



EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL SUMMARY

Zimbabwe | Drought Protocol

December 2022



EAP No:
EAP2023ZW01

EAP timeframe:
5 Years

Appeal code:
MDRZW020

EAP approved:
12/12/2022

Early action timeframe:
12 Months

Budget: 549,318CHF
To assist: 21,000 people

SUMMARY OF THE EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL

The IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) has approved a total of CHF 549,318.00 for the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society's Early Action Protocol on droughts. The approved amount consists of an allocation of CHF 182,440 for readiness and CHF 366,878 allocated to implement early actions once the defined triggers are met. Allocations are made from the Anticipatory Pillar of the DREF, under the DREF appeal code MDRZW020. Unearmarked contributions to the DREF are encouraged to guarantee enough funding is available for the Early Action Protocols being developed.



The Drought Early Action Protocol (EAP) for the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCS) is a tool to guide the timely and effective implementation of early actions based on forecast and observational data, which predict meteorological hazards with a high likelihood of humanitarian impact.

Drought (Meteorological and Agricultural) is the most common and high-impact natural hazard occurring in Zimbabwe, both in terms of frequency of occurrence and the number of people affected, with droughts accounting for 7 out of the 10 top major natural hazards since recorded 1990. Due to increasing climatic uncertainty, and reduced coping capacity, the risk of drought has spread to all areas of the country and is affecting a broader range of people, in both urban and rural areas. Furthermore, the impacts of this hazard are predicted to increase, with the World Bank Group Climate Change Knowledge Portal, predicting the annual likelihood of Zimbabwe encountering severe drought to increase by 21% in 2040 to 2059 and by 47% in 2080 to 2099 compared to the baseline period of 1986 to 2005 scenario.

At a national scale, droughts often result in crop failure, loss of livestock and wildlife, and power outages. The country's worst drought occurred in 1991/2, directly affecting 5 million people and resulting in serious food insecurity and water shortages which had a ripple effect on the Southern African region compromising food security in countries that were reliant on Zimbabwe's food exports. Repeated drought exposure has entrenched vulnerabilities and reduced the coping capacities of small-scale farmers, leaving an increasing number of people who are affected by the impacts of drought.

This EAP has been developed through extensive consultation with key informants, at the community, district, and National levels, and has been supported by technical guidance from the 510 Data initiative and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre. The monitoring of the hazard and the implementation of the Early Actions will be led by the ZRCS, guided by relevant Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) departments, including the Agricultural Extension Department, the Veterinary Department, and the Meteorological Services Department. This EAP has also been developed with close reference to the Government of Zimbabwe National Drought Plan and aligns the identified roles of the Zimbabwe Red Cross and other stakeholders. Technical and financial support for the development of this EAP has been provided by the Danish Red Cross and Finnish Red Cross Societies.

OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

1. Who will implement the EAP - The National Society

ZRCS shall be the implementing organization. ZRCS was established through the Zimbabwe Red Cross Act, of 1981. ZRCS is a humanitarian organization supporting the government's disaster risk management activities and has been implementing a plethora of projects to capacitate communities to be resilient to disaster risks. The organization has also been key in responding to emergencies and disasters in the country. ZRCS has a wide network of volunteers within communities who play a key role in reaching out to the most vulnerable members of the community and assisting in project implementation. ZRCS today has an operational presence across the country through its provincial offices, community branches, and volunteers. ZRCS is an integral part of the national civil protection and disaster management system of Zimbabwe and is the main national humanitarian organization in the country. It is the only humanitarian organization with a permanent seat in the national Civil Protection Committee of Zimbabwe.'

The development of this EAP has been supported by the FBA For Droughts project, implemented in October 2019, with financial and technical support from the Finnish and Danish Red Cross Societies. This project has supported the engagement of a wide range of actors working both in-country and internationally in the EAP development and implementation process.

At the International level, the development of this EAP has been supported by:

- Netherlands Red Cross 510 Data Initiative have supported the development of the Impact Based Forecast Model, the identification of thresholds and triggers, and skill assessments of forecasts. They will continue to host the Impact Based Forecast Dashboard monitoring the meteorological data that supports the forecast mechanism.
- The Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre provided technical oversight during impact prioritization and the shortlisting of Early Actions, reviewed the Impact Based Forecast Model, and provided guidance to the development of the EAP.
- The IFRC will provide technical support and guidance to the implementation of the project strategy and will guide coordination with non-movement actors implementing FBA actions, both in-country and internationally.

At the national level, the ZRCS has engaged with a range of government Departments and Non-Governmental Actors:

- The Zimbabwe Community of Practice will be engaged throughout the implementation of this Early Action Protocol. The COP serves as a platform for the discussion and coordination of FBA-focused topics including the agreement of forecasts, thresholds, and Early Actions.
- Agritex: The Agricultural Extension Services Department has guided the identification and prioritization of drought impacts, the selection of early actions, and the determination of trigger thresholds. In addition, Agritex is a key implementing partner in the implementation of early actions and a Memorandum of Understanding has been developed between the Agritex Department and the ZRCS.
- The Meteorological Services Department: In addition to co-chairing the COP, the MSD has provided historical drought information, supported the development of the forecast model, and prioritization of drought impacts and early actions. A Memorandum of Understanding has been developed between the MSD and the ZRCS.

- The Veterinary Services Department under the Ministry of Agriculture has also guided the identification and prioritization of drought impacts on livestock and early actions to implement once the trigger is reached. The Veterinary Services Department will be an implementing partner as they will conduct dosing and dipping actions described in this EAP.

2. How the EAP will be activated – The Trigger

The activation of the EAP for droughts is based on a two-stage trigger allowing for long lead times that can address a series of expected drought impacts. The IBF Drought model utilizes five meteorological indicators, monitored throughout the agriculture season, as forecast features for drought, with increasing certainty as the season progresses. Combining ENSO forecasts, CHIRPS Data, and the Vegetation Condition Index, the forecast model runs monthly starting from September (7 months lead time to the end of the season). The model is informed by two separate trigger events which will activate sets of impact mitigating Early Actions.

First Trigger: A forecast of an El Nino event, with an impact level corresponding to a once-in-six-year event, will act as the first trigger for low investment Early Actions (Early warning dissemination, drought tolerant seed distributions, and livestock dosing).

Second Trigger: A forecast of IPC 4 conditions in the FEWSnet Food Security Forecast Reports in Both March and June will trigger the second set of early actions that address drought-induced food insecurity (livestock support, Multi-Purpose Cash Transfers, and school supplemental feeding)

The second trigger would normally only be activated following the activation of the first trigger. If the first trigger is not activated the second trigger will only activate if the IBF model detects a drought by April and a drought is declared by the Government of Zimbabwe.

3. How the EAP will reduce the impact on the population – The Early Actions

The early actions prioritized in the EAP for drought are based on a two-stage trigger and seek to address the food security-related impacts of drought including livestock deaths, crop losses, and malnutrition.

First Trigger Actions

The first trigger will Early Actions be initiated in October following the seasonal forecast issued by the MSD which confirms the El Nino forecasts, predicting a poor rainfall season. The first trigger early actions include:

Drought Early Warning Communication- A critical component of planning for drought is the provision of timely and reliable climate information, including seasonal forecasts, that supports at-risk communities in planning critical drought mitigation actions. Weather and climate information helps to prepare communities to anticipate, counter and absorb climate shocks, enhance agricultural productivity, and stay informed, at the same time contributing to local knowledge and weather information repository banks. This information, if properly used, can reduce the impacts of drought and other extreme weather events and is an effective tool for drought mitigation. This early action is aimed at supporting GoZ to disseminate accurate, people-centered, and user-friendly weather and climate information in the languages best understood by communities.

Distribution of drought tolerant short season certified seed varieties- Households targeted by this action have the potential of salvaging some harvest even during drought years thereby ensuring some level of food security.

It was noted that one of the reasons why the yields are very low in small-scale agriculture is that communities use uncertified and holdover seeds that are susceptible to pests and diseases. Distributing certified seeds will boost the yield potential of the targeted households. The target for this action is 2,000 vulnerable households, who will each receive 5kg of millet (approx. 1Ha) and 2.5kg of cowpeas approx. 0.17Ha). The seed varieties selection will be guided by Agritex officials who are well-versed with the suitable varieties in their areas of operation. This seed pack will enable the benefitting households to have cereal and legumes in their diet.

Second Trigger Actions


The second trigger will be the FEWSnet food security outlook indicating IPC4 in March will be used to trigger the second trigger actions. This will further be informed by the 2nd round of crop assessments by Agritex that indicate a poor agricultural season or a failed harvest. The second trigger early actions include:

Livestock dosing support- Livestock plays a pivotal role in the livelihoods of most communities, acting as a store of wealth. Improving livestock conditions through vaccination and dipping ahead of a forecasted drought will decrease the vulnerability of animals, stressed by drought conditions, from developing and succumbing to bacterial and parasitic infections.


Cash / Voucher Assistance for food and basic needs purchases- This action is motivated by the realization that even with all the drought mitigation early action proposed in this EAP, it is still possible that food insecurity impacts will be felt by the community. There is a consensus amongst humanitarian actors that cash/voucher assistance should be considered as the modality of choice, where conditions allow. CVA for food and basic needs purchases will provide a safety net for vulnerable households to reduce reliance on negative coping strategies such as the selling of productive assets. The cash distributions will target 500 households with 65 USD per round for three months.


School feeding- This action will have multiple benefits in combating malnutrition amongst school-going children, reducing the number of hunger-induced school dropouts, and other social ills like early child marriages and child labour. School feeding will be implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and will only target primary schools in the target wards. The plan is to target all 20 primary schools in the target wards to ensure all children from food-insecure households in the target wards are included. The school feeding daily rations will be guided by the UNICEF and WFP guidelines on school feeding to ensure that the recommended nutritional requirements are met.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

 Livelihoods	Female > 18: 2650	Female < 18: 5350	166,171 CHF
	Male > 18: 2649	Male < 18: 5349	AP Code: 005
Indicator:	Number of people reached with livelihoods interventions in advance of a hazard		
Readiness Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Targeting and selection of beneficiaries 2. Procurement of drought-tolerant seed varieties 3. Procurement of cattle dosing chemicals 4. Assessment and identification of target schools for supplemental feeding 		

	5. Procurement of CSB and cooking materials for school supplemental feeding
Priority Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verification of beneficiary registers for seed distributions 2. Distribution of seeds to targeted households 3. Post-distribution monitoring assessments 4. Distribution of dosing chemicals to the Veterinary department and support to dosing activities 5. Distribution of CSB to schools 6. Post-distribution and regular monitoring of the school's supplemental feeding

 Multi-purpose Cash	Female > 18: 540	Female < 18: 460	133,130 CHF
	Male > 18: 540	Male < 18: 460	AP Code: 081
Indicator:	Number of people reached with multi-purpose cash in advance of a hazard		
Readiness Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Beneficiary selection criteria development and confirmation with key stakeholders 2. Continued engagement with the Zimbabwe Cash Technical working group to align intervention approaches and inform the minimum expenditure basket 3. Targeting and pre-registration and verification of vulnerable households in liaison with Social Services department 4. Identification of financial service providers and suppliers of basic commodities and signing of agreements 		
Priority Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Beneficiary engagement and sensitization by volunteer structures 2. Monthly distribution cycles using CVA modality once the trigger thresholds have been reached 3. Post-distribution monitoring and evaluation to assess the impact of the early actions 		


 Risk Reduction, climate adaptation , and recovery	Female > 18: 3375	Female < 18: 4125	1,678 CHF
	Male > 18: 3375	Male < 18: 4125	AP Code: 101, 103, 105,106
Indicator:	Number of people reached with risk reduction and/or climate adaptation interventions in advance of a hazard		
Readiness Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continued engagement with Technical Working Groups and Community of Practice to guide the development of drought preparedness information. 2. Assessment and identification of appropriate dissemination channels and agreements with bulk SMS service providers 		

Priority Early Actions:

1. Alert dissemination and drought preparedness information disseminated to target areas through bulk SMS and community-level messaging through lead farmer and agricultural extension service structures

Enabling approaches

	Coordination and Partnerships		4,462 CHF
		AP Code: 118, 119, 127, 128	
Objective:	Continued engagement with the Community of Practice and Technical Working Groups to monitor drought hazards in Zimbabwe		
Readiness Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Attendance at Community of Practice and Technical Working Group Meetings2. Continued advocacy for the expansion and improved coordination in EAP development		
Priority Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Engagement with external partners<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Continued representation and coordination within the community of practice and technical working groups2. Movement Cooperation<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Continued engagement with Movement actors to guide and review the implementation of the EAP		

	National Society Strengthening		193,938 CHF
		AP Code: 124,125,126	
Objective:	Zimbabwe Red Cross is able to maintain readiness to activate the early actions.		
Readiness Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. ZRCS Livelihoods Officer (50% 3 years)2. ZRCS Disaster Management Officer (50% 3 years, 20% Y4, and 100% Y5)3. District Field Officer (100% 6 months)4. PMER Officer (50% 1 year)5. IM Officer (50% 1 year)		



Secretariat Services

46,890 CHF

AP Code: 122

Objective:

IFRC Harare Country Delegation supports the successful implementation of the EAP

Readiness Activities:

1. Operations & Preparedness officer Salary Support
2. Finance Officer Salary Support
3. Bank Charges Forex
4. Field Monitoring
5. Activation Support

Budget



Early Action Protocol Summary

EAPcode - Zimbabwe Red Cross
Drought

Operating Budget

Readiness Pre-Pos Stock Early Action TOTAL

Planned Operations	0	0	300'980	300'980
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0	0	0	0
Livelihoods	0	0	166'171	166'171
Multi-purpose Cash	0	0	133'130	133'130
Health	0	0	0	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0	0	0	0
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0	0	0	0
Education	0	0	0	0
Migration	0	0	0	0
Risk Red., Climate Adapt. and Recovery	0	0	1'678	1'678
Community Engagement and Accountability	0	0	0	0
Environmental Sustainability	0	0	0	0
Enabling Approaches	182'440	0	65'898	248'338
Coordination and Partnerships	0	0	4'462	4'462
Secretariat Services	49'938	0	0	49'938
National Society Strengthening	132'502	0	61'436	193'938
TOTAL BUDGET	182'440	0	366'878	549'318

Contact information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

In the Zimbabwe Red Cross-National Society

- **Secretary General** Elias Hwenga, eliash@redcrosszim.org.zw
- **Operational Coordination:** Ernest Maruza, emaruza@redcrosszim.org.zw

In the IFRC

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Malawi

- John Roche, Head of Delegation; Email: john.roche@ifrc.org
- Vivianne Kibon, Operations Coordinator. Email: Vivianne.KIBON@ifrc.org

IFRC Regional Office

- Rui Alberto OLIVEIRA, Regional Operations Manager, IFRC Africa Regional Office, Email: rui.oliveira@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- IFRC Africa Regional Office: Lilian Kinuthia, a.i. Regional Head, PMER and Quality Assurance, Email: Lilian.kinuthia@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva

- Nazira Lacayo, DREF Officer Forecast-based Action, Disaster, Climate, and Crisis, Email: Nazira.Lacayo@ifrc.org