

**Sustainable development in a
climate of uncertainty: using
climate and weather information
to overcome poverty**

**Dr Steve Jennings
Oxfam GB**

Overview

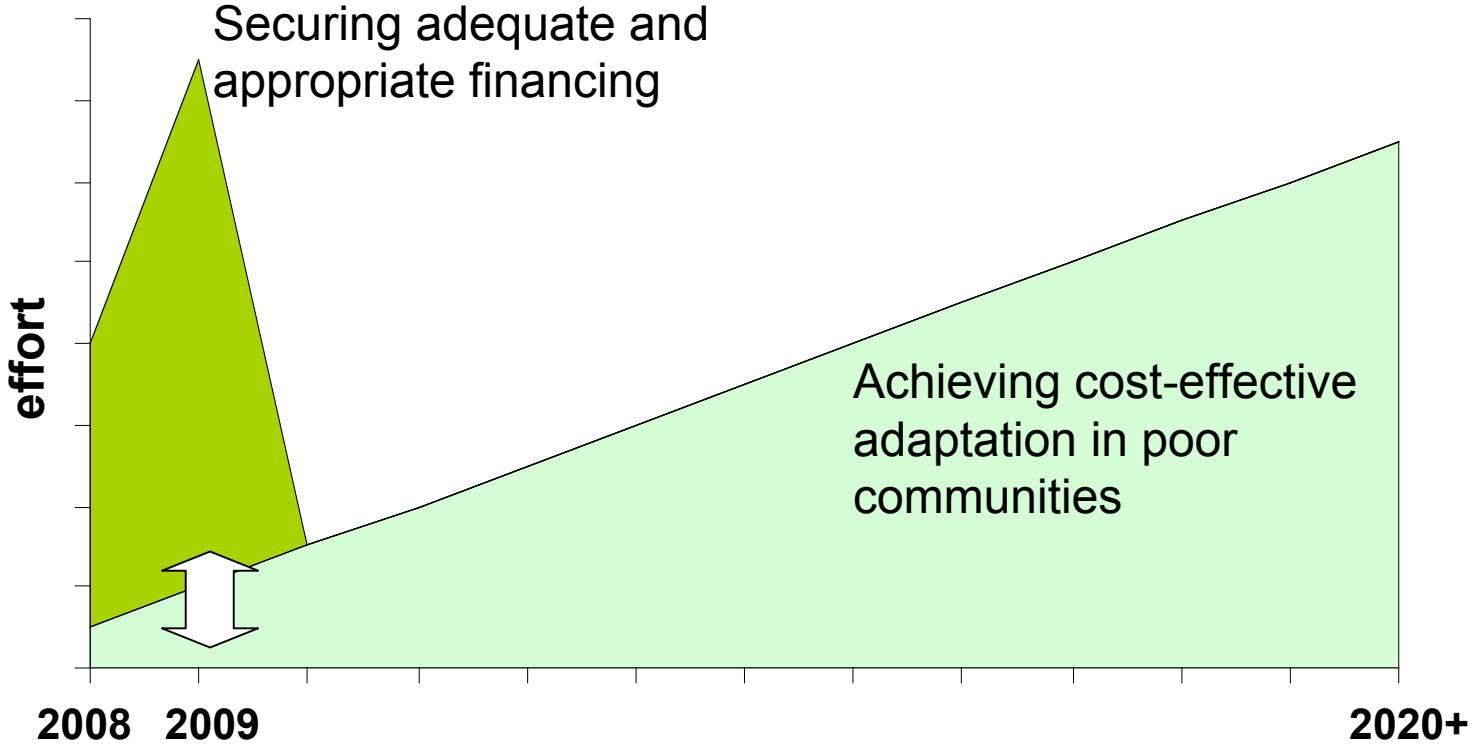
- **Why is Oxfam interested in weather and climate?**
- **Why development practitioners struggle to use forecasts**
- **Would seamless forecasts improve the lives of those living in poverty?**
- **Overcoming the barriers**

“The poorest developing countries will be hit earliest and hardest by climate change, even though they have contributed little to causing the problem.”

The Stern Review: The Economics of Climate Change.
HM Treasury <http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/>



Climate change adaptation: the time challenge



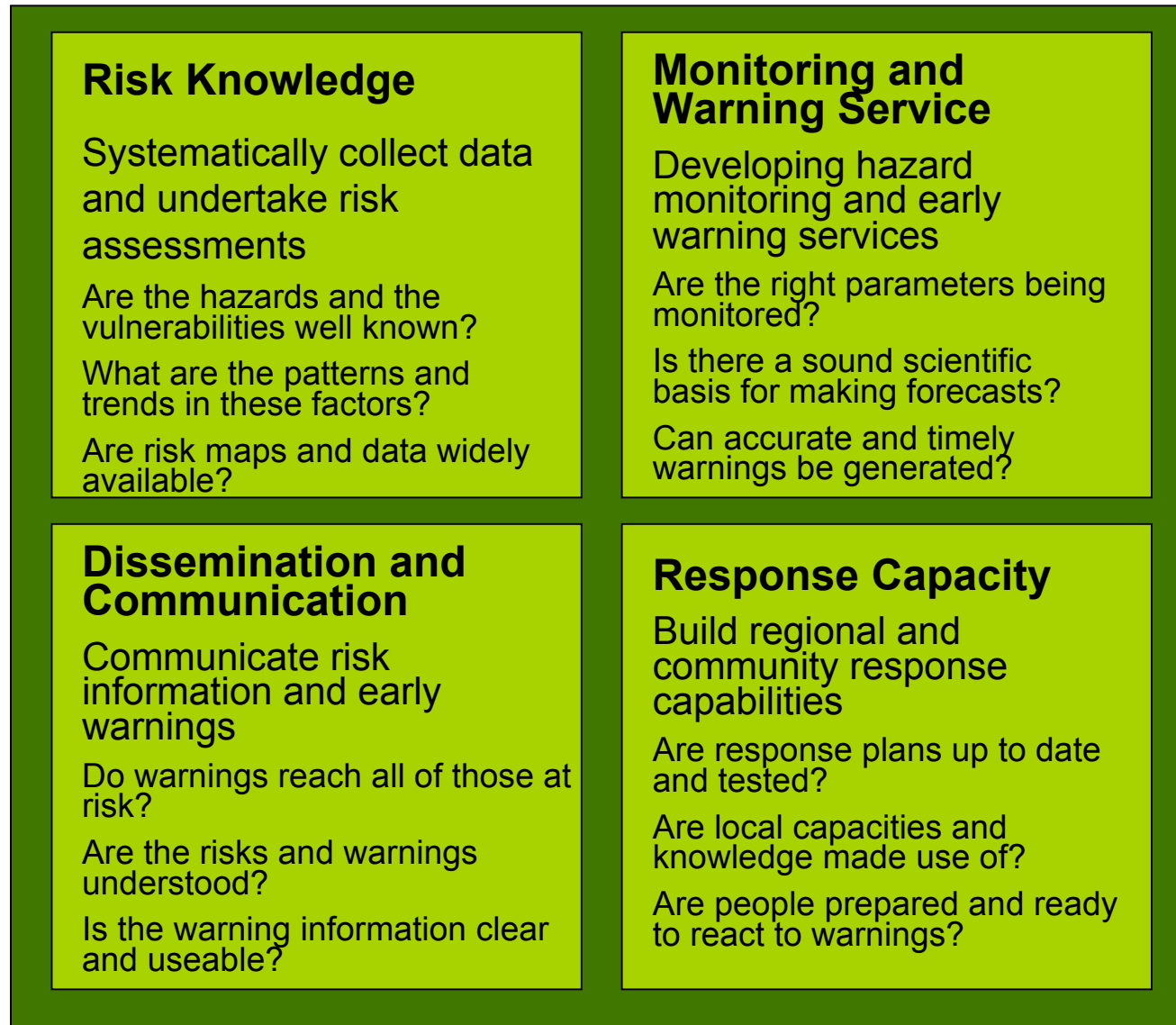
What weather/climate information is useful to Oxfam?

Oxfam activities	Potential Use (forecast period)	Actual use
Humanitarian	Early Warning Systems for climate related disasters (days-months)	Common
Development	Farmers (days-months) Planning (decades)	Rare Rare (but increasing)
Advocacy, campaigning, lobbying	Attribution (retrospective)	Rare

Constraints on using forecasts for development NGOs

- **Understanding**
- **Multiple priorities**
- **Uncertainty**
- **Types of information**

Seamless forecasts and poverty: EWS



Four Elements of People-centred Early Warning Systems

UN/ISDR Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning

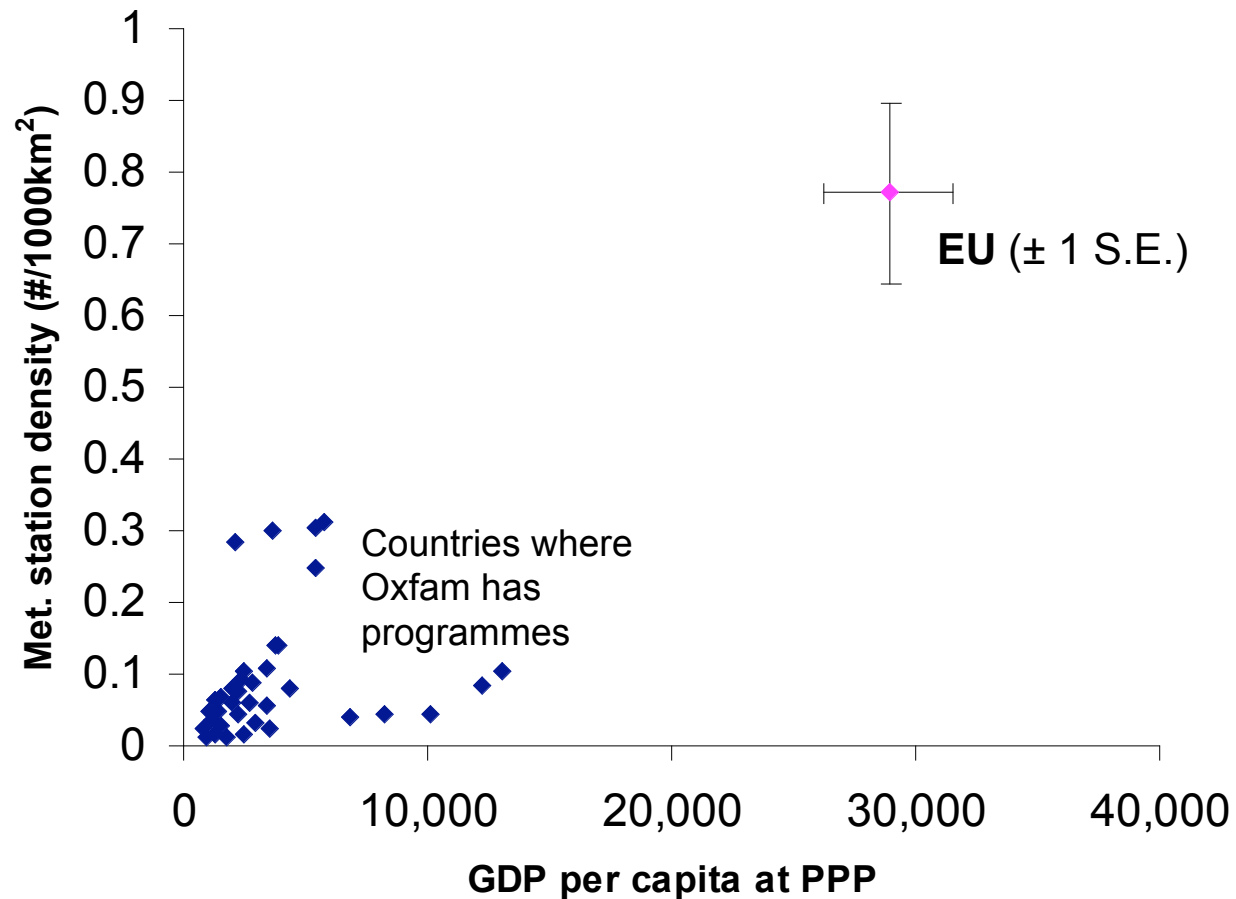
Seamless forecasts and poverty: changing structures or structural change?

- **Changing structures ('big development')**
- **Structural change (addressing the underlying causes of climate vulnerability)**

Suggested ways forward

- **Access to accurate and appropriate forecasts**
- **Creating the links**

Forecasting (ine)quality?



Data sources:

(1) Met stations - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - National Weather Service

(2) GDP per capita at PPP – IMF

(3) Land area - wikipedia



Creating the links?

