



Tanzania | Flood

May 2025

EAP №: EAP2022TZ01	Early action lead time: 1 to 5 Days	Operation №: MDRTZ041
EAP approved: 15/05/2025	EAP timeframe: 5 Years	Operational timeframe: 3 Months

Budget: 550,000 CHF
To assist: 120,000 people

SUMMARY OF THE EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL

The IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) has approved a total of CHF 550,000 for the implementation of the Tanzania Red Cross Society Flood EAP. The approved amount consists of an allocation of CHF 356,740 for readiness and prepositioning and CHF 193,260 allocated to implement early actions once the defined triggers are met.

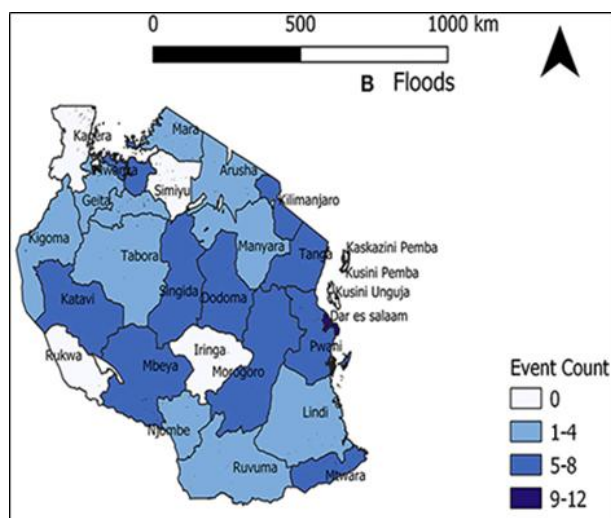


Figure 1 Distribution of flood events in Tanzania from 2000 to 2019. Source: Msemo et al., 2021

Allocations are made by the Anticipatory Pillar of the DREF, under the DREF appeal code MDRTZ041. Unearmarked contributions to the DREF are encouraged to guarantee enough funding is available for the Early Action Protocols to be developed.

Tanzania faces recurrent flooding, particularly during the main rainy seasons MAM and OND (Masika and Vuli), with high exposure in both urban and rural areas. These floods are caused by heavy rainfall, often worsened by inadequate drainage systems and settlement in flood-prone zones. Floods frequently result in loss of life,

displacement, disease outbreaks, and severe damage to shelter, infrastructure, and livelihoods. The most affected are vulnerable groups such as the elderly, pregnant women, people with disabilities, and low-income households.

The Early Action Protocol (EAP) for Floods in Tanzania was developed through a joint and participatory process led by the Prime Minister's Office – Disaster Management Department (PMO-DMD), which serves as chair, and the Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS), as co-chair, alongside the Anticipatory Action Technical Working Group (TWG). This group includes government agencies, academic institutions, humanitarian actors, and community stakeholders. The protocol is informed by historical flood data, lessons from previous emergency responses, feasibility assessments, and alignment with national disaster risk management frameworks.

The Tanzania Red Cross Society has developed the EAP to proactively address riverine flooding across nine identified river basins in Tanzania. It aims to assist 120,000 people by focusing on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), health, shelter, and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), with the goal of reducing flood-related impacts.

The EAP targets communities in flood-prone districts, particularly those with high vulnerability due to geographical exposure, socioeconomic status, and limited access to preparedness resources. The EAP is designed for activation ahead of severe flooding, based on a five-day impact-based weather forecast issued by the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA). The EAP is triggered when the following conditions are met:

- A severe rainfall warning (orange) or major warning (red) is issued in over 10 administrative regions across more than three river basins, lasting at least two consecutive days.
- At least one advisory-level warning (yellow) is present on any of the remaining days within the five-day forecast.

The early actions outlined in the EAP are intended to reduce the most severe impacts of flooding, such as fatalities, injuries, disease outbreaks, displacement, and damage to homes and livelihoods. These actions include:

- Dissemination of early warning messages to at-risk communities through various channels, including the use of trained community volunteers.
- Community-level cleaning of drainage systems and trenches to reduce floodwater accumulation.
- Pre-positioning and distribution of cleaning tools and materials.

- Support for the evacuation of the most vulnerable individuals and advocacy for broader community evacuation; this includes the provision of Non-Food Items (NFIs) such as tents and essential household items.
- Pre-positioning and distribution of WASH supplies, including water purification tablets, hygiene kits, handwashing materials, and jerry cans.
- Activation of EPIC-trained volunteers for hygiene promotion and water treatment support at the community level.
- Installation of handwashing facilities at evacuation sites and awareness-raising on WASH-related health risks.
- Deployment of trained first aid teams to provide basic emergency care and injury response.

OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

1. Who will implement the EAP - The National Society

The Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS) is the primary implementer of the Early Action Protocol (EAP) for floods in Tanzania, functioning as an auxiliary to the government in humanitarian response and disaster risk management. Established by the Tanzania Red Cross Society Act No. 71 of 1962, and its amendment by Act Number 4 of 2019 cap 66. It is mandated to play specific voluntary humanitarian roles during disasters/emergencies, and peacetime as an auxiliary organ to the public authorities.

TRCS has extensive experience managing flood-related emergencies, having led several flood responses in collaboration with the IFRC and Partner National Societies (PNSs). TRCS operates nationwide with trained volunteers and staff, especially in flood-prone areas. It maintains dedicated Disaster Response Teams at both national and regional levels, supported by a robust logistics and warehousing arrangement to quickly deploy emergency relief items.

The EAP, with a budget of CHF 550,000, will be financed by IFRC's DREF Anticipatory Action window, ensuring the timely availability of funds when needed. TRCS has a proven track record of responding to climate-related disasters, particularly floods in coordination with key national stakeholders, including the Prime Minister's Office - Disaster Management Department (PMO-DMD) and the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA). As part of the EAP, TRCS plans to pre-position relief items, train volunteers and regional coordinators, and facilitate community sensitization to ensure effective early action. In addition to its efforts, the IFRC provides financial support and technical guidance, and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre provide technical expertise and support for the implementation of the Anticipatory Action system in Tanzania.

2. How the EAP will be activated – The Trigger

The Early Action Protocol (EAP) for floods in Tanzania will be activated based on a scientifically defined trigger using the 5-day Severe Weather Impact-Based Forecast from the Tanzania Meteorological Authority. Activation will occur when the forecast indicates that more than ten administrative regions across at least three river basins are expected to experience a severe rainfall warning or major warning for two or more consecutive days, along with advisories on at least one of the other forecast days. This threshold is grounded in past flood events and supported by data showing the reliability and accuracy of national forecasts, which demonstrate a high probability of detection and a low rate of false alarms.

Once the trigger is met, the Anticipatory Action Coordinator at the Tanzania Red Cross Society will initiate internal communication with relevant departments and partners. This includes informing senior leadership, disaster management officials, and units such as finance and logistics. Notifications will also be sent to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and government disaster management bodies. Early actions will then be launched, including mobilizing teams, deploying volunteers, sensitizing communities, and pre-positioning emergency supplies.

A stop mechanism ensures that full activation is avoided if the forecast is downgraded below the severe threshold three or more days before the event. In such cases, preparedness and early warning activities will continue in areas where alerts remain.

Target groups for early action consist of vulnerable households located in flood-prone zones, particularly those in informal settlements and areas with a history of frequent flooding. These populations are identified through risk assessments, historical data analysis, and local government collaboration. Beneficiary lists and evacuation procedures are maintained and updated regularly in coordination with community structures and authorities to ensure readiness and effective response.

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

The Early Action Protocol (EAP) for floods in Tanzania outlines a set of early actions designed to reduce the most severe and recurrent impacts of flooding on vulnerable populations. These early actions were identified through a structured and participatory process led by the Anticipatory Action Technical Working Group (TWG) and the Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS), based on a clear set of criteria.

The selected early actions aim to address critical flood-related impacts such as loss of life, injuries, disease outbreaks, displacement, and the destruction of shelter and livelihoods. The selection process was guided by several key factors. These included the relevance of the actions to the most frequent and severe flood impacts in Tanzania, the feasibility of implementation within the short lead time typically available (2 to 5 days) TRCS's operational capacity and past experience, the availability of pre-positioned supplies and trained volunteers; alignment with existing government systems and community-based risk reduction plans.

TRCS validated the feasibility of the proposed early actions through field consultations with regional teams, a review of lessons from past disaster responses, and expert feedback from TWG members. Planning was informed by recognized standards and guidelines, including the Sphere standards, IFRC guidance on emergency health, shelter, and WASH, and national disaster response procedures.

The selected early actions and their key impacts addressed are as follows:

- Dissemination of early warning messages will involve 100 trained community volunteers who will use trusted local networks such as traditional leaders, schools, and churches to deliver timely and targeted flood warnings. This will help at-risk populations understand the threat and take protective actions, thereby reducing loss of life, displacement, injuries, and livelihood disruptions.
- Community drainage clearance will mobilize local residents to clean and unblock drains and trenches, reducing floodwater accumulation. In high-risk areas, participants may also be pre-evacuated. This action will help prevent the destruction of homes and infrastructure and reduce the risk of fatalities and displacement.
- Pre-positioning and distribution of cleaning materials such as shovels, rakes, and gloves will support these drainage activities and help prevent the stagnation of water, thereby reducing the risk of disease.
- Support for the evacuation of vulnerable groups: including pregnant women, elderly persons, people with disabilities, and other at-risk households: will enable early movement to safer areas before floods hit. This will reduce the risk of death, injury, and displacement.
- Pre-positioning and distribution of tents and non-food items (NFIs), including blankets, mats, and cooking sets, will ensure that evacuated families have immediate access to shelter and essential household items. TRCS volunteers will also assist in pitching tents at designated safe sites.
- Mapping and identification of evacuation centers will be conducted in consultation with communities and local disaster committees to ensure appropriate and safe shelter spaces are identified in advance, helping reduce fatalities and injuries.

- Pre-positioning of WASH supplies, such as water purification tablets, hygiene kits, jerry cans, and handwashing stations: will support clean water access and hygiene at both the community and evacuation site level, helping to prevent outbreaks of waterborne and vector-borne diseases.
- Deployment of trained EPIC and WASH volunteers will facilitate hygiene promotion and support community-level water treatment efforts. This will reinforce disease prevention and strengthen overall community resilience.
- Community awareness on WASH risks will include risk communication sessions that educate the public on hygiene practices and disease prevention measures, reducing the risk of outbreaks and associated fatalities.
- Deployment of first aid response teams will ensure that trained personnel are available at evacuation sites and high-risk areas to provide emergency care for injuries, thereby reducing mortality and improving recovery outcomes.
- The implementation of these early actions is expected to reduce mortality and morbidity by enabling timely evacuation and enhancing community knowledge of protective actions. Health risks will be mitigated by preventing disease outbreaks through improved hygiene and safe water use.
- Property and asset losses, including shelter, food stocks, and personal belonging, will be minimized through supporting early evacuation and protective measures.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

 Shelter, Housing and Settlements	Female:	214	76,578 CHF
	Male:	206	AP Code: 005
Indicator:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people reached with shelter, housing and settlement interventions in advance of a hazard. • Number of TRCS volunteers mobilized to support/ assist communities in pitching shelter tents in the designated safe area for affected families. 		
Readiness Activities:			
Prepositioning Activities:	1. Procurement of tents.		
Priority Early Actions:	1. Preposition and distribution of tents.		
	2. Mobilize TRCS volunteers to support/ assist in pitching tents in the designated safe area for affected families.		

 Health & Care	Female:	7,650	71,280 CHF
	Male:	7,350	AP Code: 107,108, 109
Indicator:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people reached with first aid services (target 3,000 people). • Number of people reached with EPIC services (target 12,000 people). 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of First Aid Kits Procured and prepositioned (125). Number of community-based volunteers trained on FA (30). Number of community-based volunteers trained on EPiC (60).
Readiness activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First aid training for community-based volunteers. 2. Training in Epidemic preparedness and response in community volunteers.
Prepositioning Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Procurement of First aid kits.
Priority Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Activation and deployment of the first aid trained team. 2. Activation and deployment of EPIC volunteers to conduct a dissemination of EW messages on hygiene.

 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	Female:	8,925	83,359 CHF
	Male:	8,575	AP Code: 110, 111
Indicator:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of people reached with water treatment materials (target 5,000 people). Number of people reached with water treatment messages (target 12,000 people). Number of people of people reached with hygiene and sanitation services (target 500 people). Number of community volunteers trained on water treatment for drinking and good hygiene practices (60). Number of hygiene kits procured (300). Number of jerry cans procured (300). Number of hand wash facilities procured (200). Number of aqua tabs procured (200,000). Number of cleaning materials procured (200). Number of WASH IEC materials printed (2,000). 		
Readiness Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development and review of IEC materials. 2. Training community volunteers on water treatment for drinking and good hygiene practices. 		
Prepositioning Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Procure and preposition Aqua tabs. 2. Procure and preposition Hygiene kits. 3. Procure and preposition Jerry cans. 4. Procure and preposition Hand washing facilities. 5. Procure and preposition cleaning materials. 6. Procure and preposition IEC material. 		

Priority Early Actions:	1. Distribution of the IEC materials.
	2. Community awareness on wash-related risk through Risk and Communication and Community engagement.
	3. Prepositions and distribution of water purification tabs at Community level.
	4. Set up hand washing facilities at evacuation sites.
	5. Prepositioning and distribution hand washing, hygiene kits and jerry cans.
	6. Activation and deployment and training community volunteers on water treatment for drinking to support the community.

 Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and recovery	Female:	61,200	82,644 CHF
	Male:	58,800	AP Code: 101, 103, 105,106
Indicator:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of People reached through Early Warning Dissemination (target: 120.000 people). • Number of Communities (village-level) that took part in drainage cleaning and flood prevention activities (target: 20 villages). • Number of tools for drainage cleaning procured. 		
Readiness Activities:	1. Development of evacuation plans for 4 river basins.		
	2. Review of evacuation plans for 4 river basins.		
	3. Develop a plan for 3 river basins.		
Prepositioning Activities:	1. Megaphones for community mobilization.		
	2. Tools for drainage cleaning.		
Priority Early Actions:	1. Dissemination of early warning (EW) messages/ information to vulnerable communities who are at risk of being affected by floods and its impact on protecting human life, livelihood, and shelter.		
	2. Support the evacuation of most vulnerable people and advocate to other community members from flood identified area to a safer identified area and household that will be evacuated are the one who will be identified are most vulnerable (pregnant women, people with disability, elders and House hold with more than 5 children, Household headed by children, House hold headed by chronic ill headed house hold) will be provided NFIs.		

	3. Prepositioning and distribution of cleaning materials.
	4. Cleaning of drainage systems and trenches at community level (around Homes) through community mobilization, this will be done for all areas that are considered high risk and some of the household that participate in the drainage clearing could also be evacuated based on the level of risk.

 Community Engagement and Accountability	Female:	7,735	21,811 CHF
	Male:	7,431	AP Code: 129
Indicator:	Number of people reached with community engagement and accountability interventions in advance of a hazard.		
Readiness Activities:	1. Orientation for volunteers on CEA, integrated with PGI.		
	2. Integrations of local knowledge in EW system and dissemination.		
	3. Conducting community awareness in understanding EW signs.		
Prepositioning Activities			
Priority Early Actions:	1. Activation of CEA desk when trigger reached to support on rumors tracking.		
	2. Lesson learnt workshop (after activation).		

Enabling approaches

 Coordination and Partnerships	Female:	75	16,154 CHF
	Male:	75	AP Code: 118, 119, 127, 128
Readiness Activities:	1. 6 bi-yearly TWG meetings (before rainy season).		
	2. Contribution towards TMA's severe weather alert system.		
Prepositioning Activities			
Priority Early Actions:	1. Joint regional coordination engagement meetings during activation.		

 Secretariat Services	Female:	75	50,012CHF
	Male:	75	AP Code: 122
Readiness Activities:	1. IFRC monitoring and support missions.		
Prepositioning Activities:			
Priority Early Actions:	1. IFRC monitoring mission and support missions.		

 National Society Strengthening	Female:	75	148,162 CHF
	Male:	75	AP Code: 124,125,126
Readiness Activities:	1. Development of monitoring and evaluation plan.		
	2. Monitoring support.		
Prepositioning activities:	1. PPE for volunteers.		
Priority Early Actions:	1. Activation of volunteer insurance.		
	2. Monitoring support.		

Budget

Planned Operations	64,452	112,960	158,260	335,672
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0	66,456	10,122	76,578
Livelihoods	0	0	0	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0	0	0	0
Health	39,533	12,731	19,017	71,280
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	8,902	28,320	46,137	83,359
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0	0	0	0
Education	0	0	0	0
Migration	0	0	0	0
Risk Red., Climate Adapt. and Recovery	11,928	5,453	65,263	82,644
Community Engagement and Accountability	4,090	0	17,722	21,811
Environmental Sustainability	0	0	0	0
Enabling Approaches	158,989	20,339	35,000	214,328
Coordination and Partnerships	7,975	0	8,179	16,154
Secretariat Services	35,358	0	14,654	50,012
National Society Strengthening	115,657	20,339	12,167	148,162
TOTAL BUDGET	223,441	133,299	193,260	550,000
<i>all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)</i>				

Contact information.

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