

SIMPLIFIED EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL ANNUAL REPORT

Burundi | Extreme floods



Volunteers trained in spraying and chlorination techniques @Burundi Red Cross

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| sEAP №: sEAP2023BU01 | sEAP timeframe: 2 Years | Period covered by this annual report: |
| sEAP approved: 03/07/2024 | Operation №: MDRBI021 | 03/07/2024 to 31/07/2025 |

Annual Budget: 67,891CHF
sEAP Budget: 175,382 CHF

SUMMARY OF THE SIMPLIFIED EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL




The IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) has allocated CHF 175,382 for the implementation anticipatory actions to reduce and mitigate the impact of floods in Burundi. This simplified Early Action Protocol includes an allocation of CHF 33,423 to preposition stock and CHF 75,721 to annual readiness activities in order to implement early actions (CHF 66,238), 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 simplified Early Action Protocol [\[DREF/EAP Summary\]](#). This report summarizes the annual readiness and prepositioning activities done in the reporting period.

The main challenge was the delay in the funds transfer to the NS further elaborated at the end of this report. The activities were thus carried out with delays, however during the reporting period, the NS received support from the IFRC through the AA (Anticipatory Action) project. Indeed, the BRC has also continued to implement the anticipatory action project. It was done with the technical support of the IFRC through funding from the Italian government via the Italian Red Cross.

In this sense, the BRC has continued to organize meetings of the National Platform for Risk Prevention and Disaster Management (PNPRGC) at headquarters. There has been the popularization of the anticipatory action approach among the organizations of the United Nations system and the government. Under the direction of this platform with the support of the climate center and then the IGEBU (Geographical Institute of Burundi), there was the definition of the triggers for the rise in the waters of Lake Tanganyika. There was also government ownership of this initiative.

In addition, it should be noted that the government supports the anticipatory actions planned by the Red Cross and the commitment of partners (OCHA, WFP, FAO, IOM, CONCERN, etc.) in the AA approach. These structures also develop EAPs focused on other disasters, including drought and the cholera epidemic.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL PROGRESS BY PLANNED OPERATION

| | CHF preposition budget: | CHF preposition actual: |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|  | n/a | n/a |
| Multi-purpose Cash | CHF readiness budget: | CHF readiness actual: |
| | n/a | n/a |

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

Cash related activities are planned for as early action. No readiness activities or stock is planned under this sector.

The triggers were based on the forecasts from IGEBU. However, the one made for the period September, October, November, and December predicted heavy rainfall, and flooding was expected in October and November, but this did not happen. Consequently, the money to assist people exposed to flooding was not distributed.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| CHF preposition budget: | CHF preposition actual: |
| 21,944 | 0 |
| CHF readiness budget: | CHF readiness actual: |
| 5,672 | 0 |

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

Planned Readiness activities:

- Training of 30 volunteers in the PHAST (Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation) awareness-raising technique.
- Raising household sanitation awareness.
- Development of IEC materials for hygiene promotion.

Planned prepositioning activities:

- Purchase and pre-positioning of chlorine for water treatment and disinfection for 1500HH (Aquatabs+Chlore).
- Purchase and pre-positioning of soaps and water storage materials for 750 households.

Achievements to date:

- No WASH activities were carried out during the reporting period,



Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and Recovery

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| CHF preposition budget: | CHF preposition actual: |
| 2,026 | 0 |
| CHF readiness budget: | CHF readiness actual: |
| 18,906 | 0 |

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

Planned Readiness activities:

- Workshop with other stakeholders to design early warning messages, including translation into the local language.
- Two early action simulation exercises with the community
- Training of 60 volunteers in techniques for raising awareness in at-risk communities about how to behave before, during and after a disaster.
- Raise awareness among communities at risk about mitigation measures and how to behave before, during and after a disaster.
- Production and printing of early warning dissemination materials

Planned prepositioning activities:

- No prepositioning activities were conducted.

Achievements to date:

- Member of the national platform for disaster risk prevention and leader of pillar 4 of the sEAP aware that Burundi is exposed to the risk of flooding following recent events, the SN quickly put in place preparedness actions within the framework of the following DRM and AA.



Visit by partners (United Nations system and PNG platform) to an area exposed to flooding (Bujumbura/Kibenga)



Community Engagement and Accountability

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| CHF preposition budget: | CHF preposition actual: |
| 675 | 0 |
| CHF readiness budget: | CHF readiness actual: |
| 2,937 | 0 |

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

Planned readiness activities:

- Annual training for volunteers on CEA in emergency situations.
- Briefing of hotline staff (hotline :109) on early warning and early action
- Support for maintaining the Burundi Red Cross green line.

Planned prepositioning activities:

Providing CEA committees with tools for collecting and managing complaints (suggestion boxes, complaint collection forms, etc.)

Achievements to date:

Burundi Red Cross has an effective tool for alerts, which is the hotline. A phone line open 24 hours a day and made available to the public free of charge, with permanent staff. The hotline staff have been trained on the AA approach, its components, and PAP activities in order to establish a clear communication and feedback mechanism. It is within this framework that the following activities have been carried out:

1. Briefing of hotline staff (hotline: 109) on early warning and early actions.
2. Support for maintaining the Burundi hotline.

Enabling approaches



National Society Strengthening

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| CHF preposition budget: | CHF preposition actual: |
| 8,778 | 0 |
| CHF readiness budget: | CHF readiness actual: |
| 34,027 | 0 |

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

Planned readiness activities:

- Mobilization of a Burundi Red Cross staff member to monitor activities for 24 months.
- Organize meetings with all stakeholders to monitor progress

Planned prepositioning activities:

- Purchase of visibility material for volunteers

Achievements to date:

- At this level, support is planned for the acquisition of visibility equipment for volunteers and also insurance for volunteers in operation.
- However, as part of the Unified plan, the SN began the process of developing a results-based action plan (Preparation for Effective Intervention (PIE)) in May 2025. The teams (IFRC and BRC) have already been set up and self-assessment sessions have been carried out.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, PROPOSED AJUSTMENTS

- Among stakeholders (staff, volunteers, actors in the AA), there is still a challenge in understanding the concepts of early action, readiness, triggers, and forecasting. A general awareness campaign is underway on the distinction between preparation and anticipation, and on the difference between forecasting and

triggers.

- The simplified early action protocol (sEAP) was approved in July 2024 and aimed to cover readiness actions, pre-positioning, and early actions in the event of flooding. Due to delays in the transfer of funds from the IFRC to the NS, activities were not carried out as planned within the deadline. An acceleration plan is being put in place to complete all scheduled activities by June 2026.
- In Burundi, funds were transferred several times by the IFRC to other projects during the same period at the start of this operation, but they were returned to the IFRC's accounts. The problem appeared to concern the intermediary banks, which are not authorized to carry out such transactions. The solutions explored were to make a cash payment to the Burundi Red Cross and to pre-finance the initial activities. A sustainable solution was discussed with the NS. This involved opening a new account for the Burundi Red Cross with a bank that is a direct partner of the IFRC to facilitate transactions. This solution had already been implemented by the Congolese Red Cross and appears to be working well. It will therefore also be applied to Burundi RC.
- Other challenges delaying fund transfer are also attributed around the movement of personnel, the familiarity with the IFRC systems, and delayed PFA amendments. This **SEAP** was assigned and transitioned through a number of Project Managers which contributed to communication gaps. There were also challenges in the familiarity during the transition into the IFRC ERP system. Furthermore, the **SEAP** was not appearing in the list of cluster projects and hence Project managers instead focused on other projects, including projects around Anticipatory Action which added to the confusion. However, eventually, clarification was provided through collaboration between all relevant parties.
- Pre-financing of initial activities by the Burundi Red Cross is necessary in light of confirmed delays in the transfer of funds. In addition, an extension of the operation at no additional cost is necessary to ensure that objectives are achieved in the event of significant delays in implementation. Facilitating the transfer of funds to the BRC via a bank already in partnership with the IFRC was an effective option.

FINANCIAL REPORT

There were no expenditure during the reporting period. This is due to the delay in transferring funds which took place in September 2025 (CHF 85,112 to National Society). There is a remainder CHF 4,057 that will be transferred on the next round of transfer to National Society. No financial report could be produced at this stage.

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Reference



Click here for:

- [Simplified EAP](#)