



# EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL ANNUAL REPORT

## Albania | Simplified Early Action Protocol Heatwave



*Kick-off meeting held with various partners in Albania in October 2025. Source: Albanian Red Cross (ARC)*

EAP №: <b>MDRAL009</b>	Operation №: <b>MDR</b>	Period covered by this annual report: <b>From 20 June 2025 to 31 December 2025</b>
EAP approved: <b>20/06/2025</b>	EAP timeframe: <b>2 Years</b>	

**Annual Budget: CHF 87,346.00**

**EAP Budget: CHF 199,965.00**

# SUMMARY OF THE EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL

The IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) has allocated CHF 199,966.00 for the implementation anticipatory actions to reduce and mitigate the impact of heatwave in Albania. This Early Action Protocol includes an allocation of CHF 122,300 to preposition stock and undertake annual readiness activities in order to implement early actions, 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 [[Albania - Heatwave sEAP \(MDRAL009\) | IFRC](#)].

This report summarizes the annual readiness and prepositioning activities done in the reporting period. The report also includes any changes or updates done to the initially agreed plan.

The actions taken by the ARC for the implementation of the DREF sEAP project will be implemented in the period from January 2026 to the end of summer 2027. However, during the reporting period from June 20 to December 31, 2025, the actions taken were mainly technical for the presentation of the project with partners within the country and a workshop with three ARC branches Tirana, Elbasan and Berat to inform them about the approved project, timeframe, as well as the role and responsibilities of each partner in the implementation of the project.

From 21 to 25 October 2025, the ARC, together with IFRC and the Austrian Red Cross and Regional Office Technical representative, held a combined kick-off and technical meeting to establish a shared understanding of the project's objectives, clarified roles and responsibilities between HQ, branches, and partners and agreed on visibility, coordination arrangements and initial readiness and procurement priorities necessary to begin implementation.

The meeting brought together national institutions and partners, including IGEO, the Ministry of Civil Protection, the Ministry of Health, the Institute of Public Health, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and branch teams from Tirana, Elbasan and Berat. The discussions finalized the technical elements of the sEAP, including alignment on the risk analysis, trigger mechanism and the structure of the heatwave monitoring product to be developed by IGEO with support from Geosphere Austria. A detailed project timeline and working packages were refined, and the branches developed their initial operational plans to ensure they can act within the five-day lead time. The meeting also confirmed essential operational arrangements such as IGEO's role in daily trigger communication, the need for strengthened information-management tools for beneficiary verification and further preparedness for cash assistance. It additionally underscored the importance of developing a timely communication and visibility plan, prepared together with IFRC and the Austrian Red Cross, as an integral part of the action plan to ensure clear messaging and coordinated partner engagement throughout implementation.


Overall, the meetings shifted the sEAP from approval to structured implementation and established the technical and institutional foundations required for timely activation once trigger conditions are reached.

ARC is preparing to respond to a heat wave hazard, which is expected to occur in the summer 2026, but there is some previous experience which help ARC working in direction how to reacted when the

country has been affected by high temperatures. So, in July 2023, August 2024-25 a severe heatwave impacted Albania and as action taken ARC mobilized volunteer teams in each of most affected locations (Tirana, Berat, Elbasan) to respond effectively. The volunteers' teams trained in first aid, equipped with first aid kits and Red Cross uniforms and educational materials operated in high-traffic areas during peak heat hours (12:00–14:00) to provide life-saving assistance. The activities included distribution of drinking water to vulnerable groups, including older people, children, people with disabilities, and those with pre-existing health conditions. Also support tent stations were established, where volunteers offered information on heat protection measures and first aid services. Additionally, they provided first aid for institutions and stadiums, promote blood donation and support home care for older people and children in need. These branches worked closely with various stakeholders, including hospitals, universities, police and private companies, to enhance their support for vulnerable populations.


Meanwhile, the design and development of the sEAP project in Albania involved a collaborative, multi-phased approach, involving key stakeholders such as the Austrian Red Cross, IFRC, IFRC Climate Centre, IGEO, Institute of Public Health and National Civil Protection Agency (NCAP) from the very beginning. With these stakeholders and ARC branches, ARC organized and held a number of meetings and workshops about rapid feasibility check, brainstorming about relevant hazards and risks, baseline rapid needs assessment on needs before and during extreme heat events, declaration triggers, most affected groups, support activities.

## SUMMARY OF ANNUAL PROGRESS BY PLANNED OPERATION

 <b>Multi-purpose Cash</b>	<b>CHF preposition budget:</b>	<b>CHF preposition actual:</b>
	CHF 0.00	CHF 0.00
	<b>CHF readiness budget:</b>	<b>CHF readiness actual:</b>
	CHF 639.00	CHF 2,189.59

*The activities are planned to start in January 2026 and will be reported in the next report.*


Readiness activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bank selection process</li> <li>2. Cheque procurements</li> <li>3. Establishing beneficiary list:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1. Update existing lists of homecare beneficiaries in 3 branches Tirana, Berat and Elbasan and verify through HH visits</li> <li>3.2. Meeting with social welfare offices at municipality level for establishing the beneficiaries' lists of additional most vulnerable families and verify through HH visits.</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Conduct 1 day refresher training for volunteers and staff on CVA specific aspects.</li> </ol>
Prepositioning activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Store pre-ordered cheques in HQ secured cashbox.</li> </ol>

 <b>Health &amp; Care</b>	<b>CHF preposition budget:</b>	<b>CHF preposition actual:</b>
	CHF 6,485.85	CHF 0.00
	<b>CHF readiness budget:</b>	<b>CHF readiness actual:</b>
	CHF 766.80	CHF 0.00

*The activities are planned to start in January 2026 and will be reported in the next report.*


Readiness activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Set up a Red Cross green line on heatwave (toll-free phone number) for the public.</li> <li>2. Training of volunteers and one staff that will operate the green line specialized in PFA/PSS.</li> <li>3. Develop heatwave FAQs (Frequently asked questions) for calls from the public.</li> <li>4. Develop heatwave preparedness/behavior/information/referral guide and questionnaire for proactive 'Heat Remote Check Calls' for 300 vulnerable registered HHs (home care clients and most vulnerable families).</li> <li>5. Establishing mechanism and tool for heatwave case management for tracking and tracing for 300 most vulnerable people.</li> </ol>
Prepositioning activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pre-Equip multifunctional teams with sim card credits</li> <li>2. Refurnish advanced first aid kits in 3 branches.</li> </ol>

3. Prepare modality of transport for staff and volunteers (bicycles, maintenance of red cross cars, procure tickets for public transport).

 <p><b>Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and Recovery</b></p>	<b>CHF preposition budget:</b>	<b>CHF preposition actual:</b>
	CHF 29,501.00	CHF 0.00
	<b>CHF readiness budget:</b>	<b>CHF readiness actual:</b>
	CHF 0.00	CHF 0.00

*The activities are planned to start in January 2026 and will be reported in the next report.*

Readiness activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Coordinate with municipal authorities to identify and allocate appropriate locations for community heat preparedness points (Tirana, Elbasan, Berat).</li> <li>2. Develop clear roles and responsibilities for volunteers during activation of community heat preparedness points.</li> <li>3. Kick-off meeting with state ambulance services and municipal stakeholders to establish clear procedures and exchange of contact information for quick referrals before and during heatwave operations.</li> </ol>
Prepositioning activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Procure 6 tents, 2 in each city (heat/UV-resistant, suitable for outdoor use).</li> <li>2. Purchase misting/nebulizing fans (fans with water spray/mist function for cooling).</li> <li>3. Secure power supply equipment through municipalities services</li> <li>4. Design and procurement of various roll ups (RC signs, preparedness messages).</li> <li>5. Preposition bottled water and isotonic drinks at storage facilities</li> <li>6. Procure warehouse refrigerators</li> <li>7. Produce/Purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) like t shirts, hats, gloves and sunglasses for volunteers involved.</li> </ol>

 <p><b>Community Engagement and Accountability</b></p>	<b>CHF preposition budget:</b>	<b>CHF preposition actual:</b>
	CHF 7,455.00	CHF 0.00
	<b>CHF readiness budget:</b>	<b>CHF readiness actual:</b>
	CHF 3,195.00	CHF 0.00

*The activities are planned to start in January 2026 and will be reported in the next report.*


**Readiness activities:**

1. Analyze and integrate the findings from the needs assessments conducted by branches in Tirana, Elbasan, and Berat to design interventions (done).
2. Select culturally appropriate and community-specific awareness materials supported by ARC PGI, CEA and Communication focal points.
3. Prepare files with early key actionable targeted messages addressing identified vulnerabilities supported by ARC PGI, CEA and Communication focal points.
4. A 4-Days Training in CEA for volunteers in active listening, respectful communication, and gathering and addressing community feedback (incl KoBo collect) and PGI to raise awareness, build skills and change behavior conducted by IFRC experts and ARC focal points (3-Days CEA, communication and PGI & PFA basics + 1-Day IM).
5. Engage local leaders and influencers to strengthen trust and widen the reach of key messages.
6. Review and refine "Sensitive Feedback Procedures" and "General Feedback Procedures."
7. Produce awareness video for multiple social media channels to be published during the lead time – lead ARC communication focal point.

**Prepositioning activities:**

1. Preprint and store heatwave safety flyers, banners, cartoons, games and other materials at branches in Tirana, Elbasan, and Berat for quick distribution.

## Enabling approaches

 <b>Coordination and Partnerships</b>	<b>CHF preposition budget:</b>	<b>CHF preposition actual:</b>
	CHF 0.00	CHF 0.00
	<b>CHF readiness budget:</b>	<b>CHF readiness actual:</b>
	CHF 11,519.22	CHF 0.00

The ARC has prepared and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tirana University and IGEO on the following agreed products/services:

- prepare systems to use the ECMWF 10-15 days forecast for monitoring purposes.
- prepare a heatwave warning forecasting product based on the trigger including an (semi) automated mail generation and delivery to the ARC.
- test all above and refine forecasting products to be ready as of May 2026 for the season from June-September (4 months).

**Readiness activities:**

1. Participate in annual meetings, and facilitate lessons learned.
2. Conduct visits to Tirana, as well as Berat and Elbasan to conduct monitoring and evaluation activities and provide technical support if needed.

Prepositioning activities:

3. Accompany readiness activities and facilitate reporting
1. Support prepositioning activities (including procurement processes), if required.



**Secretariat Services**

**CHF preposition budget:**

CHF 0.00

**CHF readiness budget:**

CHF 15,656.00

**CHF preposition actual:**

CHF 0.00

**CHF readiness actual:**

CHF 0.00

The activities are planned to start in January 2026 and will be reported in the next report.

Readiness activities:

1. Participate in annual meetings, and facilitate lessons learned.
2. Conduct visits to Tirana, as well as Berat and Elbasan to conduct monitoring and evaluation activities and provide technical support if needed.
3. Accompany readiness activities and facilitate reporting.

Prepositioning activities:

1. Support prepositioning activities (including procurement processes), if required.



**National Society Strengthening**

**CHF preposition budget:**

CHF 12,780.00

**CHF readiness budget:**

CHF 34,304.00

**CHF preposition actual:**

CHF 0.00

**CHF readiness actual:**

CHF 0.00

### Kick-Off and Technical Meetings (21–25 October 2025)

The ARC, supported by the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation, IFRC Regional Office for Europe and the Austrian Red Cross, conducted a combined kick-off and technical meetings from 21–25 October 2025 to operationalize the sEAP project. These meetings represented the first coordinated steps toward establishing the systems, roles and technical foundations required for activation ahead of the 2026 heat season.

#### *Kick-Off Meeting (21–22 October 2025)*

The kick-off meeting brought together ARC HQ key technical staff and leadership, branch representatives, IFRC technical counterparts to build a shared operational understanding of the sEAP.

The purpose of the meeting was to clearly define the objectives of the SEAP operation, partner roles, responsibilities and coordination mechanisms, while ensuring that visibility and communication around the launch of the new sEAP were appropriately planned.

#### *Key achievements included:*

- Establishing common interpretation of the sEAP purpose, scope and expected outcomes.

- Aligning roles and responsibilities between ARC HQ, branches, IFRC and Austrian Red Cross.
- Introducing sEAP as a strategic funding and implementation tool, with clear visibility plans and communication milestones.
- Agreeing on priority readiness actions and initial procurement needs for effective implementation.
- This meeting formally opened implementation of the sEAP project and laid the groundwork for deeper technical work with national institutions and partners.

### **Technical Meeting (23–25 October 2025)**

Immediately following the kick-off, a multi-stakeholder technical meeting was conducted with participation from IGEO, Ministry of Civil Protection, Ministry of Health, Institute of Public Health, GIZ, Austrian Red Cross, IFRC, Regional Office technical staff and ARC branches (Tirana, Elbasan, Berat). The focus was to deepen the technical foundations of anticipatory action for heatwaves and finalize the operational elements needed to make the sEAP functional.

Core results of the technical meeting:

- Technical alignment on risk analysis, trigger design and monitoring system.

Significant discussions took place on the heatwave monitoring product to be produced by IGEO, including the required climatological components and forecasting inputs. Final clarification was reached on the composition of the forecasting product, and Geosphere Austria will continue work with the IGEO and national counterparts.

- Development of a detailed project timeline and working packages, covering readiness, prepositioning and early actions.
- Branch-level operational planning: Each of the three branches (Tirana, Elbasan, Berat) developed preliminary action plans and mapped service capacities to ensure rapid deployment within a five-day lead time.
- Strengthening technical capacity on anticipatory action, with sessions on trigger mechanism, heat risk impacts, early action rationale, monitoring protocols, and inter-institutional coordination.
- Coordination procedures refined between ARC, IGEO, Public Health Institute, Civil Protection and other key partners for trigger monitoring, information flow and decision-making during lead time.

### **Cross-cutting outcomes:**

Across the five-day mission, several important operational decisions were made:

- Agreement that IGEO will be included in all triggers-related correspondence, and Fatos Xhengo (ARC) will be the focal point for all monitoring and forecasting communication.
- A need for data collection tools and information management support was confirmed; IFRC and Austrian Red Cross will support KoboToolbox form development and training, to be completed by February 2026 for beneficiary verification.
- Cash and voucher assistance (CVA) preparedness actions were discussed, including the possibility of using IFRC global contracts for prepositioned recharge cards and strengthening coordination with municipal social services.
- The importance of developing a timely communication and visibility plan, prepared together with IFRC and the Austrian Red Cross, as an integral part of the action plan to ensure clear messaging and coordinated partner engagement throughout implementation.
- Partners (ARC, IFRC, Austrian Red Cross Regional Office) agreed to establish regular monthly coordination calls to maintain momentum on readiness and prepositioning before summer 2026.

### **Overall Significance**

The combined kick-off and technical meetings successfully transitioned the sEAP from concept to structured implementation. They created a unified understanding among all national and international stakeholders, strengthened technical capacity, and resulted in clear, actionable timelines and branch-level plans. The combined

event confirmed strong institutional commitment and set in motion the systems necessary for a timely and effective activation of early actions when the trigger is reached.

**Readiness activities:**

1. Kick-off meeting with HQ staff and staff/volunteers from the three branches (Tirana, Elbasan, Berat), IFRC, Geosphere Austria, Civil Protection (NACP), Public Health Institute and Austrian Red Cross to align roles and responsibilities for heatwave response.
2. Extended in-depth kick-off meetings in all 3 branches.
3. Salary contribution for staff (sEAP lead, PSS focal point, IM expert, communications focal point).

**Prepositioning activities:**

1. N/A

## **CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, PROPOSED AJUSTMENTS**

The main challenge during the reporting period relates to the timing of approval and implementation. The sEAP was approved on 20 June 2025, leaving a limited window before the end of the reporting cycle. As such, implementation in 2025 remained largely focussed on preparatory steps, including coordination meetings and technical alignment, while core readiness and prepositioning activities are scheduled to begin in January 2026. This has resulted in limited operational reporting, while financial allocations had already been initiated.

This initial phase nevertheless provided important foundations. The kick-off and technical meetings enabled alignment across national and technical partners, clarified roles and responsibilities, and confirmed key elements such as the trigger mechanism, coordination procedures, and forecasting arrangements. At the same time, it highlighted the need for further strengthening of operational readiness, particularly in the areas of information management, beneficiary verification, and coordination with municipal and technical partners.

Given the above, an adjustment to the implementation timeline will be required to better reflect the actual start of activities in 2026 and ensure a more accurate alignment between planning, implementation and reporting. No substantive changes are required at this stage to the core parameters of the sEAP (hazard, trigger or target groups); however, operational aspects will continue to be refined during implementation, and any formal amendment will be prepared in line with IFRC procedures and submitted for approval.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Item	Amount (CHF)	%
<b>Total allocated budget</b>	199,753	100%
<b>Budget 06/2025 - 12/2025</b>	92,864	–
<b>Expenditure 06/2025 - 12/2025 *</b>	94,438	101.7% (annual utilization)
<b>Cumulative expenses to date</b>	94,438	47.3% (overall utilization)
<b>Remaining balance</b>	<b>105,315</b>	<b>52.7%</b>

The budget for the period June–December 2025 was CHF 92,864, with a recorded expenditure of CHF 94,438 (101.7% of the period budget).

*\* Transfers made to the Red Cross of Albania amount to CHF 87,346. The IFRC immediately records items transferred as expenses. Expenses actually incurred by the Red Cross of Albania amount to CHF 2,183.*

Please refer to the interim financial report attached below for more details.

# DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2025/6-2025/12	Operation	MDRAL009
Budget Timeframe	2025/6-2025/12	Budget	APPROVED

## DRAFT FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 14/Apr/2026

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### MDRAL009 - Albania - Heatwave sEAP

Operating Timeframe: 20 Jun 2025 to 30 Jun 2027

## I. Summary

<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Funds &amp; Other Income</b>	<b>199,966</b>
DREF Anticipatory Pillar	199,966
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>-94,438</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>105,529</b>

## II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items			0
PO02 - Livelihoods			0
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	600	639	-39
PO04 - Health	6,810	7,253	-443
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene			0
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion			0
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	31,888	29,501	2,388
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	10,000	10,650	-650
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
<b>Planned Operations Total</b>	<b>49,298</b>	<b>48,042</b>	<b>1,256</b>
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships	10,816	11,519	-703
EA02 - Secretariat Services	1,330	1,284	46
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	31,420	33,592	-2,172
<b>Enabling Approaches Total</b>	<b>43,566</b>	<b>46,395</b>	<b>-2,829</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>92,864</b>	<b>94,438</b>	<b>-1,573</b>

The financial report for MDRAL009 has been generated through the IFRC Business Object (BO) system and validated by Finance for the period 20 June–31 December 2025.

Total expenditure reached CHF 94,438 against an annual budget of CHF 92,864, resulting in a minor variance of CHF -1,573. A total balance of CHF 105,529 remains from the overall allocation of CHF 199,966.

Expenditure during the period was limited and mainly related to:

transfer of funds to the National Society,

travel and financial charges, and

Programme and Services Support Recovery (PSSR).

Variances observed across budget lines are primarily technical, due to the allocation method of PSSR. While the budget reflects PSSR under a single line, actual expenditure distributes it across multiple sectors. In addition, PSSR is allocated pro rata by month, resulting in temporary differences during partial-year reporting.

Overall, expenditure is in line with the early stage of implementation, and no significant financial issues are noted.

However, it is important to note that the above figures correspond to the BO system of financial reporting, which reflects transfers and accounting allocations rather than actual implementation expenditure at field level. In reality, according to the financial report submitted by the Albanian Red Cross, the actual expenditure for the reporting period amounts to CHF 2,182.59. This figure more accurately reflects the current stage of programme implementation and aligns with the progress described in the narrative report, including activities carried out and results achieved.

The detailed financial report from the Albanian Red Cross is attached to further substantiate this explanation and provides a breakdown of expenditures in line with the programme's actual development.

## Contact information

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

### In the Albanian Red Cross National Society

- **Secretary General;** Artur Katuçi, [arturk@kksh.org.al](mailto:arturk@kksh.org.al), +355 692 024 030
- **Operational coordination:** Fatos Xhengo, DM Coordinator, [fxhengo@kksh.org.al](mailto:fxhengo@kksh.org.al), +355 692 029 142

### In the IFRC

- **IFRC Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia:** Ágnes Rajacic, DREF Senior Officer, [agnes.rajacic@ifrc.org](mailto:agnes.rajacic@ifrc.org), +367 0953 7710
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### Reference



Click here for:

- [EAP Summary and budget](#)