

**START**  
NETWORK

# ADVOCACY BRIEF

January to June 2023



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Mentions</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Spotlight Moments</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Sharing our Vision-Mission</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Must Reads</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	<b>7</b>



# TIMELINE

## JANUARY



Planning and preparation for advocacy and engagement in the year ahead.

Mentioned by [Risk-informed Early Action Partnership](#), [CAFOD and Development Initiatives](#), and [InsurResilience](#).

## FEBRUARY



Featured in ["The importance of building resilience in humanitarian emergencies"](#) Devex and Cartier Foundation.

Participated in the IASC Briefing on Extreme Heat, and a Howden/Impatience Earth Event.

## MARCH



Published ["Anticipatory Approach to Humanitarian Aid Best Solution"](#) in The Project Syndicate and ["#StartLocal: Localisation Means Action"](#) blog.

Participated in The Council Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid, The European Humanitarian Forum.

## APRIL



Mentioned by Humanitarian Advisory Group in ["A Pathway to Localisation Impact"](#).

## MAY



Participated in C7 Summit and C7 Communique; Humanitarian and Partnerships Week; Humanitarian Leadership Conference'

Published ["A more inclusive C7 for a more accountable G7"](#), BOND.

Participated in AidEx Skills Grant Webinar; G20 side event; Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform.

## JUNE



Mentioned by The New Arab ["Record \\$47 bn humanitarian funding in 2022 not enough to cover global need"](#) report; Development Initiatives ["Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2023"](#).

Published The New Humanitarian Aid and Policy Opinion ["Local Aid Groups are Paving the Way for Progress on Their Terms. Internationals need to follow their lead"](#).

Participated in The Insurance Development Forum Summit; Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action; AidEx Nairobi; ECOSOC; London Climate Action Week.

# MENTIONS

**Earlier this year**, Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) and Development Initiatives published their brief **'Food Insecurity in South Sudan: Financing to Local Actors'**. In the brief, the **South Sudan Hub model, in partnership with Start Network**, is explored as a country-level platform that enables locally led humanitarian action and innovatively strengthens the quality of funding and partnerships with local actors. **To read more, access the report here.**

**Risk-informed Early Action Partnership** published their **'Early Action: The State of Play 2022'**. The report identifies Start Fund as one of the five largest humanitarian funds. Further noting that, collectively, **Start Fund Global, Start Fund Bangladesh, and Start Fund Nepal reached more than 240,000 people** through anticipatory action alone. The report also identifies Start Network as a key partner to mainstream local perspectives into partnership activities. **To read more, access the report here.**




**InsuResilience Sectoral Community** released a compilation of 20 policy-relevant think pieces by community members. The work of Start Network, members, and partners is referenced in several contributions, particularly in relation to the use of funding pots from pre-existing internal emergency funds. The paper also contains three contributions from Start Network team members, Anna Farina (Crisis Anticipation and Risk Finance Operations Lead) and Sarah Klassen (Policy and Advocacy Advisor).

**To read more, access the report here.**

**Development Initiatives** published their **'Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2023'**. In an insight piece, Christina Bennet, CEO of Start Network, provides an example from Start Network members in Pakistan, through the Pakistan Hub, on the development of a specific risk finance system for heatwaves. **To read more, access the report here.**

# SPOTLIGHT MOMENTS

A graphic of a spotlight shining from the top left corner of the page, illuminating the text below.

It has been an exciting start to the year with numerous events, conferences, webinars, workshops, and more. Our members continue to engage with and influence policymakers, think tanks, private corporations, and humanitarians alike to drive a global system change. Here are a handful of our spotlight moments from this year so far.

## INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee hosted a briefing on 'Reflections on Extreme Heat Reports and the Road to COP28'. Sumera Javed, the Executive Manager of HANDS Pakistan, provided insight into their locally-led responses to heatwaves in Pakistan and what is needed from the international community.

## EUROPEAN HUMANITARIAN FORUM

Start Network participated in two sessions. The first was co-organised by the Anticipation Hub on 'Expanding anticipatory action: crises and conflict, disease outbreaks, food insecurity'. The second was co-organised by the Swedish EU Presidency and DG ECHO in conjunction with OCHA, REAP, and Start Network on 'Scaling Up Collective Anticipatory Action'. Start Network members present were invited to provide remarks.

## C7

During the C7 Summit in Japan, Start Network was part of the Humanitarian Assistance and Conflict Working Group. Our External Affairs and Advocacy Lead, Myriam Castañeda Solares, raised awareness of our work and participated in a session on 'Shifting from Reactive to Proactive Responses – How Anticipatory Action Can Reduce the Need for Humanitarian Assistance'. She was joined by our member Muhammad Amad from IDEA, Pakistan.



## HUMANITARIAN NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS WEEK

Start Network and members led, collaborated on, and participated in five sessions over the course of the week. Key takeaways from our last session on anticipatory action included:

- Anticipatory action means protecting people at risk
- Acting early means preserving dignity
- Collaboration between donors, the private sector, and NGOs is key
- More than 50% of climate-related disasters are somewhat predictable
- Only 1-2% of all funding is on anticipatory action

## REGIONAL DIALOGUE PLATFORMS

Start Network teams based in Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Nepal participated in several sessions at the Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action. Here, the teams highlighted our successes in early humanitarian action and rapid financing.

### AIDEX NAIROBI

During AidEx Nairobi in June, Start Network organised a session on ‘The Power of Locally-Led Collaboration – How Hubs Are Meeting Overlapping and Complex Challenges’. At the conference, our South Sudan and Somalia Hub Representatives shared their experiences of locally-led collaboration.

### ECOSOC

Start Network participated in several sessions and co-organised a side event titled ‘The Role of Local and National Actors in Anticipatory to Minimise and Address Climate-Induced Disasters and Crises’. Nanette Antequisa from ECOWEB Philippines, spoke in the session, quoting “Anticipatory action combined with science, community, and local wisdom can harness local preparedness and resilience”. A member representative from Hope Restoration for South Sudan, Angelina Nyajima, was also part of a high-level panel on ‘Strengthening Humanitarian Assistance in the Face of Climate Change’.

**“LOCALISATION IS BRIDGING THE GAP IN THE HUMANITARIAN SYSTEM, BREAKING THE HIERARCHIES THAT EXIST TO BETTER RESPOND TO COMMUNITIES AND ADVANCE LOCALLY-LED SOLUTIONS”**



# SHARING OUR VISION –MISSION

In February, **Impatience Earth** invited Start Network to speak in a closed session to the Howden Foundation Board on the topic of 'The role of Insurance in funding Climate Adaptation and DRR'. **Christina Bennett, CEO of Start Network, shared details of our work related to insurance**, such as work through ARC Replica, and the humanitarian perspective on climate change. **Christina also shared our work on humanitarian anticipatory action** at a session of the **Council Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid**. A critical forum for debates on humanitarian aid between EU Member States and the European Commission.

Leading up to the C7, **Start Network contributed to the Communiqué**. Specifically, our locally led and anticipatory action messages were included in the 'Humanitarian Assistance and Conflict' section. **Read more [here](#)**

In May, our **Head of Crisis Anticipation and Risk Financing Anna Farina presented our early action initiatives across the globe** at the **G20 side event** on 'Financing Disaster Risk Reduction'. **Watch the full session [here](#).**

Also in May, in collaboration with **AIDEX**, we hosted a webinar on 'The Impact of Locally-owned Research and Learning'. **Our Evidence and Learning team led a panel of local and national member organisations** who shared their experiences of undertaking research projects funded by Start Network. The panel discussed how the research and learning projects supported their organisational development and their understanding of the best ways to support and work with crisis-affected communities. **You can watch the webinar in full [here](#).**

In June, a **member of our Start Ready Governance Committee, Oenone Chadburn** discussed how Start Ready addresses climate risks to protect more people in a session at the **London Climate Week** titled 'Scaling practical solutions for tackling loss and damage in LDCs and SIDS'.



# MUST READS

Earlier this year, **Devex** and **Cartier Philanthropy** partnered to examine [the importance of building resilience in humanitarian emergencies](#).

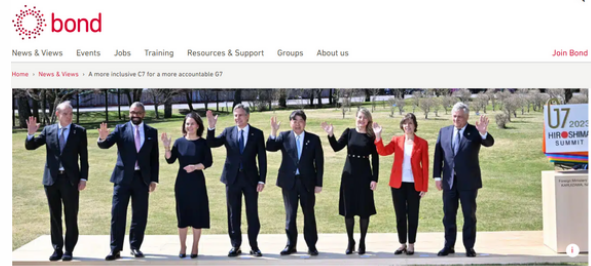
Start Network's CEO, **Christina Bennet**, was invited to share our key messages, stating that "The humanitarian system is still based on response, acting after a crisis has happened," further adding that "this has resulted in responses that are too late, inadequate, and not appropriate to what communities want and need".

The Advocacy team is focusing on reaching new audiences **through commentary pieces** including '[How to Prevent Humanitarian Crises](#)' and '[A more inclusive C7 for a more accountable C7](#)'. Both pieces are **authored by Myriam Castañeda Solares**, our **External Affairs and Advocacy Lead**, published by **Project Syndicate** and **BOND**, respectively.

In June, **Christina Bennet**, CEO of **Start Network**, authored an opinion piece titled '[Local aid groups are paving the way for progress on their terms. Internationals need to follow their lead](#)', published by **The New Humanitarian**.

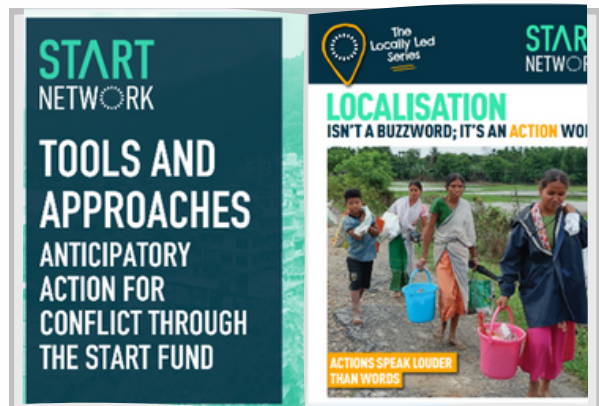
Since the start of 2023, the Start Network Team has also published a range of briefings, guidance notes, reports, learning materials, and tools.

[Access our recent reports and publications here.](#)



A more inclusive C7 for a more accountable G7

May 16, 2023 Author: [Myriam Castañeda Solares](#)





# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Creating Effective Warnings For All**  
Conference

**Africa**  
Regional Climate Week

Nairobi, Kenya, 4-8 September 2023

PROMOTING LOCAL LEADERSHIP AND EQUITABLE PARTNERSHIP IN NGO CONSORTIA:  
AN ONLINE WORKSHOP TO SHARE EXPERIENCES AND IDENTIFY WAYS FORWARD

September 20, 2023 | 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM CET  
Online via Zoom

Charter CHANGE START NETWORK RELIEF ALLIANCE TOGETHER! NEXUS NEAR

**Middle East and North Africa**  
Regional Climate Week

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 9-12 October 2023

**aidex**  
2023  
THE GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN AID EVENT

25-26 OCTOBER 2023, PALEXPO, GENEVA

**Latin America and the Caribbean**  
Climate Week

Panama City, Panama, 23-27 October 2023  
Hosted by the government of Panama

START NETWORK

**ASSEMBLY 2023**

31 October Online and open to the public  
8-9 November Nairobi, Kenya for members and hubs

**Asia-Pacific**  
Regional Climate Week

Johor, Malaysia, 2023

**COP28**  
UAE

Global Dialogue Platform Anticipation Hub

**11th Global Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action**

## STAY IN TOUCH

Over the next months, the Advocacy Team will focus on two campaigns, Localisations Means Action and The Climate Crisis: A Human Story. The former will focus on our broader localisation agenda. While the latter will focus on bringing a human story to discussions on the climate crisis.

If you would like more information on our campaigns, please email [myriam.castaneda@startnetwork.org](mailto:myriam.castaneda@startnetwork.org).