

EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL ANNUAL REPORT

Pakistan | Riverine Flood

Date: 11/06/2024

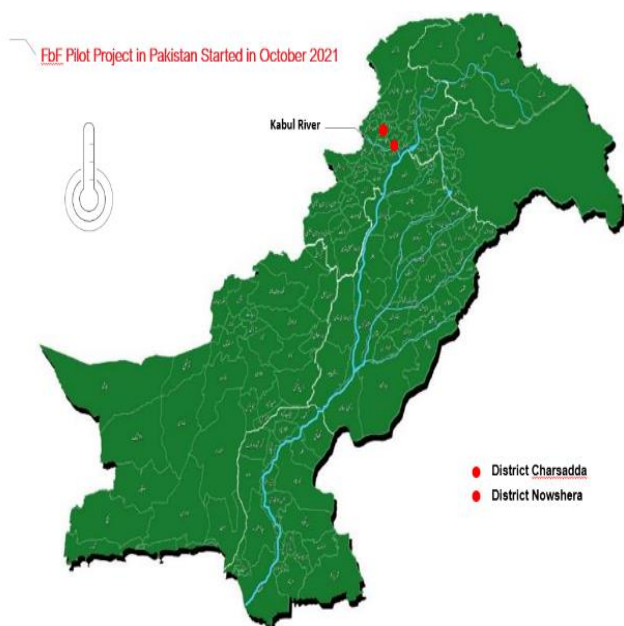


Staff and volunteers of Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) during Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on the Kabul River basin (Photo credit: PRCS)

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| EAP No: EAP2023PK01 | Operation No: MDRPK024 | Period covered by this annual report: 25/07/2023 to 31/12/2023 |
| EAP approved: 24/07/2023 | EAP timeframe: 2 Years | |

Annual Budget: 25,622 CHF
EAP Budget: 200,000 CHF

SUMMARY OF THE EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) has allocated CHF 200,000 for the implementation of anticipatory actions to reduce and mitigate the impact of Riverine Flood in Pakistan. This Early Action Protocol (EAP) includes an allocation of CHF 1,978 to preposition stock and CHF 45,857 to undertake annual readiness activities to implement early actions, if and when the trigger is reached. The two main early actions are:

1. Dissemination of early warning messages
2. Disbursement of multi-purpose cash

The early actions to be carried in case of trigger have been pre-agreed with the National Society (NS) and are described in detail in the EAP summary [<https://adore.ifrc.org/Download.aspx?FileId=721011>].

During the reporting period, significant progress has been made by Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) in advancing Forecast-based Financing (FbF) initiatives. PRCS organized a comprehensive orientation session on FbF, facilitating an enhanced understanding of FbF concepts and applications for both PRCS staff and key stakeholders, including government agencies such as Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMA), District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs), Flood Forecasting Division (FFD)¹, cellular companies, financial institutions and the meteorological department.

The Simplified Early Action Protocol (sEAP) was validated on 24 July 2023, during the monsoon season. Following the validation, PRCS maintained close coordination with FFD for monitoring the triggers through daily real-time outflow of water at the Nowshera Gauging Station in District Nowshera. The highest flow was reported during August and September 2023, with a maximum of 102,000 cusecs. PRCS has completed the procurements of essential communication equipment, for the effective dissemination of early warning messages in the communities in case of trigger is reached.

Furthermore, FbF Programme Officer recruitment has been initiated at the NS for the EAP Implementation, whilst demonstrating efforts to strengthen the institutional capacity of PRCS in FbF. The ongoing collaboration and coordination through regular meetings of PRCS, IFRC and the German Red Cross (GRC) signify the commitment to fostering partnerships and ensuring effective early action to reduce the impact of the anticipated disaster along the Kabul River basin. These meetings serve as platforms for addressing emerging challenges, reviewing ongoing initiatives, and aligning strategies for delivering timely and impactful early actions.

Two framework agreements have been signed between PRCS and Financial Service Providers (FSPs), including Telenor EasyPaisa and Habib Bank Limited, to enhance PRCS's capacity to transparently implement cash-based interventions with target communities. However, separate agreements will be signed with the FSPs for anticipatory action, keeping in view the lead time and the cash disbursement trigger which is very crucial in such settings, because it only allows operating in the window available between anticipation and occurrence of a disaster.

Currently, Flood Forecasting Division (FFD) of Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) issues three kinds of flood bulletins regularly; Bulletin A provides a qualitative forecast of river level including Kabul River with a maximum of three days lead time, Bulletin B provides a quantitative forecast of river levels for the next 24 hours,

¹ NDMA: National Disaster Management Authority, PDMA, Provincial Disaster Management Authority, DDMA: District Disaster Management Authority,


Bulletin C is the weekly river catchment forecast providing qualitative information on the river level with maximum of five days lead time. These bulletins are based on the forecast outcomes of hydrological models; Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) and Integrated Flood Analysis System (INDUS-IFAS) which consider the observed discharges and rainfall in the upstream area to predict the flood level range at the downstream station.

Trigger (3-5 days lead time):

The activation trigger will be reached when flood bulletin C (Weekly River’s Catchments Forecast) and significant flood warning/advisories from FFD/PMD predict very high to exceptionally high flooding with river flow above 150,000 cusecs at Nowshera station of Kabul River with a lead time ranging from 3-5 days.

Overall, these developments reflect the concerted efforts of PRCS to enhance its readiness for anticipatory action in case of disaster along the Kabul River basin, both within PRCS and in collaboration with national partners and stakeholders.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL PROGRESS BY PLANNED OPERATION

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|  <p>Multi-purpose Cash</p> | CHF preposition budget: | CHF preposition actual: |
| | - | - |
| | CHF readiness budget: | CHF readiness actual: |
| | 3,035 | Refer to financial report |

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

PRCS initiated the procurement process for the selection of FSPs for its ongoing cash disbursement programme. Following the detailed procurement procedures and with the technical support of IFRC CD and APRO, two framework agreements were signed with the FSPs i.e. Telenor Easypaisa and Habib Bank Limited. These two FSPs were selected since they are widely accessible in local markets and have a huge outreach. Easypaisa is a Pakistani mobile wallet, mobile payments and branchless banking service provider and Habib Bank Limited is one of Pakistan’s largest multinational bank with over 1,700 branches across the country. The agreement covering readiness and disbursement modalities for the sEAP is being finalized.

The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) is a government initiative for unconditional cash transfer for poverty reduction programme in Pakistan. It is the largest single social safety net programme in the country. BISP collects the data of people on different socio-economic indicators across Pakistan and provides assistance to different groups wherever possible. For the sEAP, the initial data of the population across the river Kabul basin will be taken from BISP which will be further processed for verification and final selection of beneficiaries.

Data collection from BISP has already been completed and the verification of data is planned for April-May 2024, right before the monsoon season begins. PRCS is currently in the process of reviewing its previous agreements with BISP for the signing of a new data-sharing agreement for establishing a mechanism for annual data exchange with BISP. Additionally, a review of the mobile wallet status of verified households will be conducted after the validation/verification of data collected from BISP. Mobile wallet accounts of selected beneficiaries will be reactivated, if necessary, to facilitate the quick cash disbursement process.

The service order and pre-approvals from PRCS management along with debit instructions will be finalized after beneficiary data verification has been completed. Training and refresher for staff and volunteers on beneficiary targeting, registration, cash distribution process and quality standards like Protection Gender and Inclusion (PGI), Code of Conduct, Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) are planned during the first quarter of 2024.

PRCS conducted a cash feasibility study along the Kabul River basin under AHDRR Project to understand market readiness, people’s preferences, access, acceptance and market capacity at a pre-disaster stage. The study provided

detailed analysis and is a good reference point for anticipatory action programme with a focus on Cash as early action in the region.



PRCS staff and volunteers during orientation session (Photo credit: PRCS)



**Risk Reduction,
climate
adaptation and
Recovery**

CHF preposition budget:

1,499

CHF preposition actual:

1,067

CHF readiness budget:

5,214

CHF readiness actual:

Refer to financial report

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

PRCS is closely coordinating with PDMA's and district authorities to develop and pre-agree upon Early Warning Messages. During the reporting period, the procurement of megaphones for the dissemination of early warning messages to target communities was successfully completed. As planned, a total of 36 megaphones were procured and prepositioned within PRCS facilities across the target region. These megaphones will be subsequently handed over to provincial branches for further delivery to early warning dissemination teams at the community level.



**Community
Engagement and
Accountability**

CHF preposition budget:

-

CHF preposition actual:

-

CHF readiness budget:

446

CHF readiness actual:


Refer to financial report

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

PRCS already has a system in place for community engagement and accountability. PRCS feedback collection mechanism and Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) are already in place and will be deployed if and when the trigger happens, and EAP is fully implemented in the field. The toll-free hotline number 1030 is already active for all PRCS interventions in the field, and the same hotline will be used for the collection of feedback from the target EAP communities.

Procurement of mobile handsets has been successfully completed and prepositioned at PRCS . Upon need or activation of the early actions, the handsets will be handed over to the NHQ management for further deployment to volunteers in the field, and the feedback system will be activated as per the CEA guidelines.


Enabling approaches

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|  Secretariat Services | CHF preposition budget: | CHF preposition actual: |
| | - | - |
| | CHF readiness budget: | CHF readiness actual: |
| | 714 | 44 |

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

The support for the attainment of data collection tools (Red Rose for beneficiaries' registration) will be provided during the beneficiary targeting and registration process, right before the monsoon season of 2024. RedRose will be deployed, which is an android application used for digital data entry and analysis. It is a unique web-based system, tailored solely to meet the needs of the humanitarian sector.

Regular movement coordination is ongoing for technical and operational complementarity and enhancing cooperation with external stakeholders.

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|  National Society Strengthening | CHF preposition budget: | CHF preposition actual: |
| | - | - |
| | CHF readiness budget: | CHF readiness actual: |
| | 6,964 | Refer to financial report |

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

During the reporting period, regular coordination meetings were convened amongst PRCS, IFRC and GRC to discuss the execution of the sEAP. These meetings served as a crucial platform for collaboration and coordination whereby the members provided updates on the EAP implementation progress, discussed emerging challenges and jointly devised strategies to overcome obstacles. Additionally, these meetings facilitated a thorough review of the ongoing initiatives, allowing for the identification of areas for improvement and the alignment of strategies to ensure a unified and effective response to the vulnerable community along the Kabul River Basin. Regular meetings strengthened the partnership between PRCS, IFRC, and GRC, thereby enhancing the collective ability to deliver timely and impactful responses while promoting transparent communication and teamwork.

The annual pre-monsoon coordination meeting on the simplified EAP with key partners/stakeholders on the EAP interventions will take place in June 2024, right before the monsoon season begins.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, PROPOSED AJUSTMENTS

The sEAP was validated in July 2023 and most of the activities were planned for 2024 keeping in view the monsoon season had already passed in 2023.

The unavailability of dedicated staff for sEAP at the provincial level caused delays in the implementation of activities in the targeted areas. However, the recruitment of a Programme officer is in process who will lead the EAP implementation.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The sEAP progress is expected to accelerate in the second quarter of 2024. The financial report is available at the end of this report.

Contact information.

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

At the Pakistan Red Crescent Society

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At the IFRC Pakistan Country Delegation

- Peter Ophoff, Head of Delegation; email: peter.ophoff@ifrc.org
- Manzoor Ali, Programme Coordinator; phone: +92 308 555 9071; email: manzoor.ali@ifrc.org,

At the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office, Kuala Lumpur

- Raymond Etienne ZINGG; Regional Coordinator, Anticipatory Action; email: raymond.zingg@ifrc.org

Reference



Click here for:

- [EAP Summary and budget](#)

FBAF Early Actions

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

| Selected Parameters | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------|----------|
| Reporting Timeframe | 2023/7-12 | Operation | * |
| Budget Timeframe | 2023/7-2025/7 | Budget | APPROVED |

Prepared on 29/Mar/2024

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRPK024 - Pakistan - Riverine Flood / EAP2023PK01

I. Summary

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Opening Balance | 0 |
| Funds & Other Income | 200,000 |
| DREF Anticipatory Pillar | 200,000 |
| Expenditure | -17,479 |
| Closing Balance | 182,521 |

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

| Description | Budget | Expenditure | Variance |
|---|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction | 11,927 | | 11,927 |
| AOF2 - Shelter | | | 0 |
| AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs | 154,581 | 17,456 | 137,125 |
| AOF4 - Health | | | 0 |
| AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene | | | 0 |
| AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion | | | 0 |
| AOF7 - Migration | | | 0 |
| Area of focus Total | 166,508 | 17,456 | 149,052 |
| SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies | 25,428 | 23 | 25,406 |
| SFI2 - Effective international disaster management | | | 0 |
| SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners | | | 0 |
| SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC | 8,064 | | 8,064 |
| Strategy for implementation Total | 33,492 | 23 | 33,469 |
| Grand Total | 200,000 | 17,479 | 182,521 |

FBAF Early Actions

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MDRPK024 - Pakistan - Riverine Flood / EAP2023PK01

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

| Description | Budget | Expenditure | Variance |
|---|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Relief items, Construction, Supplies | 133,645 | | 133,645 |
| Cash Disbursement | 133,645 | | 133,645 |
| Logistics, Transport & Storage | 2,500 | | 2,500 |
| Transport & Vehicles Costs | 2,500 | | 2,500 |
| Personnel | 16,500 | | 16,500 |
| National Staff | 2,571 | | 2,571 |
| National Society Staff | 13,929 | | 13,929 |
| Consultants & Professional Fees | 1,895 | | 1,895 |
| Professional Fees | 1,895 | | 1,895 |
| Workshops & Training | 19,769 | 21 | 19,748 |
| Workshops & Training | 19,769 | 21 | 19,748 |
| General Expenditure | 13,485 | | 13,485 |
| Travel | 9,643 | | 9,643 |
| Information & Public Relations | 2,843 | | 2,843 |
| Office Costs | 1,000 | | 1,000 |
| Operational Provisions | | 16,391 | -16,391 |
| Operational Provisions | | 16,391 | -16,391 |
| Indirect Costs | 12,207 | 1,067 | 11,140 |
| Programme & Services Support Recover | 12,207 | 1,067 | 11,140 |
| Grand Total | 200,000 | 17,479 | 182,521 |