

EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL OPERATIONS UPDATE

El Salvador | Drought

31 August 2026



Field visit to a person reached through the Cash Transfer Programme (CTP), La Estancia Canton, Cacaopera District, Morazán, 20 August 2026. Source: Vivian Pavón/German Red Cross.

EAP №: EAP2024SV01	Operation №: MDRSV017	EAP approved: 13/11/2024
Trigger date: 18/05/2026	Early action timeframe: 3 Months	Timeframe covered by this update: 18/05/2026 – 22/08/2026

Budget: 237,560 CHF
To assist: 10,000 people

Summary of revisions to the operation

Pending activities to be completed

1. Delivery of Cash Transfer Programme (CTP) to families: To date, during the activation period, communities have been selected in coordination with and with the support of the General Directorate of Civil Protection. A feasibility study was conducted, and the data collection process was initiated through focus group discussions and a community-level census. Based on this information, people meeting the established selection criteria were prioritised.

To date, cash assistance has been delivered to 529 families, who also received awareness-raising messages on the appropriate use of the cash assistance. As of 14 August, cash assistance remains pending for 671 families, equivalent to 56 per cent of the 1,200 planned families. It should be noted that distributions are still ongoing.



Awareness-raising session on the appropriate use of cash assistance for families reached through the Cash Transfer Programme (CTP).

2. Implementation of Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM): This activity will assess how the families reached used the cash assistance and determine its relevance and use. Once the distribution has been completed, a Post-Distribution Monitoring survey will be conducted 15 days after the transfers.
3. Lessons Learned Workshop for the activation: This exercise will seek to identify opportunities for improvement and recommendations to support the appropriate implementation of early actions. It will also provide a basis for improvements and adjustments in preparation for a possible second activation of the Drought EAP.

Justification for the requested extension

The anticipatory action window for this EAP covers three months and is scheduled to end on 31 August 2026. However, the operation is currently in the phase of delivering cash transfers to the selected families. Once these transfers have been completed, additional time will be required to carry out the post-assistance activities, particularly Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) and the Lessons Learned Workshop, as part of the monitoring and closure process of the activation.

The PDM will make it possible to collect information directly from beneficiary families regarding receipt of the assistance, access to and use of the resources, the adequacy of the transfer amount, any barriers encountered during the delivery process, family satisfaction and the initial results of the intervention. This information will be essential to assess the relevance, timeliness and effectiveness of the assistance provided and to generate evidence to inform decision-making.

Likewise, the Lessons Learned Workshop will provide an opportunity to analyse, in a participatory manner, the technical, operational and coordination aspects of the activation, identifying good practices, challenges, gaps and opportunities for improvement. The results will be used to inform any adjustments that may be required in preparation for a possible second activation of the EAP, thereby strengthening the anticipatory action approach and institutional capacity to respond in a timely manner to future drought scenarios.

In addition, the current conditions observed in the eastern part of the country indicate that the window of relevance for certain early actions related to the protection of livelihoods remains open. It has been identified that most smallholder farmers have not yet started the Postrera planting season, which generally begins in September, with harvesting usually taking place in November or December. To date, no significant impacts on crops associated with the drought scenario have been observed.

In this context, some early actions aimed at protecting livelihoods remain relevant, as the significant impacts that these actions are intended to anticipate have not yet materialised. The requested extension would therefore allow the activation monitoring activities to be properly completed and, where applicable, allow the completion of early actions that continue to retain their anticipatory nature and relevance in light of the evolving drought scenario.

Reasons why the activities could not be completed within the current timeframe

During the data collection phase, several operational constraints affected the planned pace of implementation. The selected communities are located in remote areas with rough and difficult access routes, and travel times between some communities exceed two hours. Difficulties were also encountered in organising community gatherings due to the limited availability of communication mechanisms within the prioritised communities.

In addition, it was necessary to strengthen coordination with local actors, particularly municipalities and Civil Protection, to support the prioritisation and validation of potentially affected areas, as detailed information on the communities that would ultimately be selected for the intervention was not initially available.

Another factor affecting the implementation schedule was the time required to complete the contracting process and activate the agreement with the financial service provider through an exception modality. Once transfers began, the operational capacity of the financial service provider also affected the pace of distributions. As the selected branch is small and serves the entire department, it can accommodate a maximum of 90 people per distribution day.

Similarly, the PDM cannot be properly conducted before families have received the assistance and the planned 15-day period following the distribution has elapsed. Completion of the transfers is therefore a prerequisite for initiating this activity under conditions that allow relevant information to be collected regarding the families' experience and the initial results of the assistance.

Likewise, the Lessons Learned Workshop depends on the completion of the main activation activities and on the availability of information from the PDM and the teams involved in implementation. Conducting the workshop before these elements are available would limit the quality of the analysis and reduce its usefulness for identifying adjustments and recommendations in preparation for a second activation of the EAP.

For these reasons, the requested extension responds to the need to properly complete the outstanding activities of the activation cycle and to ensure that actions that remain within the anticipatory window continue to be relevant, timely and effective.

Proposed new end date

It is requested that the activation timeframe of the Drought EAP be extended until 31 October 2026. The proposed date has been discussed with the IFRC Central America Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) team and is considered appropriate to complete the outstanding activities resulting from the delays experienced during the activation.

This additional period will allow the outstanding cash transfers to be completed by reinforcing the field team supporting the most difficult-to-access communities and rescheduling distribution days with the financial service provider, prioritising those communities where access conditions have delayed the validation and updating of information on selected families.

This phase will be coordinated between the National Society's Disaster Risk Management and Anticipatory Action team and the IFRC Delegation, with the objective of completing the transfers to the prioritised families and subsequently allowing sufficient time to conduct the PDM.

For the implementation of the Post-Distribution Monitoring, support will be provided by the National Society's Planning and Institutional Development Unit, which will provide technical assistance during the collection, processing and analysis of the information obtained through the PDM.

Likewise, the Lessons Learned Workshop will be conducted with the support of the National Society's Planning and Institutional Development Unit, applying the methodology established for EAP Lessons Learned Workshops and in coordination with the IFRC Delegation.

The requested extension does not require additional funding beyond the budget approved for the activation. The outstanding activities will be implemented using the financial, logistical and operational resources already included in the current EAP budget.

Early Action Overview

PLANNED OPERATIONS

 Livelihoods	Female:	1,400	112,354 CHF
	Male:	1,600	AP Code: 007
Indicator:	3,000 people reached with livelihood interventions in advance of a hazard		
Priority Early Actions:	1. Awareness workshop on adaptive practices for households with agricultural livelihoods. Trigger 2. 2. Dissemination of drought alerts to the at-risk population in high-risk municipalities. Trigger 1 (does not require funding). 3. Unconditional cash transfers linked to a training session on adaptive practices for subsistence farming households. Trigger 2. 4. Unrestricted cash transfers conditional on a training session on adaptation practices for households with subsistence livestock livelihoods. Trigger 2.		

 Multi-purpose cash	Female:	1,000	126,836 CHF
	Male:	2,000	AP Code: 081
Indicator:	3,000 people reached with multi-purpose cash in advance of a hazard.		
Priority Early Actions:	1. Awareness workshops on the use of cash transfers (activation). Trigger 2. 2. Distribution of 600 unconditional cash transfers for basic needs (food, fuel and vehicle rental). Trigger 2. 3. Simulation or drill exercise.		

 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	Female:	4,000	5,371 CHF
	Male:	6,000	AP Code: 110,111
Indicator:	10,000 people reached with water, sanitation and hygiene interventions in advance of a hazard		

Priority Early Actions:	1. Assessment, treatment and distribution of safe drinking water to 600 families (3,000 people), providing 15 litres per person for 25 days through the deployment of personnel, water purification plants and/or water trucks within the communities (including travel, fuel and other costs). 2. Workshop on the appropriate use of water and hygiene, including prevention of gastrointestinal diseases - Trigger 2. 3. Hygiene promotion campaign with key messages on dehydration treatment and heatstroke prevention, using social media and distributing educational materials to 2,000 families (10,000 people) - Trigger 1. 4. Installation of five community tanks in schools and health centres - Trigger 2. 5. Distribution of 600 family water purification and hygiene kits - Trigger 2.
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Enabling approaches

 Secretariat Services			3,069 CHF
			AP Code: 122
Objective:			
Priority Early Actions:	1. Translation of documents. 2. Mobilization for coordination visit.		

 National Society Strengthening			2,877 CHF
			AP Code: 124,125,126
Objective:			
Priority Early Actions:	1. Monitoring and evaluation of lessons learned. Trigger 2.		

Budget

There are no changes to the budget.

Contact information

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

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Reference



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- [EAP Summary and budget](#)
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