LUND UNIVERSITY

BI NORWEGIAN BUSINESS SCHOOL

Avenir Analytics

Module 8: Data and Forecasting in Humanitarian Logistics

21 May 2014

A need for speed: Horn of Africa

Improving response time decreases loss of life and livelihood

Joint Agency Briefing Paper 18 January 2012

A Dangerous Delay

The cost of late response to early warnings in the 2011 drought in the Horn of Africa

Save the Children Oxfam

The pastoralist communities of Turkana, Kenya are experiencing one of the worst periods of drought in living memory and are now increasingly reliant on food aid. Here, people come to collect water, Lokitaung district, March 2011. Photo: Andy Hall

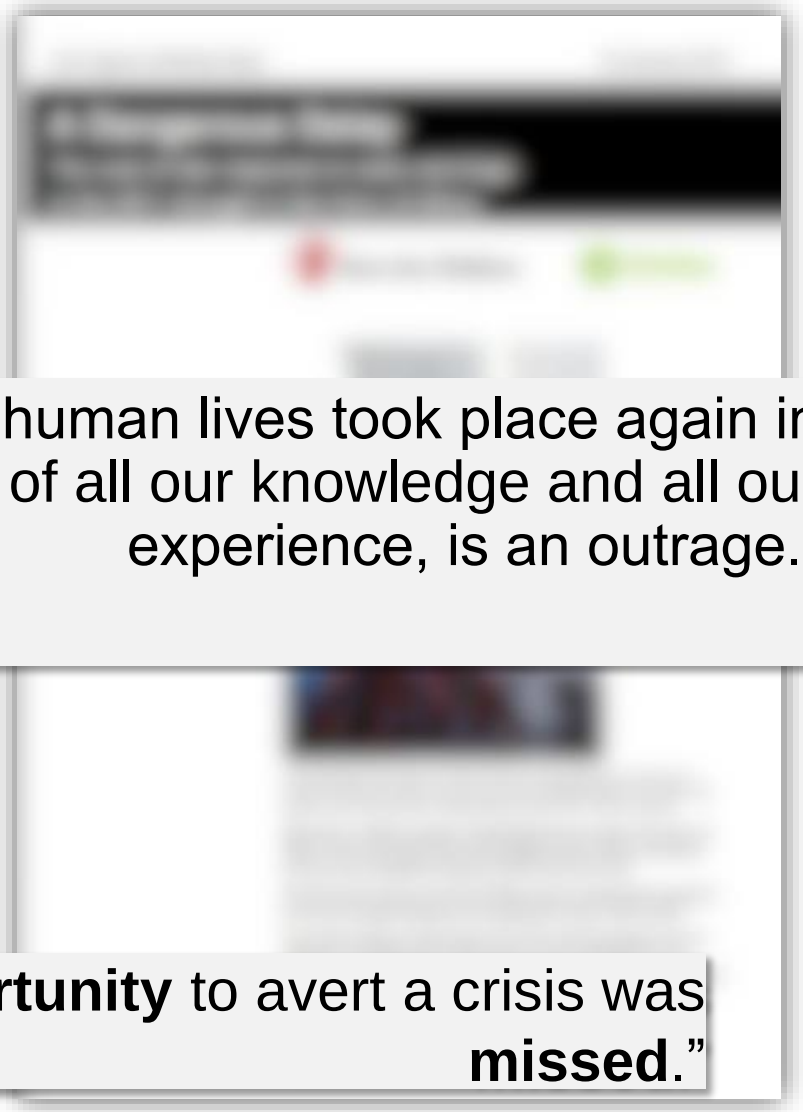
More than 13 million people are still affected by the crisis in the Horn of Africa. There were clear early warning signs many months in advance, yet there was insufficient response until it was far too late.

Governments, donors, the UN and NGOs need to change their approach to chronic drought situations by managing the risks, not the crisis.

This means acting on information from early warning systems and not waiting for certainty before responding, as well as tackling the root causes of vulnerability and actively seeking to reduce risk in all activities. To achieve this, we must overcome the humanitarian–development divide.

www.savethechildren.net www.oxfam.org

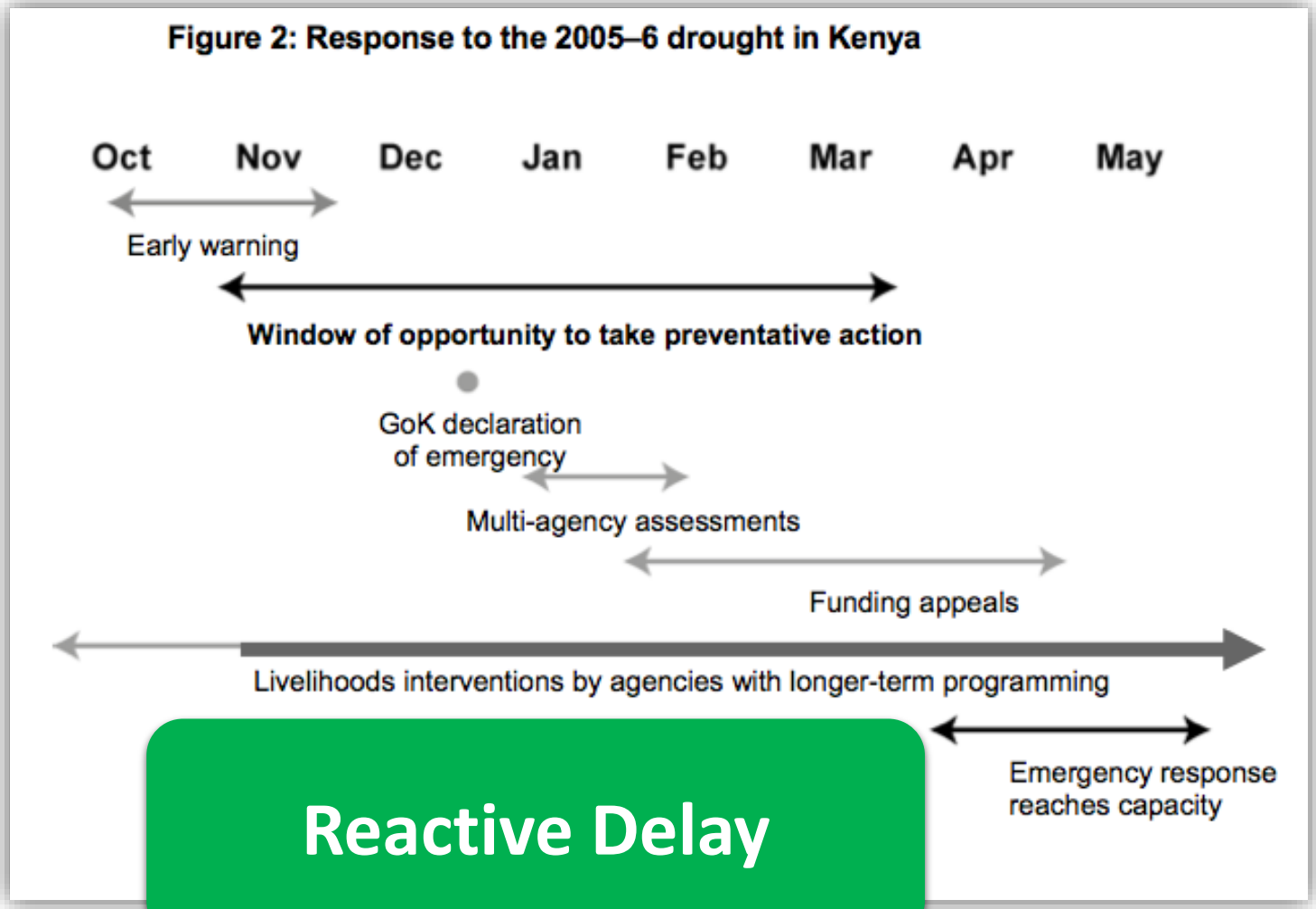
Improving response time decreases loss of life and livelihood



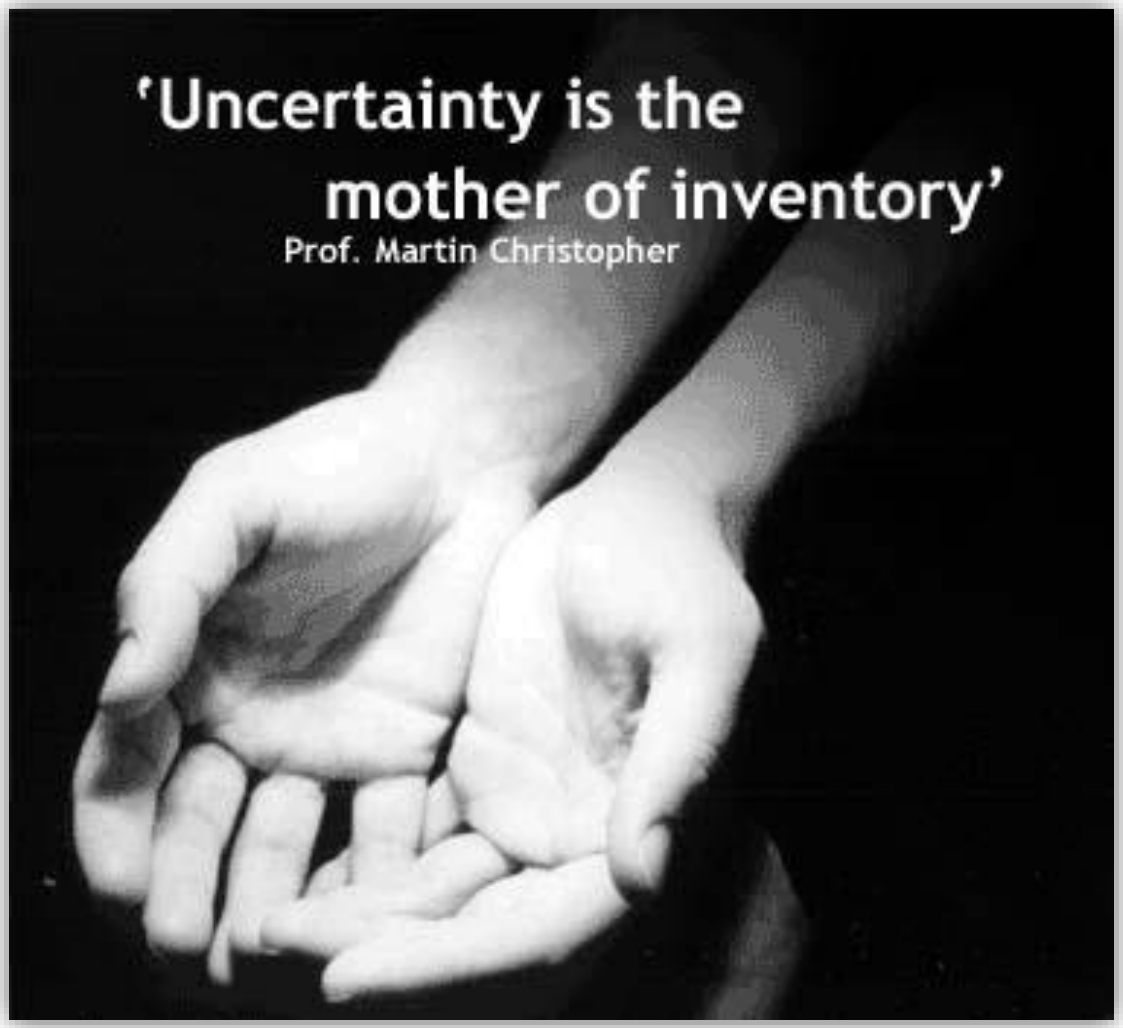
"That the needless haemorrhage of human lives took place again in the Horn of Africa in 2011, in spite of all our knowledge and all our experience, is an outrage."

"…it is clear that the **opportunity** to avert a crisis was **missed**."

Improving response time decreases loss of life and livelihood



Humanitarian responders mitigate and reduce uncertainty, but more can be done

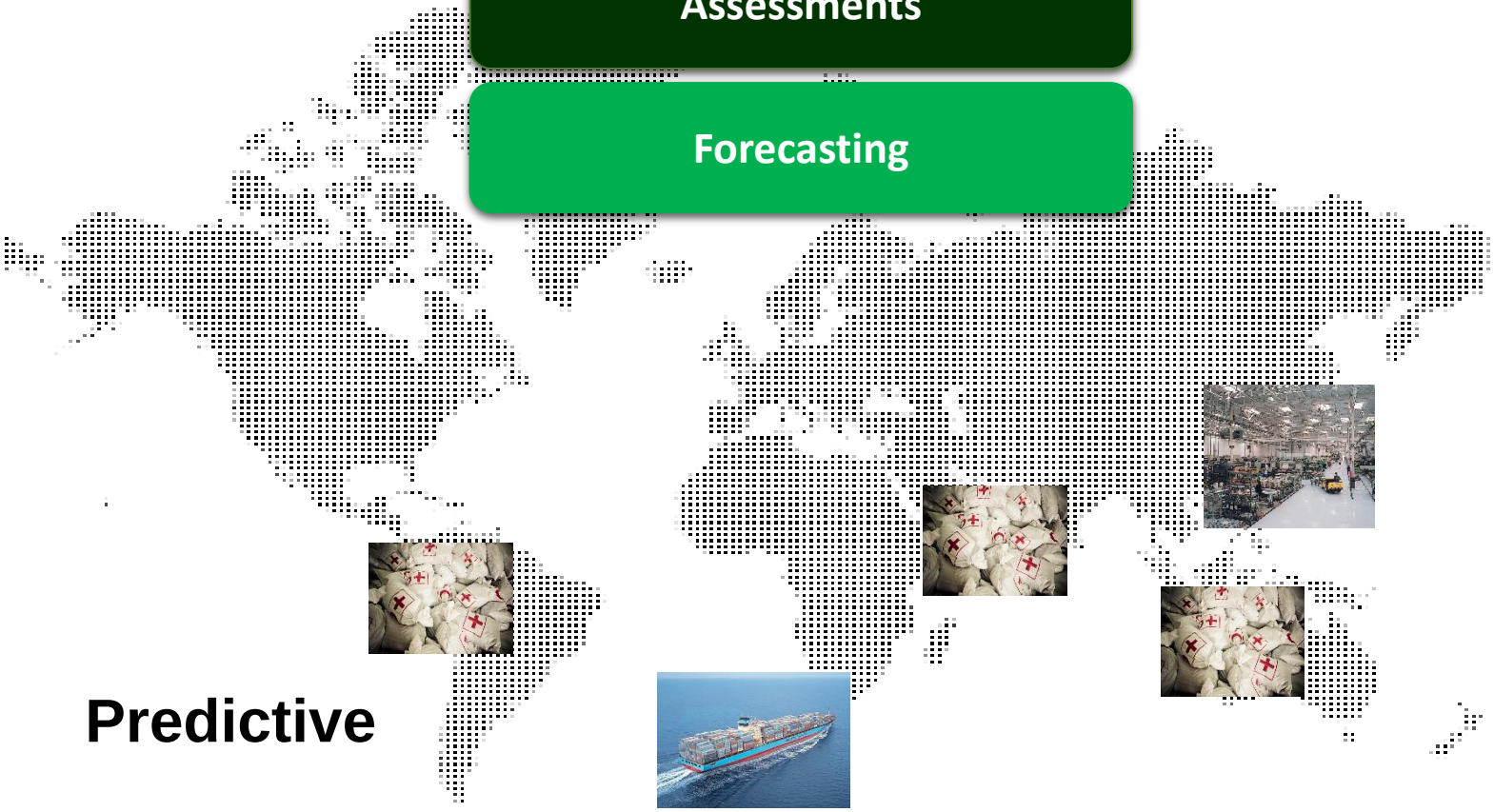


- Postponement
- Electronic Data Interchange
- Safety Stock
- Future contracts
- **Forecasting**

Humanitarian responders mitigate and reduce uncertainty, but more can be done

Assessments

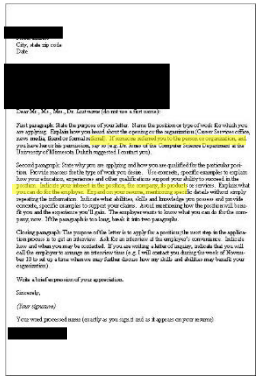
Forecasting



Predictive

Effective assessments can have many barriers

"…slowed by a succession of **uncoordinated assessments** spanning a period of three months…



…donors should be cognisant of the fact that the latest report **excludes the assessments** of the majority of NGOs."

Group work 1

- You are a logistician for a humanitarian organization. You're trying to reduce some of the uncertainty that comes with strategic and operational planning for a disaster response. For each of the variables, assess how useful it would be to have an estimate or actual number; for instance, how important is it to know what items need to be delivered? (Scale: 1=not important, 5=most important)

- Then, speculate how easy it would be to determine a forecast for the variable (Scale: 1=very difficult, 5=very easy

Group work 2

- Determine the number of disasters, by type and region, that occurred during the 2005-2010 period.

- Once complete, determine the average number of disaster occurrences per year during the 2005-2010 period.

- Determine the number of families, by type and region, affected by disasters in each year

Database

Published by SuperUserInEMDAT

EM-DAT Database

Please note that we have proceeded to a complete update of the database, including new changes and enhancements which may imply major modifications in the historical data.

Feel free to contact us through e-mail E-mail or using our contact form if you have any questions

The reproduction and communication of the information obtained using the EM-DAT is authorised by any means and in all forms, provided that the source is mentioned clearly as follows:

EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database - www.emdat.be - Université catholique de Louvain - Brussels - Belgium.

- ADVANCED SEARCH — Create your dataset ▶
- COUNTRY PROFILE — Disaster by Country ▶
- DISASTER PROFILES — Summary of Events ▶
- DISASTER LIST — Generate list events ▶
- REFERENCE MAPS — Pre-made maps ▶
- DISASTER TRENDS — Pre-made graphs ▶

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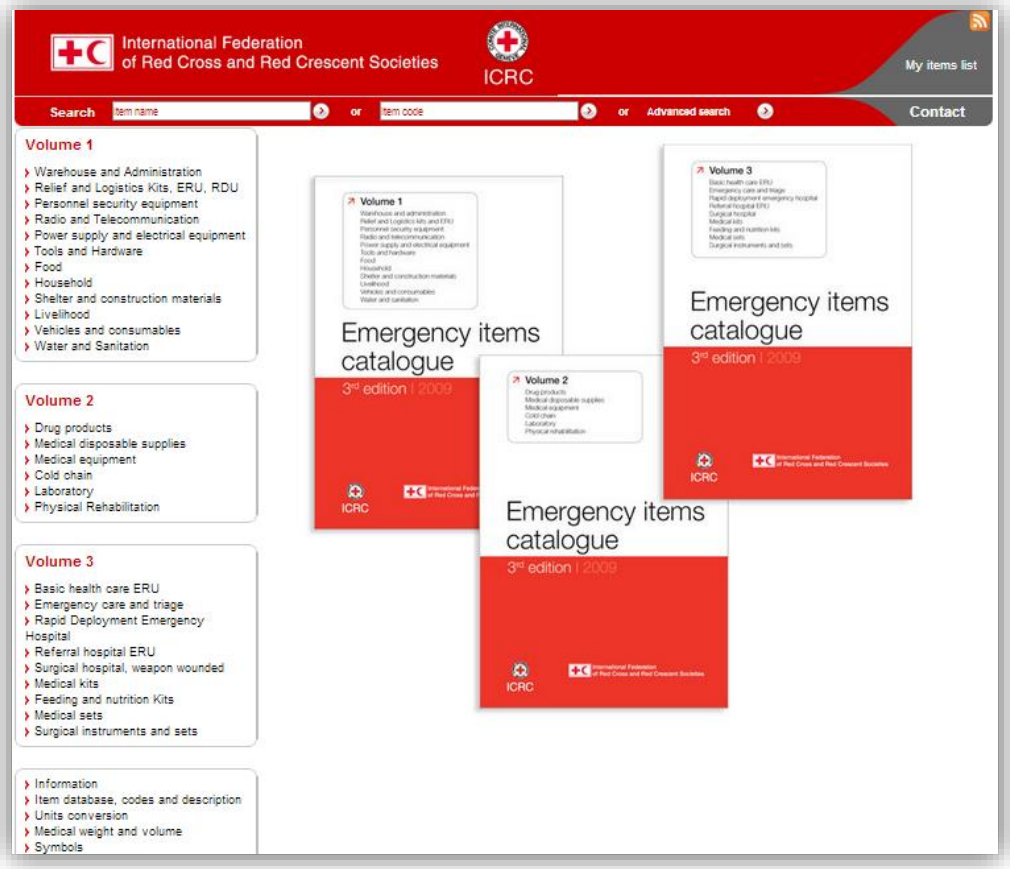
Group work 3



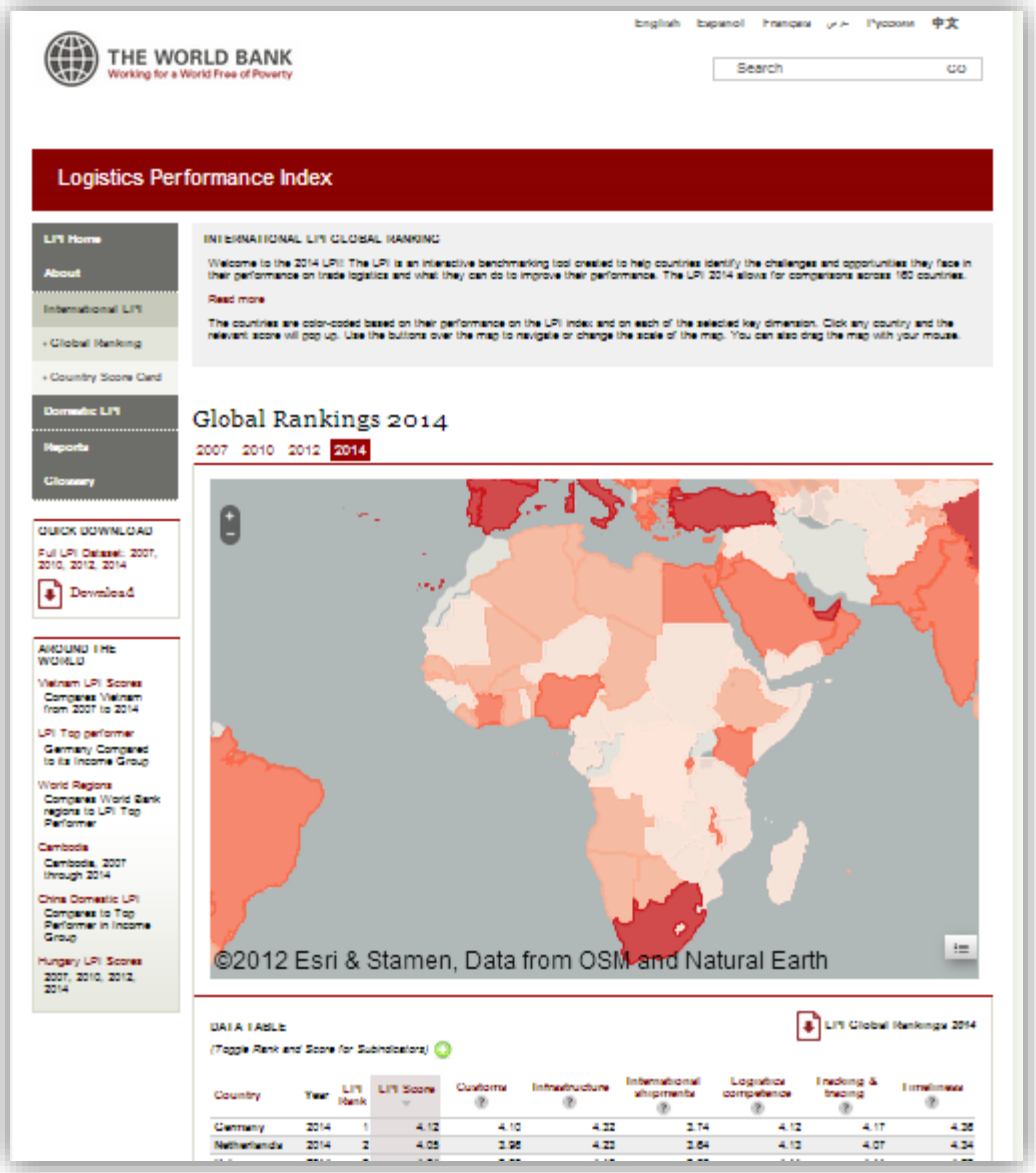
Use the IFRC emergency items catalogue to come up with an estimate for the dimensions of the items listed in the exercise file

Completing the picture: What other information or data do we need?

Use needs data

Logistics services data

Infrastructure data



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