

EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL SUMMARY

Mali | Riverine Floods

03/02/2025

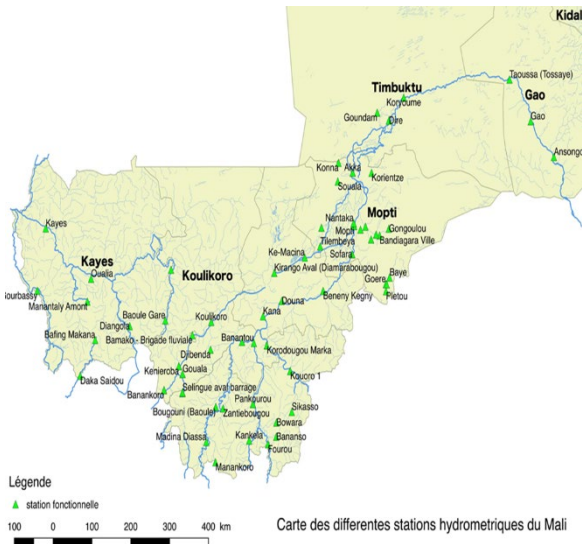


Protection des habitations dans le village du Sofara ©Croix Rouge Malienne

EAP №: EAP2023ML002	Early action lead time: 4 to 8 Days	Operation №: MDRML021
EAP approved: 14 March 2025	EAP timeframe: 5 Years	Operational timeframe: 3 Months

Budget: 493,567 CHF
To assist: 24,000 people

SUMMARY OF THE EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL



The IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) has approved a total of CHF **493,567 CHF** for the implementation of the Mali Red Cross floods EAP. The approved amount consists of an allocation of CHF 306,331 for readiness and prepositioning and CHF 187,236 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 MDR00001. Unearmarked contributions to the DREF are encouraged to guarantee enough funding is available for the Early Action Protocols being developed.

Summary

Mali is highly vulnerable to climate hazards, particularly river flooding, due to its geographical and climatic conditions. Seasonal heavy rains, combined with deforestation, unplanned urbanization, and poor drainage infrastructure, exacerbate flood risks. These floods cause loss of life, economic damage, and disruptions to essential services such as health, water, and sanitation.

The EAP was developed through a multi-stakeholder process involving the Mali Red Cross (CRM), the National Directorate of Hydraulics (DNH), Mali Météo, and other national and international partners. It is based on historical flood impact data, risk mapping, and vulnerability assessments. The protocol aligns with the Forecast-based Financing (FbF) mechanism to trigger early actions before a disaster strikes, reducing its impact on vulnerable communities.

It aims to assist 4,000 households (24,000 people) in flood-prone regions of Mali. The intervention prioritizes at-risk communities along major rivers, particularly those with high exposure to flooding, weak infrastructure, and limited coping capacity.

- Loss of life and injuries
- Destruction of property and infrastructure
- Economic losses and disruption of livelihoods
- Emergence of waterborne diseases (cholera, diarrhea, etc.)
- Disruptions to essential services (health, water, sanitation, and education)

The EAP is triggered when the National Directorate of Hydraulics (DNH) and Mali Météo issue a 5-year return period flood forecast. Once this threshold is reached, early actions are initiated within 4 to 8 days before the expected peak flooding.

Successful implementation of the protocol relies on the following:

- Reliable hydrometeorological data will be available from national agencies.
- Communities will have sufficient time to implement preparedness measures.
- Coordination with government and humanitarian partners will be effective.
- Early actions will significantly reduce disaster impacts and response costs.

OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

1. Who will implement the EAP - The National Society

The CRM will lead the implementation of the Early Action Protocol (EAP) for river flooding, leveraging its extensive experience in disaster preparedness and response. As an auxiliary to public authorities, the CRM has a nationwide presence and a strong volunteers' network trained in Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), and Psychosocial Support (PSP). It also has National and Regional Disaster Response Teams (NDRTs, and RDRTs) capable of rapid deployment.

The EAP will focus on high-risk flood-prone areas along the Niger and Senegal Rivers, where seasonal heavy rains and poor drainage systems increase vulnerability. The CRM will coordinate early actions such as public awareness campaigns, evacuation planning, distribution of sandbags, reinforcement of dikes, and pre-positioning of emergency supplies to reduce the humanitarian impact of floods.

The National Society (NS) will work in close collaboration with government agencies, humanitarian organizations, and local communities to ensure effective preparedness and response. Key partners include the National Directorate of Hydraulics and Mali Météo for flood forecasting, the Directorate General of Civil Protection (DGPC) for disaster response coordination, and IFRC for technical and financial support via the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF).

Local authorities and community leaders will play a crucial role in early warning dissemination and mobilization, while international organizations like OCHA, WFP, WHO, and UNICEF will provide complementary assistance in logistics, health, and sanitation. Through this coordinated approach, the CRM will ensure that early actions are effectively implemented, minimizing loss of life, economic damage, and disruption of essential services.

2. How the EAP will be activated – The Trigger

The EAP for river flooding in Mali will be activated when water levels exceed the 5-year return period threshold at key monitoring stations along the Niger and Senegal Rivers, as determined by the National Directorate of Hydraulics and Mali Météo. This activation aims to anticipate flood impacts by triggering early actions 4 to 8 days before peak flooding, protecting 4,000 households (24,000 people) in high-risk areas such as Mopti, Ségou, Timbuktu, Gao, Kayes, and Bamako.

The CRM, in coordination with DNH, the General Directorate of Civil Protection, and the IFRC, will implement early interventions, including community awareness campaigns, evacuation support, sandbag distribution, dike reinforcements, and sanitation improvements. Funding will be provided through the DREF.

A deactivation mechanism will be applied if forecasts indicate that flood levels will not reach the critical threshold within three days, ensuring efficient resource allocation. The early warning system relies on a network of hydrological stations and color-coded markers in key locations, with flood activation thresholds ranging from 370 cm in Bamako to 859 cm in Kayes.

Historical data spanning more than a century show frequent threshold exceedances in Bamako and Mopti, underscoring the need for enhanced preparedness and a coordinated anticipatory response.


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

The selection of early actions for the EAP for river flooding in Mali is based on historical impact analysis, hydrological modeling, and consultations with national stakeholders. Past floods, particularly in 2018 and 2020, caused widespread displacement, infrastructure damage, and disease outbreaks, underscoring the need for timely and evidence-based interventions. The CRM, in collaboration with the National Directorate of Hydraulics, Mali Météo, and the General Directorate of Civil Protection, identified these actions to minimize human and economic losses.


The feasibility of these actions was verified through hydrological data analysis, community consultations, operational capacity assessments, and alignment with global standards such as the IFRC’s Forecast-based Financing approach and SPHERE Standards. These steps ensured that the selected interventions could be effectively implemented within the 4 to 8-day activation window before peak flooding.

The early actions include community awareness campaigns to enhance preparedness of 4000 HHs, evacuation support to move vulnerable households to safer areas, and the distribution of 20.000 sandbags to protect homes from water infiltration. Dike reinforcement will strengthen small-scale flood barriers, preventing breaches, while sanitation and hygiene interventions, such as the provision of aquatab tablets and 1000 emergency mosquito nets, will mitigate the risk of waterborne diseases. Additionally, livelihood protection measures will support livestock evacuation and provide emergency fodder, reducing economic hardship for affected households. These targeted actions aim to reduce the floods impacts in the country, protect lives and livelihoods, and strengthen community resilience before its peak.


PLANNED OPERATIONS


	Shelter, Housing and Settlements	Female:	180	78,517 CHF
		Male:	200	AP Code: 005
Indicator:		Number of people who received shelter, housing and settlement interventions before a hazard occurred		
Readiness Activities:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Placing orders 2. Pre-positioning of the Kits 3. Field supervision missions 4. Training of volunteers on the installation of the kits 5. Simulation exercises 6. Review and update 7. Training of volunteers on the different themes (Shelters) 		

Prepositioning Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shelter kits 2. Kitchen Kits 3. Mats 4. Blankets
Priority Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delivering the kits to the target area 2. Installing the kits 3. Evacuation of beneficiary households

 Health & Care	Female:	1400	18,566 CHF
	Male:	2600	AP Code: 081
Indicator:	Number of people receiving health and care interventions before a hazard occurs		
Readiness Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inventory Management 2. Training of volunteers on the different themes (health) 		
Prepositioning Activities:	1. Mosquito nets		
Priority Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community outreach 2. Distribution of health kits 		

 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	Female:	800	34,530 CHF
	Male:	1200	AP Code: 110; 111
Indicator:	Number of people reached by WASH interventions before a hazard		
Readiness Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of image boxes 2. Training of volunteers on the different themes (Wash) 		
Prepositioning Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aquatab 2. Soap 3. Sleet 4. Bleach 5. Empty canisters 		
Priority Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community outreach 2. Distribution of the kits 		

 Protection, Gender and Inclusion	Female:	1000	19,042 CHF
	Male:	1000	AP Code: 114; 116; 117
Indicator:	Number of people reached by ERP interventions prior to a hazard		
Readiness Activities:	1. Training of volunteers on the different themes (PGI)		
Prepositioning Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lighting for the resettlement site for more security 2. Dignity kits chosen by communities 		
Priority Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assessment of the community's living and non-living needs 2. Community participation through complaint/complaint management committees 3. Educational Games Guide for Kids 4. Establish an operational feedback mechanism 5. Community satisfaction survey 		

 Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and recovery	Female:	2100	132,045 CHF
	Male:	1900	AP Code: 101; 103; 105; 106
Indicator:	Number of people benefiting from risk reduction and/or climate change adaptation interventions before a hazard occurs		
Readiness Activities:	1. Develop community awareness messages on what to do in the event of an alert		
Prepositioning Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Empty sandbags 2. Plastic bags 3. Shovels 4. Wheelbarrows 		
Priority Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Media awareness through radio stations 2. Community outreach by volunteers 3. Distribution of empty and plastic bags 4. Purchase of banco (if necessary) 5. Construction of protective dikes 		



Community Engagement and Accountability

Female:	1900	11,108 CHF
Male:	2100	AP Code: 129

Indicator:

Number of people reached with community engagement and accountability interventions in advance of a hazard

Readiness Activities:

1. Training of volunteers on the different themes (PSS)

Prepositioning Activities

1. Educational games guide for Kids


Priority Early Actions:

1. Community Vulnerability Assessment
2. PSS Intervention Team Debriefing

Enabling approaches

 Coordination and Partnerships			82,358 CHF
			AP Code: 118, 119, 127, 128
Readiness Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bi-monthly meetings at national level 2. Bi-monthly meetings at regional level 3. Meeting of the DNH Water Management Committee 4. Renewal of partnership agreements with technical services 		
Prepositioning Activities	N/a		
Priority Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meeting of the National Crisis Committee 2. Meeting of the Regional Crisis Committee 3. Coordination visits to the state administrative services (Governorate, town hall, prefecture, sub-prefecture, etc.) 4. Meeting of the members of the communal committee (village chief and his notables, etc.) 		

 Secretariat Services			45384 CHF
			AP Code: 122
Readiness Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bank transfer fees 2. IFRC mission (monitoring and evaluation by Finance, log, PMER and DCPRR teams) 3. IFRC staff costs 4. IFRC personnel costs 		
Prepositioning Activities:	N/a		
Priority Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IFRC staff costs 2. Cost of IFRC communication 3. Participation in the annual workshop in the country 		

 National Society Strengthening			72,017 CHF
			AP Code: 124; 125; 126
Readiness Activities:	1. Preparatory workshop for the rainy season for the national crisis committee 2. Contribution to the salary of the FbF Coordinator		
Prepositioning activities:	1. Equipment for volunteers (boots, gloves, torches, etc.)		
Priority Early Actions:	1. Collection of additional data by the Red Cross committees 2. Volunteer insurance		

Budget



Early Action Protocol Summary

**EAPcode - Malian Red cross
Fluvial Floods**

<u>Operating Budget</u>	Readiness	Pre-Pos Stock	Early Action	TOTAL
Planned Operations	57,127	108,191	128,490	293,808
Shelter and Basic Household Items	22,216	45,193	11,108	78,517
Livelihoods	0	0	0	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0	0	0	0
Health	4,761	13,806	0	18,566
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	9,521	15,488	9,521	34,530
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	4,761	6,347	7,934	19,042
Education	0	0	0	0
Migration	0	0	0	0
Risk Red., Climate Adapt. and Recovery	11,108	21,010	99,927	132,045
Community Engagement and Accountability	4,761	6,347	0	11,108
Environmental Sustainability	0	0	0	0
Enabling Approaches	141,013	0	58,745	199,758
Coordination and Partnerships	52,842	0	29,515	82,358
Secretariat Services	31,420	0	13,964	45,384
National Society Strengthening	56,751	0	15,266	72,017
TOTAL BUDGET	198,140	108,191	187,236	493,567

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

Contact information.

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

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