

# EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL SUMMARY

Niger | Drought

09/05/2024

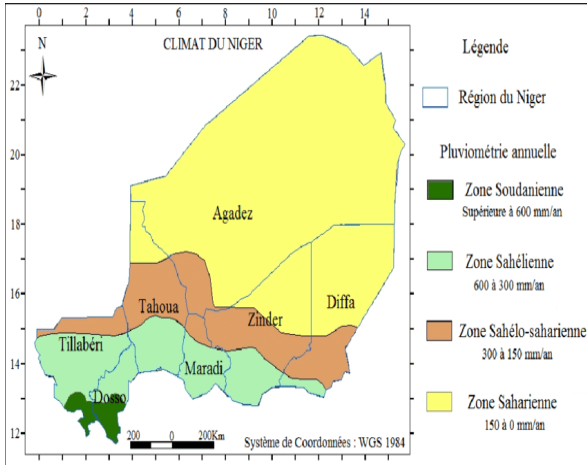


Sensitization mission on Forecast Based Financing in the village of Agouma © Croix Rouge Nigérienne

EAP No: <b>EAP2024NE04</b>	Early action lead time: <i>02 months before the start of the rainy season and 4 months before the start of the lean season</i>	Operation No: <b>MDRNEXX</b>
EAP approved:	EAP timeframe: <b>05 years</b>	Operational timeframe: <b>03 months</b>

**Budget: CHF 874,573**  
**To assist: 10,000 people**

# SUMMARY OF THE EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL



The IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) has approved a total of **CHF 874,573** for the implementation of the Niger Red Cross Drought EAP. The approved amount consists of an allocation of **CHF 227,503** for readiness, **CHF 39,671** for two rounds of stock prepositioning and **CHF 607,309** allocated to implement two rounds of early actions once the defined triggers are met.

Allocations are made from the Anticipatory Pillar of the DREF, under the DREF appeal code **MDR00001**. Unearmarked contributions to the DREF are encouraged

to guarantee enough funding is available for the Early Action Protocols being developed.

## Summary

Niger is among the most vulnerable countries to climate-related hazards, particularly drought and food insecurity, due to its Sahelian geography, climate variability, and socioeconomic fragility. Over 80% of the population depends on rain-fed agriculture and livestock, making communities highly sensitive to rainfall deficits. Recurrent droughts, land degradation, and poor access to basic services further aggravate vulnerabilities, especially in rural areas.

The Early Action Protocol (EAP) was developed through a participatory process involving the Niger Red Cross (CRN), national authorities (including the Directorate for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, and the Early Warning System), local and international NGOs, UN agencies (such as WFP and FAO), and at-risk communities. It is grounded in historical impact data, scientific climate forecasts, and thresholds validated with key stakeholders. The protocol is part of the Forecast-based Financing (FbF) mechanism to anticipate crises and mitigate impacts before they escalate.

The EAP aims to protect food security and livelihoods in the most drought-affected zones by assisting approximately 4,500 households (around 31,500 people). The intervention targets communities experiencing recurrent rainfall deficits and at risk of food insecurity, prioritizing vulnerable groups such as women-headed households and smallholder farmers.

Key impacts the EAP seeks to reduce include:

- Food insecurity
- Decline in agricultural production and shortage of cereals
- Decline in forage production and loss of livestock

The NS has established 3 triggers linked to specific early actions that will allow addressing these impacts:

### 1st trigger:

1. Awareness Messages (Radio, Megaphone)
2. Vaccination coupled with vitamins, minerals, and deworming.
3. Distribution of drought-adapted seeds (millet: farmers' seeds) and improved short-cycle seeds (cowpeas: seeds from agronomic research)
4. Post-Distribution Evaluation

### 2nd trigger:

1. Awareness Messages (Radio, Megaphone)
2. Cash transfer (conditional cash) allowing the most vulnerable households owners of livestock to access cereals and livestock feed.
3. Vaccination/ Deworming

### 3rd trigger:

1. Awareness Messages (Radio, Megaphone)
2. Conditional cash transfer (Conditional Cash) allowing the poorest households to access cereals free of charge.

# OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

## 1. Who will implement the EAP - The National Society

**The Niger Red Cross (CRN) will lead the implementation of the Early Action Protocol (EAP) for drought, building on its significant experience in disaster preparedness, community resilience, and food security interventions.**

The CRN will collaborate closely with national and local authorities, technical services, and humanitarian partners to ensure effective coordination and implementation. Key actors include the National Directorate of Meteorology (DMN) for seasonal forecasts, the Food Crisis Unit (CCA) for response coordination, and the Ministry of Agriculture for vulnerability analysis. IFRC will provide technical and financial support through the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF). Local community structures will be involved in early warning dissemination and targeting of the most at-risk households, while international partners such as OCHA, FAO, WFP, and UNICEF will complement early actions with support in logistics, nutrition, and agricultural inputs. Through this collaborative approach, CRN will reduce the humanitarian impacts of drought by preserving livelihoods and strengthening community resilience.

## 2. How the EAP will be activated – The Trigger

### Trigger 1:

The CRN will launch a first phase of early action in April/May based on a forecast of 40% or more below-normal rainfall provided by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF). When the ECMWF forecasts indicate, in April, a probability of 40% or more of having below-normal rainfall totals over the period July to September in a region or department, we will coordinate with the national meteorological service to carry out a downscaling. This will make it possible to identify the communes and villages likely to be affected, which will then become the intervention areas for trigger 1.

### Trigger 2:

When the results of the Ministry of Livestock's forage biomass assessment, carried out in November, indicate a fodder deficit of up to 40% or more in a locality (commune or village), the NS will activate the second trigger and intervene in these localities with the specific early actions.

### Trigger 3:

Finally, if the November Cadre Harmonisé results indicate that a region will be in IPC Phase 3 or higher due to drought, the NS will anticipate a difficult lean season. To do this, NRCS will use the data from the evaluation of the agricultural season of the Ministry of

Agriculture to determine the communes and villages in deficit in the concerned region. These localities will then constitute the intervention areas for the third trigger early actions.

A deactivation mechanism will apply if updated forecasts or satellite monitoring show a significant improvement in rainfall or vegetation cover before the window for early action closes, ensuring resources are allocated efficiently. The early warning system is built upon a combination of seasonal and short-term forecasts, Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) anomalies, and key food security indicators such as the Cadre Harmonisé analysis. Historical data from past droughts (e.g. 2011 and 2017) confirm the recurring nature of the hazard and the necessity for anticipatory measures to prevent a deterioration of food and nutrition conditions among vulnerable populations.

### **How the EAP will reduce the impact on the population – The Early Actions**

The EAP targets vulnerable rural communities heavily reliant on rainfed agriculture and pastoralism, where recurrent rainfall deficits lead to reduced food production, declining livestock conditions, and acute malnutrition. Early actions will include sensitization campaigns on water conservation and climate-smart agriculture, provision of livestock feed, distribution of cash or vouchers for food, and community-based surveillance of food insecurity indicators. These measures aim to protect livelihoods, stabilize food access, and prevent negative coping strategies.

## PLANNED OPERATIONS



**Livelihoods**  
**Target persons: 1,000 households**

**CHF 288,934**  
 AP Code: 007

### Indicator:

Priority actions	Year				
	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Preparedness activities</b>					
1. Market and feasibility study	X		X		
2. Support for the preparation of the forage balance		X	X	X	X
3. Support for the collection of biomass data at the ground observation sites in the pastoral areas of Tillabéri and Zinder		X			X
4. Training/refresher on Targeting and distribution (20 volunteers* 1 day) -trigger 1	X		X		X
5. Framework agreement with approved suppliers of seeds and vaccines					
6. Framework agreement for truck rental	X		X		
	Year				
<b>Pre-positioning activities</b>	1				
1. Small biomass data collection equipment for the elaboration of the fodder balance at the end of the pastoral season	<b>X</b>				

Priority early actions	Month									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. Activation and movement in the affected region	X									
2. Mission to identify and confirm pastoral risk areas (areas of very low biomass production)	X									
3. Identification and contracting with seed and vaccine producers										
4. Acquisition of Vaccines/Vitamins and Minerals for Livestock Triggers 1 and 2	X	X								
5. Purchase of short-cycle seeds / Agricultural inputs (10 kg of millet and 10 kg of cowpeas) x10000 household) for trigger 1	X	X								
6. Briefing of volunteers and targeting of beneficiaries (20 volunteers* 1 day + Travel) Distribution of trigger seed 1 or trigger mineral salts 2	X	X								
7. Sensitization of beneficiaries on seed distribution (20 people*1 day) for trigger 1		X								
8. Awareness raising of beneficiaries on vaccination (20 people*3 days) for trigger 2		X								
9. Improved seed distribution (Millet and cowpea) 1*1000 households Triggers 1	X	X								
10. Post-distribution evaluation trigger 1,2 or 3			X	X						
11. Vaccination and distribution of mineral salts and vitamins for the benefit of livestock farmers		X	X							
12. Distribution of pagivolt to the volunteer for awareness-raising during protection in the intervention areas										



**Multi-purpose cash transfers**  
Target persons: 1,000 households

**CHF 301,978**

AP Code: 081

**Indicator: Number of people reached by multi-use cash**

Priority actions	Year									
	1	2	3	4	5					
<b>Preparedness activities</b>										
1. Pre-Targeting of beneficiaries	X	X	X	X	X					
11. Production of coupons	X		X							
12. Framework agreements with money transfer providers	X	X	X	X	X					
5. Volunteer training on cash transfer	X		X		X					
	Year									
<b>Pre-positioning activities</b>	1									
	Duration (days, weeks or months)									
<b>Priority early actions</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. Awareness-raising mission for beneficiaries on cash transfers										
2. Briefing of volunteers and validation of the list of beneficiaries										
2. 3. Cash Transfer for human food (40000f*2month* 500 households) for trigger 3	X	X								
4. Cash Transfer for livestock feed (40000f*3months* 500 households) for trigger 2	X	x								



**Community Engagement and Accountability**  
 Who is targeted: Number of people affected by the CEA

**CHF 32,987**  
 AP Code: 102

Indicator:										
Priority actions	Year									
<b>Preparedness activities</b>	1	2	3	4	5					
1. Community capacity building on climate risks, community engagement and accountability in implementation		X								
2. Training of community leaders on A.A. and the role of the Red Cross Movement			X							
3. Retraining Community Leaders on A.A. and the Role of the Red Cross Movement					X					
	Year									
<b>Pre-positioning activities</b>	1									
	month									
<b>Priority early actions</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. Briefing of volunteers on the consideration of the feedback mechanism during early actions	X	X	X							
	X									





**Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation and Recovery**  
 People targeted: 10,000


**CHF 84,500**  
 AP: 105

**Indicators: Number of people reached by seed distributions**  
**Number of herds vaccinated/Mineral salt intake**


Priority actions	Year									
	1	2	3	4	5					
<b>Preparedness activities</b>										
1. Agreement and support to the National Meteorological Directorate	X									
2. Support for the organization of the national AA platform		X								
3. Mission, monitoring of activities/supervision	X	X	X	X	X					
4. Training of volunteers on pastoral FBF		X								
5. Organize a national workshop to launch the Drought PAP	X									
6. Participation in Food Security Cluster meetings	X	X	X	X	X					
7. Participation in workshops with themes on Disaster Risk Management (DRR)	X	X								
8. Elaboration/update of contracts with radio stations for awareness	X		X							
	Year									
<b>Pre-positioning activities</b>	1									
1.										
	Duration months)									
<b>Priority early actions</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>1. Activation of the PAP and mobilization of volunteers</b>	X									

1. Preparation meetings for the intervention with the technical services and the regional committees	X									
13. Joint mission of regional committees and technical services for the validation of the area of intervention and the identification of beneficiaries	X									
14. Sensitization of beneficiaries (via community radio and volunteers) on the risk of drought and the use of seeds to improve and or collect fodder for the benefit of 10,000 people	X	X								
15. Lessons Learned Workshops				X						

## ENABLING APPROACHES

						
<b>National Society Development</b>			<b>CHF 102,841</b> AP Code: 124, 125, 126			
<b>Indicator: Number of regional committees strengthened on drought management</b>						
<b>Priority actions</b>	<b>Year</b>					
<b>Preparedness activities</b>	1	2	3	4	5	
Support for regional preparedness action plans (training/equipping of volunteers in pastoral areas)	X	X	X	X	X	
Volunteer insurance	X	X	X	X	X	
Participation in Harmonized Framework meetings		X				
DM Assistant Salary (Salary(Total Cost)*12 months) for trigger		X	X			
Communication (telephone, internet)		X				
Making communication supports (t-shirts, kakemonos)	X		X			

	Year									
	10									
Purchase equipment for volunteers	X									
	Month									
<b>Priority early actions</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. Documentary film production				X						
2. Mobilization of volunteers	X									

 <b>Secretariat services</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>CHF 49,351</b> AP Code: 122</span>										
<b>Indicator:</b>										
<b>Priority actions</b>	Year									
<b>Preparedness activities</b>	1	2	3	4	5					
IFRC mission (monitoring and evaluation Finance, Logistics, PMER and DCPRR)	X	X	X	X	X					
IFRC staff cost		X	X							
IFRC visibility production	X									
	Year									
<b>Pre-positioning activities</b>	1									

	<b>Month</b>									
<b>Priority early actions</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>1.</b> Support EAP activation and early implementation	X	X	X							
<b>2.</b> Transfer of funds to NS	X									

## Budget



## Early Action Protocol Summary

Code - Niger Red Cross  
Drought  
Standard EAP - EAP2024NE04

### Operating Budget

	Readiness	Pre-Pos Stock	Early Action	TOTAL
<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>103,364</b>	<b>23,803</b>	<b>595,354</b>	<b>722,521</b>
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0	0	0	0
Livelihoods	23,961	7,934	257,038	288,934
Multi-purpose Cash	8,728	9,521	283,729	301,978
Health	0	0	0	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0	0	0	0
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	6,823	0	7,300	14,123
Education	0	0	0	0
Migration	0	0	0	0
Risk Red., Climate Adapt. and Recovery	43,242	6,347	34,911	84,500
Community Engagement and Accountability	20,610	0	12,377	32,987
Environmental Sustainability	0	0	0	0
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>124,139</b>	<b>15,869</b>	<b>12,044</b>	<b>152,051</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	0	0	0	0
Secretariat Services	43,876	0	5,475	49,351
National Society Strengthening	80,262	15,869	6,570	102,700
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>227,503</b>	<b>39,671</b>	<b>607,399</b>	<b>874,573</b>

*all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)*

## Contact information

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

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