

EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL OPERATIONS UPDATE

Zimbabwe |Drought

15 August 2024



Zimbabwe Red Cross Society Volunteer administering deworming chemical to a calf during the implementation of trigger 1 activities in Binga district, Matebeleland North, Zimbabwe. Photo credit: Benjamin M. Kwenda, ZRCS DM AA Expert.

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|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| EAP No: EAP2022ZW01 | Operation No: MDRZW020 | EAP Approved: 12/12/2022 | EAP revised Timeframe: 12/12/2022-30/11/2024 |
| Trigger Date 24/08/2023 | Early Action Leadtime: 15 Months | Early action timeframe: 15 Months | |

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

EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL

Activation Overview

The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society is implementing the second trigger activities following the activation of its Early Action Protocol for drought. This was done following the declaration of a state of disaster after the rainfall patterns that were observed during the 2023/24 Rainfall Season which was significantly affected by the El Nino conditions that dominated the rainfall season. An El Nino-induced drought has occurred, and the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe has since declared a state of disaster. This acted as a trigger for the second level of Early Actions namely Cash Voucher Assistance and supplementary feeding for school children for 3 months.

The green light for the implementation of these activities was received from IFRC in June 2024 after an initial go-ahead that had been issued in May was stopped as clarification over some issues was sought. Procurement delays within the ZRCS have resulted in a delay in the implementation of some of the activities as well. The Early Actions in the five (5) targeted wards in Binga are being implemented until September 2024 with subsequent post-distribution monitoring in October. Lessons learned workshops will be done around the end of October and final reporting completed in November. A revision of the EAP will also be done in October in preparation for resubmission to IFRC.

Early action targeting:

1. Cash Voucher Assistance targeted for July, August, and September 2024.

The EAP is targeting 500HH with cash intervention over 3 months. However, after analysis, it was noted that 3319 HH are eligible as vulnerable HH for cash. Vulnerable households have limited coping capacity to respond to the impacts of food insecurity in the target areas. Beneficiaries will include single parents, elderly or child-headed households, people with disabilities, and persons who are chronically impoverished and food insecure. Targeting will also be guided by existing vulnerability criteria and Department of Social Development (Government) approaches to ranking and selection utilized during food security and lean season interventions.

Analysis using the criteria that are indicated and the results of the Crops, Livestock, and Fisheries Assessment results show that almost 90% of the Households qualify for the intervention given what was (the more appropriate it was not) harvested at the end of the previous rainy season (2023/24 summer cropping season).

Given the limited funds, (US\$ 97,500) we recommend that we scale down the number of wards for CVA to 2 wards to achieve greater impact. Spreading the resources across the original 5 wards puts the programme at risk of limiting the impact, and potential conflict among the community during selection as a significantly high percentage of equally eligible beneficiaries will be excluded. The table below shows the breakdown of the statistics for the wards and the number of households supported by different partners.

BINGA DISTRICT CVA BENEFICIARIES

TARGETING

| Ward number | Ward population | # of Households/ per ward | DSD Beneficiaries | DSD Households Beneficiaries | World Vision Beneficiaries | World Vision Households | Population not benefitting | Households not benefitting |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 7 | 6227 | 3184 | 3235 | 809 | 1790 | 307 | 5025 | 585 |

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|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|---------------|-------------|
| 8 | 5129 | 2151 | 3179 | 635 | 881 | 163 | 4060 | 635 |
| 9 | 5834 | 2288 | 3616 | 603 | 780 | 141 | 4396 | 905 |
| 10 | 4416 | 1931 | 2770 | 504 | 843 | 145 | 3613 | 584 |
| 13 | 4727 | 2172 | 2931 | 488 | 1074 | 193 | 4005 | 610 |
| Total | 26 333 | 11726 | 15731 | 3039 | 5368 | 949 | 16 842 | 3319 |

The proposed criteria for the selection of the wards would be to focus on the wards with the highest deficits in terms of coverage. This would also mean that the impact of our intervention would be greatly appreciated and visible.

Following consultations with district stakeholders, the following information was gathered:

- The sentiments from the stakeholders are that it would be more appropriate to target 2 wards given the caseload that we are targeting. When the registration of beneficiaries was done in the target area, the process also included verification of the Household sizes. In some cases, some of the households did not have the standard number of beneficiaries which is capped at 5 in Zimbabwe. Because of this, it was recommended to include more households as this was done to cater for the extra cash that would have remained based on the number of beneficiaries that would have been captured by restricting the number to 500 households. 618 households were reached as the funds available would cover all for three months.
- World Vision ended their support in June and as such only the government through the Department of Social Development (DSD) is providing support to households.
- The 5 wards have different vulnerabilities and in terms of ranking are such that the highest ranked in terms of needs are Sianzyundu (Ward 9) followed by Siachilaba (Ward 10) and the Simatelele (Ward 8). Manjolo (Ward 7) and Saba (Ward 13) have a lower ranking.
- DSD has already done a ranking and has a master register for the Households within the wards based on vulnerability criteria. This ranking was done at the village level and when it was done, the District Field Officer for the project was invited but couldn't participate due to other commitments.

Based on the above findings and recommendations from the stakeholders, the resolutions are as follows:

- Two wards will be targeted for the interventions, namely Sianzyundu and Siachilaba. They also happen to be the wards with the highest number of Households as well.
- Targeting will be done with verification of the beneficiaries in the DSD Master Register who will receive support from ZRCS for the next 3 months.
- A ZRCS beneficiaries master list captured in an earlier project (FBA) in the wards will also be used as it had a pre-register of all households.




Beneficiary selection for the recipients was done in a participatory and inclusive approach with full community involvement. Targeting was done using a village ranking form at the village level according to the community's determination criteria but guided by ZRCS vulnerability criteria. 618 beneficiary households were identified in line with the budget allocation. The engagement of a Financial Services Provider is ongoing, and the first disbursement is targeted for the last week of August. This disbursement will cover for the month of July. The next disbursements to cover August and September will be done simultaneously in mid-September after post-distribution monitoring for the first phase has been completed. This will ensure that any irregularities are captured and corrected before substantial funds are moved.


2. School supplementary feeding of 6000 learners to reduce absentees between late July 2024 to early December 2024

The target for this action is 11 schools in the 5 wards. Some of the schools also have satellite centres that will be supported through the main learning centres. Corn Soya Blend, supplementary pots, and cleaning utensils are being procured and will be distributed to the schools during the school holidays (in August) to ensure that before opening everything will be ready for the activity to start.

Early Action Overview


PLANNED OPERATIONS

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|---|---|--------------------------|---------------------|
|  <p>Livelihoods</p> | Female > 18: 2650 | Female < 18: 2650 | 74,280 CHF |
| | Male > 18: 2650 | Male < 18: 2650 | AP Code: 005 |
| Indicator: | Number of people reached with livelihoods interventions in advance of a hazard | | |
| Priority Early Actions: For the Second Trigger | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distribution of Corn Soya Blend, cooking pots, and cleaning utensils to 11 schools and their satellite centres in the 5 wards. 2. Monitoring of school feeding programme in the 5 wards. | | |
| Narrative description of achievements under trigger one early actions: | <p>2,000 households received a 5 kg pearl millet seed packet and a 2.5 kg cowpea seed packet each during the last week of October 2023. This was more than a month before the expected rains thus ensuring that all seed was in place before the first effective rains. It also ensured that the households would have sufficient time to prepare their fields adequately. Although the rains delayed, households managed to successfully plant the seed resulting in good crop establishment early in the season. Dry spells later affected the crop resulting in most of the crop being a write-off.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div data-bbox="568 1267 978 1576">  <p><i>Livestock deworming exercise in Binga District</i></p> </div> <div data-bbox="1002 1267 1425 1576">  <p><i>Livestock deworming in Binga. Photo: ZRCS</i></p> </div> </div> <p>A livestock deworming was also conducted in the same area. The activity was done in two phases based on recommendations from the Department of Veterinary Services. 5,148 heads of cattle were dewormed out of a targeted 6,120. The initial target was 5,000 heads of cattle but given the differences in dosage amounts, more cattle could be covered at the same cost. Visual observations showed an improvement in the state of the cattle when the second round of deworming was done in April. The two rounds of deworming were done with chemicals with different active ingredients to deal effectively with the various internal parasites.</p> | | |

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|  Multi-purpose Cash | Female > 18: 673 | Female < 18: 574 | 125,005 CHF |
| | Male > 18: 673 | Male < 18: 574 | AP Code: 081 |
| Indicator: | Number of people reached with multi-purpose cash in advance of a hazard | | |
| Priority Early Actions: For the Second Trigger | <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 | | |

Enabling approaches

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|  Coordination and Partnerships | | | 2,462 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. | | |
| Priority Early Actions: | <p>Engagement with external partners Continued representation and coordination within the community of practice and technical working groups.</p> <p>Movement Cooperation Continued engagement with Movement actors to guide and review the implementation of the EAP.</p> | | |
| Narrative description of achievements | The NS has been attending the National Anticipatory Action Technical working group where the stakeholders have been exchanging ideas and sharing learnings. | | |

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|  National Society Strengthening | Female > 18: | Female < 18: | 37,686 CHF |
| | Male > 18: | Male < 18: | AP Code: 124 |
| Objective: | Zimbabwe Red Cross is able to maintain readiness to activate the early actions. | | |
| Early Action Activities: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. District Field Officer at 100% of USD2086 per month. 2. PMER Officer at 50% of USD2050 per month. 3. Disaster Preparedness Officer 65%. 4. Bank Charges. 5. NS Admin Cost (7% of budget). 6. Vehicle Lease. | | |
| Narrative description of achievements | The staff supporting the activation of the first trigger early action are working round the clock in preparation for the second trigger actions. | | |

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Reference



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