

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.

- HIGH RELEVANCE
- MEDIUM RELEVANCE
- LOW RELEVANCE

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

RISK INFORMATION

SOURCE/KEY



Electoral Tensions

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

INFORM Risk Class:
Very High



Political violence in DRC has raised concerns about the postponement of the December 2023 general elections, which during the 2018 general election led to multiple violent clashes during political events ahead of the election. Additionally, the conflict in the east of the country experienced yet another violent escalation, as the Rwanda-backed March 23 Movement launched a new offensive against Congolese and United Nations forces in North Kivu. Fighting in the east and other areas has left more than a million citizens without voter cards.

[INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP](#)



[ACLED](#)

[CRISIS24](#)

MEDIUM RELEVANCE

RISK AND COUNTRY	RISK INFORMATION	SOURCE
 <p>El Niño</p> <p>GLOBAL</p>	<p>The NOAA Climate Prediction Center anticipate the ongoing El Niño conditions will continue through to March 2024, with a 62% chance of continuing through April to June 2024. With 2023 on track to be one of the warmest years on record, and the potential for 2024 to be even warmer, preparedness is crucial for extreme events such as heatwaves, droughts, flooding, and wildfires and their associated secondary risks like disease outbreaks and displacement.</p> <p>Start Fund urges members to consider the impact of extreme weather events in specific countries or regions during previous El Niño years. Alongside continual monitoring of both seasonal and shorter-term forecasts to raise timely anticipatory alerts if humanitarian impacts are expected.</p> <p>Severe flooding is already impacting the East Africa region, with wetter than normal conditions likely to continue through to January 2024. The impacts of ongoing flooding and risk of further flooding across the remainder of the season, compounded by reduced resilience due to protracted droughts in the region, will increase the risk of disease outbreaks and displacement.</p> <p>Regions of southern Africa (particularly Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Lesotho, and Eswatini) are expected to experience drier than normal conditions. El Niño conditions could also increase the risk of severe cyclones in Mozambique, Malawi, Zimbabwe, and Madagascar, where many regions are still recovering from the devastation caused by Cyclone Freddy earlier this year.</p> <p>Wetter than normal conditions are anticipated in Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, northern Sri Lanka, and southern parts of India. In the Southwest Pacific, the higher cyclone activity associated with El Niño raises concerns for the upcoming season from November to April, particularly for Vanuatu and Fiji recovering from the impacts Cyclone Lola. Drier than normal conditions and associated food insecurity impacts pose a risk in Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, and the Philippines.</p> <p>FEWS NET anticipates that the ongoing drier than normal conditions experienced across the Dry Corridor in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua could leave millions of people food insecure. With drier than normal conditions also affecting regions of northern South America. Attention to mitigation of food insecurity and wildfire risks is required across the LAC region.</p>	<p>FAO</p> <p>WMO</p> <p>FEWS NET</p> <p>ACAPS</p>
 <p>Winter Conditions</p> <p>AFGHANISTAN SYRIA</p> <p>INFORM Risk Class: Very High</p>	<p>Severe winter conditions in Syria (mid-Dec to mid-Feb) are expected to expose people living in displacement sites across the northwest of the country to low temperatures, snow, frost, and floods. Combined with the 2023 earthquake impact, this will increase humanitarian needs, particularly for shelter, WASH, and healthcare.</p> <p>In Afghanistan, over 150,000 people were affected by October earthquakes in Herat, and the situation is worsening as winter approaches. Above-average precipitation forecasted for the 2023-24 winter season may lead to increased snow depths and volumes in many basins. The 2023 January cold snap resulted in over 150 deaths.</p>	<p>ACAPS</p> <p>FEWS NET</p> <p>DW</p>

LOW RELEVANCE

RISK AND COUNTRY	RISK INFORMATION	SOURCE
 <p>Conflict and Displacement</p> <p>YEMEN SYRIA JORDAN</p> <p>INFORM Risk Class: Very High</p>	<p>The escalating conflict in Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territory has already resulted in displacement internally and may lead to an influx of Palestinians into Jordan. This is likely to inflame an already high refugee caseload, against a backdrop of economic fragility and limited resources.</p> <p>In Yemen, a nationwide truce agreed to in April 2022 expired after six months, but full hostilities have not yet resumed, with negotiations ongoing between the Houthis and Saudi Arabia. A return to all-out war hinges on the success of these Houthi-Saudi talks, but the prospects of a comprehensive peace agreement remain elusive. Yemen's Houthis have waded into escalating violence in the Palestinian Occupied Territory and Israel, firing drones and missiles at Israel in attacks, highlighting the regional risks of the conflict. This is further preventing peace with Saudi Arabia and could ignite new waves of conflict in Yemen, which combed with already significant levels of unmet humanitarian need could further drive internal displacement.</p> <p>The Israel-Hamas war is spilling into Syria, fuelled by growing instability, violence and a lack of progress toward a political solution to its 12-year conflict. Following Hamas-Israel war outbreak, Iranian forces reportedly repositioned around 300 Syrian and Lebanese fighters to Quneitra, underscoring potential for Israel's war on Gaza to draw in regional actors. This is following a month of the heaviest bombing in Syria since 2020 and already dire humanitarian circumstances.</p>	<p>ReliefWeb</p> <p>Reuters</p> <p>ACLED</p> <p>FCDO</p> <p>UN</p> <p>AP</p>
 <p>Disease Outbreak</p> <p>LIBYA</p> <p>INFORM Risk Class: High</p>	<p>The devastation caused by Storm Daniel in northern Libya in September has left many people exposed and vulnerable to the risk of water-borne diseases and vector-borne diseases. A turbulent political landscape has impeded the response to Storm Daniel and preparedness for the current rainy season will likely fall short. More above average rainfall this season (October-March) will increase stagnant water accumulation and damage to WASH infrastructure, heightening the risk of disease outbreaks and strain on healthcare systems. Start Network members are encouraged to continue to follow disease outbreak information and rainfall forecasts to anticipate disease outbreaks and mitigate further humanitarian impacts.</p>	<p>ACAPS</p>

KEY POLITICAL DATES: UPCOMING

This 'Key Dates' section produces tangible events that members of the Start Network can use to inform specific, anticipatory, and preventive actions. Dates are compiled by drawing upon both global risk indexes and national-level risk information sources.

TIMELINE

JAN

TBD

BANGLADESH - GENERAL ELECTIONS

Violent clashes have already begun between security forces and anti-government protesters ahead of general elections scheduled for January 2024.

[BBC](#)

FEB

08

PAKISTAN - GENERAL ELECTIONS

The electoral commission has confirmed elections will be held on February 8th 2024, with a caretaker government in place since the country's parliament was dissolved in August 2023. Against a backdrop of attempts by former prime minister Imran Khan (PTI) and Nawaz Sharif (PML-N) to overturn disqualifications alongside concerns over economic instability and security issues, the upcoming elections are expected to highly contested.

[CrisisGroup](#)

FEB

24

SOMALIA - PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Election-related tensions have grown further in Puntland, Somalia, raising the prospect of armed confrontation in lead-up to polls set for early 2024. At the end of October, electoral authorities reaffirmed commitment to hold direct presidential elections, but pushed the date back to 25 February 2024, from the previously envisioned 8 January, further raising tensions.

[International Crisis Group](#)