

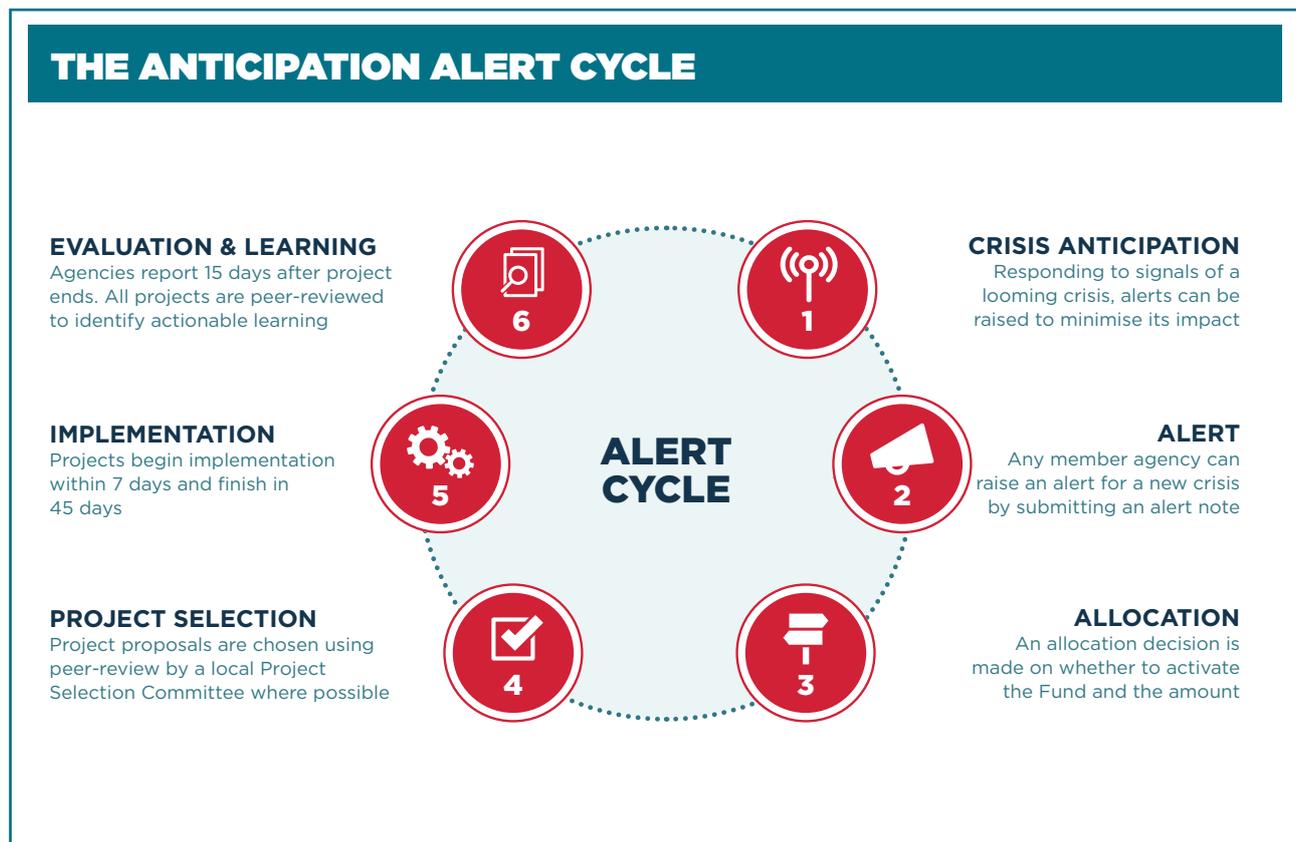


# Crisis Anticipation Window

## Report 2019

The Start Fund is the first global pooled humanitarian fund to be made accessible using forecasts. The Crisis Anticipation Window enables Start Network members to access funds when they see a crisis escalating, to reduce the risk of harm and loss at the community level.

This ground-breaking work is accomplished by brokering forecasting information on behalf of Start Network members, and supporting them to access, interpret and develop programmes based on these forecasts. Accessing forecasting information on behalf of our members contributes to greater efficiency in the humanitarian system, preventing each member from needing to develop their own, individual relationships with forecasters. In 2019, we will focus on developing crisis anticipation at the national level, catalysing local risk analysis and forecast based action groups, composed of Start Network members and national meteorological and risk analysis experts.



# 2018 at a glance

**MARCH-APRIL**

Through the Crisis Anticipation Window, a community based approach supported Malawi to become cholera free, while preventing the spread of the disease to new districts.





**MAY**

Online Maprooms are launched at FOREWARN in partnership with IRI. This digital platform provides online maps of forecasted heat and rain, in time spans relevant to Start Fund decision makers.



---

**APRIL**

Start member presentation on heatwaves in Pakistan, in collaboration with the London School of Economics. This provided concrete information on which forecasts to use for heatwaves at what lead time, enabling Start members to successfully raise an anticipation alert.



**MAY**

Start Fund Anticipation Window is activated for flooding and landslides to prepare for the South-West monsoon in Sri Lanka.




## HEATWAVE ANTICIPATION ALERT BENEFICIARY TESTIMONIALS



“ Before this campaign we did not know about the steps of saving ourselves from heat wave but now we have found that how can we be secured from heat. ”

GHULAM RASOOL, TRAFFIC SARGENT  
MASKAN CHOWRANGI  
GULSHAN IQBAL KARACH



“ During the campaign we were given a tips and we are now followed them as we are covering head with towel when we are going in sunlight, we are drinking water frequently, we are not going out from home without urgency ”

ABDUL RAZAQUE,  
SENIOR CITIZEN SOCIAL ACTIVIST,  
RANGI WAARAA LIYARI KARACHI



“ Yes its useful, because now people are caring for sunlight and heat, and they are avoiding to go out of the home from 1:00 pm to 3:00 ”

HASNAIN SHAKEEL AHMED, STUDENT,  
GUL MUHAMMAD LANE LIYARI

**JULY**

Start Network, led by CARE in collaboration with the Overseas Development Institute led a workshop in Bangladesh to develop an action plan to scale forecast-based action, building on research conducted between April and July.

**SEPTEMBER**

FOREWARN approve the new FOREWARN 2020 Strategy, paving the way for a National FOREWARN approach, and the development of thematic groups in FOREWARN, improving the quality and availability of technical inputs to Crisis Anticipation Alerts.



**NOVEMBER**

Start Network members in Uganda shared their learning with peers in Rwanda as they developed their anticipation of Ebola projects.



**AUGUST**

Anticipation of Ebola work begins in Uganda following concerns about the outbreak in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo travelling over the border.

**SEPTEMBER**

The Crisis Anticipation Window is activated after risk indicators suggested an imminent population displacement in Sar-e-Pol, Afghanistan.



**NOVEMBER**

Start Fund 'Analysis for Action' grant leads to a ground-breaking community level disaster risk reduction project in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo.

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS AND QUOTES ARE COURTESY OF MUSLIM AID



“ Each day I go to main market to buy general items for my store; it was quite common that I left without completing my shopping due to hot weather. When I received a text in advance about the rise in temperature and critical time of extreme heat, I planned accordingly and took preventive measures to protect myself from heat stroke.”

MUSTANSAR, SHOPKEEPER, HYDERABAD



“ This information will be shared with friends and family members because its like a prayer and we think that sharing of this information with others is like a prayer.”

NOOR MUHAMMAD, MECHANIC, GUL MUHAMMAD LANE LIYARI



“ I am mostly exposed to sun, while waiting for customers. I received the text on my number, and it was good to take preventive measures. I used water bottles with cold water for drinking and to pour some water on my head when I felt extreme heat...”

RASHID ALI, TAXI DRIVER, KARACHI



# FOREWARN

## A Network of Risk Analysts

### WHAT IS FOREWARN?

FOREWARN are a technical advisory group to the Crisis Anticipation Window, they triangulate forecasts and provide additional insight for each anticipation alert.

The Forecast-based Warning, Analysis and Response Network (FOREWARN) was established by the Start Fund in April 2016.

### WHY WAS FOREWARN ESTABLISHED?

FOREWARN brings together forecasting information providers with humanitarians. It seeks to better link and align the way that academic and humanitarian communities look at critical issues of risk analysis, forecasting and crisis anticipation in order to provide more timely, effective and appropriate support to crisis affected communities.

In addition, FOREWARN's community of experts, provides vital insight and practical recommendations to the Crisis Anticipation Window.

### WHO IS IN FOREWARN?

FOREWARN membership includes scientists and academics from a broad spectrum of disciplines including: hazard modelling and behavioural economics, humanitarians from all stages of the preparedness and response cycle, UN, Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, donor communities and START Network members.

### WHAT DOES FOREWARN DO?

We meet monthly to discuss upcoming risks, events, exchange information and share best practice around key topics such as:

- Context analysis & scenario-building;
- Strategic foresight
- Auto-triggering alerts;
- Team forecasting;
- Contingency planning
- Communicating uncertainty;
- Weather forecasting;
- Triggers for forecast-based financing

FOREWARN provides an opportunity for members to both contribute to and draw from a collective body of work. We consistently invest in building the capacity of our members to understand and act upon risk information.

### WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF FOREWARN'S SUCCESS?

- Academic institutions including the London School of Economics, Columbia University's Earth Institute and Warwick University have attended FOREWARN meetings and formed partnerships with members to inform anticipatory decision-making.
- Partnerships with think tanks such as the Overseas Development Institute and the Red Cross Climate Centre have allowed for the integration of FOREWARN members into a growing Early Action movement within the humanitarian sector.

### WHAT IS FOREWARN PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE?

- Convene humanitarians and forecasters at the national level to collectively analyse hazard, risk and vulnerability, and act when thresholds are met.
- Connect disaster-affected communities and humanitarian organizations with scientific agencies and academics
- Inform humanitarian financing and response strategies through the provision of high quality analysis and data
- Ensure that credible, scientifically robust analytical processes are integrated into resource allocation and project design decisions
- We hope to grow FOREWARN into a large community of humanitarians and academics who value acting early in order to save lives and costs.

JOIN US

### WE'RE EXPANDING!

If you would like to become a member of FOREWARN or would like to find out more, please visit our [startnetwork.org](http://startnetwork.org) or contact [startfund@startnetwork.org](mailto:startfund@startnetwork.org)

# Anticipating deadly heatwaves in Pakistan

[We came together]...”to talk about how to watch heatwaves, and the early warning system to monitor. It was hosted by Concern. It was very eye opening for NGOs, helping us understand - how can we understand forecasts? Two years earlier, there was a heatwave alert and there was a lot of confusion, we weren’t sure when to raise the alert, it was very confusing. This time it was much better, more coordinated, we were clearer about when to raise it.”

SYED SULEMAN, COUNTRY DIRECTOR, CONCERN.

Heatwaves are a major hazard in Pakistan and they impact the most vulnerable. In 2015, in just 3 days, a heatwave killed more than 1200 people in Karachi alone [1]. The health impacts can be severe, additionally, increased power needs can lead to blackouts and water shortages, affecting hospitals, transport, and communication. By bringing academics together with humanitarians to better understand heatwaves risk, the Start Network have addressed these risks when they are most acute.

Forecasting heatwaves isn’t easy. Knowing the quality of forecasts or getting overwhelmed by the quantity of information available present difficulties. It’s a delicate balance between being close enough to the spike of the heatwave - when we’ve got a higher level of certainty about the forecast, but far enough away to take anticipatory action.

To address this, the Start Fund collaborated with the London School of Economics to analyse the reliability of forecasting sources for heatwaves in Pakistan, at different lead-times. The goal was to help humanitarians on the ground make sense of the forecasts that they have.

The research was shared and discussed with Start Members on April 19th 2018. Following this, Start members began monitoring for heatwaves For the first time, they had a shared understanding of where to look for quality heatwave forecasts, how far in advance they could accurately predict a heatwave, and how to use the data that’s available.

In May 2018, a heatwave forecast was identified and Start members collaborated to raise a timely alert. This led to a £75,000 funding allocation, which funded a campaign to help people in Karachi protect themselves from the negative health impacts of heatwaves. The campaign used many communication channels, to reach a wide cross section of the Karachi population, including shopkeepers, drivers, students and mechanics, who reported taking measures including avoiding going outside when temperatures were peaking, carrying water and seeking shade.

## PARTNERSHIP TIMELINE



# Tackling cholera from the bottom up in Malawi



Cholera is a persistent risk in Malawi. During the rainy season, standing water and contaminated wells contribute to the spread of the illness. In the dry season, community members can be forced to use unsafe water sources, as cleaner sources dry up, putting them at risk of contracting the illness. In November 2017, a cholera outbreak started in Karonga, northern Malawi. This then spread to the capital, Lilongwe and Salima on the banks of Lake Malawi. The Start Fund crisis anticipation project showed how local organisation's working with local Government health offices can support sustainability after a short project and ensure experience gained through a project stays where it is needed.

After flooding in February and March 2018, Start members became concerned about further spread of the illness. Helpage, in collaboration with their local partner MANEPO, raised an alert to respond to the ongoing outbreak, and take measures in high risk areas to prevent cases occurring.

£50,000 was mobilised for a three-pronged approach, including a chlorine distribution to provide clean water, training for local health staff and community sensitisation. Activities were decided and implemented by World Vision and MANEPO, in partnership with district health offices, local health surveillance and health promotion staff conducted most activities. Round table meetings were held at the start of the project, where district health offices shared the gaps in their cholera prevention plans with Start members.

Working with local health offices ensured that cholera outreach was conducted by those with the greatest contextual knowledge and local language skills. It also ensured the activities fit into wider Government efforts to limit the spread of cholera and contributed to the sustainability of the project. For example, MANEPO worked with the Chikwawa Government Health Office on water point assessment. This was a new approach in Chikwawa, which enabled health staff to prioritise areas for sensitisation. By collaborating on this analysis, MANEPO supported local health staff to conduct these assessments independently in future, contributing to longer term resilience to cholera in Chikwawa.

**“From inception, MANEPO involved all health officers, we did round tables for planning and adapted our plans, we also looked at sustainability. MANEPO were very flexible and enabled adaptation, we removed the activities which weren't needed”**

**CHIMWEMWE JELLA, DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER, PHALOMBE.**

**“We did a water point assessment which we are still using, we would like to be able to do the assessment for the whole district. It enables us to make evidence-based decisions about where sensitisation is needed”**

**VERONICA NKUKUMILA, DIRECTOR, DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICE, CHIKWAWA.**

# Choosing not to act

At the Start Fund, decisions about how and where to anticipate and respond to crises are made by Start Network members. We use a collaborative decision-making process. We pull in experienced humanitarian experts from across our network, who come together when funds are requested and make an allocation decision. Inevitably, this means not all requests for funds have a positive response. In 2018, 60% of Start Fund response alerts were funded, compared to 71% of crisis anticipation alerts, showing how decision makers are currently prepared to reward efforts to act early.

Election violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo was one context the Start Network chose not to act. The alert was raised in May 2018, for elections in December and January of that year, and anticipated unrest running up to that point. Decision makers knew risks of violence and displacement were high. However, they felt that the alert was too early for implementation during the critical period in the final run up to the scheduled election. There were also concerns that the situation was beyond the scope of the Start Fund, requiring geographically dispersed peacebuilding activities. Finally, there was a great deal of uncertainty around where anticipation activities should be focused and the possible humanitarian impacts of the issues related to the election.

In Kenya, where the Start Fund have successfully anticipated election violence, members had conducted an inter-agency risk analysis. This gave a shared understanding of risk, which enabled collaboration and the geographic targeting of activities.

In 2018, the Start Network focused on helping members manage uncertainty, through a research project with the 'Challenging Radical Uncertainty in Science the Society and the Environment'. This resulted in a guidance for managing risk and uncertainty, to be used when making funding allocation decision.

## Recommendations

- *Start Fund decision-makers should distinguish risk from uncertainty in Start Fund allocation meetings and these differences should be reflected in the decision making process. Just because there is uncertainty, it does not mean we can not make a decision. We can make decisions while recognising that there are elements of uncertainty.*
- *Start Fund decision-makers should recognise that when facing uncertainty, there isn't necessarily a 'right' or 'wrong' outcome. Decision-makers should be comfortable embracing the learning that will occur when dealing with uncertainty and should review past decisions for learning purposes.*
- *Start Fund decision-makers should consider if the data available reflects the level of uncertainty involved in all allocation meetings.*
- *The level of uncertainty involved should be considered when decision-makers are thinking about releasing Start Funds. Start Fund decision-makers should also be aware, however, that different levels of uncertainty will always remain in any decision.*
- *Start Fund decision-makers should ensure that all information is considered ahead of an allocation meeting (i.e. the alert note, ACAPS briefing note, additional forecast information, and other information sourced internally if possible) in order to best support the decision making process and to learn from this process. Decision-makers should take the time to review all documents in advance of an allocation meeting and should be prepared to discuss this information in the meeting.*
- *Start Fund decision-makers should regularly reflect on the decision making process and the outcomes of those decisions, either during learning exchanges, rota inductions or strategy meetings. All members involved in Start Fund alerts should participate in learning exchanges facilitated by the Start Fund.*
- *Decision-makers should be aware of biases that promote and inhibit the goals of the Start Fund and should be able to identify these biases when making allocation decisions.*
- *Start Fund decision-makers should ensure that allocation decisions are not dictated by a static set of 'rules' or 'hard criteria'. Instead, true expertise should be shared through facilitated discussion.*



Start Network Members:



Start Fund Donors:



Crisis Anticipation Window Partners:



FOREWARN Contributors:

