

Interactive comment on “Action-based flood forecasting for triggering humanitarian action” by E. Coughlan de Perez et al.

E. Coughlan de Perez et al.

coughlan.erin@gmail.com

Received and published: 12 July 2016

COMMENT: First of all, big kudos to the team for putting together an excellent research paper with very important development implications.

RESPONSE: We thank the reviewer for her positive comments and recommendations.

COMMENT: In framing the argument that forecast based finance instrument triggers humanitarian action, I feel that the authors are selling short the overall concept of the mechanism. The characteristics of FbF are such that it corrects what is now a major short coming and a gap between development and humanitarian response, a no-mans land as it were where there is a potential to strengthen resilience of communities that due to the structural make up of dev/humanitarian spaces evolves into a major weakness that sets back development gains ones the event does occur. Therefore i

[Printer-friendly version](#)

[Discussion paper](#)



believe the authors should be more ambitious to claim this space and say that FbF with its pre agreed actions to be committed 'in vain' are strengthening resilience and trigger action that may sit on a very intersection of development (eg. upscaling social services, cash based transfers, irrigation management, etc) and humanitarian actions (eg. digging ditches, bagging food and valuable items, etc).

Partly connected to the above, while the paper is about Uganda's case, i believe it may be worthwhile in the closing paragraph to call for a closer collaboration not just between humanitarian and scientific community but int'l development community as well. FbF as a mechanism is a perfect gathering ground for both development and humanitarian sectors to come and plan together.

RESPONSE: These are excellent points, and we have made additions to the introduction and conclusion to take this into account. This includes the following sentences:

(Introduction): Indeed, the critical moments in between a forecast and a disaster represent an opportunity to bridge the traditional humanitarian and development spaces.

(Introduction): In many cases, pre-agreed actions that are "in vain" because the extreme event did not materialise can have a longer-term positive impact, strengthening resilience and supporting ongoing development efforts in the area. (Conclusion): In particular, the innovation of Forecast-based Financing can encourage the collaboration between development and humanitarian actors to deliberate relevant forecast-based actions; these can both promote and protect long-term development efforts. (Closing paragraph): A closer collaboration between these groups and the international development community should ensure the relevance and success of forecast-based actions.

Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., doi:10.5194/hess-2016-163, 2016.

[Printer-friendly version](#)

[Discussion paper](#)

