

# START READY : MADAGASCAR

## START NETWORK : ACTIVATIONS

START READY IS A UNIQUE FINANCING MODEL THAT DELIVERS RAPID FUNDING FOR PREDICTABLE AND RECURRING CRISES AT SCALE. IT IS A MULTI-DONOR RISK POOL THAT COMBINES RISK ANALYSIS, COLLECTIVE PLANNING, SCIENTIFIC MODELLING, AND PRE-POSITIONED FINANCING.

Start Ready has been transformative in anticipating crises and protecting communities ahead of their onset. Madagascar was one of the 7 countries included in the second Start Ready Risk Pool, which ran from May 2023 to April 2024. During this period, Start Ready activated in anticipation of two major crises in Madagascar - drought in February 2024 and Cyclone *Gamane* in March 2024.



Medair, WASH kit distribution, cyclone Gamane, March 2024.

The case studies below illustrate the transformative impact of Anticipatory Actions in Madagascar during two different crises:



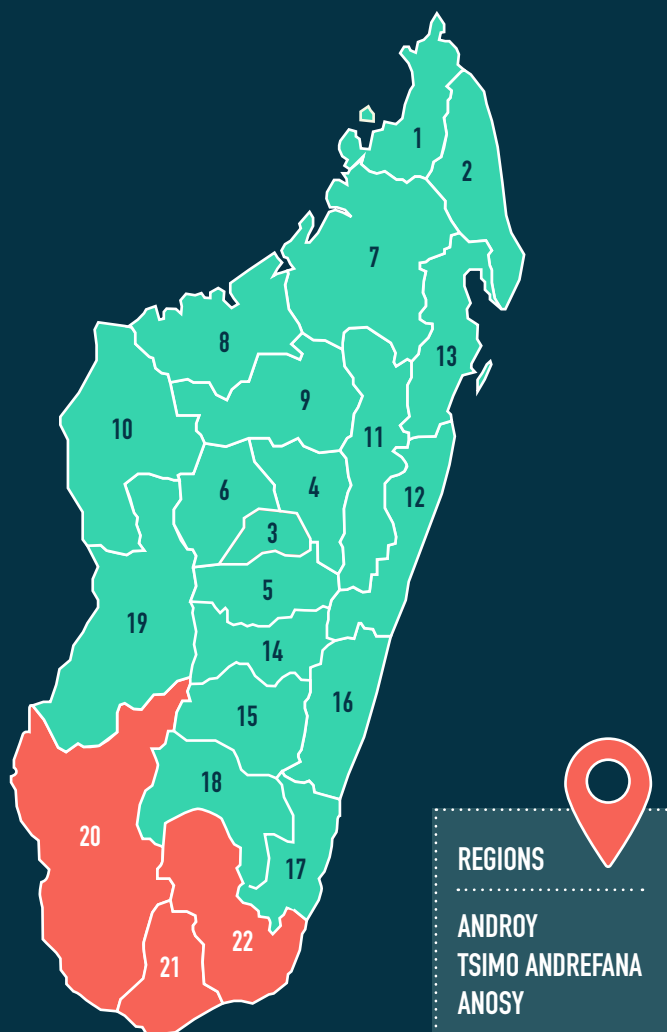
# CASE STUDY 1

## MADAGASCAR DROUGHT

 **£1,800,000**  
**DISBURSED**

 **TRIGGER**  
**FEB 2024**

**117,025**   
**PEOPLE REACHED**



Anticipatory action and early response through **Start Ready** funds, were instrumental in mitigating the devastating impacts of drought in Madagascar. A mid-season activation was raised on 12 February 2024 in anticipation of a poor harvest.

The drought forecast model bases its threshold on the Water Requirement Satisfaction Index (WRSI), an indicator of crop performance during the growing season. The WRSI indicated an imminent severe drought, reaching the low threshold necessary to trigger the release of Start Ready funds for anticipatory action.

A total of £1,800,000 was disbursed to five Start Network members; Catholic Relief Services, Save the Children, Care International, Humanity and Inclusion, and Action contre la Faim.

Member agencies implemented multi-sectoral activities with a focus on early warning messaging. Educational initiatives established safe spaces in schools with canteens. WASH activities provided kits, water supply systems, and water trucking. Food security and livelihoods were bolstered through cash transfers, grants delivered for drought-resistant seeds and livestock, and agricultural training were adapted for climate change. Protection measures raised awareness to prevent gender-based violence and promoted the inclusion of marginalised groups, ensuring comprehensive support for the affected population.

Collectively, these interventions reached 117,025 people, bolstering community resilience against the impending drought. Community actors reflected that this was the first time a humanitarian project for drought response collaborated actively with the affected community and local government. In one municipality, the mayor commented how, due to the efforts of Start Network members, *“the level of insecurity has decreased and many residents who had migrated have been able to return”*.

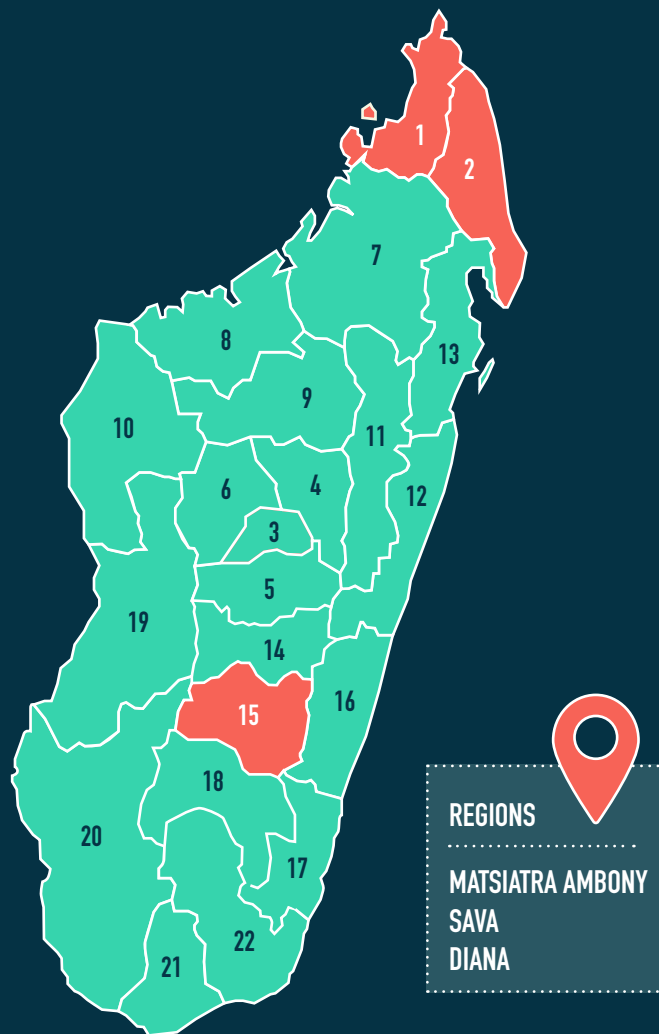
# CASE STUDY 2

## MADAGASCAR CYCLONE GAMANE

 **£1,130,000**  
**DISBURSED**

 **TRIGGER**  
**MARCH 2024**

**108,921**   
**PEOPLE REACHED**



**Start Ready** was activated on 26 March 2024, one day before the landfall of Cyclone Gamane which hit the north and northeast regions of Madagascar. This activation demonstrates the effectiveness of early response even with a short lead time.

Despite the limited anticipatory window, five **members** – Medair, Save the Children, Catholic Relief Services, Humanity and Inclusion, Care International – delivered life-saving assistance to affected communities. A total of £1,130,000 was distributed from Start Ready funds to assist community members through multi-purpose cash distributions, protection activities, and WASH and education support for children and youth.

Additionally, two Start Network members supported the local authorities to coordinate the immediate humanitarian response. 35,324 individuals were protected from the destruction of the cyclone and the response directly reached 108,921 people.

*"The emergency response to this disaster was very rapid. We are grateful and we hope our collaboration continues."* - Administrative Head of Ambilobe District, Madagascar.

Through these targeted interventions, Start Ready safeguarded thousands in Madagascar against climate-related crises, demonstrating the strength of locally-led action and pre-positioned financing.

