

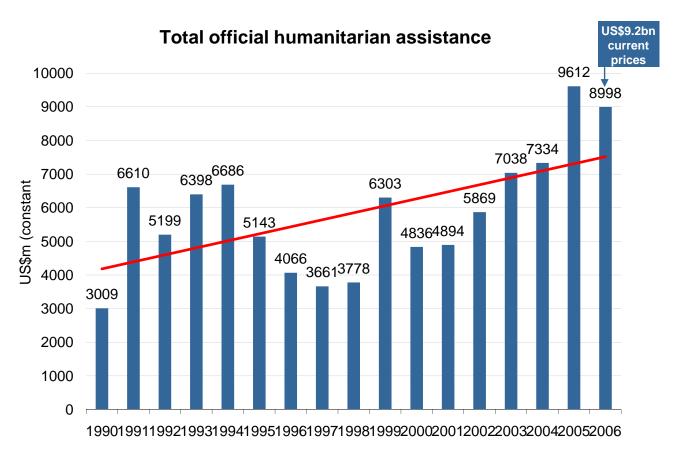
## **History matters: New York 1931**



Source: PBS 1999



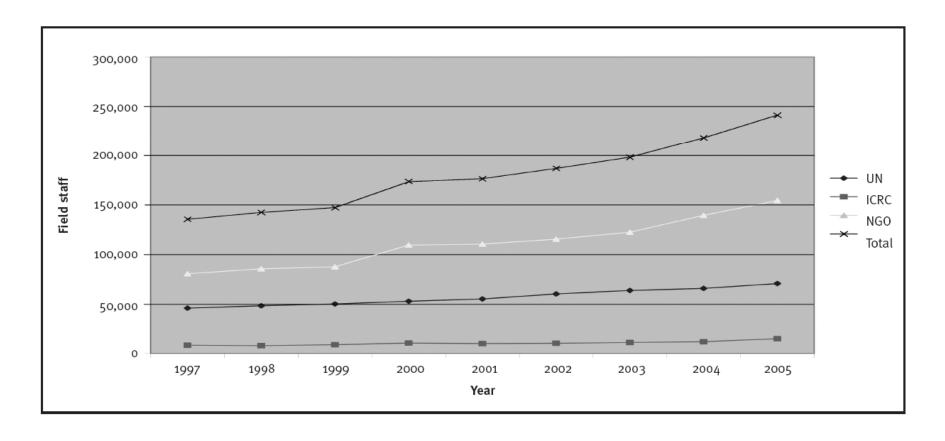
### **Growing Pains**



Source: Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2007



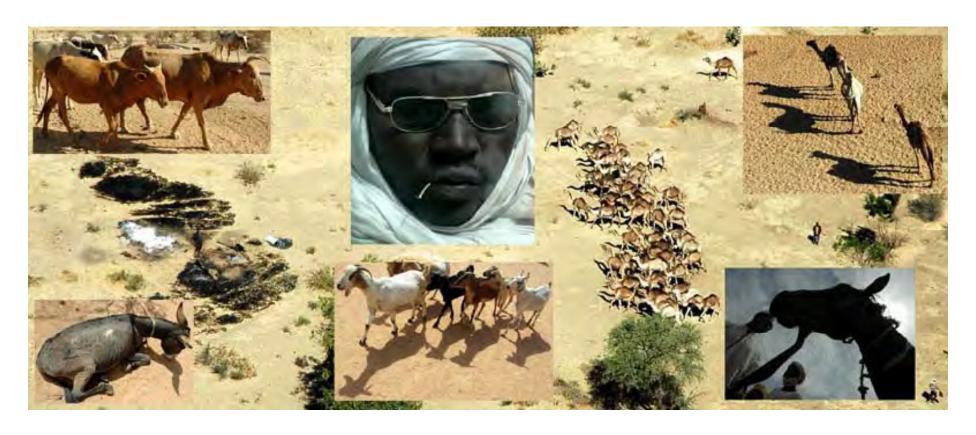
#### **Staff Growth**



Source: Stoddard, Harmer & Haver. 2006



#### **Context**





# **Standards and Accountability**

- Fast developing standards
- Financial accountability
- SOPs
- All products of system growth









#### Solve my problem, not yours!

 Poor accountability, bad technique and behavior are the greatest causes of mistrust and

discontent





#### Learning is risky!

"It's better for us not to measure impact or attribution, if we were to discover that we were having little or no impact, it's better that we don't know about it."





#### The system doesn't help

 Agencies significantly over report their successes and under report their failures

"As a project manager, I have a contract with HQ to deliver on the performance indicators of my projects, and in reality, failure and not delivering what I have contracted to is unacceptable."

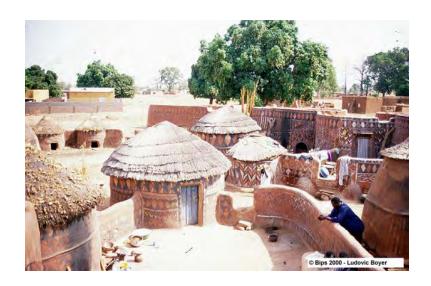




#### **Context is everything**

Standards & Systems
 Context, Flexibility







#### **Future Shock**

There are known knowns, known unknowns... and then there are the unknown unknowns.

A new strategic landscape of manifest uncertainty, of fundamental and catastrophic surprise.



#### **Famine in Britain 1947**





## Challenges around humanitarianism

1. Climate change

2. Globalization





# **Climate Change: IPPC Key findings**

1875 2004





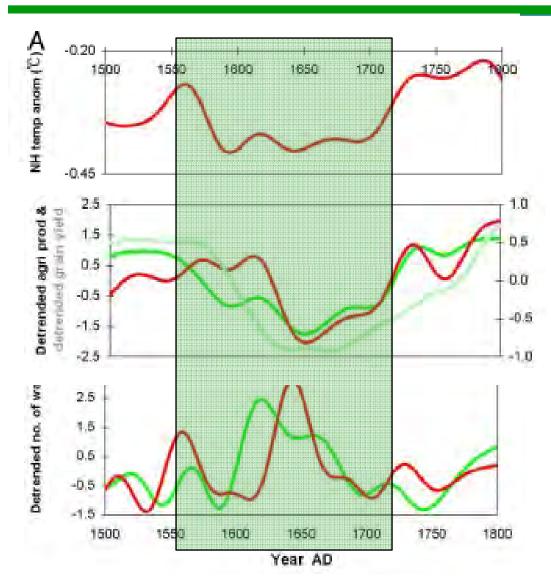
#### What Glacial Melt will mean



Source: Google.org



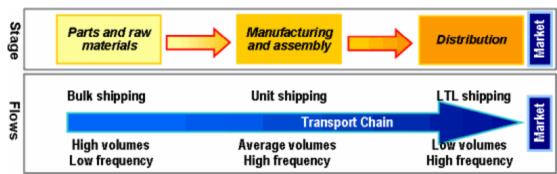
#### **Historical complexity**



**Source:** David D. Zhang, Peter Brecke, Harry F. Lee, Yuan-Qing He, and Jane Zhang. 2007. Global climate change, war, and population decline in recent human history.



#### **Globalization: Commodity chains**









#### **Cell phone liberation**







- Market prices
- Cash transfer
- Pasture ID
- Early warning
- Human rights violation reporting



#### **Central America 2004: Alchemy**

- Chiapas, floods & Landslides
- Maize
- Rehab funding linked to crop change
- Palm oil





# **Alchemy**



6,000 liters/year



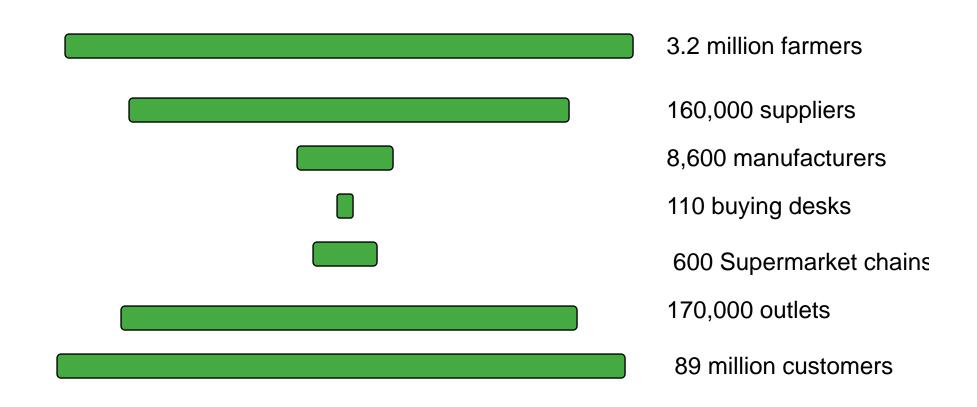
446 liters/year



172 liters/year

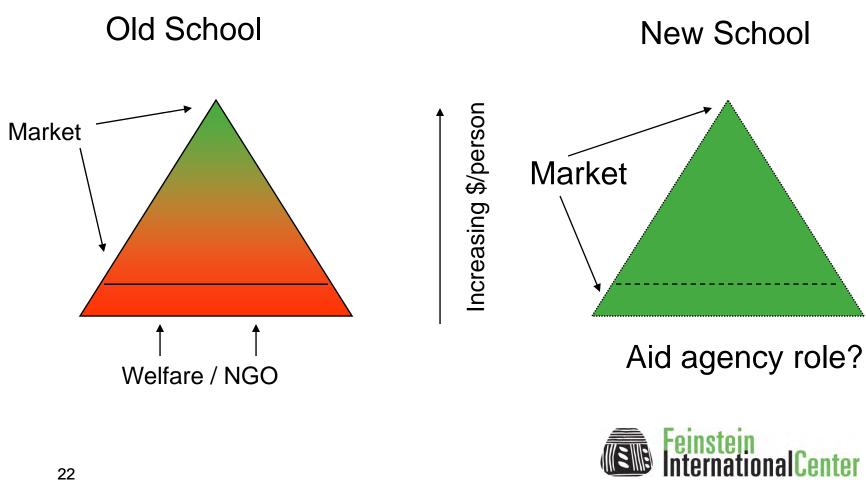


#### "Free" Market forces





#### **Changing actors**



# Complexity & Context



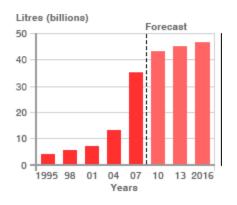


### Modelling complexity globally

#### Australia drought



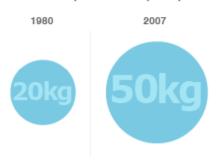
#### **Ethanol production**



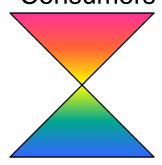
#### Global eating patterns

CHANGING EATING HABITS

Meat consumption in China per capita:



#### Consumers



**Producers** 

#### Food prices up











Graphics from BBC

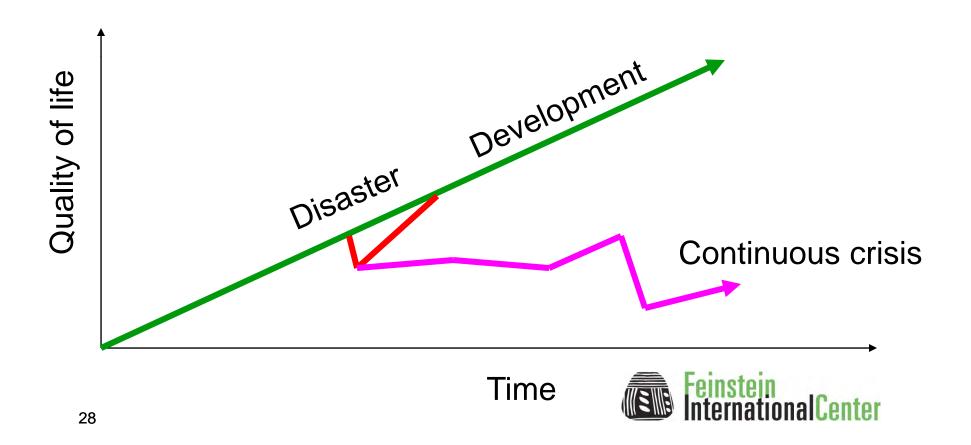




#### So what?



# Brave new world: non linear, Complex



### Implication for governance

Disasters as a threat to governance











# Implication for humanitarian agencies

- Understand complexity
- Standards AND context
- Get fixated about Impact





### **Institutional Change**

- 1. Relationships, not structure
- 2. Evidence driven narratives
- 3. Multi level engagement
- 4. Positive feedback loops





#### Relationships not structure



Total re-think of partnerships



#### **Evidence driven narratives**

Service providers



Indicators of service provision



# Multi-layer engagement



#### Positive feedback loops

- Push authority down
- Reward competence
- Reward risk & learning







## **The Dancing Elephant**

- 1. Relationships, not structure
- 2. Evidence driven narratives
- 3. Multi level engagement
- 4. Positive feedback loops



