

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

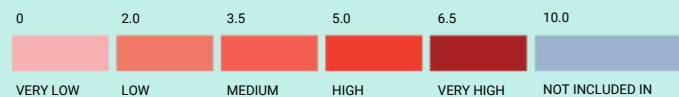
### RISK RELEVANCE

The risk relevance rating considers the relevance of the risk to the Start Fund Crisis Anticipation. Risks are categorised with FOREWARN input.



### 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 COUNTRY



**USAID**  
**humanitarian**  
**funding crisis**  
**GLOBAL**

### RISK INFORMATION

On January 20, 2025, US President Donald Trump issued an executive order (EO) to suspend US-funded foreign aid for 90 days. Starting January 24, the administration began issuing stop-work orders (SWOs) and paused new aid. This decision has created global uncertainty and significant impacts on those in need. While the full extent of the current situation and future consequences of the EO is still unfolding, here are some examples of the immediate and anticipated effects, although the direct and secondary impacts will be widespread:


**Nigeria:** the UN World Food Programme (WFP) warns that without urgent funding, life-saving food and nutrition assistance in Central Sahel and Nigeria will stop in April 2025. This comes as the lean season, when hunger peaks, is expected to arrive earlier this year.

*[cont'd on next page]*



### SOURCE

[ACAPS](#)  
[Ground Truth Solution](#)  
[The Guardian](#)  
[The New Humanitarian Relief Web](#)  
[Center for Global Development](#)  
[Amnesty International](#)



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HIGH RELEVANCE		
RISK COUNTRY	RISK INFORMATION	SOURCE
 <p>USAID humanitarian funding crisis GLOBAL</p>	<p><i>[cont'd from previous page]</i></p> <p><b>Mexico:</b> In 2024, the US funded 98% of humanitarian aid in Mexico. However, with the US funding freeze and new immigration policies, migrants, asylum seekers, and aid efforts are at risk. Increased deportations from the US will raise the number of people on the move in Mexico. Between January 20 and February 11, nearly 11,000 migrants were deported to Mexico, and the prevention of legal entry to the US will further increase movement within Mexico, leading some to attempt illegal entry, exposing them to severe risks. Additionally, some may be returned to unsafe countries of origin.</p> <p><b>Panama:</b> The crackdown on migrants has led to a reverse flow, with an increasing number of asylum seekers opting for unsafe boat rides back to South America to avoid crossing the Darién Gap.</p> <p><b>Myanmar:</b> The funding pause in Myanmar has worsened the situation for civilians already facing armed conflict, displacement, and human rights abuses. It has also caused chaos among Myanmar refugees in Thailand, forcing many NGOs, to halt or reduce essential services. This has severely impacted the 90,000 refugees, mainly from the Karen ethnic minority, living in camps along the Thailand-Myanmar border.</p>	<p><a href="#">ACAPS</a> <a href="#">Ground Truth Solution</a> <a href="#">The Guardian</a> <a href="#">The New Humanitarian Relief Web</a> <a href="#">Center for Global Development</a> <a href="#">Amnesty International</a></p>

**MEDIUM RELEVANCE**

RISK AND COUNTRY	RISK INFORMATION	SOURCE
 <p><b>Election-based Violence</b> VENEZUELA</p> <p><b>INFORM RISK CLASS</b> HIGH</p>	<p>On 25 May 2025, Venezuela will hold legislative elections to elect 277 deputies to the National Assembly, set against the backdrop of President Nicolás Maduro’s inauguration following the contested July 2024 election. That election sparked nationwide protests, leading to 28 deaths, 200 injuries, and over 2,400 arrests.</p> <p>While January 2025 saw fewer and largely peaceful demonstrations compared to the immediate post-election period, Venezuela’s longstanding pattern of state repression, violent crackdowns on opposition movements, and civil unrest suggests that the upcoming electoral period could see a resurgence of tensions. Security forces and pro-government Colectivos have historically been deployed to suppress dissent, and there is a possibility they will play a similar role during the upcoming elections. Their involvement could heighten the risk of voter intimidation, violent clashes, mass arrests, and potential fatalities, all of which could serve as flashpoints for unrest, making both the pre-election and post-election periods highly volatile.</p> <p>On 1 February, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security revoked Temporary Protected Status for Venezuelan migrants, putting around 300,000 at risk of deportation as early as April, with more likely losing protection later in 2025.</p>	<p><a href="#">EL PAÍS</a> <a href="#">ACLED</a> <a href="#">ACLED</a> <a href="#">CrisisGroup</a></p>
 <p><b>Conflict</b> YEMEN</p> <p><b>INFORM RISK CLASS</b> VERY HIGH</p>	<p>In late January, Houthis deployed thousands of fighters to the government held Marib in the north of the country marking a major threat to the de facto truce in place since 2022. Throughout February, there have been deadly clashes between government forces and Houthi fighters in the region. If war returns to Yemen, the consequences would be devastating, placing civilians in danger, displacing thousands and leaving millions without adequate access to food.</p> <p>The U.S. State Department will reinstate the Houthis as a "foreign terrorist organization," reversing the Biden administration’s earlier decision. Originally lifted due to Yemen’s humanitarian crisis, the redesignation raises concerns that importers will hesitate due to U.S. sanctions, worsening conditions.</p>	<p><a href="#">Crisis Group</a> <a href="#">Crisis Group</a> <a href="#">Reuters</a></p>

**MEDIUM RELEVANCE**

RISK AND COUNTRY	RISK INFORMATION	SOURCE
 <p><b>Flooding and Landslide</b>  <b>ECUADOR</b></p> <p><b>INFORM RISK CLASS</b>  <b>MEDIUM</b></p>	<p>Heavy rainfall has caused severe floods and landslides across Ecuador, affecting 23 of 24 provinces. Six provinces are under red alert, and a 60-day regional emergency has been declared. Flooding has damaged health infrastructure in Esmeraldas, Los Ríos, Guayas, and El Oro, disrupting services. As of March 7, authorities report 16 deaths, 91 injuries, 168 displaced, and over 80,000 affected. More than 21,000 houses were damaged, with 98 destroyed.</p> <p>Ecuador has requested support from the Union Civil Protection Mechanism for food, WASH supplies, shelter, and drainage materials. The Copernicus Emergency Management Service has been mapping flood-affected areas since February 26. More heavy rainfall is expected in the coming week.</p>	<p><u>ECHO</u>  <u>Copernicus</u>  <u>IFRC</u></p>
 <p><b>Extreme Temperature</b>  <b>EAST AFRICA</b></p>	<p>The recent Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum March-May 2025 seasonal forecast predicts a higher likelihood of warmer-than-normal conditions across most of the IGAD region. Weekly forecasts in February indicated persistent warm temperature anomalies, increasing the risk of extreme heat hazards. Observations showed extreme temperatures in South Sudan, Uganda, northern and western Kenya, with some areas exceeding 38°C, particularly in South Sudan, southeastern Sudan, northern Kenya, and southern Somalia. Start Network members in IGAD countries are encouraged to monitor nearer-term forecasts and consider humanitarian impacts of extreme temperatures and heatwaves.</p>	<p><u>ICPAC</u></p>

**LOW RELEVANCE**

**RISK AND COUNTRY**



**Instability and Intercommunal  
 Violence**  
**CHAD**

**INFORM RISK CLASS**

**VERY HIGH**

**RISK INFORMATION**

Reports were raised on 8 January of unidentified gunmen storming the presidential palace in N'Djamena, Chad. Security forces responded rapidly, killing over 18 people and wounding 6, preventing the attackers from breaching the palace. Internal instability has been exacerbated by increasing regional dynamics particularly with Chad's alleged involvement in the ongoing conflict in Sudan. Concerns have grown since January over further potential coups, including among the Zaghawa ethnic group in Chad who oppose the government's claimed support for the Sudanese rebel, paramilitary Rapid Support Force (RSF). This is against the backdrop of ongoing and growing intercommunal violence in Southern Chad, most acutely among herder-farmer communities. Moreover, the last remaining French troops exited the N'Djamena military base on 30 January, completing the withdrawal of all French military presence in-country at the urging of the Chadian government. This exit – as part of the scrapped defence pact with France – may lead to a reduced capacity to effect regional counter-terrorism operations. It may also bring greater risks of non-state actor attacks, at least in the short-term, but the move has appeared to bolster some domestic support for the President.

**SOURCE**

Crisis Group  
BBC  
DW



**Food Insecurity**  
**SOMALIA**


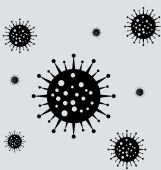
**INFORM RISK CLASS**

**VERY HIGH**

Between April and June 2025, the food security situation in Somalia is expected to worsen as Gu season rainfall is anticipated to be below average, compounding the effects of ongoing La Nina-induced drought conditions, high food prices, limited food stocks, localised flooding and ongoing conflict. Around 4.4 million people are projected to be affected and in IPC Phase 3, including 1.7 million children below the age of five. Additionally, spikes in disease outbreaks between April and June are expected exacerbate acute malnutrition and food insecurity, and due to severe funding constraints (USAID funded 67%-76% nutrition and food security programs), food assistance will be limited and likely to reach less than 25% of the population.

TIPC  
ECHO  
WFP

**LOW RELEVANCE**

RISK AND COUNTRY	RISK INFORMATION	SOURCE
 <p><b>Violence</b> <b>ETHIOPIA</b></p> <p><b>INFORM RISK CLASS</b> <b>VERY HIGH</b></p>	<p>Political turmoil in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia has led to an uptick in insecurity, prompting fears of renewed violence. Internal tensions have arisen within the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) between the party chairman, Debretsion Gebremichael, and the transitional administration headed by the TPLF deputy chairman, Getachew Reda. At the heart of the dispute are divisions over the implementation of the Pretoria Agreement; specifically, the failure to ensure the full return of nearly one million internally displaced people and the full withdrawal of Eritrean and Amhara forces from Tigray’s territory. A group of senior military commanders denounced the interim administration and called for its overhaul in late January, a move Getachew described as a coup d’état. Last month, he warned “we are heading towards a cliff edge” and conflict could erupt at “any minute”.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the UN has warned that Eritrean troops continue to commit human rights abuses in Tigray. Tensions have ratcheted up between Ethiopia and Eritrea, which mobilised reservists below the age of 60 years and increased security along its southern border in February, increasing the risk of wider regional instability.</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>The New Humanitarian</u></a></p>
 <p><b>Dengue Fever Outbreak</b> <b>TONGA</b></p> <p><b>INFORM RISK CLASS</b> <b>MEDIUM</b></p>	<p>An outbreak of dengue fever in Tonga continues to escalate, with 149 confirmed cases reported as of 5th March 2025. Cases have been identified in Vava’u, Tongatapu, and ‘Eua, with people aged 10-19 being the most affected demographic. Currently, 9 individuals are hospitalized due to severe symptoms, but no fatalities have been recorded. Health authorities are actively implementing vector control measures, including mosquito surveillance and elimination, alongside community awareness campaigns to minimize mosquito bites and reduce further transmission. Public health officials continue to monitor the situation closely, urging residents to take preventative measures, such as using insect repellent, eliminating standing water, and wearing protective clothing.</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>Reliefweb</u></a></p>

**KEY POLITICAL DATES:**

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**TIMELINE**

13 April



**ECUADOR: ELECTIONS**

The first round of Ecuador’s presidential elections on 9th February ended in a near tie, requiring a run-off between the two leading candidates on 13th April. While the first round took place without major incidents, the delayed final outcome could heighten political instability in the country. President Daniel Noboa’s 15 months in office has been marked by firm security policies which have received criticism from international organisations for human right violations. In February, an escalation in violence was observed with killings across multiple provinces, including the assassination of a local official in Manabí, a lieutenant colonel in Guayas, and an anti-narcotics police captain in Cañar. Gunmen also carried out multiple attacks in Guayas, killing civilians in Samborondón and Guayaquil.

Sources: [CrisisWatch](#); [BBC](#)

**ONGOING RISKS**

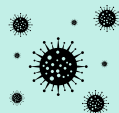
Please refer to the [Feb 2025 Start Fund Risk Bulletin for more information](#)



**Conflict Risk, Mass Migration**  
DRC, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi

[SF Alert 903 \(Rwanda\)](#)  
[SF Alert 914 \(Burundi\)](#)

**INFORM RISK CLASS**  
MEDIUM - VERY HIGH



**Disease outbreak (Ebola)**  
UGANDA

[SF Alert 908 \(Uganda\)](#)

**INFORM RISK CLASS**  
HIGH



**Flooding and Landslide**  
PERU

**INFORM RISK CLASS**  
MEDIUM