



# EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL SUMMARY

ESwatini | Drought

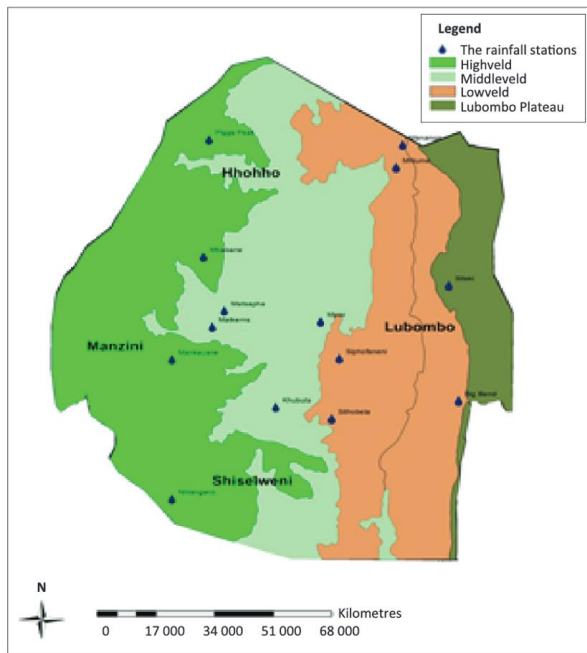
18 March 2024



EAP No: <b>EAP2023SZ01</b>	Early action lead time: <b>3 Months / 0 Months</b>	Operation No: <b>MDRSZ005</b>
EAP approved: <b>12/20/2023</b>	EAP timeframe: <b>5 Years</b>	Operational timeframe: <b>3 Months</b>

**Budget: CHF 539,143**  
**To assist: 10,800 people**

# SUMMARY OF THE EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL



The IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) has approved a total of **CHF 539,143** for the implementation of the Baphalali eSwatini Red Cross (BERCS) Drought EAP. The approved amount consists of an allocation of **CHF 103,232 for readiness and prepositioning** and **CHF 435,910 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 MDRSZ005**. Un-earmarked contributions to the DREF are encouraged to guarantee enough funding is available for the Early Action Protocols (EAPs) being developed. The EAP for the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society (BERCS) is a tool to guide the timely and effective implementation of drought early actions that will be informed by specific weather or climate forecasts as well as consistent monitoring of the hazard. Ideally, the EAP is designed in a way that it is effective in reducing risk before severe impacts of the forecasted hazard affect at-risk

population by implementing early actions between the trigger and expected impact of drought. Therefore, in principle, the EAP should be designed in this way such that if no proper anticipatory actions are in place the event would have a high likelihood of generating a humanitarian crisis. These crises could be avoided or minimized by the joint and timely anticipatory action of the Government of Eswatini, communities at risk, and stakeholders.

This EAP has been designed and will be implemented by several organizations (e.g., BERCS; Deputy Prime Minister's Office; Eswatini Meteorological Services; National Disaster Management Agency; Ministry of Agriculture: Livestock and Veterinary Services, Crop Production/Agricultural Extension Services; Ministry of Natural Resources; Department of Water Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Tinkhundla). Everyone involved in this plan has a key role during the preparation and activation of the AA mechanism. The EAP has been developed to address the **impacts of drought on death of livestock (due to hunger and thirst), water shortages for human and livestock consumption, drought-induced crop failure, decline in yield and deterioration of pasture, loss of income and livelihoods and compromised dietary intake or hunger**. The targeted population are those located in the **most drought prone areas with less coping capabilities (Lowveld)**.

The EAP presented in this plan targets drought and will be triggered by a forecast provided by Eswatini Meteorological Services with a lead time of 3 months (seasonal lead time) as well as the drought monitoring through the Composite Drought Index (CDI). The trigger is characterized by a 2-step triggering process: one starting in September for readiness and low-regret actions to be triggered by "below to normal" forecast issued by Eswatini Meteorological Services and the second one in mid-January based on low CDI average observed over the OND season aimed at triggering food and water-related early actions.

## OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

### 1. Who will implement the EAP - The National Society

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society (BERCS) started operating in Eswatini in 1933, as a Branch of the British Red Cross. The National Society discharges its services to the people of Eswatini through five (5) Branch offices and three (3) health facilities. The five Branches have a total of 159 Red Cross Units and a total of 3,800

volunteers. The internal activities of each unit are coordinated at Branch level while those of the Branch and health facilities at the BERCS Head Office in Mbabane.

The National Society (NS) in its core programmes has disaster management (DM) and emergency response experience. BERCS is one of the key players in disaster preparedness, response, risk reduction and recovery activities in Eswatini. With this project focusing on disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, it is feeding into the wider scope of aspirations of the NS detailed in the Strategic Plan (2021-2025) in one of the National Society's strategic ambitions to ensure that people anticipate, respond to, and quickly recover from crisis under the focus area of disaster management. The NS has a DM department which is composed of technical staff at HQ and Branch level with diverse skills ranging from DM coordinator, field coordinators, FbF team (cash and voucher assistance (CVA), DM, Project coordinator, FSL), DM preparedness and planning, monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (PMEAL). The NS heavily relies on volunteers who are constantly capacitated. To implement the EAP the NS will rely on support functions i.e. logistics, procurement, finance and communications.

The NS has experience in response in several thematic areas (e.g. livelihoods, including CVA, WASH, food security) implemented by the NS as response actions. In addition, the NS has capacities on FbF/AA, Impact-based Forecasting, Preparedness for Effective Response (PER), NRT, rapid assessment for markets (RAM), data management, digital data collection, community engagement and accountability (CEA), PMEAL, Cash in AA. All these activities are considered essential for the NS to implement the EAP. Planned activities include training of NS staff and stakeholders on drought trigger development, impact-based forecasting sensitisation. Others include the training of key NS staff on drought forecasting and monitoring tools. The findings of the drought FbF scoping and feasibility study indicated that the NS has capacity to implement the prioritized early actions, except for an additional staff member to be responsible for data management. Following the recommendation, the staff was hired and is now part of the FbF/AA team.

There are approximately 350 volunteers in the AA implementation areas. 150 volunteers and 11 staff members are available for potential activation. In addition to the capacity building that has been offered to the staff, the volunteers have been trained in data collection, CVA, NRT and First Aid.

Table 1. List of key actors

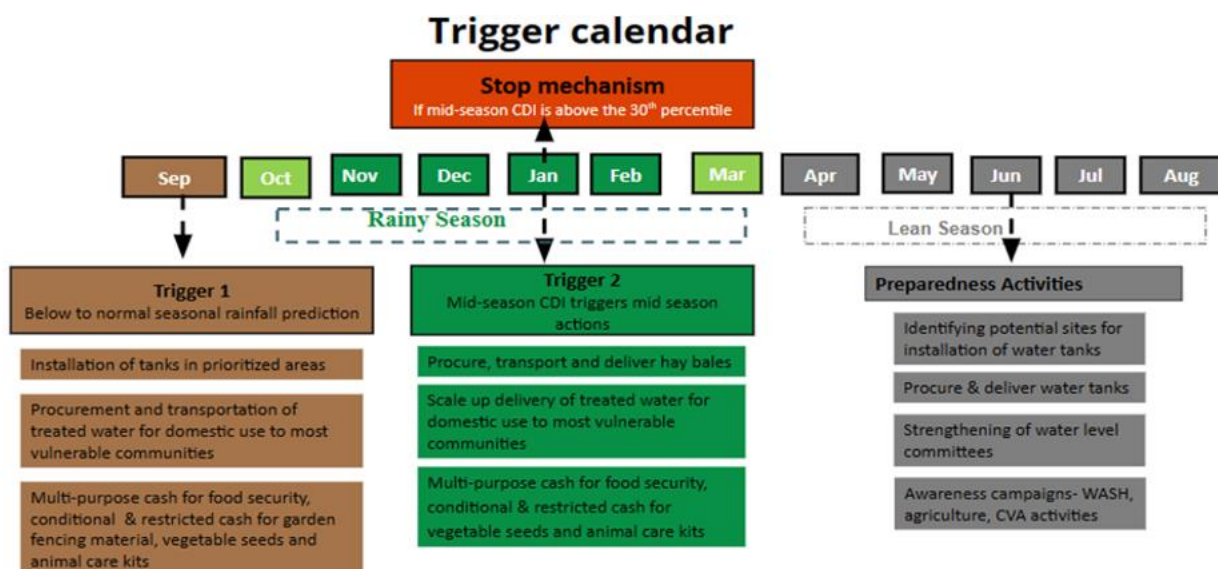
<b>Key Actors</b>	<b>Mandate</b>	<b>Role Pertaining the EAP</b>	<b>Commitment to EAP</b>
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (RCCC)</b>	Helps RCRC Movement and partners reduce the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events on vulnerable people.	Provides guidance and tools to the National Society and fosters the exchange of experience, training and technical support	Provided guidance and support with respect to the FbF through: (i) the development of drought triggers, (ii) drafting of BERCS' drought EAP; (iii) provision of IbF-related training.
<b>British Red Cross (BRC)</b>	Mobilize the power of humanity so that individuals and communities have the capacity to prepare for, deal with and recover from crises.	Provides financial support to the project. Provides technical support on DRR.	Provided guidance and technical support on DRR, CVA and Shock-responsive Social Protection (SRSP), PER. Funded the FbF project since inception.
<b>National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA)</b>	To lead, coordinate and manage a comprehensive and systematic disaster risk management function of the country through mainstreaming of disaster risk	Provides strategic, technical leadership and guidance on the development of the FbF system in the country, contributes to the	Instrumental in the introduction of FbF in the country through coordination. Co-chairing the FbF TWG meetings. Provided technical and strategic guidance on DRR. Participated in the establishment of

	reduction into sector plans and budgets.	development of drought triggers, participate in FbF TWG meetings	triggers. Shared experience and knowledge on some locally developed tools for drought monitoring
<b>International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC)</b>	Secretariat of National Societies.	To support BERCS in establishing an FbF system for the country. Assist in ensuring that the BERCS accesses the DREF funding for FbF.	Provided technical advice on AA and DM and monthly regional FbF/AA TWG meetings for southern Africa NS. Provided training related to FbF and IBF. Provided training on PER
<b>Deputy Prime Minister's Office (DPMO)</b>	Promote an integrated and coordinated system of disaster management focused on decreasing vulnerability, increasing preparedness and mitigation capacity	Strengthen Disaster Risk Reduction governance, legal and institutional framework	Part of TWG. Ensures DRR Policy, and act framework are adhered to.

## 2. How the EAP will be activated – The Trigger

The EAP will be triggered by a forecast provided by Eswatini Meteorological Services (EMS) with a lead time of 3 months (seasonal lead time) as well as the drought monitoring through the Composite Drought Index (CDI). The trigger is characterized by a 2-step triggering process: one starting in **September** for readiness and low-regret actions to be triggered by “below to normal” forecast issued by Eswatini Meteorological Services. The Disaster Management Coordinator will be responsible for the activation and the stop mechanism with guidance of forecast information from the Meteorological Department.

Figure 1. Seasonal Calendar



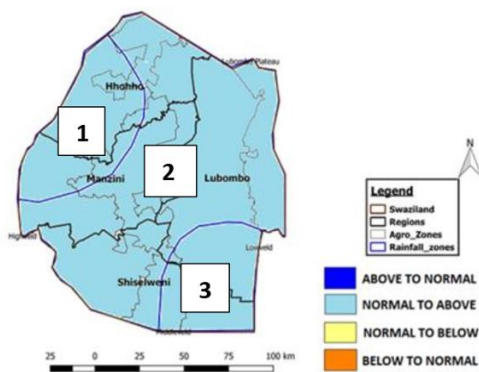
## Historical drought impacts

From 2002, drought was officially declared 3 times (2004, 2007 and 2016), in the 2004 and 2016 events over 0.5M people were affected. Notably, all the drought events span a couple of years and thus the declaration is made

when the situation has worsened. That being said, for the 2004 case, the CDI trigger threshold would have met in the October-November-December forecast for 2003 and thus early actions would have been implemented before the drought event escalated. Likewise, in the 2016 event the trigger would have been met much earlier in 2014. Therefore, the trigger that has been set would have been met for the most severe events which affected over 0.5M people and were also officially declared disasters by the government.

## The intervention area

Figure 2. Seasonal Forecast Map produced by Eswatini Meteorological Authority



The intervention area will be identified based on elements that define the risk including the agroecological zone, results of community vulnerability assessments and coping mechanisms of the regions. The forecast map will be overlaid with the food insecurity situation map, the livelihood losses map and the map illustrating the spatial distribution of drought impacts to identify the areas that have the highest food failure and livestock loss impacts. The identified area expected to receive below normal rainfall will be prioritized. The analysis of the overlay, combined with the consensus of the FbF/AA TWG as to which might be the most affected regions.

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

### Early Action Selection Process


The selection of early actions were mainly informed by the data collected during the [drought scoping research study](#). Another source of information used in the selection of early actions is the Kingdom of Eswatini Annual Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (KEVAA) reports as well as the rapid assessment of 2016 coordinated by the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA). The National Society prioritized the early actions which were later validated by the FbF technical working group and 6 communities in the Lowveld region which are often vulnerable to drought. During the validation of the early actions with the technical working group, only one action that was not recommended - digging of trenches through riverbed in strategic points to search for water that normally seeps/infiltrates the river channel through transmission losses. During community validation, “temporal relocation of herds from drought-stricken areas to Sisa ranches (within regions)” was not considered a priority since relocation of animals is expensive.


The proposed early actions as well the impact they address are outlined below:

1. **Provide multi-purpose cash for food security, conditional and restricted cash for garden fencing material, vegetable seeds and animal care kits** - The CVA will ensure that the targeted population will be able to buy food with at least 80% of the money provided and help avoid further deterioration of livelihoods as victims look for other employment opportunities. This exercise has been conducted by the NS before and has proved to be efficient after analysis of the PDM activities. The impact addressed by the cash for food is that of the loss of income and livelihoods and compromised dietary intake. The provision of cash for food can slow down the progression to acute food insecurity at household level and the provision of vegetable seeds to those who will be affected by drought will ensure that exposed households have a balanced diet. The cash for animal care kits will ensure that farmers have enough medication to cure diseases that affect livestock during drought periods. The animal care kits will be an aid box that includes a variety of medication recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture (Livestock department) to ensure they are not of low quality and to limit livestock death due to diseases that affect animals during drought periods.

2. **Procure, transport and deliver hay bales** - The hay bales will meet the dietary needs of livestock. They will be procured locally and preferably closer to the intervention area and to avoid any further delays, local producers will be encouraged to produce the hay bales in anticipation of a drought hazard. The hay bales will limit the death of livestock from drought.
3. **Procure water tanks, transportation and delivery of tanks and treated water to at-risk communities** - provision of water through trucking will ensure that drought-affected households will have access to clean and safe water during drought. The water will be used for human consumption, also be used alternatively by beneficiaries of backyard gardens to irrigate their crops. This action will curb the problems of water shortages for human and livestock drinking during drought events.

## PLANNED OPERATIONS

	<b>Livelihoods</b>	Female:	<b>4,608</b>	<b>94,268 CHF</b>
		Male:	<b>3,072</b>	AP Code: <b>007</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	Number of people reached with livelihoods interventions in advance of a hazard (7,680)			
<b>Readiness Activities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Constituency and chiefdom sensitizations</li> <li>2. Targeting, registration and verification</li> </ol>			
<b>Prepositioning Activities</b>	None			
<b>Priority Early Actions:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Distribution of cash for backyard garden fencing material</li> <li>2. Distribution of cash for backyard gardens fertilizer and pesticides</li> <li>3. Distribution of cash for animal care kits</li> <li>4. Distribution of cash for seeds</li> <li>5. CVA post-distribution monitoring</li> <li>6. Procurement of hay bales</li> <li>7. Distribution of hay bales</li> </ol>			

	<b>Multi-purpose Cash</b>	Female:	<b>6,480</b>	<b>289,838 CHF</b>
		Male:	<b>4,320</b>	AP Code: <b>081</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	Number of people reached with multi-purpose cash in advance of a hazard (10,800)			
<b>Readiness Activities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Constituency and chiefdom sensitizations</li> <li>2. Targeting, registration and verification</li> </ol>			
<b>Prepositioning Activities:</b>	None			
<b>Priority Early Actions:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Distribution of cash for food</li> <li>2. CVA post-distribution monitoring</li> </ol>			



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Female: **6,480** **48,935 CHF**

Male: **4,320** AP Code: **110, 111**

### Indicator:

Number of people reached with WASH interventions in advance of a hazard (10,800)

### Readiness Activities:

1. Assessment of water sources: availability of community tanks, existing springs, and wetlands for protection
2. Strengthening/(Re) establishment of local level water management committees

### Prepositioning Activities:

1. Procurements of water tanks and water taps
2. Procurements of water treatment packs

### Priority Early Actions:

1. Delivery of water tanks at communities
2. Procurement and delivery of water



## Community Engagement and Accountability

Female: **6,480** **1,304 CHF**

Male: **4,320** AP Code: **129**

### Indicator:

Number of people reached with community engagement and accountability interventions in advance of a hazard (10,800)

### Readiness Activities:

1. Drought awareness and training on fodder production, drought-tolerant crops, destocking, animal care kits (to run concurrently with sensitisation activities)
2. Training of communities on the interpretation of weather and drought forecasts to enhance understanding thereof.

### Prepositioning Activities

None

### Priority Early Actions:

None

## Enabling approaches



## Coordination and Partnerships

**3,834 CHF**

AP Code: **118, 119, 127, 128**

### Indicator

Local stakeholders are engaged in the implementation of readiness and early action activities

### Readiness Activities:

1. Review meeting (of plans)
2. TWG Meeting
3. Internal coordination
4. Issue drought alert including development of (common alerting protocol) CAP messages

**Prepositioning Activities** None

**Priority Early Actions:** None



## Secretariat Services

**52,091 CHF**

AP Code: **122**

**Indicator**

The IFRC supports implementation of readiness and early actions activities

**Readiness Activities:**

1. Monitoring visits by the IFRC
2. AA Officer Salary Contribution

**Prepositioning Activities:**

None

**Priority Early Actions:**

None



## National Society Strengthening

**48,874 CHF**

AP Code:  
**124,125,126**

**Indicator**

The National Society has the capacity to implement all planned activities on time

**Readiness Activities:**

1. Office costs
2. Monitoring visits by HQ
3. Vehicle rental and mileage charge
4. Staff cost - Project Coordinator (10%)
5. Staff cost - Finance (10%)
6. Staff cost - Disaster Management Officer (10%)

**Prepositioning activities:**

None

**Priority Early Actions:**

1. Endline survey
2. Lessons learnt workshop

# Budget

## Operating Budget

	Readiness	Pre-Pos Stock	Early Action	TOTAL
<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>8 869</b>	<b>9 994</b>	<b>415 480</b>	<b>434 344</b>
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0	0	0	0
Livelihoods	1 917	0	92 351	94 268
Multi-purpose Cash	4 473	0	285 365	289 838
Health	0	0	0	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	1 176	9 994	37 765	48 935
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	0	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	1 304	0	0	1 304
Environmental Sustainability	0	0	0	0
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>84 369</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20 430</b>	<b>104 799</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	3 834	0	0	3 834
Secretariat Services	52 091	0	0	52 091
National Society Strengthening	28 443	0	20 430	48 874
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>93 238</b>	<b>9 994</b>	<b>435 910</b>	<b>539 143</b>

*all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)*

## Contact information.

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

### In the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross National Society

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### In the IFRC

- **IFRC Regional Office for AA coordinator:** Jurg Wilbrink, AA Coordinator southern & East Africa, [jurg.wilbrink@ifrc.org](mailto:jurg.wilbrink@ifrc.org) +27 657 433 822
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