

Start members and their partners should consider acting on developing risks through the Start Fund Crisis Anticipation. Click [HERE](#) for more information on Start Fund Crisis Anticipation. Click [HERE](#) for an anticipation note template.

## UPCOMING RISKS

### Risk Relevance

The risk relevance rating considers the relevance of the risk to the Start Fund Crisis Anticipation. Risks are categorised with FOREWARN input.

- HIGH RELEVANCE
- MEDIUM RELEVANCE
- LOW RELEVANCE

### Informal Global Risk Index

The INFORM risk index identifies countries at risk from humanitarian crises and disasters that could overwhelm national response capacity. It is made up of three dimensions-hazards and exposure, vulnerability and lack of coping capacity.



## HIGH RELEVANCE

RISK AND COUNTRY

RISK INFORMATION

SOURCE



### Flooding

**EAST AFRICA**

Wetter than-normal conditions are forecast across large parts of East Africa from March to May - including Burundi, South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. Heavy rains and flooding linked with El Niño between September and mid-December in 2023 impacted millions of people across the region. Alongside historic droughts between 2020-2022 and conflict in some regions, coping capacity among communities is weakened.

**Kenya** - Seasonal outlooks for Kenya indicate above average rainfall and temperatures between February and July are likely. Start Network member have previously raised response alerts to the Start Fund in the month of May ([Alert 085](#), [Alert 229](#), [Alert 426](#))

[START FUND ALERTS](#)

[WMO](#)

[FEWSNET](#)

[MET OFFICE UK](#)

[GLOFAS](#)

**Rwanda** - Seasonal outlooks for Rwanda indicate above average rainfall and temperatures are much more likely between February and April this year. Start Network members have previously raised response alerts to flooding between April and May ([Alert 227](#), [Alert 425](#), [Alert 704](#)).

**Tanzania** - Heavy flooding has devastated parts of Tanzania in the past few months. Seasonal forecasts indicate above-average rainfall will likely continue through the next few months. GLOFAS models indicate more severe flooding in the south of the country in the next 30 days.

MEDIUM RELEVANCE

RISK AND COUNTRY

RISK INFORMATION

SOURCE



Dengue

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) have issued an epidemiological alert related to the surge in dengue cases recorded in the first two months of 2024 across several countries in the region. In the first two months of 2024, PAHO reports an increase in dengue activity across Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, Mexico, Paraguay, and Peru.

Above average temperatures and rainfall extremes linked to the ongoing El Niño event are anticipated to continue to drive up the risk of dengue outbreaks across the region. In 2023, the highest number of dengue cases in recent decades was reported in the Americas, including geographic expansion of cases beyond historical areas. Cases of dengue are also commonly clustered with cases of Zika and chikungunya, as they are carried by the same mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*).

The Start Network pre-Alert guidance note provides support to Start Network members to raise Start Fund anticipation alerts for disease outbreaks.

[CRISIS24](#)

[REUTERS](#)

[PAHO](#)

[START NETWORK PRE-ALERT GUIDANCE NOTE \(ANTICIPATING DISEASE OUTBREAKS\)](#)



Extreme heat

INDIA SRI LANKA

INFORM Risk Class: High/Low

Following 2023 being a record-breaking year for temperatures across the globe, experts warn that extreme heat, linked with El Niño, could continue to affect regions across the globe in 2024. Seasonal forecasts indicate that there is a high chance of above-average temperatures in Sri Lanka and India in the coming months.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) anticipates that the number of heatwave days between March and May will be above-normal across many regions of the country. Impacts of the anticipated extreme heat include crop and livestock losses, water scarcity issues, and flooding linked to glacial lakes outbursts. Extreme temperatures anticipated between March and April pose a particular risk to older people, pregnant women, infants, people with chronic health conditions, farmers, and outdoor laborers.

[IMD](#)

[GUARDIAN](#)

[CRISIS24](#)

[DEPARTMENT OF METEOROLOGY SRI LANKA](#)



## Food insecurity

### PAPUA NEW GUINEA

INFORM Risk Class:  
High

Seasonal forecasts indicate above-average temperatures across Papua New Guinea will persist until June 2024. Whilst rainfall is expected across large parts of the country, the northern regions may continue experiencing dry conditions, particularly from March to May. Around 80% of the population is dependent on rain-fed subsistence farming, and more than 75% of the food consumed in the country is locally grown. Cost of living has risen sharply in Papua New Guinea recently. In January, deadly riots broke out in the capital Port Moseby linked with the financial hardships being experienced by public sector workers. The beginning of 2024 has also seen an uptick in deadly intercommunal violence in the long running conflict in the Enga Province.

[ACAPS](#)

[GUARDIAN](#)

[ACLED](#)



## Food insecurity

### TIMOR LESTE

INFORM Risk Class:  
Medium

Dry conditions in Timor-Leste are forecast to continue until May-June of this year. Below-average rainfall and above-average temperatures will have a negative impact on rice, maize, peanut, and coffee yields. Dry conditions during the rainy season (December-June) will compound the food production issues the country is already grappling with. Food security will likely further deteriorate due to the knock on effects of the El Niño phenomenon on global food prices and restrictions imposed by India on rice exports.

[ACAPS](#)

[WFP](#)

[IPC](#)

The UN Central Emergency Response Fund has allocated \$2 million to the El Niño impacts in Timor-Leste this year. Previously, the Start Fund has been activated in anticipation of drought in Timor-Leste (Alert 158) in 2017 exacerbated by the severe El Niño event in 2015-16.

## LOW RELEVANCE

RISK AND COUNTRY

RISK INFORMATION

SOURCE



## Food insecurity

## Civil Unrest

### HAITI

INFORM Risk Class:  
Medium

The humanitarian crisis in Haiti continues to intensify, with a series of coordinated attacks on prisons, police stations, port and airport in the past weeks. A State of Emergency for the Ouest Department has been extended until the 3rd of April. Humanitarian containers have been broken into and more than 300 containers remain under looting threat. IOM reports that the wave of violence in the past week has displaced around 15,000 people, and more than 160,000 people are currently displaced in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area. The country's healthcare system is also nearing collapse.

[OCHA](#)

[IOM](#)

[FEWSNET](#)

[IPC](#)

[HRW](#)

The number of regions in Haiti with IPC3 outcomes are projected to increase until May 2024. The severe insecurity in the country continues to disrupt access to markets and the movement of people and goods, including agricultural products.

## KEY POLITICAL DATES: UPCOMING

This 'Key Dates' section produces tangible events that members of the Start Network can use to inform specific, anticipatory, and preventive actions. Dates are compiled by drawing upon both global risk indexes and national-level risk information sources.

### TIMELINE

MAR

24

#### SENEGAL - PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Senegal's presidential elections are now due to take place on the 24th March, following recent political disturbance and violent protests, as President Macky Sall's plan to hold elections after his term expires on April 2nd were ruled unconstitutional by the country's high court. The political turmoil has prompted an emergency meeting of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) bloc seeking to calm widespread violence. The new date of 24th of March allows for less than the usual 3 weeks of campaigning and, for the first time ever, the elections will take place during the month of Ramadan in the majority Muslim country.

[AlJazeera & Reuters](#)

APR/  
MAY

TBC

#### INDIA - GENERAL ELECTION

Prime Minister Narendra Modi of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) seeks a rare third term for his Hindu nationalist government. Human Rights Watch has warned of politically motivated targeting of peaceful critics of the government. The US Commission on International Religious Freedom has also raised concerns over worsening attacks on religious minorities in the country.

[HRW & Reuters](#)