



## BACKGROUND

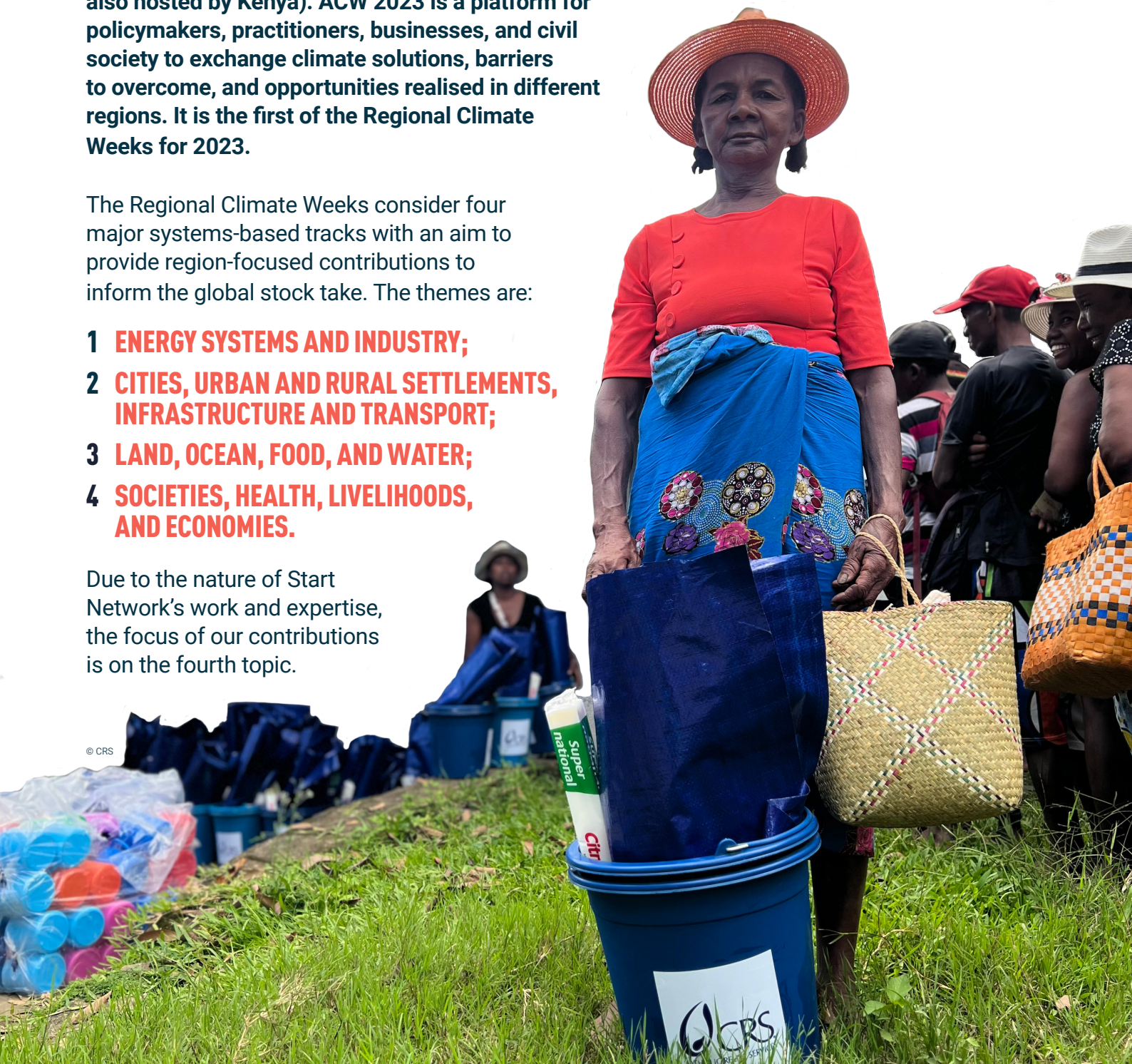
**Africa Climate Week (ACW)** will take place from 4-8 September 2023 in Nairobi, hosted by the government of Kenya and organised in parallel with the **Africa Climate Summit** (4-6 September, also hosted by Kenya). ACW 2023 is a platform for policymakers, practitioners, businesses, and civil society to exchange climate solutions, barriers to overcome, and opportunities realised in different regions. It is the first of the Regional Climate Weeks for 2023.

The Regional Climate Weeks consider four major systems-based tracks with an aim to provide region-focused contributions to inform the global stock take. The themes are:

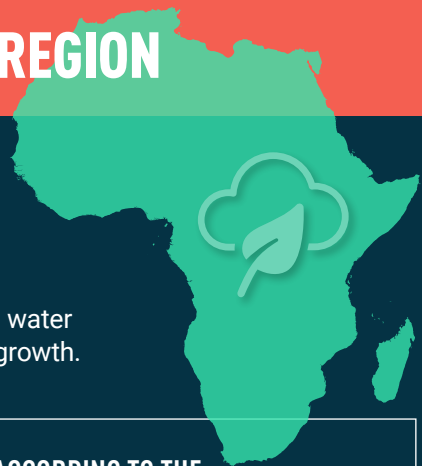
- 1 ENERGY SYSTEMS AND INDUSTRY;**
- 2 CITIES, URBAN AND RURAL SETTLEMENTS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT;**
- 3 LAND, OCEAN, FOOD, AND WATER;**
- 4 SOCIETIES, HEALTH, LIVELIHOODS, AND ECONOMIES.**

Due to the nature of Start Network's work and expertise, the focus of our contributions is on the fourth topic.

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# KEY FACTS & FIGURES IN THE AFRICAN REGION



The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** (IPCC) (2022) stated with high confidence that Africa is one of the lowest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change, yet key development sectors have already experienced widespread losses and damages attributable to human-induced climate change, including biodiversity loss, water shortages, reduced food production, loss of lives and reduced economic growth.



THE **AFRICA DEVELOPMENT BANK** (2022) REPORTS THAT ACCORDING TO THE **2022 CLIMATE VULNERABILITY INDEX**, NINE OF THE 10 MOST VULNERABLE COUNTRIES ARE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA; CHAD, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, GUINEA BISSAU, ERITREA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, SUDAN, NIGER, ZIMBABWE AND LIBERIA.

## THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND HUMANITARIAN NEED

The 2023 Global Humanitarian Assistance Overview reports that in 2022, three-quarters of all people in need of humanitarian assistance faced at least two risk dimensions: conflict, climate and/or socioeconomic vulnerability. Of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, those that also face long-term humanitarian crises receive less climate funding. (**Development Initiatives**, 2023)

Climate change exacerbates needs where vulnerabilities are highest and humanitarians are already stretched. The impacts of climate change are expected to lead to increased humanitarian costs exceeding US\$ 20bn per year. (**ALNAP**, 2023)

While climate change is not directly linked to the occurrence of conflict, it can increase the risk of conflict. Due to climate change increasing people's deprivation, there is an increased risk of conflict in previously peaceful areas and the possibility for conflicts to become more severe in areas where they are currently occurring. (**The Sasakawa Peace Foundation**, 2023)



## MIGRATION

By 2050, the **World Bank** (2021) predicts that the number of climate migrants could reach:

**216.1 MILLION**  
WORLDWIDE

With Sub-Saharan Africa potentially seeing as many as **85.7 million climate migrants**

**4.2%**  
OF THE TOTAL POPULATION

This heightened level of migration will add stress to governments and countries which are already facing several challenges domestically, due to the disproportionate impact of migration on low- and middle-income countries.

The **United Nations Refugee Agency** (UNHCR) (2023) reported that **76% of refugees and people in need of international protection** are hosted by low- and middle-income countries (24% by high income countries).

Additionally, **70% of refugees and other people in need of international protection** live in countries neighbouring their countries of origin (**UNHCR**, 2023).



## FOOD INSECURITY AND DROUGHT

Researchers found that the current drought in the Horn of Africa is a result of human-induced climate change. Climate change has made events like the current drought much stronger and more likely; a conservative estimate is that such droughts have become about 100 times more likely. (**World Weather Attribution**, 2023)



THE ONGOING DROUGHT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA HAS LED TO ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY FOR

**4 MILLION +**  
INHABITANTS  
World Weather Attribution, 2023



START NETWORK'S FINANCING MECHANISM, **START READY**, PRE-POSITIONS FUNDING FOR CRISES THAT HAPPEN WITH REGULAR AND PREDICTABLE PATTERNS OF RECURRENCE. THE COUNTRIES AND HAZARDS IN THE AFRICAN REGION UNDER RISK POOL 2 (MAY 2023-APRIL 2024) ARE DRC, RIVERINE/FLUVIAL FLOOD; MADAGASCAR CYCLONES AND DROUGHT; SENEGAL DROUGHT; AND SOMALIA DROUGHT.

## START READY MADAGASCAR ACTIVATION: **CYCLONE FREDDY**

Anticipating cyclones is difficult given the short lead-time to act and the uncertainty of a cyclone's path. Drawing on years of experience anticipating cyclones through Start Network's Start Fund, the first activities were able to reach some communities before the impact of the cyclone. In 2 of 7 implementation zones, communities were able to protect their homes ahead of landfall, and members reported that evacuation sites and access to healthcare were much improved.

Volomborona is a local community in the fokontany (village) of Tsiatosika in Madagascar. Recent inflation in the country combined with the impacts of previous cyclones have increased community vulnerability and have negatively impacted the livelihoods of the 360 households in the community. Cyclone Freddy further exacerbated this increasingly difficult situation. Heavy wind and rainfall forced community members to abandon homes. Flooding of rice fields negatively impacted livelihoods and food availability.

CARE was one of the Start Network members implementing pre-agreed activities as part of the Start Ready activation. CARE's work took place a few days before Cyclone Freddy made landfall and before formal needs assessments had been conducted, which normally take place 7-10 days after a cyclone makes landfall. This was possible due to the pre-planning that had occurred through Start Ready. CARE distributed WASH kits, household kits and tarpaulins

to 53 households in the fokontany. These kits helped to mitigate the immediate severity of the cyclone on the lives of community members; the tarpaulins enabled roofs to be covered, while the WASH kits and household kits helped to protect community health. In neighbouring fokontanys, the provision of in-kind food assistance helped to address some food insecurity to help enable parents to return their children to school.



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ON 18TH FEBRUARY 2022, WITH A 3 DAY LEAD TIME BEFORE THE CYCLONE WAS EXPECTED TO MAKE LANDFALL,

WIND SPEEDS OF **185 KM/H**

TRIGGERED A START READY PAYOUT OF

**£700,000**



**7**  
NGOS

IMPLEMENTED PRE-AGREED CONTINGENCY PLANS



PLANS TARGETED **67,000** AT-RISK PEOPLE

ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:



HOUSEHOLD KITS



WASH KITS



FOOD ASSISTANCE

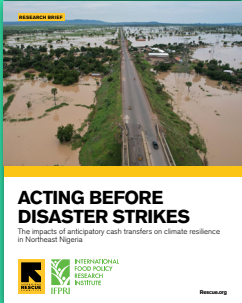


TARPAULINS



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

# STUDY BY THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE (IRC) ON CASH BASED ANTICIPATORY ACTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE



## **Acting Before Disaster Strikes: The impacts of anticipatory cash transfers on climate resilience in Northeast Nigeria, IRC, 2023.**

In a recent study in flood-prone regions of Northeast Nigeria, IRC found that anticipatory action is critical to meeting the short- and longer-term needs of households affected by both climate and crisis. IRC noted that this is particularly the case as climate shocks continue to worsen and humanitarian funding needs remain unmet for both emergencies and preventative responses.

The results of the study showed that households which received anticipatory cash in flood-prone areas had reduced negative coping strategies, increased pre-emptive climate adaptive actions, and enhanced investment in productive assets compared to households that received cash after peak flooding occurred. This suggests that large, one-time anticipatory cash transfers can build households' climate- adaptive and resilience capacity, and as a result reinforces the potential for cash based anticipatory action to reduce household vulnerability to future climate shocks.

## KEY MESSAGES

BEYOND THE HEADLINES OF EXTREME WEATHER AND SEVERE DISASTERS, START NETWORK HAS BEEN ADDRESSING THE HUMANITARIAN IMPACTS OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS IN A NUMBER OF WAYS.

**01 Performing a lifesaving and gap-filling role** by responding to under-the-radar, small to medium sized crises through the Start Fund.



**02 Protecting people at risk of climatic crises through innovative financing** with Start Ready, which prepositions funding for predictable climate hazards. Start Ready pools risks across countries to stretch funding further and respond quickly to locally identified climate risks.



**03 Driving systemic change centered in locally led action**, and co-creating shifts in the way humanitarian action is approached, resourced, and delivered. By shifting power and decision-making through the work of the locally led humanitarian hubs working in partnership with us we advocate for a humanitarian system that is more locally led and anticipatory.



# POLICY ASKS



TOGETHER WITH OUR NETWORK OF MORE THAN 80 LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL ORGANISATIONS WORKING ACROSS FIVE CONTINENTS, WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR:

## 01 INCREASED FINANCING TO ADDRESS THE LOSSES AND DAMAGES CAUSED BY THE CLIMATE CRISIS.

Loss and damage is typically understood as the adverse impacts of climate change which have occurred and will occur despite mitigation and adaptation efforts. It is key that continued progress is made towards the targets on mitigation and adaptation, but it is also necessary to take steps to avert, minimise, and address current and future loss and damage. **Previous analysis** has estimated that the Global North is responsible for 92% of greenhouse gas emissions.

The Loss and Damage Financing Mechanism must be aligned with the calls from countries experiencing the biggest effects of climate change and cover both economic and non-economic loss and damage, including the impact on lives, societies, and environments. This should not be duplicative financing but rather in addition to existing financing from other sectors (e.g., humanitarian, development, and climate). Furthermore, the Loss and Damage Financing Mechanism should ensure that funding reaches people and communities affected and at risk of climate impacts.

## 02 A MORE LOCALLY LED HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO CLIMATE RISKS.

**The Grand Bargain** is an agreement between some of the largest donors and humanitarian aid organisations, and calls for 25 per cent of global humanitarian funding to local and national responders.

Through our financing mechanisms, we are able to shift resources to national and local organisations to anticipate and respond to crises. Local communities and people who are disproportionately affected by climate change must have access to risk information, early warning systems, and pre-arranged financing to respond to crises in a timely and efficient way to protect themselves.

Local knowledge, expertise, and leadership must be recognised to strengthen responses to climate risks. More locally informed and inclusive approaches to humanitarian response involves supporting community-based innovation, recognising local and Indigenous knowledge, and including the needs of all people in their diversity (e.g., traditionally marginalised populations like women, youth, elderly, and persons with disabilities).

## 03 A SYSTEMIC CHANGE IN THE HUMANITARIAN FINANCING SYSTEM, BASED ON INNOVATIVE, FLEXIBLE, AND PROACTIVE WAYS TO RESPOND TO CLIMATE NEEDS AND REDUCE RISK.

For some hazards it is possible to use science and risk modelling to determine the predictability and patterns of occurrence which can be utilised to act in anticipation or earlier in the evolution of the crisis.

The current humanitarian financing system is slow, reactive, and fragmented.

By shifting mindsets, resources, and financing to a proactive approach supported by financing that is released rapidly (and where possible in advance of crises) and responses that are led by actors within the crisis-context, it is possible to protect more people and reduce humanitarian impacts.

Anticipatory and early action must be complemented and connected to wider disaster risk management efforts to further reduce risks and continue to build resilience.