



EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL ANNUAL REPORT

Eswatini | Drought

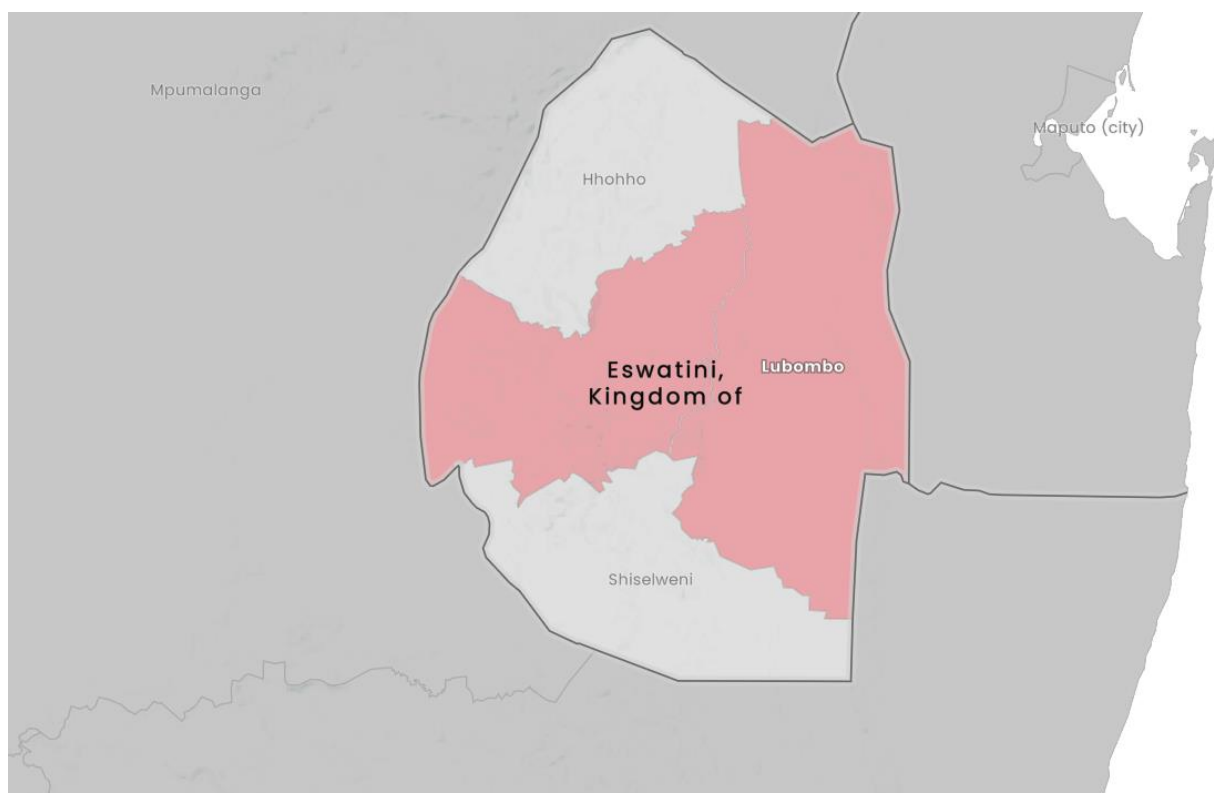
December 2024

EAP №: EAP2025CO00	Operation №: MDRSZ005	Period covered by this annual report: 15/03/2024 to 31/12/2024
EAP approved: 13/11/2023	EAP timeframe: 5 Years	

Annual Budget: 19,840.25 CHF

EAP Budget: 546,684.56 CHF

SUMMARY OF THE EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL



The IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) has approved a total of CHF 539,143 for the implementation of the Baphalali eSwatini Red Cross (BERCS) Drought EAP. The approved amount consists of an allocation of CHF 103,232 for readiness and prepositioning and CHF 435,910 allocated to implement early actions once the defined triggers are met. The IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) has allocated CHF 422 666.88 for the implementation anticipatory actions to reduce and mitigate the impact of drought in Eswatini. This Early Action Protocol includes an allocation of CHF 90 625.00 to preposition stock and undertake annual readiness activities to implement early actions, 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

[FbF Drought Early Action Protocol \(EAP\) Presentation \(Summary\).pptx](#)

This report summarizes challenges of implementation, lessons learnt and a way forward of the annual readiness and prepositioning activities planned in the agreed reporting period and plan.

The National Society was not able to implement the readiness activities for year 1 under the Eswatini Drought EAP Project. Challenges that hindered implementation are listed below, with lessons and current activities already started by the NS going forward.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, PROPOSED AJUSTMENTS

Challenges

Implementation of Similar Activities Under a Different Project: There was an overlap in objectives as the activities planned for this project were already being carried out under another project (Drought DREF and Gov of Japan Food Distribution) with similar goals. This overlap led to the prioritization of the existing projects to avoid redundancy and ensure efficient use of resources.

Resource Allocation: Resources, including time and budget, were directed towards the ongoing project, which was already in progress and showing promising results. This decision was made to maximize impact and avoid spreading efforts too thin.

Limited Staff: Despite budgeting for staff salaries in the project design, there was a shortage of available personnel, mainly due to staff turnover.

Prioritization of Tasks: The limited staff available were assigned to higher-priority tasks and projects that required immediate attention, leaving insufficient manpower to initiate the EAP readiness activities. These factors combined led to the postponement of the project implementation.

Lessons Learned

Avoiding Overlap: Clearly defining the scope and objectives of each project can prevent overlap and ensure that resources are allocated efficiently.

Regular Reviews: Conducting regular reviews of ongoing projects by NS and IFRC can help identify potential overlaps early and allow for timely adjustments. It is important to do site monitoring visits to ensure implementation is taking place

Staff Allocation: Ensuring that staffing needs are met and that personnel are allocated appropriately can prevent burnout or under prioritization of other projects

Budget Utilization: Monitoring budget utilization closely to ensure that funds allocated for specific purposes, such as staff salaries, are used effectively.

Stakeholder Engagement: Maintaining open and transparent communication with stakeholders about their availability and the impact on project timelines. Ensuring that key stakeholders are available can facilitate smoother decision-making and coordination.

Adapting to Changes: Being prepared to adapt to changes, such as shifting priorities or unexpected challenges, can help keep projects on track. This can be done by developing contingency plans for potential issues and updating our risk registers.

Contingency Plans: Developing contingency plans for potential issues, such as staff shortages or stakeholder unavailability, can mitigate delays.

Low profile EAP Launch: The EAP was not properly launched in the country, resulting in a lack of local support and assistance. This has hindered our ability to mobilize resources and engage with local stakeholders effectively. The Drought EAP project was not launched and disseminated to all relevant staff for support, it was a lesson for the NS to involve everyone (including support staff) and disseminate the Plan of Action (POA) so that BERCS personnel is aware of all ongoing projects, areas of support and timelines of implementing activities.

Way Forward

The national Society (BERCS) has already started implementing the readiness activities in the drought EAP POA. These activities include Conducting an assessment for water sources in the Lubombo region. After the assessment is completed, the procurement for water tanks and water treatment packs will follow. BERCS has also scheduled meetings with stakeholders and rented a motor vehicle to be used to render the drought EAP activities. All activities in the plan will be conducted in the 2nd phase.

FINANCIAL REPORT

See financial report below.

Contact information

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

In the Eswatini National Society

- **Acting Secretary General** (Dr Elliot Jele, jele@redcross.org.sz, +268 7608 8546)
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In the IFRC

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IFRC Geneva DREF Team:

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Reference



Click here for:

- [FbF Drought Early Action Protocol \(EAP\) Presentation \(Summary\).pptx](#)
- [EAP budget template 202301_05.12.2023 \(004\).xlsm](#)

FBAF Early Actions

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	*	Operation	PSZ028
Budget Timeframe	2024-2025	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 18/Mar/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRSZ005 - Eswatini - Drought EAP / *

Early Actions Timeframe: 15 Mar 2024 to 31 Mar 2029

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	546,685
DREF Anticipatory Pillar	546,685
Expenditure	-15,613
Closing Balance	531,072

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction		6	-6
AOF2 - Shelter			0
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	327,545		327,545
AOF4 - Health			0
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	30,052		30,052
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion			0
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	357,597	6	357,591
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	52,523		52,523
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management			0
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	2,653	12,923	-10,270
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	27,273	2,684	24,588
Strategy for implementation Total	82,449	15,607	66,842
Grand Total	440,045	15,613	424,432

FBAF Early Actions

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III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	329,323		329,323
Seeds & Plants	16,969		16,969
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	27,498		27,498
Cash Disbursement	284,856		284,856
Land, vehicles & equipment		143	-143
Computers & Telecom		143	-143
Logistics, Transport & Storage	10,889		10,889
Distribution & Monitoring	720		720
Transport & Vehicles Costs	10,169		10,169
Personnel	43,521		43,521
National Staff	23,400		23,400
National Society Staff	17,464		17,464
Volunteers	2,657		2,657
Consultants & Professional Fees	14,400		14,400
Consultants	14,400		14,400
Workshops & Training	5,827	12,345	-6,518
Workshops & Training	5,827	12,345	-6,518
General Expenditure	9,228	2,172	7,056
Travel	3,468	523	2,945
Information & Public Relations	960		960
Office Costs	4,800		4,800
Communications		241	-241
Financial Charges		942	-942
Shared Office and Services Costs		466	-466
Indirect Costs	26,857	953	25,904
Programme & Services Support Recover	26,857	953	25,904
Grand Total	440,045	15,613	424,432