

EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL ACTIVATION REPORT

Zimbabwe | Drought

6 March 2025



Food Distributions in Binga District as part of 2nd Trigger Early Actions: Photo credit, ZRCS

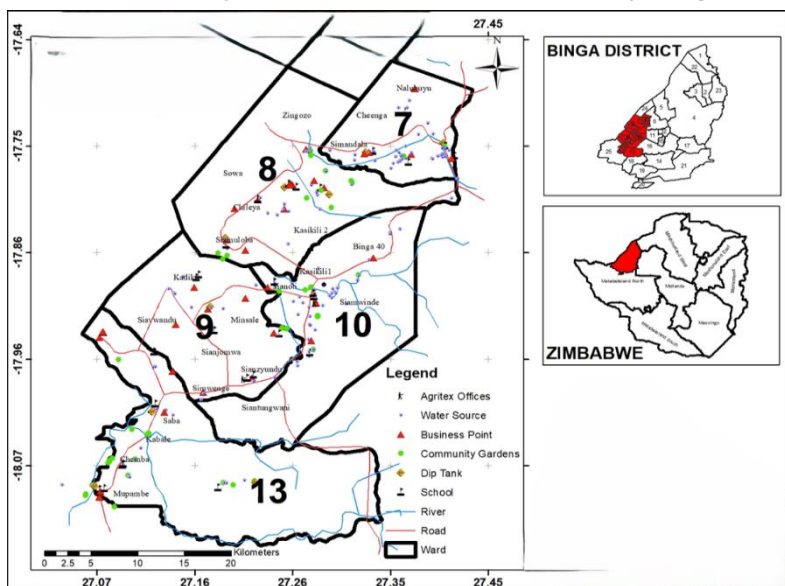
EAP No: EAP2022ZW01	Operation No: MDRZW020	EAP approved: 12/12/2022	EAP timeframe: 12/12/2022-31/12/2024
Trigger date: 24/08/2023	Early action lead time	Operational timeframe: 24 Months	Period covered by this activation report: 12/12/2022-31/12/2024

Budget: 549,318 CHF
Assisted: 221,571 people

EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL SUMMARY

Back in December 2022 the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated CHF 549,318 for the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society to implement early actions to reduce and mitigate the impact of drought in Zimbabwe. The early actions to be conducted were pre-agreed with the National Society and are described in

the Early Action Protocol [EAP2022ZW01 Activation Zimbabwe Drought.pdf](#)



The EAP was activated on 24 August 2023. The outcomes of the early action activation were reported in the activation final report [EAP activation report](#). This final report provides a final overview of any activity and expenditure incurred since the early action activation was published until the end of the EAP timeframe.

OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

SUMMARY OF EAP IMPLEMENTATION

Zimbabwe Red Cross Society

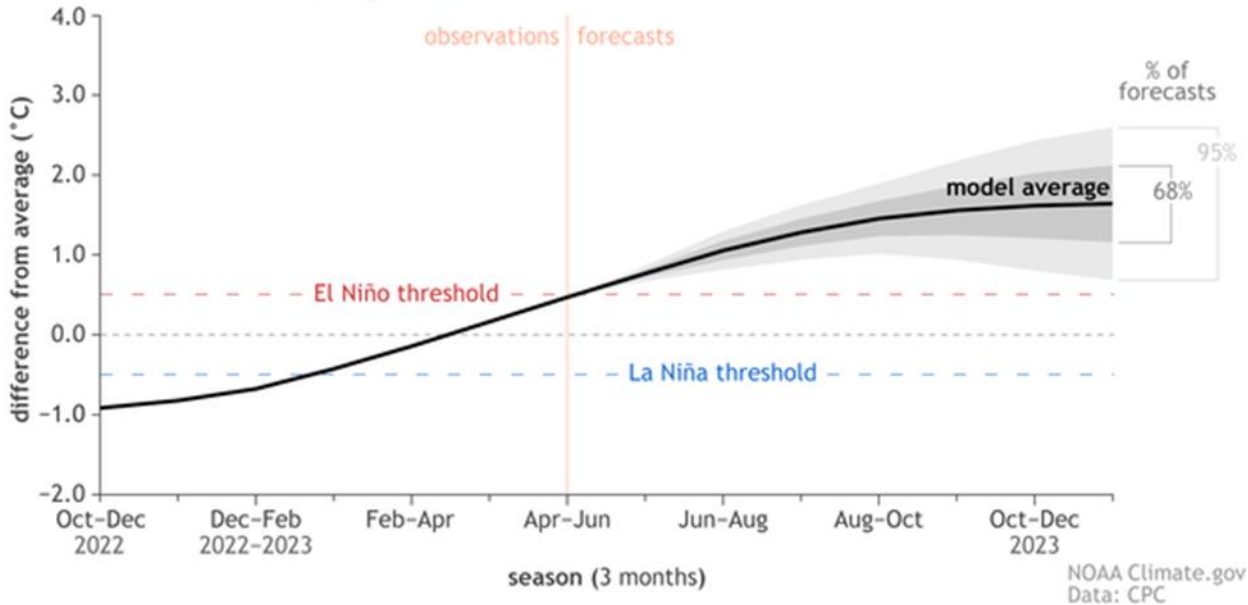
Based on the El Nino forecast the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society activated the first trigger for its Early Action Protocol in September 2023. The activation of the EAP for drought was based on a two- stage trigger, which allowed for long lead time that can address a series of expected drought impacts. The IBF Drought model utilized five meteorological indicators, which are monitored throughout the agriculture season, as forecast features for drought, with increasing certainty as the season progresses. Combining ENSO forecasts, CHIRPS Data and the Vegetation Condition Index, the forecast model runs monthly starting from September (7 months lead time to end of season). The model is informed by two separate trigger events which will activate sets of impact mitigating Early Actions. According to the trigger statement of the Early Action Protocol, the following will result in an activation of the protocol:

First Trigger: A forecast of an El Nino event, with an impact level corresponding to once-in-six-year event, will act as the first trigger for low investment Early Actions (Early warning disseminations, drought tolerant seed distributions and livestock dosing).

Second Trigger: A forecast of IPC 4 conditions in the FEWSNET Food Security Forecast Reports in Both Mach and June will trigger the second set of early actions that address drought induced food insecurity (livestock support, Multi- Purpose Cash Transfers and school supplemental feeding).

The ENSO forecasts indicated a very strong likelihood of an El Nino event in 2023 which was above 90% and a very strong correlation to future drought conditions in Zimbabwe.

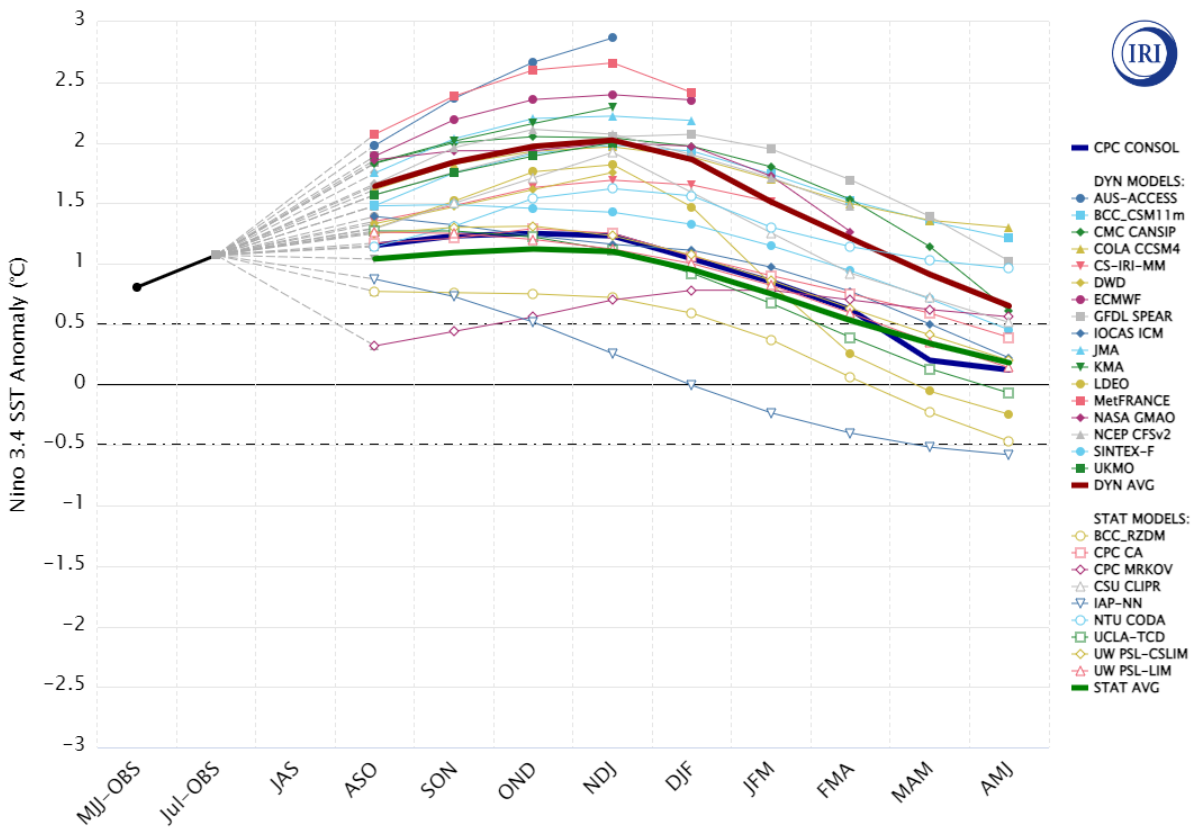
NMME seasonal forecasts, July 2023



There was a greater than 95% chance that El Niño would continue through the Zimbabwean summer. Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the tropical Pacific are exceeding El Niño thresholds, with climate models indicated that it was likely to continue at least through to March 2024. The most recent IRI plume indicated El Niño will persist through the Zimbabwean summer 2023-24. Forecasters favored continued growth of El Niño through the fall, peaking this summer with moderate-to-strong intensity (81% chance of November-January Niño-3.4 $\geq 1.0^\circ\text{C}$). An event that becomes "historically strong" (seasonally averaged Niño-3.4 $\geq 2.0^\circ\text{C}$), rivalling the summers of 1997-98 or 2015-16, has an approximately 1 in 5 chances.

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) was at neutral. Climate model forecasts suggested a positive IOD was likely to develop in September or October. A positive IOD typically decreases early summer rainfall for much of Southern Africa and can exacerbate the drying influence from El Niño.

Model Predictions of ENSO from Aug 2023



These conditions reached the trigger level 1 for the Binga Drought EAP activation. Zimbabwe Red Cross Society reached the stage where the second trigger had to be activated. This followed:

1. The declaration of a state of disaster following 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.
2. The Crop, Livestock, and Fisheries report indicating a significant number of households having access to 1-3 month's storage supply.
3. Prolonged observed dry spells occurring in the last months. An El Nino induced drought occurred and the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe declared a state of disaster.

These acted as a trigger for the second level of Early Actions namely Cash Voucher Assistance and supplementary feeding for school children for 3 months.

Achievements for Trigger One:

1. Improved agricultural resilience: **2,500 farmers** received drought-tolerant seeds (sorghum and cowpea), enhancing their ability to adapt to climate change and ensure food security.
2. Enhanced climate change awareness: **4,563 individuals gained** valuable knowledge through trainings and awareness campaigns by volunteers and government extension on climate change, empowering them to make informed decisions and take proactive measures to mitigate its impacts.
3. Reduced livestock mortality: **30,340 cattle** received dipping services (**2,969 card holders**), protecting them from diseases and reducing mortality rates, thus safeguarding the livelihoods of farmers.
4. The project procured **Amitik powder 152kg, pour on 352 litres, Systemax Plus 560 litres, Valbazen for cattle 960 litres**. Acaricides were then delivered to various dipping centres to support 104 cattle dipping sessions in the targeted wards. The project leveraged dipping activities to disseminate information and create awareness on the forecasted drought and possible strategies of managing livestock to prevent losses. The Veterinary Services Department disseminated information to farmers on the forecasted drought and possible strategies in preparation for the disasters such as destocking.
5. Improved livestock health: **15,048 cattle (2002 card holders)** received first dosing services, and **12,164 (1,633 card holders)** boosting their immunity and reducing the risk of disease outbreaks, which can have devastating effects on livestock-dependent communities.

Achievements for Trigger Two:

6. Food insecurity alleviated: **2,058 households** received mealie meal, providing essential nutrition to **8,686 individuals** and helping to alleviate food insecurity, particularly among vulnerable populations.
7. Nutrition support for school children: **5,378 (Boys 2,635: Girls 2,743)** school children benefited from school feeding activities, receiving nutritious porridge that support their health, education, and overall well-being.

Overview of non-Red Cross Red Crescent actors in country

- ❖ The challenges posed by El Nino, require swift and coordinated action from Government of Zimbabwe, farmers and humanitarian actors to alleviate human suffering and saving lives.
- ❖ Although several coordination meetings were convened, there is need to consider more inter movement coordination as this is crucial to discuss trigger notifications at national and regional level.
- ❖ A disaster risk reduction meeting was convened during the reporting period to share the food security situation of the district and planning for response activities.
- ❖ A meeting was convened with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary education in the district to discuss challenges and gaps for humanitarian interventions especially insufficient resources, inadequate coordination and collaboration with government and local authorities.
- ❖ The project continued working closely with the Veterinary Services Department on cattle dipping activities after distribution of acaricides in all the targeted wards.
- ❖ In the second trigger for cash transfers, the project worked closely with the Department of Social Welfare, to ensure that deserving households are identified and registered for assistance.

- ❖ Early Action Protocol project disseminated early warning information on El Nino and strategies to combat the effects of climate change through the AGRITEX. These were conducted during field days and other gatherings during the period under review.

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

There was timeous procurement and distribution of drought tolerant seeds for farmers in the targeted wards. Seeds were distributed before the onset of 2023-2024 agricultural season to promote early planting. In addition, farmers were trained of Climate Smart Agricultural (CSA) practices before receiving seeds. The Department of Veterinary Services was engaged for animal health activities such as dosing and dipping. Agritex provided technical expertise on CSA and the most appropriate seeds for the district. Monitoring and support were provided by ZRCS and IFRC PMER department. This was key for continuous improvement and ensuring that standards are met for food distributions, schools feeding and other interventions.

Date National Society requested the early action funds: 19 September 2023

Date National Society received the early action funds: 21 September 2023

Human Resources:

The project has 3 personnel, including Project Coordinator, PMER Officer and two district officers.

Logistics and supply chain:

Procurement of drought tolerant seeds was conducted before the onset of the 2023-2024 rainfall season. Food distributions were conducted as planned after the supplier was identified and contracted. Schools' feeding activities were supported after the delivery of Corn Soya Blend (CSB) to the targeted schools. Materials to support school feeding such as pots and other items were delivered to the schools.

Information Technology:

Inclusion of EAP triggers and their integration supports real-time monitoring and assessment of risks, allowing for timely interventions. Communication of Early Warning Messages, and development of robust early warning messages improved dissemination of information through radio messaging. Use of Kobo for data collection was key to support real time data.

Communications and Information:

Information dissemination on the local radio station in Binga District and information dissemination through ZRCS volunteers on Early Warning Messages was key to early warning messages and early action. Approximately a total of 120,000 individuals were reached with Early Warning Messages through several platforms such as ZRCS volunteers, Government Extension officers, and texts messages and dissemination during community social gatherings.

Security:

There was no security threats encountered during the implementation of the project in Binga district.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation And Reporting (PMER):

PMER were responsible for monitoring Early Protocol (EAP) project activities such as Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDMs) to assess the impact of food distributions and school feeding activity, and establishment of beneficiary feedback mechanisms. Regular field visits were conducted to assess the situation, identify needs, and monitor activity implementation. Needs assessments were conducted in schools to identify needs before delivering CSB. Monitoring activities aimed at ensuring accountability, effectiveness, and efficiency in delivering humanitarian assistance to those in need.

Administration and Finance

EAP has received support from both IFRC and ZRCS on administration support such as procurement of fuel and other logistical support. Furthermore, finance have been availed for project implementation.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Challenges

There were several challenges encountered during implementation of EAP in Binga district and these included shortages of water in the targeted wards, thereby affecting cattle dipping activities resulting in the postponement or delay in the dipping activities. The infrastructure and facilities used for handling and dipping cattle with pour-on treatments were in poor condition, making it challenging to complete dipping activities on schedule. Additionally, cattle prices have significantly decreased due to food insecurity, with farmers selling at rates as low as USD 0.50 per kilogram (live weight). Pastures continued to degrade, with most in poor condition due to the drought, negatively impacting animal health. Although the EAP project had distributed drought tolerant seeds on time for the 2023 – 2024. Agricultural season, the season was characterized by very low rainfall and long dry spells resulting in poor germination and growth.

Several key lessons were learned from implementing EAP interventions:

- The importance of effective early warning systems in local languages was clearly recognized, as they play a critical role in preparing for climate-related events such as droughts.
- Timely and accurate dissemination of weather patterns and related information is essential for community preparedness.
- It was observed that community members continue to rely on Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) for predicting weather patterns, underscoring the value of integrating traditional knowledge with modern early warning systems.
- Regular dipping and dosing significantly improved livestock health and productivity, with no reported disease outbreaks or animal fatalities during the intervention.
- A majority (64.3%) of community members expressed a preference for drought-resistant crops, such as millet and sorghum, due to their resilience to drought conditions. This underscores the need to promote these types of crops in similar regions and establishment of seed banks for availability and accessibility of seeds.
- The value of community-based preparedness strategies was effective in early action and early response to drought in Binga. These include using climate-smart agriculture (CSA) techniques, enhancing coordination and collaboration and leveraging local knowledge and resources to cope with adverse conditions.
- Utilizing a variety of communication channels such as radio, mobile phones, local leaders, and community meetings ensured that early warning messages reached a broad audience effectively. The preference for text messages, radio, and community leaders as future channels was noted.
- Different groups within the community, especially children and people with disabilities, were affected differently by drought. Tailored coping mechanisms, such as reducing food intake and prioritizing resources for the most vulnerable, were essential.
- In drought situations, selling livestock yields minimal prices hence disadvantaging those who rely on livestock. The EAP project leveraged on existing projects (layering of projects) to enhance efficiency and productivity. The Climate Smart Resilience project enhanced resource mobilization and effective communication.

EAP was set up correctly with assumptions and triggers and activities under the two phases clearly defined. These were informed by FEWSNET, Meteorological Services Department (MSD) data and other parameters. However, there was need to include triggers that were not informed by Government declaration such as state of disaster before activation.

Under Early Action Protocol (EAP) project activities conducted include Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDMs) to assess the impact of food distributions and school feeding activity. A total of 6,910 individuals from 1,628 households and pupils from 11 schools benefited from the EAP project responding to the El Nino induced drought. Beneficiary feedback mechanisms were also established to collect and respond to concerns and suggestions. Regular field visits were conducted to assess the situation, identify needs, and monitor activity implementation. Needs assessments were conducted in schools to identify needs before delivering Corn Soya Blend (CSB). Monitoring activities aimed at ensuring accountability, effectiveness, and efficiency in delivering humanitarian assistance to those in need. A total of 5,916 children are receiving daily feeding rations of CSB from 11 primary schools.

Date of the impact of the hazard/disaster: 29 August 2023

Recommendations: Suggestions for future projects or initiatives based on the lessons learned.

- ❖ There is need to review triggers for action and include the localized triggers e.g. IKS linked to the national scientific assessments instead of the national assessments such as national crop assessment and other triggers.
- ❖ There is need for improved coordination at all levels from district, provincial to national with other NGOs and partners implementing Early Action Protocols to share experiences and triggers for interventions to improve the quality of interventions for the affected communities.
- ❖ The early actions were relevant for the El-Nino induced drought, especially provision of drought tolerant seeds and training of farmers on Climate Smart Technologies, livestock dipping and dosing activities that were implemented during the first trigger.
- ❖ Early warning messaging for early action should consider Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) to ensure that warnings are culturally appropriate, more widely understood, and trusted by local communities, leading to more effective disaster preparedness and response.
- ❖ Institutionalizing AA by integrating it into all activities and departments will improve resilience and preparedness, leading to stronger adaptive capacities for future shocks.
- ❖ Train and resourcing stakeholders in AA to improve preparedness at local level by communities for disasters such as drought.
- ❖ Training farmers in Livestock Emergency Guidelines (LEGS) as this is crucial for farmers to adopt best practices for managing livestock during emergencies, ensuring their health and survival, even in challenging conditions like droughts.
- ❖ Training in fodder production and distribution of fodder seed combined with distribution of drought tolerant seeds. Availability of fodder helps maintain livestock health and reduces mortality rates when natural grazing resources are scarce.
- ❖ There are limited water harvesting techniques to help farmers become more resilient to climate variability and drought, therefore there need to rehabilitate and establish infrastructure for harvesting water to enable communities to better withstand future water shortages.
- ❖ Continue climate change information dissemination to farmers for early action and to promote resilience to climate change.
- ❖ Diversification of livelihood strategies help farmers and communities reduce their vulnerability to drought, as not all sectors are affected equally by water scarcity.

Lessons learned

- ❖ Adaptable program designs are crucial: The program's effectiveness was enhanced by adapting to the local context and community needs. This flexibility allowed for adjustments to be made in response to challenges and feedback from beneficiaries.
- ❖ Community participation is essential: The active involvement of community members, particularly volunteers, was critical to the program's success. Community participation ensured that the program was responsive to local needs and preferences.
- ❖ Effective communication and feedback mechanisms are vital: The program highlighted the importance of establishing effective communication and feedback mechanisms. This enabled beneficiaries to provide input, report challenges, and suggest improvements, ultimately enhancing the program's effectiveness. PDMs offered as effective feedback mechanisms
- ❖ Timeliness of distributions is critical: Delays between registration and distribution can compromise the impact of food assistance. Timely distribution, especially during periods of scarcity, is essential to maximize the benefits and reduce the stress associated with food insecurity.
- ❖ Complementary food packages can enhance nutritional diversity: The program demonstrated that providing complementary food packages can enhance nutritional diversity and address the limitations of a single food item. This approach can help ensure that beneficiaries receive a balanced diet.
- ❖ Food distributions can have broader social benefits: Beyond immediate food relief, distributions can have broader social benefits, such as fostering social cohesion, reducing domestic conflicts, and promoting community unity.
- ❖ Collaboration with local stakeholders is key: The program's success was facilitated by collaboration with local stakeholders, including community leaders, volunteers, and government officials. This collaboration ensured that the program was aligned with local priorities and needs.
- ❖ Livestock management: Livestock management activities should include Livestock Emergency Guidelines Training for farmers to be prepared when faced with climate change shocks including fodder production to supplement during lean season to prevent livestock poverty deaths

Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities that were undertaken during program implementation to track the progress of implementation, determine successes and failures, and to inform decision making are the needs assessment, process and routine monitoring and post distribution monitoring (PDM). Needs assessment was done in 11 schools to check on the actual enrolment, to confirm materials already available to support preparation of meals and to assess availability of secured storage facilities in the targeted schools.

A school feeding needs assessment was conducted in 11 schools in Binga district, Zimbabwe, using interviews and observations with school administrators, teachers, and School Development Committee members. The assessment found that total school enrollment is 5,378 (Boys 2635: Girls 2743), with an expected 10% increase due to the school feeding program, and average daily attendance is 84% (5306), with high absenteeism due to food shortages. While schools have some kitchen utensils, storage facilities, and sanitation facilities, improvements are needed, including additional utensils, pallets, and hand washing soap. Recommendations include setting up a mobilization plan for ECD satellite centers, providing food handling training, and monitoring stock control. Overall, all 11 schools are ready to implement the school feeding program, which is expected to improve attendance, reduce absenteeism and school performance.

PDM for school feeding program was done after one month using quantitative (kobo toolbox) and qualitative (KII and FGDs with school children) data collection techniques. The purpose of the PDM was to ensure proper storage and handling of CSB in schools, monitor and report any challenges faced by schools in utilization of CSB (quality

and quantity of the feeding rations), assess the effectiveness of the feeding process in reaching targeted beneficiaries, provide recommendations for improving the utilization process and optimizing program outcomes and to establish availability of volunteers and trained school feeding committees to assist with implementation (making a follow up on the recommendation from Ministry of Health to have 2 food handlers or volunteers with health certificates).

The school feeding program in Binga district, Zimbabwe, yielded positive results, with average daily attendance increasing to 99% and school enrollment rising by 60 children. The program had a positive impact on nutrition and education, with children showing improved participation and concentration in class. However, challenges were identified, including water scarcity, poor storage facilities, and inadequate food handling practices. To address these challenges, recommendations include improving water availability, upgrading storage facilities, providing training for food handlers and cooks, and ensuring medical examinations for food handlers. Key lessons learned emphasize the importance of partnerships, collaboration, constant monitoring. FDP were set up using the checklist attached in the appendices to ensure the following:

- ❖ Ensure accurate targeting by verifying eligibility and need, ensuring assistance reaches the intended beneficiaries.
- ❖ Promote transparency and accountability by providing clear information on the distribution of assistance.
- ❖ Facilitating food distribution to the registered beneficiaries.
- ❖ Setting up distribution points (Help desk, stacking areas/ tarpaulins, waiting areas, verification desk and suggestion boxes). Lessons learnt after action review of trigger 1 activities
- ❖ Layering on AA is crucial in humanitarian response for efficient resource utilization, improved preparedness, proactive approach and builds community resilience
- ❖ Early warning messaging should also include IKS
- ❖ Institutionalizing AA. Integration of AA in all activities/ departments
- ❖ Capacitate stakeholders in AA to improve preparedness at local level

Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM)

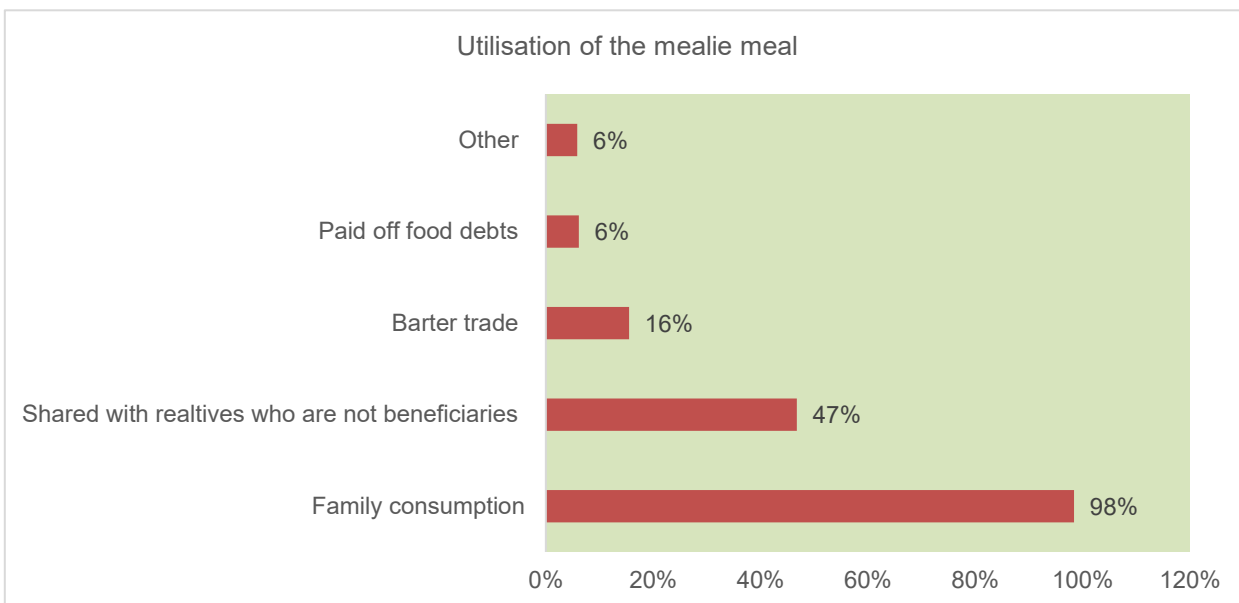
3 PDMs were conducted for the 3 food distribution cycles. The main objectives of the PDMs were to assess the effectiveness and impact of the feeding process in reaching targeted beneficiaries, to provide recommendations for improving the utilization process and optimizing program outcomes, to ascertain satisfaction levels on the utilization of the mealie meal by communities and to document feedback from communities on food distributions conducted by ZRCS.

The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCS) conducted a post-distribution monitoring exercise in Binga District's Wards 8,9,10 and 13, following a mealie meal distribution program. The program aimed to mitigate drought-induced food insecurity, targeting 1629 households with 6910 individuals. Key findings include:

- ❖ Improved cereal security and immediate relief, with beneficiaries expressing gratitude for the mealie meal.
- ❖ Economic and financial benefits, as households were able to save money, buy school stationery, pay school fees, pay for medical bills or trade mealie meal for other essentials.
- ❖ Positive impact on household health and nutrition, with reduced stress and improved overall health.
- ❖ Strengthened social cohesion and household harmony, with reduced domestic conflicts and increased cooperation.
- ❖ High satisfaction with distribution quality, but need for timeliness improvements.
- ❖ Effective communication and feedback mechanisms identified, with volunteers and help desks preferred.

- ❖ Challenges included inadequate facilities at Food Distribution Points (FDPs), limited nutritional diversity, and delayed distribution.

Apart from this, a survey was also conducted on the beneficiary use of mealie meals with results shown below:



Utilisation of mealie-meal

Recommendations for cereal distributions include:

- ❖ Changing FDPs to areas with basic facilities such as ablution facilities.
- ❖ Providing complementary food packages to enhance dietary diversity and nutrition.
- ❖ Improving the time of distributions to ensure that women and other beneficiaries had adequate time to travel back home before sunset.
- ❖ Encouraging community participation in feedback mechanisms such as help desk and suggestion boxes.



Food distribution in Binga district ward 10 under the Early Action Protocol (EAP) Project. Photo credit, ZRCS October 2024, Binga District.



Schools Feeding at Bulawayo Kraal Primary School in Binga district (ward 7) under the Early Action Protocol (EAP) project. Photo credit, ZRCS December 2024, Binga District.




Water shortages and poor pastures in Binga district ward 7 resulting in livestock death. Photo credit, ZRCS October 2024, Binga District.



Cattle dosing activities in Saba (ward 13) with support from ZRCS volunteers. Photo credit, ZRCS April 2024, Binga District.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

 <p>Livelihoods</p>	CHF budget: 199,285	CHF actual: 125,005	
	People targeted: 16,088	People reached: 19,974	
	Female: 10,986	Female > 18: 7,732	Girls < 18: 3,254
	Male: 8,988	Male > 18: 6,325	Boys < 18: 2,663
	Percentage of activities implemented before the impact of the hazard		
Indicator:	<p><i># of people reached with livelihoods interventions in advance of a hazard.</i></p> <p><i># of people reached with food assistance.</i></p> <p><i># of learners reached with school supplementary feeding to reduce absentees.</i></p>		
Early actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verification of beneficiary registers for seed distributions. 2. Distribution of seeds to targeted households. 3. Post distribution monitoring assessments. 4. Distribution of dosing chemicals to Veterinary department and support to dosing activities. 5. Distribution of CSB to schools. 6. Post distribution and regular monitoring of the school supplemental feeding. 7. Beneficiary engagement and sensitization by volunteer structures. 		
Narrative description of achievements			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,500 beneficiaries received 5kg okarshana sorghum variety and 2.5kg cow peas. These figures also include Climate Smart Resilience project participants. Seeds were distributed during the first week of October 2023 before the first effective rainfalls were recorded. Early delivery and distribution of seed was aimed at promoting early planting and staggering of planting dates. Farmers were trained with Agritex officers and ZRCS on conservation agriculture and climate smart production techniques before receiving the seed. Demo plots were established to support and promote peer to peer learning by farmers at community level with 60 farmers trained as trainer of trainers. Demo plots were hosted by lead farmers and technical support provided by Agritex at community level. Each demo plot had a maximum of 25 farmers. A total of 1,500 farmers were linked to a demo plot for learning and mentoring purposes. This was critical to improve access to farming information at community level. • Cumulatively the project provided food rations on a monthly basis to a total of 8,686 (F4,706: 3,980M) in the 5 targeted wards. Mealie meal was distributed at 10kg per person from the month of September 2024 to December 2024. Beneficiaries were selected through a community-based selection or community-driven selection. This process involved communities identifying and selecting households they deemed most deserving for registration and subsequently food distributions. 			

Beneficiaries' selection and food distributions were supported and monitored by Department of Social Development, District Development Coordinator's office and Zimbabwe Republic Police. A total of **12** Food Distribution Points (FDPs) were established within the targeted wards to reduce the distances travelled by communities to the nearest food collection point.

Ward	Total Households	Total beneficiaries	Female	Male
7	429	1773	961	812
8	406	1710	926	784
9	535	2207	1196	1011
10	265	1292	700	592
13	423	1704	923	781
Total	2,058	8,686	4,706	3,980

Table 1 : Total number of beneficiaries per ward

- Due to the increase in food scarcity, the rate of absenteeism and absconding from school was on the increase with average daily attendance **84% (4,516)**. Most extra curriculum activities or afternoon classes had little children who attended. Since the **school feeding program began**, average daily **attendance increased to 99%, with 5,306 children** attending lessons daily. This is an increase of 15% on average daily attendance. There were reports of improved concentration in class and participation in all school activities including extra curriculum activities. This was mainly because children were guaranteed hot meals at school during the day.

Name of School	Girls	Boys	Total
Lubanda Primary School	144	154	298
Zambezi Primary School	152	161	313
Gaza Primary School	208	167	375
Saba Primary School	251	263	514
Bulawayo Kraal Primary School	271	275	546
Mupambe Primary School	358	340	698
Siansundu Primary School	299	253	552
Junamina Primary School	154	139	293
Simatelele Primary School	268	249	517
Sebungwe Mouth Primary School	136	137	273
Siachilaba Primary School	502	497	999
Total	2,743	2,635	5,378

Table 2: School enrolment

The school feeding program will spill into the first 13 school days of January 2025 because CSB was bought with an estimated increase of enrolment to 6 000 children in the targeted schools. Finnish Red Cross Climate Smart Resilience (CSR) project will continue to monitor the program in the district

- Dipping services supported a total of **19,580 cattle** out of a target of **20,400** cattle. These cattle are from **5** health centre with a total of **60 dip tanks**. First dosing session had **15,048** cattle which is 74% of the baseline and second dosing had a 4% increase from the first phase giving a total of **15,949** cattle. Livestock that received dosing and dipping maintained their body condition for a longer period compared to those that did not receive these services. However, the grazing and water situation was poor to the extent that during the last during the months of October to December most cattle have a body condition of 1-2. Those who managed to take their livestock to the valley commonly known in Binga Umlaga have a body condition of 3. Body condition scores
 - Score 1: Emaciated (very thin)
 - Score 2: Thin (some fat reserves, but ribs and spine visible)

- Score 3: Medium (moderate fat reserves, ribs palpable but not visible)
- Score 4: Fat (ample fat reserves, ribs not palpable)
- Score 5: Obese (excessive fat reserves)

DOSE 1						DOSE 2			ACARICIDES					
Valbazen for Cattle (litres)			Systemax Plus Fluke (litres)			Nilzan Drench (litres)			Pour - on (litres)			Amitik (kg)		
Received	Used	Balance	Received	Used	Balance	Received	Used	Balance	Received	Used	Balance	Received	Used	Balance
960	355	605	560	480	80	1400	80	600	352.00	352.00	0.00	152.00	152.00	0.00

Table 3: Deworming chemicals and acaricides

The EAP project has handed over 605 litres of Valbazen for cattle, 600 litres of Nilzan Drench and 80 litres of Systemax Plus Fluke dosing chemicals to the CSR project in Binga to support deworming activity using the available balance as shown in table 3.

Health Centre	Total deaths
Binga	297
Makungu	66
Manjolo	237
Saba	148
Siansundu	127
Total	875

Table 4: Total number livestock deaths per animal health centre


Total deaths recorded in the district as of **December 2024** were **4229** poverty deaths attributed to poor pastures and water shortages.




Devastating effects of the El-Nino induced drought.




Water shortages in Binga district and impact to livestock.

 <p>Multi-purpose Cash/Food Distributions</p>	CHF budget: 125,005	CHF actual: 113,811	
	People targeted:	People reached: 8,683	
	Female: 4,776	Female > 18: 4,776	Girls < 18:
	Male: 3,907	Male > 18: 3,907	Boys < 18:
	Percentage of activities implemented before the impact of the hazard		
Indicator:	<i>Number of people reached with multi-purpose cash in advance of a hazard</i>		
Early actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Beneficiary engagement and sensitization by volunteer structures. Monthly distribution cycles using CVA modality once the trigger thresholds have been reached. Post-distribution monitoring and evaluation to assess the impact of the early actions. 		
Narrative description of achievements			
<p>On the 26 August 2024, the Government of Zimbabwe through the Department of Social Services issued a directive to all humanitarian partners to adapt direct in-kind food distributions within their areas of operations to ensure that rural households had access to basic food particularly cereals. As a result, ZRCS changed the intervention modality from Cash and Voucher Assistance to in-kind or food distributions as directed by Government of Zimbabwe. As a result, a total of 8,686 (F4,706: 3,980M) people in the 5 targeted wards were reached with in-kind food distribution.</p>			

 <p>Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and Recovery</p>	CHF budget: 1,678	CHF actual: 1,678	
	People targeted: 500 000	People reached: 208 000	
	Female: 120 640	Female > 18: 66 352	Girls < 18: 54 288
	Male: 87 360	Male >18: 52 416	Boys < 18: 34 944
	Percentage of activities implemented before the impact of the hazard		
Indicator:	<i># of people reached with risk reduction and/or climate adaptation interventions in advance of a hazard</i>		
Early actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Alert dissemination and drought preparedness information disseminated to target areas through bulk SMS and community level messaging through lead farmer and agricultural extension service structures. 		
Narrative description of achievements			

Early warning messages were shared throughout the rainfall season with volunteers also tasked with the responsibility of sharing the messages within their communities. Approximately a total of **120,000 individuals** were reached with Early Warning Messages through several platforms such as ZRCS volunteers, Government Extension officers, and texts messages and dissemination during community social gatherings.

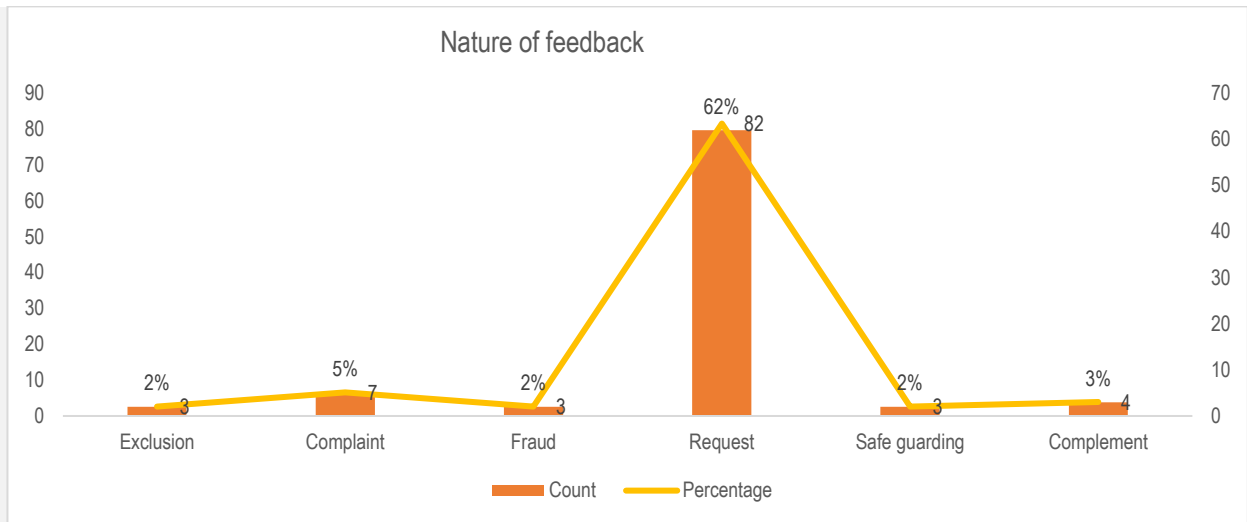
The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCS) has made significant strides in establishing a functional, country-wide Forecast-Based Anticipatory Action (FBA) system. This system is underpinned by clear financial protocols, defined roles and responsibilities, and a commitment to early warning and early action. Notably, ZRCS has formed an Anticipatory Action Committee to institutionalize anticipatory action, ensuring a coordinated and proactive response to impending disasters. As an active member of the Anticipatory Action Working Group, ZRCS continues to leverage its expertise and experience to inform decision-making and drive the effective management of the FBA system, incorporating valuable insights from its Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system.

 Community Engagement and Accountability	CHF budget:	CHF actual:	
	People targeted:	People reached:	
	Female:	Female >18:	Girls < 18:
	Male:	Male >18:	Boys < 18:
	Percentage of activities implemented before the impact of the hazard		
Indicator:	<i>Number of people reached with community engagement and accountability interventions in advance of a hazard</i>		
Early actions:	<i>1. Establishment of Feedback Mechanisms</i>		

Narrative description of achievements

Effective community engagement is a crucial aspect of any successful development and emergency response project, ensuring that the needs and concerns of the rights-holders are addressed. Feedback mechanisms were established to gather insights, suggestions, and opinions from the community members regarding ongoing food distributions in the 5 wards. Feedback mechanisms used included help desk, feedback forms, suggestion boxes and word of mouth from volunteers. Considering high illiteracy levels in the district most community members preferred help desk instead of suggestion boxes. The feedback gathered for the mentioned feedback mechanisms was used for decision making to improve the quality of services provided to the beneficiaries in all the targeted wards.

Nature of feedback ranged from requests, complaints, exclusion, safeguarding and complements. All cases were closed and were no follow up cases. Safeguarding cases which included 2 cases of child marriages from ward 9 Mangani FDP and ward 13 Siamuloba FDP were referred to Department of Social Development. (see graph below)




Community feedback collected.

Key themes

- Non-Beneficiaries expressed interest in receiving assistance and requested inclusion on the distribution list.
- There was a child protection issue that was transferred to DSD for further investigations.
- The Sicimvali community requests for the installation of boreholes to address critical water shortage, which forces women to fetch water at night, exposing them to heightened risks of gender-based violence
- Complements to thank Zimbabwe Red Cross Society for providing mealie meal.
- Complaints were made about the registration process and how communities ranked each other using the criteria that were given by ZRCS. Communities also needed clarifications on why they were receiving 10kg mealie meals, which was not equivalent to \$13. Some expected to get pulses and cooking oil from the balance. Clarifications have been shared by the Provincial Manager at all gatherings but there is a need for community engagement for beneficiaries to understand.
- The beneficiaries requested the inclusion of other food items like cooking oil, beans and relish
- Beneficiaries requested the extension of the food aid programme until they can provide for themselves.


Main requests were for continued need of help up to the harvest period with the main concern being that the peak of the hunger period as the lean season.

Enabling approaches

 Coordination and Partnerships	Female: 7,500	1,678 CHF
	Male: 7,500	AP Code: 118, 119, 127, 128
Early actions:	Engagement with external partners <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Continued representation and coordination within the community of practice and technical working groups. Movement Cooperation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Continued engagement with Movement actors to guide and review the implementation of the EAP. lines as required. 	
Narrative description of achievements		

The National Society actively participated in peer exchange and learning sessions.

In Zimbabwe, numerous humanitarian actors are engaged in responding to multiple crises stemming from climate change, economic instability, and health emergencies. These actors provide a broad spectrum of support services targeting vulnerable populations, particularly women, children, and migrants. Key organizations operating in the country include UNICEF, WFP, IOM, MSF, UNDP, among others.

 Secretariat Services	Female:	46,890 CHF
	Male:	AP Code: 122

Early actions:

1. Support from IFRC

Narrative description of achievements


IFRC Harare CCD provided technical and financial resources in the implementation of the EAP.

- The cluster office has been responsible for managing the protocol from drafting a funding agreement for readiness and early actions to disbursing the funds for these activities.
- The cluster supported the development of the notification of activation and subsequent operational updates to inform any changes on the EAP.

The cluster technical team were on standby to support the NS in analyzing data for activation and overall technical support supervision including:

- Provision of technical support to ZRCS in the identification of possible Early Action activities in Binga and Scoping Study report.
- Review of the draft EAP before submission to the review process.
- Operational support - review of financial files, cash requests, etc.

Technical support during activation of the EAP - supporting tender adjudications processes, facilitating partner coordination (with WFP), and activity scheduling.

 National Society Strengthening	Female:	35,686 CHF
	Male:	AP Code: 124,125,126

Early actions:

1. District Field Officer at 100% of USD2,086 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 supported the activation of the first and second trigger early action activities in Binga district and the first trigger activities were successfully implemented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A total of CHF 549,318 was allocated through the DREF EAP fund. Both the first and second triggers were activated and successfully implemented. By the time of activation, CHF 434,569 had been utilized. The remaining balance of CHF 114,749 will be returned to the DREF pot. A detailed financial report is attached below.

FBAF Early Actions FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/02-2025/01	Operation	PZW044
Budget Timeframe	2023/01-2024/12	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 05/Nov/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRZW020 - Zimbabwe - Drought Protocol / EAP2022ZW01

Early Actions Timeframe: 14 Feb 2023 to 31 Dec 2024

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	549,318
DREF Anticipatory Pillar	549,318
Expenditure	-434,569
Closing Balance	114,749

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	1,678	153,546	-151,868
AOF2 - Shelter			0
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	347,910	238,974	108,936
AOF4 - Health			0
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene			0
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion			0
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	349,589	392,521	-42,932
SF11 - Strengthen National Societies	164,866	31,157	133,710
SF12 - Effective international disaster management			0
SF13 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	4,462		4,462
SF14 - Ensure a strong IFRC	30,400	10,892	19,508
Strategy for implementation Total	199,729	42,049	157,681
Grand Total	549,318	434,569	114,749

FBAF Early Actions

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/02-2025/01	Operation	PZW044
Budget Timeframe	2023/01-2024/12	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 05/Nov/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRZW020 - Zimbabwe - Drought Protocol / EAP2022ZW01

Early Actions Timeframe: 14 Feb 2023 to 31 Dec 2024

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	291,865	44,941	246,924
Food	81,280		81,280
Seeds & Plants	60,000	44,941	15,059
Medical & First Aid	24,250		24,250
Cash Disbursement	126,335		126,335
Logistics, Transport & Storage	28,680	17,766	10,914
Distribution & Monitoring	7,392		7,392
Transport & Vehicles Costs	21,076	17,555	3,521
Logistics Services	211	211	0
Personnel	152,230	37,089	115,142
International Staff	20,000	9,167	10,833
National Staff	6,045		6,045
National Society Staff	121,510	24,527	96,983
Volunteers	4,675	3,395	1,280
Workshops & Training	3,490	312	3,178
Workshops & Training	3,490	312	3,178
General Expenditure	39,526	6,189	33,337
Travel	1,000	914	86
Information & Public Relations	1,576		1,576
Communications	1,200	231	969
Financial Charges	5,250	146	5,104
Other General Expenditure	30,500	4,897	25,603
Contributions & Transfers		301,748	-301,748
National Society Expenditure		301,748	-301,748
Indirect Costs	33,526	26,523	7,003
Programme & Services Support Recover	33,526	26,523	7,003
Grand Total	549,318	434,569	114,749

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Reference



Click here for:

- [EAP summary](#)
- [EAP Activation](#)
- [EAP Operations update](#)
- [EAP Activation Report](#)