

**Assessment of the impact of combined
anticipation and/or response approaches
through the DRF system activation in Philippines
in July 2023.**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS | August 2023

START
NETWORK

Background

1.1 START NETWORK

Start Network is a UK Charity & Company limited by guarantee, operating as a global networked organisation. Start Network has more than 50 member organisations across five continents, ranging from large international humanitarian agencies to national NGOs. In the Philippines, Start Network is hosted by Care International.

We are tackling what we believe to be the biggest systemic issues facing the sector - issues such as slow and reactive funding, centralized decision-making and an aversion to change, mean that those affected by crises around the world are not getting the best help fast enough, and unnecessarily suffering as a result.

We believe that a more balanced international aid system, which shifts power to those closest to the frontline, will allow for more effective and appropriate responses to those affected by crises.

Our innovative financing mechanisms enable rapid and early action to address the types of crises that are often overlooked by other financing mechanisms. Our risk financing pilots are introducing new ways of working that can reduce the human and economic costs of hazards experienced by vulnerable populations. New ways of working are needed to meet the challenges we face. By innovating collectively, we can share our expertise, knowledge and insights to build a more effective humanitarian system.

The Start Network strives to create a system in which:

- The response to crises will be defined by the closest actors according to humanitarian needs.
- Early and predictable funding will reduce the impact of crises and the cost of responses.
- A diverse group of organizations work together to adapt to the needs of people affected by crises.

Start Ready in Philippines

On 21 July 2023, a low-pressure area previously detected east of Southeastern Luzon, Philippines developed into a Tropical Depression (TD), and was then referred to as Tropical Cyclone (TC) Doksuri (Egay). From 22-25 July, TC Doksuri underwent a series of intensifications while moving westward, into a Tropical Storm to a Super Typhoon. After

weakening back into a TY, TC Doksuri moved West-Northwestwards and experienced further weakening, exiting the Philippine Area of Responsibility on 27 July¹.

Landfall was made near Mindanao and Fuga Island, with winds of around 220km/h (Joint Typhoon Warning Center), with Pagasa forecasting most severe impacts on Luzon, with 0.4m of rainfall experienced and tidal surges prewarned. Evacuation began on 25 July, with 12,000 people evacuated in Cagayan by that evening, according to the Gov. of Cagayan province.

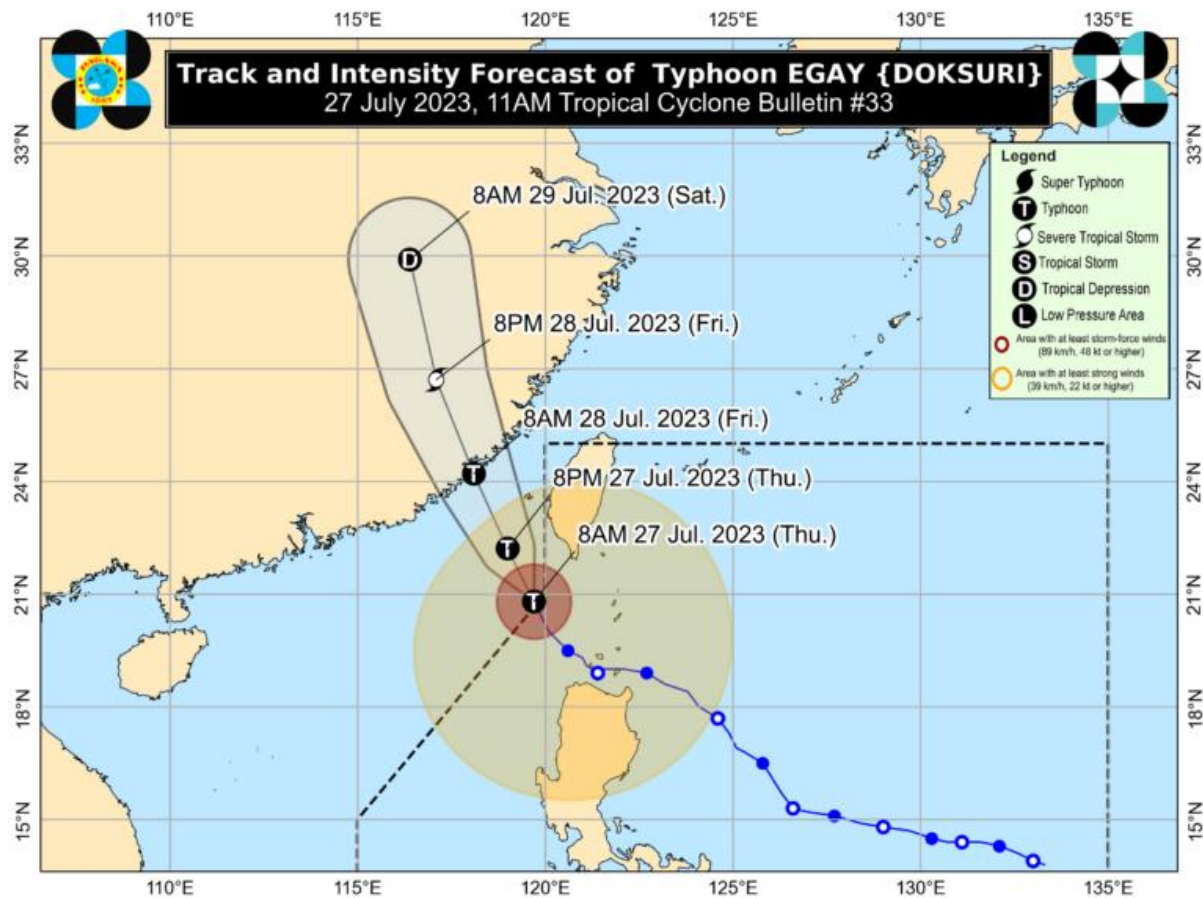


Figure 1: Track of Typhoon Egay, from Pagasa’s website.

The Start Ready funding mechanism was triggered for GBP £20,389 on Monday 24 July, 55 hours ahead of expected landfall, for a small cash distribution to 938 people for use with immediate preparation or recovery needs. The typhoon further intensified and developed into a Super Typhoon, and a second trigger occurred for very high severity scenario was breached on Thursday 27 July, disbursing £338,586 to a consortium led by Humanity and Inclusion (also including Tearfund, Philrads, Relief International, GMDFI, and SPUP). The majority of funds were used for early response, rather than anticipation, but the typhoon

¹ [Situation Update No.1– Combined Effects of the Southwest Monsoon and Tropical Cyclone Doksuri, Philippines – 30 July 2023](#)

season has already continued, with Khanun, Mawar (Betty), and Falcon being tracked by Pagasa.

1.2 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Community level: As the project includes some immediate pre-landfall and post-landfall activities, the scope of the evaluation will be to assess the extent to which the impact of the cyclone was reduced or mitigated through the project; specifically, comparing outcomes for the community who received anticipatory cash and those who did not, evidencing the difference affected by this anticipatory activity.

In addition to this, it will be testing to what extent communities are demonstrating greater resilience for future crises (via utilisation of cash for longer-term resilience, livelihood, or shelter protection) and to what extent communities report higher levels of positive individual coping mechanisms post-project, or continue to utilise the products of this intervention in other typhoon/super typhoon events.

Model level: The study should also respond to how fit for purpose the DRF system and specifically the lead time of 55 hours is for a) changing how communities experience the event and b) remaining accurate and enabling pre-identification of the most vulnerable people. Furthermore, through utilisation of relevant components of the DAC methodology, the relevance, sustainability, and efficiency of the project should be reported on; evidencing that projects designed well in advance remain responsive to community needs.

The evaluation should take an approach informed by the MEAL frameworks and theories of change of these interventions, utilising a non-treated control group or historical data for evidence of outcomes. Methodology should be focussed on evidencing difference via mixed-method approaches, incorporating quantitative and qualitative data to the final product.

1.3 KEY QUESTIONS

As part of an exploratory approach, and utilising internal comparisons between varying beneficiary groups, the evaluation should answer questions showing the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of the project:

At the community or household level:

- If and how the project(s) carried out through the DRF Typhoon system in Philippines has reduced communities' use of negative coping mechanisms - including comparing those who received assistance in advance of landfall and those who did not, and identifying where the outcomes differed;

- What benefits or value did the beneficiary communities derive from the project activities,
- Were health crises or negative impacts reduced as a result of the intervention?
- Was communities' personal resilience improved as a result of the intervention?
- How did communities opt to utilise cash; to what extent can cash be seen here as offering greater resilience against typhoon events in the future, and what kinds of activities were selected by the community?
- Whether the activities came at the right time, and how did this differ for the small anticipation group - how did this pre-landfall cash grant assist in their preparation, management, or recovery?
- How relevant are the items provided to the needs expressed by the community?
- ...

At the model level:

- How accurate were the forecasts? How quickly did the funds reach the affected area?
- Have the most affected people been targeted by the projects? Was the pre-targeting accurate?
- How easily were members (especially the implementing consortium) able to access forecast information?
- How does a rapid intensification scenario such as this align with operational realities of a semi-rigid DRF model?
- How well-coordinated was the response? What other actors were present and were the targeted areas well defined?
- Against the OECD DAC criteria, how much can we infer that a project designed in anticipation can be of good humanitarian quality?
- ...

To enable an effective style of evaluation, evaluators will be helped to identify key communities to interview, and should be able to collect robust, quality quantitative and qualitative data.

Finally, the evaluators should be able to assess and understand the forecasts on the basis of which the funds were released against the reality of the typhoons in Philippines, and make recommendations on what needs to be put in place for a) the system either to be more anticipatory, or b) appropriate expectations to be made of the Philippines typhoon model in terms of early/pre-landfall action.

1.4 PLANNED ACTIVITIES

2. Inception report outlining the approach and the plan to be adopted;
3. Document review of the development of the DRF (Disaster Risk Financing) system in Philippines;

4. Review of documents relating to contingency plans;
5. Development of data collection tools in liaison with the relevant staff of the Start network;
6. At least 2 arms of quantitative surveying in intervention areas, using sound sampling methodology. Collection of qualitative data from the same populations via FGDs/KIIs, using the small anticipation sample as the “treatment” from which a response “control” can be matched. The identification of a non-treatment control community or appropriate historical data for a third group.
7. Interviews with key informants, members of the Start Network or members of the Philippines governance body : an initial list of people to be interviewed will be established. The list will be reviewed after the first iteration of interviews to see if further interviews are needed to validate the interviews. Interviews will be face-to-face and/or over the phone.
8. Coordination with staff to ensure there are no missed opportunities to collect or introduce additional data.
9. Reflection (sense-making) workshops with the Start Network team to present the results before finalizing the report.
10. A report outlining the impact of the assistance along with recommendations and conclusions responding to the ToR/Inception report.
11. A presentation session to members in Philippines

1.5 DELIVERABLES

The consulting group will undertake the following tasks and produce the deliverables according to the required deadlines indicated below

- Contract to be signed by 1 September.
- Inception report to be shared by 8 September.
- Data collection to be completed by 15 October.
- Mid-consultation report 30 October.
- The final project must be submitted no later than 25 November.

2. INSTRUCTIONS FOR BIDDING

2.1 TIMESCALES

Bidders are requested to review and respond to sections 3 and 4, with completed sections and requested documents submitted via email (no hard copies required) to operations@startnetwork.org and eleonor.nderitu@startprogrammes.org.

Deadline for submission: Tuesday 29th August 17:00 BST

2.2 START NETWORK NOT BOUND

This Request for Proposal (RFP) does not constitute an offer and Start Network does not bind itself to accept any proposal. Start Network reserves the right to accept a proposal in part, rather than in full. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact operations@startnetwork.org.

2.3 CONFIDENTIALITY

Documentation in relation to this RFP and any proposals received in response to it shall be treated as private and confidential save where the disclosure is required by law.

Bidders shall not:

- Release any information relating to the RFP and the proposal that they intend to make; other than with professional advisers who need to be consulted with regards to the preparation of the proposal;
- Canvass directly or indirectly with any other bidder concerning the award of a contract;
- Canvass directly or indirectly with a member of Start Network's staff (including its consultants and contractors) concerning the award of the contract.

2.4 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Start Network and any bidders shall declare any conflicts of interest as soon as practicable, to allow for the efficient management of any potential/actual conflicts

2.5 CONTRACT

The formal contract will be as mutually agreed.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

3.1 MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT

The Consultant will be selected by a panel of Start Network colleagues made up of people across the organisation.

MEAL Officer in Philippines DRF will be the day-to-day focal point. CARF MEAL Advisor and/or Eleanor Nderitu, Country Support Manager, will have management oversight.

11.1 KEY SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Relevant documents for review will be shared at a later stage on request, if required. For a general overview, please refer to our [website](#).

11.2 QUALIFICATIONS

- University degree in risk and disaster reduction and/or management, business management, economics, statistics, development studies or other related discipline.
- At least five (5) years of experience in monitoring and evaluation methods and approaches (especially qualitative and participatory); planning, designing and implementing monitoring and evaluation systems; the research; and report writing.
- Demonstrated experience in disaster risk reduction and management and/or system change or location theory.
- Experience with theoretical approaches to evaluation
- Understanding and knowledge of basic computer applications such as MS Word, Excel and database management. Knowledge of statistical software such as STATA, R or Python is an asset.
- Excellent writing and analytical skills for writing concept notes and reports.
- Knowledge of the Philippine context.
- Ability to work in languages or dialects used in the affected area.

4. BIDDER'S PROPOSAL

4.1 Bidder Information

Please complete and return the following [template](#) to eleanor.nderitu@startprogrammes.org and operations@startnetwork.org with attachments in PDF and a subject line: *RFP – DRF evaluation in Philippines 2023 Egay*.

The Proposal Bid for the Consultant or Group of Consultants should contain the Technical Bid and the Financial Bid.

Please submit the following documents:

- Expression of Interest – including a response to the scope of work (4 pages max.)
- Financial proposal (The total amount must indicate the amount excluding tax, VAT and the amount inclusive of all taxes. If the tenderer is not subject to VAT, this status must be mentioned in the financial offer).
- Availability during the period September-November 2023 on a pre-agreed work plan basis for tasks spread out during this period.
- CV of consultant(s)

4.2 Instructions

Bidders are requested to review and respond to the Scope of Work via **email** (no hard copies required).

Information required:

Company information

Please provide the following company information in your response:

- Name of the organisation
- Address
- Email and phone number
- Website
- Company registration and VAT number
- Parent company and appropriate registration number (if applicable)

Please also indicate if your organisation/company is :

1. A public limited company
2. A limited company
3. A partnership
4. A sole trader
5. Other (please specify)

Response to Scope of Work

In addition to the information above, interested suppliers are asked to clearly demonstrate a thorough understanding of this scope of work, including but not limited to the following:

1. Team member profiles
2. Statement of previous experience in similar assignments and the required qualifications outlined above
3. Description of the proposed approach
4. A financial proposal quoted in GBP, including assumptions you have made. The price and rates quoted shall include all costs (services, travel and expenses, together with all general risks, liabilities and obligations, set out or implied).

4.2 Cost

The price and rates quoted shall include all costs (taxes, services, travel and expenses, together with all general risks, liabilities and obligations, set out or implied).

Travel and accommodation **within** the Philippines will be included in the financial offer, as well as any operational costs. The consultant or group of consultants will be responsible for all personal administrative expenses associated with taking up the

position including office equipment, printing, rental, telephone and electronic communications as well as copies of reports relating to the assignment.

The consultant group will be remunerated by:

- 1st installment upon signing the contract (20%)
- 2nd payment after validation of the mid-consultation report (30%)
- 3rd payment after validation of the final report (50%)

11.2.1 OTHER COSTS

If there are any further costs or expenses that you propose charging please detail these in the template. Start Network will not be liable for any additional costs that are not set out in the Bidder's proposal.

11.2.2 ASSUMPTIONS

Please set out any assumptions you have made in determining your proposed costs.

11.2.3 Every £ Counts in Humanitarian Response

We are committed to reducing the charity's operating costs so that maximum resource can be spent on programmes which directly benefit communities affected by disasters and emergencies.

Should you be willing to provide any element of the services on a pro bono basis, offer a cost reduction, service enhancement or any other charitable support to the organisation, please set out in your proposal.