

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 and Landslides

**PERU**

INFORM Risk Class:  
Medium

Start Network members have previously raised multiple response alerts in Peru (Alert 695, Alert 686, Alert 570, Alert 150) for flooding and/or landslides between January-March. The seasonal outlook for precipitation from the National Service for Meteorology and Hydrology in Peru indicates above average precipitation in the north of the country between January-March. During the last severe El Nino event (2015-16), regions of Peru experienced weeks of heavy rains leading to widespread flooding and mudslides. Similarly, a year later, during an anomalous coastal El Nino event, there was unprecedented rainfall between the months of January-March, causing devastation across the northern and central coastal regions. This year so far, heavy rain has already impacted parts of the country, triggering landslides and flooding.

[SENAMHI PERU](#)

[ECHO](#)

[START FUND ALERTS](#)

## MEDIUM RELEVANCE

### RISK AND COUNTRY

### RISK INFORMATION

### SOURCE



## Wildfire

### COLOMBIA

### VENEZUELA

INFORM Risk Class:  
High/Medium

Drier than average conditions are expected in North West South America until March 2024.

Colombia is experiencing the effects of its typical dry season compounded by the ongoing El Niño phenomenon, producing hotter and dryer conditions. Over the last week, the Colombian Environmental Ministry has reported a significant increase in risk of forest fires. In Venezuela, the dry season runs from December-April with the peak wildfire season beginning in early January and lasting around 17 weeks. El Niño is expected to drive drier than normal conditions in the country between January and March, heightening the risk of severe wildfires.

In the region, abnormally dry conditions and wildfires, could have significant impacts on at-risk populations, including rural communities and subsistence farmers, indigeneous people, migrants, refugees, IDPs, elderly, women, children, and people with disabilities.

[GLOBAL FOREST WATCH](#)

[REUTERS](#)

[WFP](#)



## Disease outbreak

### REPUBLIC OF CONGO

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

INFORM Risk Class:  
High/Very High

Recent heavy rainfall has caused severe floods and flash floods over the past months in the Democratic Republic of Congo and The Republic of Congo. It is estimated that current rainfall is almost twice the average recorded in the 2022/23 season leading to the Congo River rising to its highest level in over 60 years. The World Health Organization has issued warnings of heightened risk of outbreaks of water- and vector-borne diseases like cholera, malaria, and dengue in affected areas.

[WHO](#)

[REUTERS](#)



## Drought

### PHILIPPINES

INFORM Risk Class:  
High

Exacerbated by the strong El Niño event, up to 15 provinces of the Philippines could be facing drought conditions by the end of January. PAGASA forecasts indicate that way below to below normal rainfall conditions are likely over most parts of Luzon and Visayas, Northern Mindanao, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and Zamboanga Peninsula. During the previous severe El Niño phenomenon in 2015-16, large areas of the country were impacted by drought or dry spells, with states of calamity declared in multiple regions.

[PAGASA](#)



### Conflict and violence

### Flooding

COLOMBIA

ECUADOR

INFORM Risk Class:  
High/Medium

The intensification of armed conflict in Colombia and gang violence in Ecuador continues to expose civilians to severe protection incidents. Increasing insecurity and migration in both countries remains a challenging humanitarian situation in the border region. ACAPS reports that violent clashes among armed groups in Colombia and criminal gangs in Ecuador are likely to persist. The violence in the region will likely disproportionately impact indigenous and rural communities, as well as migrants and asylum seekers crossing through the region.

[ACAPS](#)

[REUTERS](#)

Security threats and potential flooding due to forecasted above-average rainfall from January to February risk amplifying humanitarian impacts. The combination of heavy rains and higher temperatures may also contribute to an increased risk of dengue. Ongoing migration flows are expected to expose migrants and asylum seekers to armed conflict and gang violence in the border region, exacerbated by the limited capacity of local authorities and humanitarian organizations to address consecutive needs.

## LOW RELEVANCE

RISK AND COUNTRY

RISK INFORMATION

SOURCE



### FOOD INSECURITY

CHAD

INFORM Risk Class:  
Very High

Millions of people in Chad are facing high levels of food insecurity, compounded by the surge of Sudanese refugees and Chadian returnees, ongoing armed violence within the country, and conflict in Tibetsi. Last year prolonged dry spells in southern agricultural regions impacted agriculture at the beginning of the rainy season and floods in August-September contributed to the loss and damage of crops and livestock. FEWSNET estimates food insecurity in Chad to increase and expand geographically between February and May 2024. There are major concerns about the low mobilization of funds, with the UN's World Food Programme announcing in November the possibility of an interruption to food aid to 1.4 million crisis-affected people in Chad in January 2024 due to funding shortfalls.

[ACAPS](#)

[FEWSNET](#)

[WFP](#)



### CONFLICT

ETHIOPIA  
SOMALIA

INFORM Risk Class:  
Very High

At the start of January, Ethiopia signed an initial agreement with Somaliland to use its Red Sea port of Berbera. Somalia quickly described the deal as an act of aggression that was an impediment to peace and stability, with its president signing a law nullifying the agreement. Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed stated that the ambition to secure access to the Red Sea is a source of tension between Ethiopia and its neighbours, raising fresh concerns over rising tensions in the region.

[BBC](#)

[REUTERS](#)

## 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

FEB

25

#### SENEGAL - PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

The likelihood of opposition candidate Ousman Sonko running in Senegal's upcoming Presidential Elections appears very unlikely due to the rejection of his presidential candidate application by the Constitutional Council. Additionally, the Supreme Court rejected Sonko's appeal against his defamation conviction. Sonko, who was jailed in July 2023, had faced previous convictions that triggered deadly violence in the country.

[BBC & CRISISWATCH](#)