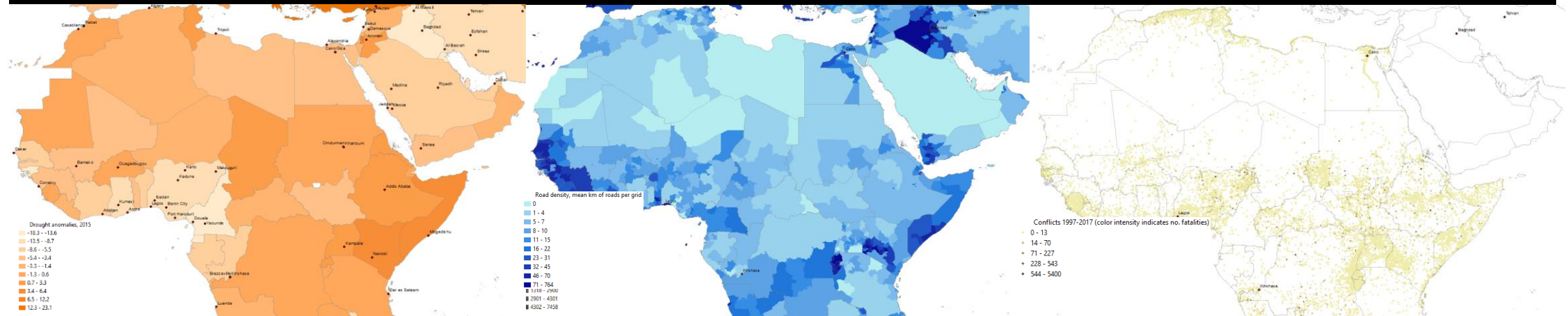
Food insecurity tends to occur in poor, dry, disconnected and violent areas



IPC Acute Food Insecurity Status

Poverty rates at the \$1.90 line

Land degradation



Drought anomalies

Road Connectivity

Fatalities from violent conflict

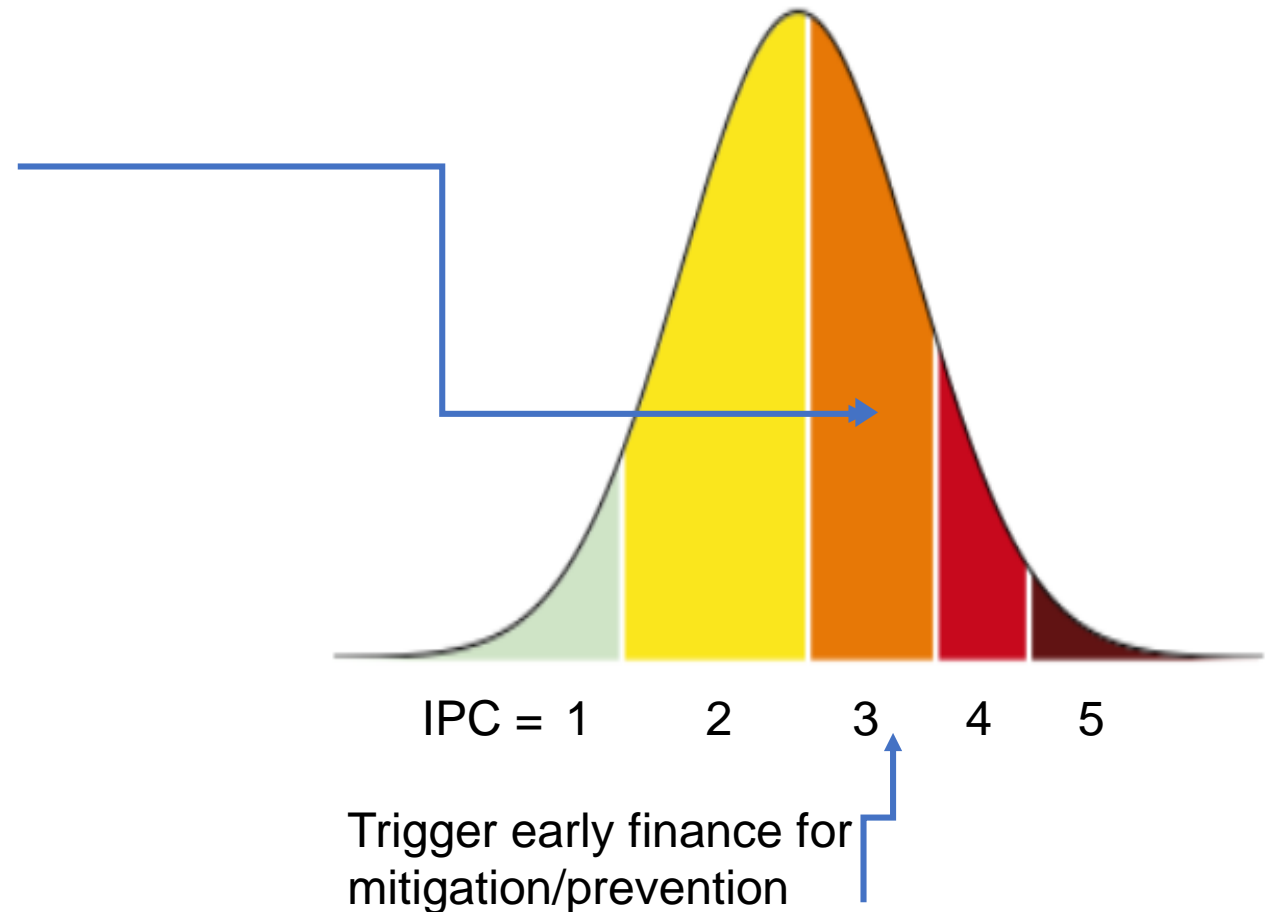
Source: (1) World Bank Group using FEWS NET data, (2) World Bank Group monetary poverty maps (2017), (3) World Bank Group staff using NASA Earth Observatory data (2017), (4) World Bank Group staff using SPEI data from CRU, (5) World Bank Group staff using Malaria Atlas Project and GPW4 data, (6) World Bank Group staff using ACLED data

Analytical proof of concept

Objective:

Identifying contexts most likely to become emergencies and enhance analytical capacities to forecast worsening conditions.

Modeling such probabilities, even within a relatively wide confidence interval, **informs** earlier channeling of funding to areas most at-risk.





Integrating IPC &
FAM Analytics for
Enhanced Famine
Prevention



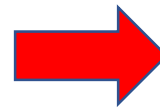
IPC Contributions

IPC = Global reference for food insecurity classification, provides the framework and tools

Provides key outcome data (% of population in each IPC phase) + other info/data for model development/ testing and updates

IPC analyses as a means of validating or ground truthing the predictions of the model given:

- in-depth understanding livelihoods
- knowledge of local context, contextualization and interpretation of data
- granularity of the analysis by factoring in localized assessments
- buy in from key stakeholders



Modelling Contributions

Monthly updates in rapidly changing environments

Increased early warning capacity: provide the basis for increased accuracy of projections over a longer period and linkages with early response

Estimating probability of IPC Phase/caseload movements based contributing factors

Support early identification of hotspots for data collection and IPC analysis prioritization