



Volunteer Training- Zimba District, Dec 2025: Photo Zambia ZRCS

EAP №: EAP2023CR02	Operation №: MDRZM025	Period covered by this annual report: 30/03/2025 to 31/12/2025
EAP approved: 30/03/2025	EAP timeframe: 5 Years	

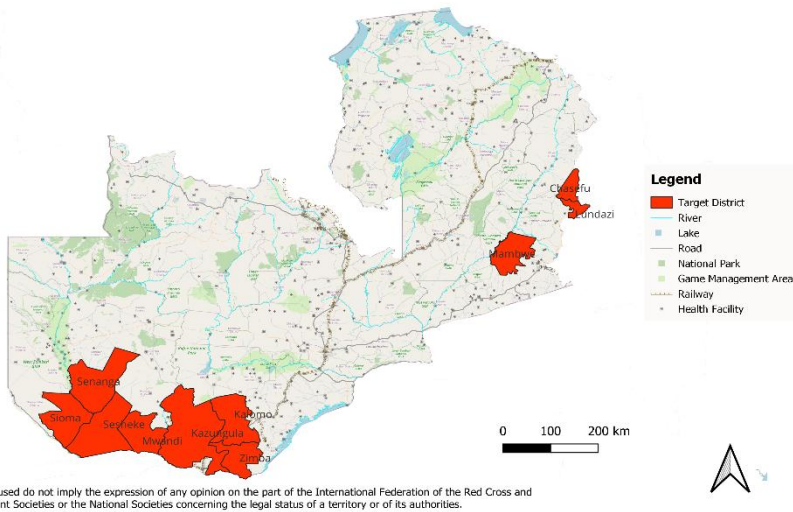
Annual Budget: 57,633 CHF

EAP Budget: 541,853CHF

SUMMARY OF THE EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL



Drought EAP Target Districts



The IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) for the year 2025, allocated CHF 541,853 for the implementation of anticipatory actions to reduce and mitigate the impact of Drought in Zambia. This Early Action Protocol includes an allocation of CHF 30,446 to preposition stock and undertake annual readiness activities in order to implement early actions of CHF 24,451, if and when the trigger is reached. The early actions to be conducted have been pre-agreed with the National Society and are

described in the Early Action Protocol summary.

The Zambia Red Cross Society (ZRCS) led the development of the Drought Early Action Protocol (EAP), with technical support from the Netherlands Red Cross, the RCRC Climate Centre, and the IFRC, and financial support from ECHO (EU Humanitarian Aid) and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The development process involved close collaboration with government institutions, including the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU), the Zambia Meteorological Department (ZMD), the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Livestock, and the Ministry of Agriculture. Historical drought data and impact assessments were analysed to establish probabilistic thresholds and triggers for early action. Upon approval of this Early Action Protocol, Zambia Red Cross Society (ZRCS) through the Disaster management department, conducted the launch of the EAP to all the National Disaster Response Team (NDTRs), the staff from disaster, PGI and CEA, the purpose was the dissemination of the EAP which was approved and the expected readiness activities to be implemented in the selected districts of operation.

Summary of achievements

Significant progress was made in drought preparedness through Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), with training materials aligned to Ministry of Agriculture standards and 94 Agricultural Extension Officers trained to support Lead Farmers. Engagement with Senior Agricultural Officers across 50 wards further supported the development of CSA budgets and rollout plans. While no cash was disbursed, key readiness milestones were achieved, including the training of 10 District Disaster Management Officers in anticipatory actions and the reactivation and orientation of 10 ZRCS branches on Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI).

In the WASH sector, 109 Environmental Health Technicians were trained in water quality testing, hygiene promotion, and community engagement, alongside support for WASH committee formation and borehole mapping, and the prepositioning of WASH kits, including borehole and menstrual hygiene supplies. Capacity on Protection, Gender, and Inclusion was strengthened through the training of 141 volunteers, 109 EHTs, and 94 Agricultural Extension Officers on PGI, PSEA, and the Code of Conduct, enhancing the delivery of inclusive, safe, and accountable early actions.


Efforts in risk reduction and climate adaptation included the implementation of CSA activities, training of 85 Camp Extension Officers across 10 districts, and dissemination of the 2025/2026 rainfall forecast to communities through DDMCs and volunteers. Community Engagement and Accountability was reinforced through the training of 141 volunteers and 109 EHTs, improving communication, feedback collection, and community mobilisation for more responsive interventions.

Environmental sustainability was promoted through early actions aimed at reducing drought impacts while protecting ecosystems, including rainwater harvesting, soil conservation, use of drought-tolerant seeds, early destocking, rangeland management, and integration of trees in croplands, with these approaches emphasized during trainings with DDMCs, volunteers, EHTs, and Agricultural Extension Officers. Coordination and partnerships were strengthened through engagement with District Disaster Management Committees across 10 districts, dissemination of the Early Action Protocol to stakeholders, and participation in coordination meetings with partners, alongside training of DDMOs in feedback mechanisms.

At the institutional level, National Society strengthening efforts saw readiness activities implemented in 10 of the 19 prioritized districts, including the training of 10 DDMCs in anticipatory actions and the orientation of 10 ZRCS branches on the Code of Conduct and PSEA policies.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL PROGRESS BY PLANNED OPERATION

This report summarizes the annual readiness and preposition activities done in the reporting period from March 2025 to 31 December 2025.

 Livelihoods	CHF preposition budget:	CHF preposition actual:
	CHF 0	CHF 0
	CHF readiness budget:	CHF readiness actual:
	CHF 5,255	CHF 5,565


Narrative description of plan vs achievements

During the reporting period, significant progress was made in strengthening drought preparedness under the Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) component of the Early Action Protocol. CSA training materials were accessed from the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure alignment with national standards and to enhance the quality of training content delivered at the community level. Refresher trainings were conducted for **94 Agricultural Extension Officers**, equipping them with updated knowledge and practical skills to guide farmers in adopting resilient agricultural practices ahead of anticipated drought conditions.




CSA Training of Agricultural Camp Officers in Sesheke District

Furthermore, close engagement was maintained with Senior Agricultural Officers (SAOs) across the 50 targeted wards in the drought-prone districts of Lundazi, Chasefu, Mambwe, Sesheke, Mwandia, Sioma, Senanga,imba, Kalomo, and Kazungula. Through these engagements, SAOs began compiling detailed budgets required to support the rollout of CSA training for Lead Farmers. This process not only confirms district readiness but also ensures that Lead Farmers will be adequately trained to cascade drought-resilient agricultural practices to their communities, ultimately contributing to improved household preparedness and early action effectiveness.

 Multi-purpose Cash	CHF preposition budget:	CHF preposition actual:
	0	0
	CHF readiness budget:	CHF readiness actual:
	CHF 1,537	0

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

While no cash was disbursed under the EAP during this period, significant readiness milestones were reached. Ten District Disaster Management Officers (DDMOs) were trained in Anticipatory Actions to ensure district-level preparedness for potential cash transfers. Furthermore, 10 ZRCS branches were reactivated and oriented on Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and PGI to support accountable delivery, 141 people were trained, i.e., 69 males and 72 females.

 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	CHF preposition budget:	CHF preposition actual:
	CHF 28,588	0
	CHF readiness budget:	CHF readiness actual:
	CHF 38,425	CHF 38,631

Narrative description of plan vs achievements


Zambia Red Cross Society Supported the Trainings of 109 Environmental Health Technicians (EHTs) from Ministry of Health. They were trained in water quality testing, hygiene promotion, and community engagement, equipping them with the skills to raise awareness and reduce the risk of waterborne diseases. The training aimed to prepare EHTs to facilitate the formation and reactivation of WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) committees, which will serve as locally led structures to sensitize communities and promote sustainable hygiene and sanitation practices.

EHTs were also trained to identify water points committees in their areas and to map potential sites for borehole rehabilitation, strengthening planning and future access to safe and reliable water sources. As custodians and facilitators, EHTs are expected to cascade knowledge to communities and guide WASH committees once established, ensuring effective dissemination of hygiene and sanitation practices.

These interventions lay the foundation for reducing the prevalence of waterborne diseases, supporting healthier communities, and enabling sustainable water and sanitation outcomes in vulnerable areas.

Key Achievements and Impact:

- **109** (69 Males, 40 Females, 0 PWDs) EHTs were trained in water quality testing, hygiene promotion, and community engagement.
- **45** WASH kits (including borehole kits and menstrual sanitary pads) were procured as pre-stock.

 Protection, Gender and Inclusion	CHF preposition budget:	CHF preposition actual:
	0	0
	CHF readiness budget:	CHF readiness actual:
	CHF 523	CHF 527

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

As part of strengthening readiness measures under the Drought Early Action Protocol, Zambia Red Cross Society (ZRCS), conducted targeted trainings on Protection, Gender, and Inclusion across ten (10) drought-prone districts in Eastern, Western, and Southern Provinces. The trainings targeted ZRCS **141 Volunteers, 109 Environmental Health Technicians (EHTs), and 94 Agriculture Extension Camp Officers** to enhance their capacity to deliver safe, inclusive, and accountable early actions.

The training strengthened participants' capacity to identify protection risks and to apply gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive approaches in early warning and early action activities. A key component of the sessions was orientation to the Red Cross Code of Conduct and the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Policy, ensuring that all frontline actors uphold strong safeguarding standards and prevent any form of misconduct during community engagement.

Integrating PGI into the EAP was critical to ensure that drought-related early actions prioritized and protected vulnerable groups, including women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized community members, prevent harm, and strengthen community trust. By building the capacity of staff, volunteers, and stakeholders, ZRCS enhanced accountability and preparedness, ensuring that anticipatory actions are delivered ethically, inclusively, and in line with Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) Minimum Standards in Emergencies.

Key Achievements and Impact:

- 141 (69 Male, 72 Female and 1 PWD) Volunteers were trained in protection, Gender and Inclusion
- 109 (69 Males, 40 Females, 0 PWDs) Environmental Health Technicians (EHTs) were trained in protection, Gender and Inclusion

- 94(69 Males, 25 Females, 0 PWDs) Agriculture extension camp officers were trained in protection, Gender and Inclusion



PGI training for ZRCS Volunteers in Lundazi District: Photo ZRCS



**Risk Reduction,
climate
adaptation and
Recovery**

CHF preposition budget:

CHF 0

CHF preposition actual:

CHF 0

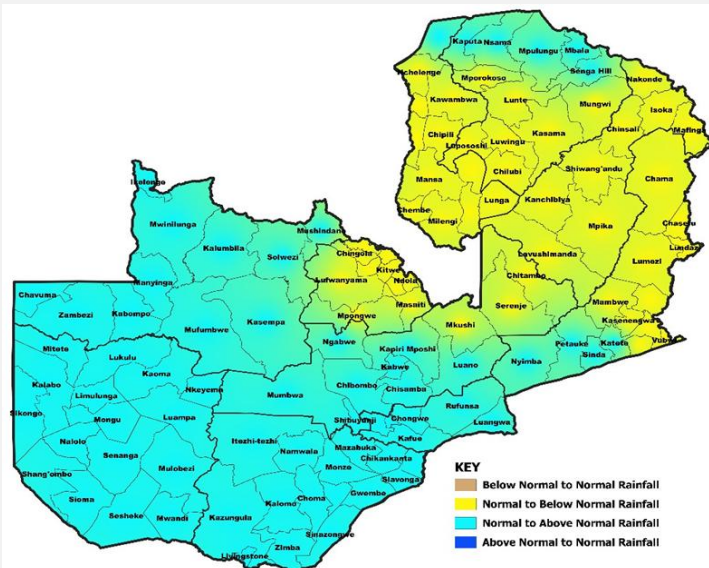
CHF readiness budget:

CHF 538

CHF readiness actual:

CHF 0

Narrative description of plan vs achievements



Rainfall Forecast October, November & December 2025


The operation has been promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) activities to strengthen climate adaptation, resilience, recovery, and the integration of Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) approaches.

The Zambia Red Cross Society (ZRCS), in collaboration with the Zambia Meteorological Department, has disseminated the 2025/2026 weather forecast in the 10 drought-prone areas

to support community preparedness for anticipated drought conditions. The information was shared through DDMC meetings, Camp Agriculture Officers, and community volunteers.

Training of **(85)** Camp Extension Officers has been conducted on Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) across all 10 targeted districts, spearheaded by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), to enhance their capacity in delivering climate advisories, guiding farmers on CSA practices, and supporting community-level drought preparedness and response.

The training of Camp Extension Officers was initially planned for 19 districts; however, only 10 districts were reached and trained due to limited resources, and the remaining districts will be prioritized in the following year.

	CHF preposition budget:	CHF preposition actual:
	0	0
	CHF readiness budget:	CHF readiness actual:
	0	0

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

A total of **141 volunteers** were trained across the targeted districts to strengthen their capacity in community engagement and drought preparedness. The group included 72 males and 69 females, comprising 15 volunteers each from Zimba, Kalomo, Sesheke, Chasefu, and Lundazi; 21 from Sioma; 20 from Senanga; 14 from Kangula; and 11 from Mwandu. The training enhanced their skills in effective communication, feedback collection, and community mobilisation, positioning them to support anticipatory drought preparedness activities within their wards.

Similarly, **109 Environmental Health Technicians (EHTs)** were trained to strengthen their role in community-centred drought response, comprising 60 males and 49 females. Participants were drawn from Sesheke with 17 participants, Kalomo with 15, Zimba with 10, Chasefu with 10, Lundazi with 18, Sioma with 8, Senanga with 8, Mwandu with 12, and Mambwe with 11. This training enhanced their ability to engage with communities systematically, collect and analyse feedback, and ensure that interventions are responsive to local needs. By strengthening their skills in accountability and community engagement, the EHTs are better prepared to play a critical role in drought anticipation and preparedness interventions, contributing to more effective, timely, and community-centered drought response efforts.



Volunteer Training- Zimba District

Enabling approaches



**Coordination
and Partnerships**

CHF preposition budget:

0

CHF readiness budget:

CHF 1,045

CHF preposition actual:

0

CHF readiness actual:

CHF 1,113

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

In terms of coordination, the National Society strengthened readiness efforts by engaging all District Disaster Management Committees across the 10 targeted districts. During these engagements, the Early Action Protocol (EAP) was disseminated to key stakeholders to ensure a common understanding of roles, triggers, and planned actions ahead of anticipated drought conditions. The National Society also participated in coordination meetings with the Netherlands Red Cross (NLRC), which continues to provide both technical and financial support to the operation. Further progress was achieved through the successful training of District Disaster Management Officers from all 10 districts on the EAP and feedback mechanisms, a session that was conducted in Chilanga District of Lusaka Province. This training enhanced district-level preparedness and strengthened systems for timely and accountable community engagement during early action implementation.

CHF preposition budget:

0

CHF preposition actual:

0



**National Society
Strengthening**

CHF readiness budget:

CHF 9,973

CHF readiness actual:

CHF 10,621

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

The National Society implemented readiness activities in 10 out of the 19 prioritized districts. This included the dissemination of the Drought EAP to stakeholders and the training of 10 DDMCs in Anticipatory Actions. Capacity was further strengthened by orienting 10 ZRCS branches on the Code of Conduct and PSEA policies.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, PROPOSED AJUSTMENTS

District Disaster Management Officers (DDMOs) are particularly busy at this time of the year, leading to lapses in coordinating some readiness activities in certain districts

The readiness activities were initially planned for 19 districts; however, only 10 districts were reached and trained due to limited resources.

FINANCIAL REPORT

DREF Operation

Interim FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2025/3-12	Operation	MDRZM025
Budget Timeframe	2025/3-12	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 27/Mar/2026

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRZM025 - Zambia - Drought EAP2024ZM02

Operating Timeframe: 27 Mar 2025 to 31 Mar 2030

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	541,853
DREF Anticipatory Pillar	541,853
Expenditure	-56,487
Closing Balance	485,366

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	538		538
AOF2 - Shelter			0
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	5,225	5,565	-340
AOF4 - Health			0
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	36,273	38,631	-2,358
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	523	557	-34
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	42,559	44,752	-2,194
SF11 - Strengthen National Societies	9,973	10,621	-648
SF12 - Effective international disaster management			0
SF13 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	1,045	1,113	-68
SF14 - Ensure a strong IFRC	1,076		1,076
Strategy for implementation Total	12,094	11,734	360
Grand Total	54,653	56,487	-1,834

Contact information

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

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Reference documents

Click here for:

- [EAP Summary and budget](#)