

EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL OPERATIONS UPDATE

Albania | Heatwave

05.06.2026



The Albanian Red Cross conducting an Advance First Aid Team Simulation in Tirana. Photo credit: Albanian Red Cross

EAP MDRAL009	No:	Early action lead time: 5 days	EAP 20/06/2025	approved:
Trigger N/A	date:	Timeframe covered by this update:	20/06/2025 – 05/06/2026	

Budget: CHF199,965.00
To assist direct: 17 000 people

EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL

Summary of revisions to the operation

In the Simplified Early Action Protocol for Heatwave, the Albanian Red Cross (ARC) planned the following key interventions:

- Multi-purpose cash assistance for 300 vulnerable households (approx. 825 people) to cover increased costs related to extreme heat (cooling, water, electricity, medicines).
- Health and care support through the Green Line, remote monitoring calls, and mobile team visits targeting 1,500 vulnerable individuals, including older persons and people with chronic conditions.
- Community heat preparedness interventions (cooling points, water distribution, awareness) reaching up to 15,000 people across Tirana, Berat, and Elbasan.
- School-based awareness and education activities targeting 300 students, with indirect outreach to families.

Implementation Progress (June–December 2025)

- During the reporting period, implementation remained in the initial readiness and coordination phase, with focus on technical preparation rather than operational rollout:
- A kick-off and technical workshop (October 2025) brought together ARC, IFRC, Austrian Red Cross, IGEO, ministries, and branch teams. This clarified: roles and responsibilities, trigger mechanism for heatwave activation and coordination and communication procedures.
- Branch-level preparedness planning was initiated to ensure response capacity within the 5-day lead time prior to a heatwave.
- A Memorandum of Understanding with IGEO / Tirana University was finalized to: develop forecasting products and operationalize trigger monitoring systems

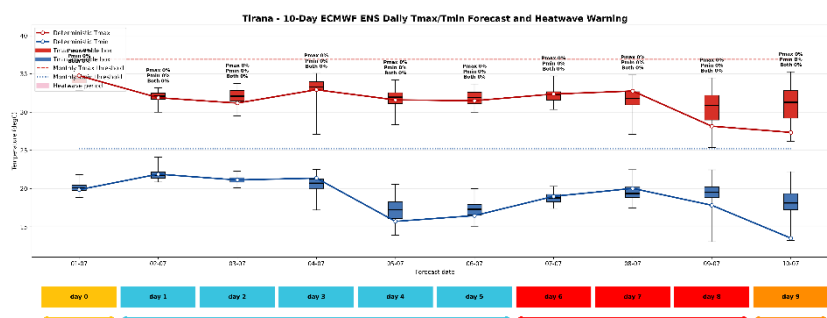
Financially, expenditures remained low (approx. CHF 2,183), covering mainly:

- coordination
- travel
- technical meetings
- initial support costs
- This reflects the early preparatory stage of the sEAP implementation.

Implementation Progress (January-June 2026)

Most operational and procurement activities were conducted in 2026, including:

- The heatwave monitoring product was finalized by IGEO mid May and tested to be ready on 1 June – see figure)
- volunteer training on CVA, KoBo, PGI and CEA basics (2 days in May)
- beneficiary registration verification for cash support took place in all branches in late May 2026 with a KoBo questionnaire enabling the ranking of the registered HHs by vulnerability
- cash preparedness systems: cheques have been procured and delivered by Raiffeisen Bank on 15 May to AlbRC and put into the finance department safe box.
- procurement of cooling infrastructure and equipment for community heat preparedness points completed at the end of May; Discussions with municipalities Elbasan and Berat where to build up the community heat preparedness points to reach most vulnerable have been finalized in April – in Tirana discussions have been finalized in June 2026.
- awareness campaigns and Green Telephone Line scale-up started and prepared; Greenline FAQs have been prepared and reviewed in May 2026. The first of 2 videos for social media campaigns have been finalized end May (video no 1 will be published via social media as soon as the sEAP is being activated; video no 2 will be published on all AlbRC social media channels 1 day before the heatwave strikes. Video no 2 is still in production and will be delivered until 10 July.
- Kick-off meeting with principals of schools are organised and then education sessions were also held in schools promoting awareness among children/students and their families on safety from heat waves until mid-June.



Proposed revisions to the operation

Following detailed planning, market assessments, and operational requirements, several important adjustments were made to the Albania Heatwave sEAP while keeping the overall budget unchanged at approximately CHF 199,967. The most significant change relates to pre-positioning arrangements, where standard tents were replaced with inflatable tents to comply with municipal regulations for use in urban public spaces. This resulted in a notable increase in costs for this item, from roughly CHF 6,000 to around CHF 32,000, reflecting both technical requirements and urban operational constraints.

1. At the same time, several efficiencies were achieved across the budget through updated market assessments and optimized procurement planning. Costs were reduced for key pre-positioned items such as water and isotonic drinks, refrigerators, bicycles, and transport. Additional savings were realized by utilizing existing stocks, particularly for volunteer visibility items, which significantly lowered expenses in these categories to approximately CHF 2,000. These adjustments helped offset the increase in tent procurement while maintaining overall budget balance.

2. Further refinements were made in relation to training and operational planning. Training activities were streamlined by shortening their duration and integrating multiple components into combined sessions, particularly bringing together Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), and Psychological First Aid (PFA). This approach improved efficiency while preserving the quality and scope of capacity-building efforts.
3. In addition, staffing allocations were revised to better reflect the operational reality of the intervention. The budget was adjusted to ensure coverage across all three targeted branches—Tirana, Berat, and Elbasan—rather than focusing on a single location. Corresponding updates were made to staff roles, including those linked to cash assistance (CVA), psychosocial support (PSS), communications, and branch-level coordination, ensuring adequate technical support for implementation.

Overall, the financial structure remains stable and well aligned with operational needs. The total budget stands at approximately CHF 199,967, with around CHF 68,529 allocated to readiness, CHF 57,714 to pre-positioning, and CHF 73,725 to early action. These figures confirm that despite internal reallocations and cost adjustments, the operation maintains a balanced and realistic financial framework capable of supporting timely and effective early action

As a result of these changes, the overall budget remains at CHF 199,967.

The adjustments include:

- Readiness costs: increased from **CHF 66,079** to **CHF 68,529**.
- Pre-positioned stocks: increased from **CHF 56,221** to **CHF 57,714**.
- Early action activities: increased from **CHF 77,665** to **CHF 73,725**.

Financial report

MDRAL009 - Albania - Heatwave sEAP

Operating Timeframe: 20 Jun 2025 to 30 Jun 2027

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	199,966
DREF Anticipatory Pillar	199,966
Expenditure	-94,438
Closing Balance	105,529

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
Planned Operations Total	49,298	48,042	1,256
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
Enabling Approaches Total	43,566	46,395	-2,829
Grand Total	92,864	94,438	-1,573

Contact information

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

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Reference



Click here for:

- [EAP summary and budget](#)
- [Early Action Notification](#)