



EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL SUMMARY

Ethiopia | Drought

12 September 2023

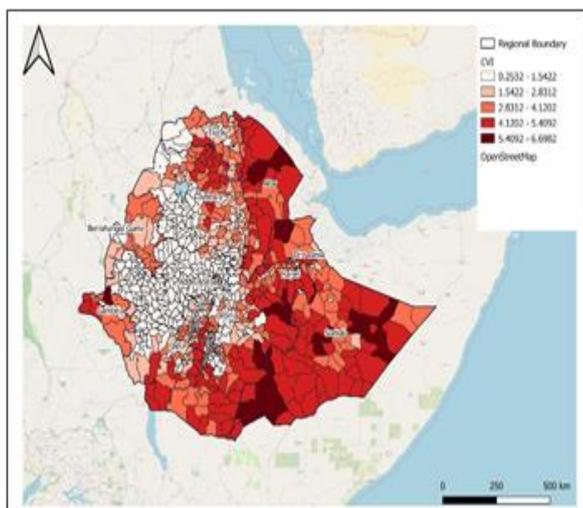


IARP Drought EAP Activation, Sewena woreda, East Bale Zone, Oromiya Region Photo credit: ERCS

EAP No: EAP2023ET02	Early action lead time: 1 month in advance of each trigger	Operation No: MDRET033
EAP approved: 21/08/2023	EAP timeframe: 5 years	Early action timeframe: 7 months

Budget: 499,422 CHF
To assist: 70,000 people

SUMMARY OF THE EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL



The IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) has approved a total of **CHF 499,422** for the implementation of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society's Drought Early Action Protocol (EAP). The approved amount consists of an allocation of **CHF 292,120** for readiness and prepositioning and **CHF 207,302** 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 MDRET033. Unearmarked contributions to the DREF are encouraged to guarantee enough funding is available for the Early Action Protocols being developed.

Country Context

Ethiopia is the second most populous nation in Africa. It struggles with numerous man-made and natural disasters that are exacerbated by multiple factors including poor farming methods, deforestation, poor resource management, low economic development, conflict and the changing climate. The security environment in Ethiopia is diverse and threats vary widely by location. Although the end of 2022 brought about peace and improved access in Northern Ethiopia (Tigray, Afar and Amhara) with the signing of the secession of hostility agreement, humanitarian needs resulting from the war are still high.

Hazard

Recurring droughts and floods have the most severe impact on Ethiopia's population and the country has a long history of recurring droughts, which have increased in magnitude, frequency, and impact since the 1970s. The pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in drought prone areas, increasing aridity and recurring drought conditions present the most significant climate hazard. Ethiopia is highly vulnerable to climate shocks and is one of the most drought-prone countries in the world. The severe drought that began in late 2020 has continued into 2023 with the passing of five poor to failed rainy seasons. Under the 2023 Humanitarian Requirement Document (HRD), 13 million people require humanitarian response in drought affected areas.

Geographical scope

The following areas were identified as drought prone and where timely early actions could make a difference in mitigating the negative impacts, includes Belg receiving (East and West Harerge), Northern pastorals (Afar Zone 1 and Zone 3, Northern Shewa, North and south Wollo, South Gonder, and Southern Tigray region) and Southern pastoral livelihood zones (seven zones in Somali (Afer, Dhawa, Dollo, Fafan,, korah, liben and Shebelle zones), Borena and Guji, Erer, and East Bale zones) are identified as high risk areas.

OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

1. Who will implement the EAP? The National Society

Ethiopia Red Cross Society (ERCS) will implement the drought and the previously approved flood EAP with support from government and NGO stakeholders. The ERCS has adequate capacity to undertake the prioritized activities especially in the implementation of the selected early actions especially in emergency settings and DRM programming. The ERCS learnt a lot from the recent activation of drought early actions in 2022 and has a well-established DRM department that will coordinate the activation of the emergency coordination center (EOC) and implementation of the EAP. There are 225 well trained branch disaster risk teams (BDRT) and 200,000 volunteers throughout the country, who will be called upon to facilitate the implementation of the early actions. At branch and community level, existing structures such as Red Cross Action Teams and Woreda Ready groups of government and non-government stakeholders with clear roles and responsibilities are available for deployment even at short notice. Such structures are always activated in emergency response and will be deployed during the activation of the EAP.

On cash voucher assistance (CVA), ERCS has the Standard Operating Procedures, tools, trained staff and volunteers, signed agreement with the financial service providers and experience to do cash interventions. The preparedness activity was initiated at the inception of the project and so far accomplished the first level preparedness and still ongoing targeting to upgrade to the next level. The framework service agreement signed is with the government owned bank which has branches all over the country at the lowest administrative level in which people will not be requested to travel not more than 30 minutes to access the service. Volunteers are already trained in the Kobo toolbox primarily for data collection and beneficiary registration purposes and will minimize the time for compiling beneficiary data as compared to doing it manually on papers.

The continued branch development efforts through the existing projects interventions and readiness activities in selected districts contributes to local level capacity.

The NLRC country office is present to offer the required technical support to the National Society in its operational dimensions alongside the IFRC and ICRC routine technical support and presence.

2. How the EAP will be activated? The Trigger

As drought is a slow on-set hazard, the activation system follows a certain process before the situation reaches to Alert level. The past seasonal performance would be a watch signal for the coming season and this can be detected by SPI analysis. Again, the seasonal SPI-3 forecast will be used to warn the TWG and at risk communities to do 'community-owned' activities ahead of the season; after four weeks of the start of the season, the agricultural drought signal will be tasted (informed by the LEAP model water requirement satisfaction index for a specific crop). If it passed the threshold, the warning will be reached to alert stage and all the worthy activities will be in place. As that time, the automated process will send messages to the emails and mobile phone numbers of the members of the TWG. Then, the members of the TWG will notify all relevant people in their respective organizations within 24 hours. During this same time, the lead agency Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) should call for an urgent TWG meeting (including weekends/holidays) to facilitate the implementation of the identified early actions (a small early action command team could be organized). Following this, the official implementation of the early actions will start. If the moisture or Water Requirement Satisfaction Index (WRSI) is not showing the level of critical (not passed the threshold) a stop mechanism will be initiated.

Trigger statement

The ERCS will activate the EAP with the first trigger (one month ahead of a season) when the seasonal forecast (provided by the ECMWF/ICPAC and EMI) indicated that more than **50%** of the geographical area of a zone is predicted to be drier than normal conditions $SPI < -1$, and at least **40%** probability of below normal for **JJA** season and **45%** probability of below normal **OND and MAM** seasons with a 1-month lead time. The second activation will be triggered (one month after the start of the season) when the crop yield reduction is predicted to be more than 50% based on LEAP index

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

Based on the prioritized impacts, various meetings within the TWG were held to identify and select early actions that were deemed necessary to prevent/reduce the identified impacts of floods. The selection of early actions was based on:

- Several brainstorming sessions were held with the TWG to identify the most feasible early actions for floods based on previous activities implemented by participating organizations. The results of these expert opinions were subjected to pairwise ranking to prioritize early actions given time and budget constraints.
- Community wide consultations with key informant interviews including decision-makers and local communities were conducted.
- Literature review was done to assess actions that have been implemented.

The following factors were taken into consideration during the selection of Early Actions

- Evidence that the selected actions contribute to the reduction of prioritized impact
- Capacity and previous experience of the national society to implement the selected actions
- Alignment of the early actions with ERCS mandate, NDRMC strategy, National policies and international SPHERE standards
- Relevance of the actions to benefit communities while keeping the possible scenario of acting in vain
- Feasibility of the early actions to be implemented within the lead time of one month before the start of the season and one month after the start of season.

Prioritized impacted sectors	Identified early actions
	General/Cross-cutting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination early warning and early action information to the target communities • Consideration of COVID prevention, CEA/PGI measures, during the EAW
WASH Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation of critical water facilities (boreholes, shallow wells, hand-dug wells etc.) • Demarcate and preserve drought time water sources. Focusing on boreholes • Promote water preservation and wise utilization techniques (introduce water quota) • Conflict negotiation • Pre-stocking of relevant medicines
Food And Nutrition Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote food saving (reduce wastages, preservation of food, and managing available food etc.) • Promote planting of short maturing and drought tolerant vegetable and crop varieties • Support alternative food. • Water harvesting on the farmland +Soil moisture conservation. • Start cash for food/work, productive safety net
Animal Health and Production Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination • Pre-stocking of vet medicines and equipment • Cash for animal feed

PLANNED OPERATIONS

Population to be Assisted: Ethiopia Red Cross will reach out to at least 70,000 people/14,000¹ HH/ (1% of 7 Million of average number of people affected by drought in Ethiopia) highly at risk people to drought with targeted early warning and early action messages. Based on this message, ERCS will support community mobilization efforts to enable households to take some early action measures to reduce their risk.

- **70,000** people reached by ERCS public awareness and education campaigns.
- **22,500** people took action to reduce the impact of drought by their own means
- **47,500** people took action with the direct support of IARP over livelihood, WASH and DRR section below

	<p>Livelihoods People targeted: 10,000</p>						<p>70,881 CHF AP Code: 007</p>
Indicators: % reduction of livestock death							
Priority Actions	Year						
Readiness activities	1	2	3	4	5		
Closely work with MoA and its structures from national to Kebele level (Special focus to the DAs, animal health workers and woreda agricultural offices).							
Ensure sectoral contingency plan (agriculture and livestock) include the early actions identified in this EAP							
Engage cooperatives, private investors, suppliers-in availing of vet medicine, in provision of animal feed and contract signing							
Produce EWI (IEC) material for farmers and translate into local languages. Including agreement with local media							
	Year						
Pre-positioning activities	1						

¹ Five person per household

Produce EWI (IEC) material for farmers and translate into local languages.										
Preposition IEC materials at vulnerable woreda sites										
	Timeframe (months)									
Early action activities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Vaccination										
Provide short maturing forage seed/planting for livestock and cash for animal feed production for 1,500 HH										
Promoting area closure (rangeland management)										
Provide cash/in kind for animal feed for 500 HH										
Promote systematic destocking (together with marketing)										
Promote systematic Migration with livestock to other pasture and water available areas (herd splitting like browsers can stay behind a bit longer) whenever it is applicable										
Introduce temporary slaughterhouses (communities also can make dry meat -qwanta) whenever it is applicable										
Conflict resolution or negotiation of resource sharing										



Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

People targeted: 10,000

44,629 CHF
AP Code: 110, 111

Indicator: *Number of people reached with WASH interventions in advance of a hazard*

Priority Actions	Year				
Readiness activities	1	2	3	4	5
Ensure sectoral contingency plan (Health/WASH) include the early actions identified in this EAP for drinking water protection and treatment.					
Closely work with the Ministry of Health and WASH clusters and their structures from national to Kebele level (special focus to the					

health extension workers and woreda health offices including conduct training and monitoring to ensure water treatment chemicals are used properly										
Signing framework agreement with suppliers of water treatment chemicals and medicines										
	Year									
Pre-positioning activities	1									
Procurement and prepositioning of items: Masks (2000 HHs*6*5Birr), Sanitizers(2000 HHs*1*100birr) and Soaps (2000 HHs*1*65birr)										
Pre-position of relevant material for malaria, water-borne diseases (first aid equipment and mosquito nets)										
	Timeframe (months)									
Early action activities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Promote awareness on water born disease control (such as cholera), use of mosquito net, basic sanitation (latrine, hand washing, drinking water treatment etc.)										
Promote water preservation and wise utilization techniques										
Introduce water allocation based on availability and needs										
Engage the WASH sector for Water treatment										
Rehabilitation of critical water facilities (boreholes, shallow wells, hand-dug wells)										
Demarcate and preserve drought time water sources (boreholes, birkas, ponds etc.)										
Support water harvesting in schools/other social service providers										
People from health office and WASH involved in the rapid assessment										
Cleaning and de-silting of water sources – river, springs, and wells to avoid mosquitoes breeding in stagnant water										
Implement hygiene promotion intervention focusing on potential health risks from WASH related diseases.										



Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and Recovery

People targeted: **27,500**

226,584 CHF
AP Code: 101, 103

Indicator: % of surveyed households who have received EWI
% of surveyed households who have taken preparedness measures based on the information received
% of households who has reduced food shortage months

Priority Actions	Year									
Readiness activities	1	2	3	4	5					
Revise the national contingency plan										
Mobilizing and mapping of resources (in the hands of government and non-government stakeholders) to be used for early action										
Early warning Dissemination materials production, translation and agreement with relevant media channels										
	Year									
Pre-positioning activities	1									
Prepositioning early warning dissemination material										
Preposition short maturing, drought tolerant vegetable, healthy and nutritious crop and vegetable Varieties										
Preposition of improved storage materials/equipment's (triple bag, Metal silo)to reduce post-harvest loss										
	Timeframe (months)									
Early action activities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Promote food saving (reduce wastages, preservation of food, and managing available food etc.)										
Promote planting of short maturing and drought tolerant vegetable and crop varieties										
Promote safe usage of alternative foods (wild foods, fishing, hunting etc.)										

Provide and distribute short maturing, drought tolerant vegetable, healthy and nutritious crop and vegetable Varieties for 1,500 HH	■									
Water harvesting on the farmland + Soil moisture conservation	■									
Asset protection intervention through cash for work/ food for work for 1,500 HH			■							
Training for DAS, Health extensions, local leaders	■									
Training selected women on screening of early malnutrition signs and symptoms to refer to health centers	■									

Enabling approaches

 National Society Strengthening		116,592 CHF AP Code: 105, 124, 125, 126									
Indicator: <i>No. of staff and volunteers trained</i>											
Priority Actions	Year										
Readiness activities	1	2	3	4	5						
Contribution towards FbF focal point for implementation of the EAP.	■	■	■	■	■						
Refreshing and Training of staff and volunteers in EAP activation	■	■	■	■	■						
NS Programme Support Costs (5%)	■	■	■	■	■						
Volunteer Insurance 40 volunteers	■	■	■	■	■						
	Year										
Pre-positioning activities	1										
PPE and visibility for volunteers	■										
	Timeframe (months)										
Early action activities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

Mobilize the Volunteers 40 and BDRT staff (15) for 11 days per month										
Activate Community and National platforms										
Conduct post Activation Lessons learned workshop										



Secretariat Services

40,736 CHF
AP Code: 122

Priority Actions	Year									
	1	2	3	4	5					
Readiness activities										
Accompaniment for implementation of annual readiness activities										
	Timeframe (months)									
Early action activities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Technical accompaniment for the implementation of the early actions										
Support with reporting and lessons learned										

Budget

To implement the Early Action Protocol (EAP) 499,422 CHF have been allocated split between readiness*, pre-positioning of stock and early action costs as per below summary by area of intervention.

		<h2 style="color: red;">Early Action Protocol Summary</h2>		
		Ethiopian Red Cross Drought		
Operating Budget	Readiness	Pre-Pos Stock	Early Action	TOTAL
Planned Operations	8,238	142,848	191,008	342,094
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0	0	0	0
Livelihoods	0	4,526	66,355	70,881
Multi-purpose Cash	0	0	0	0
Health	0	0	0	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0	8,690	35,938	44,629
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0	0	0	0
Education	0	0	0	0
Migration	0	0	0	0
Risk Red., Climate Adapt. and Recovery	8,238	129,632	88,715	226,584
Community Engagement and Accountabilit	0	0	0	0
Environmental Sustainability	0	0	0	0
Enabling Approaches	142,391	2,263	12,674	157,328
Coordination and Partnerships	0	0	0	0
Secretariat Services	31,684	0	9,053	40,736
National Society Strengthening	110,708	2,263	3,621	116,592
TOTAL BUDGET	150,629	145,112	203,681	499,422
<i>all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)</i>				

**The activities for readiness and pre-positioning of stock will be captured in the IFRC Country Operational Plan (COP), reporting on annual basis. In case of an Early Action trigger, the annual readiness funding allocation is terminated with a 12-month notice, allowing the National Society to conclude its 3rd party financial and legal commitments and liabilities under the Early Action Protocol.*

Contact information.

For further information, specifically related to this Early Action Protocol please contact:

In the Ethiopia Red Cross Society

- **Secretary General:** Mr Getachew Taa, Email Address: ercs.sg@redcrosseth.org Telephone Number: +251-115-15-90-74
- Abraham Tesfaye, Email Address: abraham.tesfaye@redcrosseth.org Telephone Number: Mobile: +251-921-75-83-75

In the IFRC

- **IFRC CCD: Head of Delegation** Paula Elizabeth Fitzgerald Email Address: paula.fitzgerald@ifrc.org
- **IFRC CCD:** Coordinator, Programs and Operations, Sahal Hassan Abdi Email Address: sahal.abdil@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva

- **Programme and Operations focal point:** Malika Noisette, Senior Officer DREF malika.noisette@ifrc.org

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.
