STΛRT NETWΟRK

START FUND PILOT
ANTICIPATION OF CYCLONES
FOREWARN MADAGASCAR

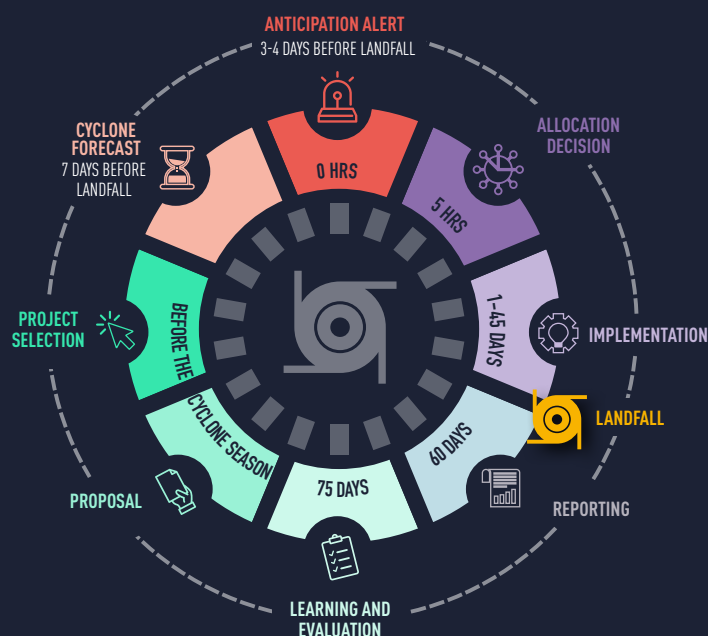## PILOT OVERVIEW

Members of Start Network in Madagascar, together with FOREWARN Madagascar and Alliance Urgence members developed an Anticipatory Action system to anticipate tropical cyclones in the country through the Start Fund. Start Network worked with the national Meteorological and Disaster management authority (BNGRC) to ensure access to high quality cyclone forecasts and risk information.

Our members also worked with the London School of Economics, to develop a risk matrix that would prompt Start Fund cyclone anticipation alerts after determining risk levels. In addition, the Start Fund alert cycle was tweaked after pre-season sensitisation and coordination with decision makers, to allow for greater use of the short lead times that often exist between reliable forecasts and when cyclones make landfall (5 days maximum).

READ THE MADAGASCAR PILOT SUMMARY HERE.

CYCLONE ANTICIPATION ALERT CYCLE

- ANTICIPATION ALERT — 3-4 DAYS BEFORE LANDFALL — 0 HRS
- ALLOCATION DECISION — 5 HRS
- IMPLEMENTATION — 1-45 DAYS
- LANDFALL — 60 DAYS
- REPORTING
- LEARNING AND EVALUATION — 75 DAYS
- PROPOSAL
- PROJECT SELECTION
- BEFORE THE CYCLONE SEASON
- CYCLONE FORECAST — 7 DAYS BEFORE LANDFALL

START FUND PROJECTS

CYCLONE BATSIRAI – ALERT 579

ALERT ACTIVATION
2 Feb 2022
(4 days before landfall)

ACTIVATION AMOUNT £419,046 awarded with only **£216,234** used for implementation ('No Regrets' policy)*

PROJECT AWARDED
7 projects awarded with 4 implemented projects

AGENCIES	REGION	REACH	ACTIVITIES
Medair	Mananjary	22,912	• Distribution of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) kits • Latrine disinfection and rehabilitation • Awareness raising on hygiene, sanitation and COVID-19 measures
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Atsinanana	8,421	• Sensitisation and awareness around cyclones
Action Against Hunger	Atsimo Andrefana	2,274	• Unconditional cash transfers • Disaster Risk Reduction • Rehabilitation of basic infrastructure (schools)
Welthungerhilfe	Atsimo Atsinanana	7,952	• Pre-positioning of WASH kits and kitchen kits • Unconditional and conditional cash transfers through a cash-for-work programme
	TOTAL	41,559	

* 'No and Low Regrets' policy allows awarded members to return funds in case crises previously anticipated occur mildly or fail to materialise.

CYCLONE EMNATI – ALERT 582

AGENCIES	REGION	REACH	ACTIVITIES
Medair	Mananjary	206,223	• Supply and distribution of drinking water • Distribution of non-food item (NFI) kits • Awareness raising on hygiene, sanitation and COVID-19 measures
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Atsinanana	6,054	• Sensitisation and awareness around cyclones • Unconditional cash transfers
Welthungerhilfe	Atsimo Atsinanana	7,911	• Distribution of personal care kits • Unconditional and conditional cash transfers through a cash-for-work programme
	TOTAL	220,188	• Organisation of preventive evacuation

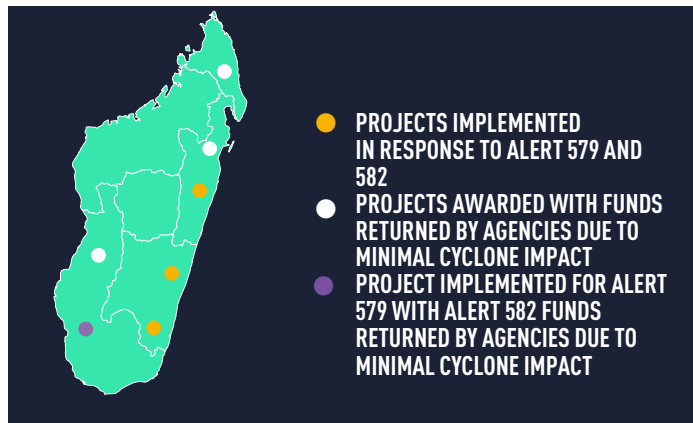**ALERT ACTIVATION**
20 Feb 2022
(2 days before landfall)

ACTIVATION AMOUNT £216,155 awarded with only **£150,455** used in implementation ('No Regrets' policy)*

PROJECT AWARDED
4 projects awarded with 3 implemented projects

- **PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN RESPONSE TO ALERT 579 AND 582**
- **PROJECTS AWARDED WITH FUNDS RETURNED BY AGENCIES DUE TO MINIMAL CYCLONE IMPACT**
- **PROJECT IMPLEMENTED FOR ALERT 579 WITH ALERT 582 FUNDS RETURNED BY AGENCIES DUE TO MINIMAL CYCLONE IMPACT**

* 'No and Low Regrets' policy allows awarded members to return funds in case crises previously anticipated occur mildly or fail to materialise.

KEY LEARNINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

01 EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ALERTING MATRIX AND RISK ANALYTICS
- **Cyclone event prediction** - the alerting matrix successfully prompted the raising of anticipation alerts for cyclones Batsirai and Emnati (only ones where the forecast conditions met the pre-set thresholds). These were the first anticipation alerts for tropical cyclones ever activated before landfall. The system did not prompt an alert for Storm Ana, showing a limitation for forecasting rapidly intensifying cyclones.
- **Vulnerability information** - The vulnerability data available is limited.
- **Identifying affected regions** - The alerting matrix was broadly successful at targeting the most impacted locations

02 APPROPRIATENESS AND TIMELINESS OF THE INTERVENTIONS
- **Appropriateness of the interventions** - projects met the needs of the targeted populations, and projects had a positive impact on the targeted people's wellbeing in the short term, although due to the timings of the projects, assistance was mostly immediate relief rather than preparation, risk mitigation or long-term recovery.
- **Timeliness** - responses were timely enough according to implementing agencies and the targeted people. Start Network member agencies were the first to intervene in the allocated areas.
- **'No and Low Regrets' policy** - some awarded projects were not implemented due to our 'No and Low Regrets' policy which allows members to act according to the context and needs on the ground. Therefore, as the cyclones had a very low impact in some regions initially allocated to these agencies, the latter decided to return funds they did not need.

03 ANTICIPATORY ACTION
- **Implemented activities and main challenges** - Four out of seven of the implemented projects contained some anticipatory aspects; however the overall number of anticipatory actions were limited. Members and other actors emphasised the difficulty of delivering certain activities due to limited preparedness, lack of funding, inhibitive factors within the Start Fund process, safety concerns and fear of accelerating tension in target communities
- **Future considerations for anticipatory action** - Members, FOREWARN and Start Network team should collaborate in the design of crisis anticipation activities that can be feasibly delivered, considering the challenges identified. Members should take steps to ensure operational readiness and advance planning in order to deliver anticipatory activities in the short window of time between alert activation and cyclone impacts.
- **Anticipatory and pre-season preparedness activities** - Include evacuation site related anticipatory activities targeted at accommodation- Focus group communities, BNGRC & OCHA all emphasised a key gap in the anticipatory window with regard to evacuation sites; while there were designated sites, they lacked appropriate items to support displaced communities.

NEXT STEPS

The Madagascar cyclone pilot is aiming to be included in future **Start Ready** risk pools; an innovative instrument that uses risk modelling and other insurance mechanisms to provide pre-positioned humanitarian financing at scale.

Moving the cyclone programme to Start Ready will increase the amount of funds available for anticipation of tropical cyclones in the country and beyond.

Funding will automatically be released when pre-set risk thresholds are met, utilising risk analytics, coordination and contingency planning already existing within the pilot project.