

EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL OPERATIONS UPDATE

Somalia | Drought

Date 12 May 2025



SRCS staff and volunteers engage with local communities disseminating early warning information messages and projected drought information to enhance preparedness and resilience against climate-related shocks.

EAP №: 2024SO01	Operation №: MDRSO019	EAP approved: 15/08/2024
Trigger date: 31/01/2025	Early action timeframe: 3 Months	Timeframe covered by this update: 22/08/2024 – 30/04/2025

Budget: 327,319.92 CHF
To assist: 34,194 people

EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL

SUMMARY OF REVISION TO THE OPERATION



On August 16, 2024, the IFRC's Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated CHF 530,533 to the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) to implement early actions aimed at reducing and mitigating the impact of drought in Somalia. The Early Action Protocol (EAP) pre-activation trigger was launched on January 31, 2024, with early actions scheduled for completion by April 30, 2025. However, due to the unavailability of spare parts, the rehabilitation of the borehole could not be carried out. As a result, key activities such as Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) and the Lessons Learned workshop could not be implemented. To complete the remaining activities, SRCS is requesting a two-month no-cost extension. This update provides a summary of the progress made to date and the expenditures incurred.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL PROGRESS BY PLANNED OPERATION

The Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS), with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), implemented its first Early Action Protocol (EAP) for drought. The EAP consisted of a set of predefined, agreed-upon actions triggered by specific forecasts or early warning indicators signaling the imminent onset of a disaster. Its purpose was to enable rapid and effective anticipatory action to mitigate the potential impacts of drought before it fully materialized.

By having a proactive response framework in place, humanitarian actors were able to reduce the impact of the disaster and better protect vulnerable communities. This anticipatory approach contributed to broader efforts aimed at strengthening disaster risk reduction and building resilience in high-risk regions. The alignment of the EAP with SRCS's Disaster Management (DM) contingency plan further enhanced the reach and effectiveness of its preparedness and response efforts.

In this Operation Update, SRCS reported on the implementation of preparedness and early action activities in areas classified as highly or moderately drought-prone. These interventions were designed to strengthen both community and institutional capacities to anticipate and respond efficiently to drought-related risks.

The early action activities focused on:

- Providing early warning communication and advisory services to help communities reduce drought-related risks.
- Rehabilitating water points to improve water access and storage capacity in drought-affected areas.
- Delivering multi-purpose cash transfers to stabilize the purchasing power of vulnerable households and support their immediate needs.

OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

The primary goal of the Early Action Protocol (EAP) was to proactively address drought by anticipating its occurrence, mitigating its impacts where possible, and minimizing human suffering and losses. Within this context framework, the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) identified three key priorities for early intervention. First, enhancing access to early warning messages was crucial for empowering communities with timely information, enabling them to make informed decisions and take prompt action. Second, rehabilitating existing water points aimed to enhance water capture and storage capacity, thereby addressing water scarcity. Third, providing unconditional cash transfers (UCTs) to vulnerable households was crucial in helping them meet their basic food needs during drought periods.

To ensure preparedness, SRCS conducted comprehensive training sessions for volunteers, community members, and local authorities. Early warning messages were disseminated through public gatherings, radio, television, social media, and bulk SMS. As part of the early action phase, SRCS also identified and rehabilitated strategic water facilities based on community assessments to meet long-term water needs in a sustainable manner.

SUMMARY OF EAP IMPLEMENTATION

Activation Overview

Following the below-normal rainfall forecast for the March–April–May (MAM) 2025 season issued by ICPAC/IGAD, the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) activated its Early Action Protocol (EAP) for drought. Early actions included disseminating early warning messages through multiple platforms, distributing multi-purpose cash transfers, and rehabilitating critical water infrastructure. These interventions aimed to mitigate the anticipated impacts of food insecurity, water scarcity, malnutrition, and displacement, which were expected to worsen from May onward due to the projected poor rainfall.

To inform its response, SRCS applied its drought EAP trigger model, which incorporates the Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) and FEWS NET projections. The analysis confirmed the need for early action, with SPI-7 values approaching critical thresholds. Upon approval from the IFRC on 29 January 2025, early actions were implemented across five drought-prone regions and continued through April. Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) was conducted in May.

The Lessons Learned workshop and final reporting are planned for June, along with a revision of the EAP, which will be resubmitted to the DREF team for review.

Early action targeting

To ensure alignment with government strategies and community priorities, the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) convened a series of high-level coordination meetings across Puntland and Somaliland.

In Puntland, SRCS engaged with the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MoHDMA) and relevant local authorities to ensure project activities were aligned with regional priorities. In Somaliland, key consultations were held with the National Disaster Preparedness and Food Reserve Authority (NADFOR) and the Ministry of Agriculture to support integration with national plans.

These initial engagements were followed by consultations at the provincial and district levels, involving multiple tiers of government in the implementation of the EAP. These collaborative efforts strengthened institutional ownership, improved coordination, and ensured that early actions were responsive to both national frameworks and the priorities of local communities.



Figure 1 - SRCS meeting with government authorities at different levels discussing EAP for drought activities and harmonizing into the existing ones

Early Action Overview

Early warning information dissemination

Somaliland

The Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS), through its Drought Early Action Protocol (EAP), aimed to reduce the impact of forecasted drought by delivering timely early warning information to vulnerable communities, particularly those in drought-prone areas. The primary objective was to prevent or minimize the effects of drought, reduce human suffering, and avert losses.

At the core of the EAP was the strengthening of early warning systems, ensuring that communities received accurate, timely, and actionable information. By improving access to such information, SRCS empowered individuals and communities to make informed decisions and take early action to mitigate the effects of the impending drought.

As part of the early action phase, SRCS immediately began disseminating early warning messages. Branches in Burao, Erigabo, and Lasanod successfully reached 21,450 people (12,870 men and 8,580 women) with critical drought-related information. To maximize outreach, SRCS employed a variety of methods, including amplified loudspeakers mounted on vehicles, community meetings, and public gatherings, ensuring messages reached even the most remote and hard-to-access areas.



Figures 2- SRCS volunteers disseminated early warning information to communities in the Sanaag and Sool regions using amplifier microphones

Puntland

The Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) trained 45 volunteers to support the dissemination of early warning messages in drought-prone communities across Puntland.

In Bosaso, the branch focused on high-risk areas in Qardho district, where 15 trained volunteers (7 men and 8 women) reached 2,730 people across five villages with vital drought preparedness information.

In Galkacyo, the branch adopted a media-based approach to extend its outreach. A live radio talk show on *Codka Nabadda Radio* engaged 390 listeners in interactive discussions on drought preparedness. Volunteers also distributed 20 banners and 50 laminated guides, using visual materials to effectively reach non-literate audiences. Combined with community mobilization efforts, the branch reached a total of 2,250 people.

In Garowe, SRCS prioritized vulnerable groups, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), the elderly, people with disabilities, and children. Volunteers conducted targeted awareness campaigns to ensure early warning messages were inclusive and accessible, reaching 7,764 people across the region.

In total, SRCS reached 12,744 people across Puntland with early warning messages:

- 7,764 in Garowe (Nugal)
- 2,250 in Galkacyo (Mudug)
- 2,730 in Bosaso (Bari)

These efforts reflect a coordinated, community-centered approach to drought preparedness, ensuring that critical information reached those most at risk.



Figure 3- Volunteers disseminating key early warning messages in Mudug province

Multi-Purpose Cash grant distribution

As part of the early actions under the Early Action Protocol (EAP), the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) launched a timely cash voucher assistance initiative to support the most vulnerable communities affected by drought.

The process began with inclusive community mobilisation sessions, where elders, women, youth, and marginalised groups were invited to public meetings. During these sessions, the program's objectives and beneficiary selection criteria were clearly explained in the local language. The criteria prioritised households experiencing extreme hardship, such as internally displaced persons (IDPs), female- or child-headed families, households with irregular income or high dependency ratios, and individuals with disabilities or chronic illnesses. Beneficiary identification followed a participatory and transparent approach. Community members were invited to nominate households they believed met the criteria. A selection committee—comprising respected elders, women, and youth leaders—then reviewed the nominations. A preliminary beneficiary list was shared during a public verification meeting, giving the wider community an opportunity to confirm or challenge the selections. This process ensured fairness, minimized bias, and built community trust. Once verified, the final list of beneficiaries was jointly approved by the community committee, SRCS, and local government representatives. To further strengthen accountability and transparency, a hotline and feedback mechanism were established, enabling beneficiaries to raise concerns or seek clarification at any stage of the process.

Somaliland

As part of the response, the SRCS successfully distributed one-off cash grants to 4,380 (730 HHs). vulnerable households through mobile Zaad transfer, ensuring timely, safe, and dignified access to assistance.

Table 1: List of the targeted villages for CVA

No	Region	Village Name	No HHs	Male	Female
1	Sool	Xabaale-Camare	88	41	47
2		Kulaal	77	22	55
3		Bilcil	65	29	36
4	Togdheer	Caynaba	120	64	56
5		Kiriir	110	45	65
6	Sanaag	Ceelamaan	70	23	47
6		DurDur	100	12	88
8		Kureebaan	100	31	69
Total			730	267	463



Figures 4 - Above shows beneficiary mobilization and Verification of the CVA

Puntland

As part of the anticipatory actions SRCS provided multipurpose cash grants to 600 of the most vulnerable households across Adizone Village in Qardho district, Bursalax district, and Badey perish in Eyl district. Of these, 151 were male-headed and 449 female-headed households. The assistance aimed to offer immediate financial relief to those severely affected by drought, particularly households with malnourished children, elderly heads with no income, people with disabilities, pregnant or lactating women, and other marginalized groups. This intervention helped ease the burden on these communities and supported their ability to cope with the worsening drought conditions. Let me know if you'd like this version formatted for a report or translated into Somali.

Table 2: List of the targeted villages for CVA

No	Region	Branches	No People	Male	Female
1	Nugaal	Garowe	200	131	69
2	Mudug	Galkacyo	200	170	30
3	Bari	Bosaso	200	148	52
Total			600	449	151

Impact of the Cash Assistance

- Enabled households to purchase food, water, and other essential items to sustain their families during the early stages of the drought.
- Supported livelihoods and reduced economic stress on affected pastoralists and farmers.
- Strengthened community resilience by providing flexible financial support, allowing families to make their own decisions on priority expenses.
- Reduced the need for emergency interventions by acting early and preventing further deterioration. hardship

Rehabilitation of Waterpoints

An assessment was carried out in both Somaliland and Puntland I to evaluate the condition of critical community water facilities. The findings revealed that a total of 7 berkeds and 2 boreholes required urgent rehabilitation.

This initiative aims to improve access to clean and reliable water sources for communities, livestock, and strengthen resilience against water scarcity.

Somaliland

Totally 7 berkedes were successfully rehabilitated across the Togdheer, Sool, and Sanaag regions of Somaliland. These rehabilitations aimed to restore essential water storage infrastructure, ensuring improved access to safe and reliable water for drought-affected communities. The details of the completed rehabilitations are outlined below.

Table 3: List of target villages for rehabilitation of water points (Berkeds)

No	Village	Region	No HHs Benefiting	Status
1	Sarmaayo	Sool	125	Completed
2	Xargaga		130	Completed
3	Xabaalo-Camaare		120	Completed
4	Habariso	Sanaag	145	Completed
5	Balihiile	Togdheer	124	Completed
6	Cadaw-Yuurura		137	Completed
Total			781	

So far some of these rehabilitated Berkeds have been utilized as storage facilities for water trucking, ensuring timely access to water in the most drought-at-risk areas. In regions that have recently received rainfall, the Berkeds have successfully captured and stored rainwater, which is now being used by both people and livestock. This intervention has significantly improved access to safe water, reduced water-related health risks, and strengthened community resilience to current and future droughts.



Figure 5 - Pictures showing the rehabilitation of waterpoints Berkeds and community fetching water from the water points

Puntland

In Puntland, two boreholes were targeted for rehabilitation to improve access to safe and reliable water in drought-at-risk areas. Of these, the rehabilitation of the Jehdin borehole was successfully completed and marked a significant achievement. The outdated infrastructure was replaced with a modern Grundfos pump system and wider riser pipes, effectively doubling the water output. Additional improvements included the construction of a caretaker room and the refurbishment of two water kiosks, which helped reduce waiting times and improved access for approximately 1,400 households—benefiting around 8,400 people. Community members, like Aisha, a mother of five, expressed the positive impact: “Before, we waited hours for water. Now, my children have time to attend school.” In contrast, the rehabilitation of the Gerihel borehole in Gerihel village, Qardho district (Bari region), is still in progress. The delay is due to the unavailability of a critical component, the submersible pump. However, the contractor has already placed the order, and the remaining work will be completed promptly once the part arrives. These efforts reflect SRCS's commitment to restoring essential water infrastructure and enhancing community resilience in Puntland.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

 Multi-purpose Cash	Female:	5,472	179,683 CHF
	Male:	2,508	AP Code: 081
Indicator:	Number of people reached with multi-purpose cash in advance of a hazard		
Priority Early Actions:	Readiness Activities: - Refresher training for volunteer on multi-purpose cash transfers Preposition Stock - Establishment of Hotline feedback Mechanism - Procurement of FbF visibility and IEC materials. Priority Early Actions: - Community mobilization on the intended use of cash & beneficiary selection criteria. - Verification of beneficiaries. - Cash transfers. - Post Distribution Monitoring - Lessons learnt workshop Narrative description of achievement of outstanding activities As part of the readiness activities, the SRCS organized refresher training sessions to strengthen the capacity of its staff and volunteers in delivering effective cash-based interventions. The training focused on Cash Voucher Assistance, aiming to ensure that SRCS teams are equipped to provide timely and efficient support to vulnerable communities ahead of worsening drought conditions.		

	A total of 150 volunteers participated in the training, which covered key areas such as CVA implementation, Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), and the fundamental principles of the Red Cross Movement. Participants also gained practical skills in identifying, selecting, and registering beneficiaries critical steps in ensuring that aid reaches those most in need. SRCS renewed its agreement with financial service provider Telesom for two years, with the option to extend it to another two. This ensures a reliable mechanism for future cash transfers. SRCS has a plan to carry out PDM to collect recipient feedback to evaluate the effectiveness, accountability, and impact of cash assistance, ensuring needs are met and informing future program improvements. Finally, SRCS will also conduct a comprehensive lesson learned workshop to systematically review and document insights from these activities. This workshop will help identify the best practices, challenges, and key takeaways, which will be used to refine and strengthen future anticipatory action planning and implementation.
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Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	Female:	4,535	102,409 CHF
	Male:	4,646	AP Code: 110, 111
Indicator:		Number of people reached with WASH interventions in advance of a hazard	
Priority Early Actions:		Priority Early Actions: - Assessment of the rehabilitated water points - Repair and rehabilitation of water facilities Narrative description of achievement of outstanding activities As part of the early action, the SRCS conducted a WASH assessment of the triggered location of the projected drought in Somaliland and Puntland to identify communities with critical water needs. The assessment identified several villages where existing water points, including both Berkeds (traditional underground reservoirs) and boreholes—were in poor condition and in urgent need of rehabilitation. As part of the early actions, SRCS prioritized the rehabilitation of critical water sources in the most at-risk areas. Accordingly, a total of seven berkeds were successfully rehabilitated across Somaliland which has significantly improving water availability for local communities. Following these efforts, SRCS teams conducted follow-up visits to the communities and observed that the rehabilitated berkeds were filled—thanks to a combination of government-supported water trucking and recent rainfall in some areas. This has enabled households to meet their daily water needs, including drinking, cooking, hygiene, and livestock care. In addition, in Puntland, one borehole rehabilitation has been fully completed, while work on a second borehole is currently in	

	progress. These interventions have not only improved access to safe water but also reduced the time and physical burden of water collection, particularly for women and children. Moreover, they have contributed to lowering the risk of waterborne diseases, enhancing overall community health and resilience.
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 Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and recovery	Female:	15,206	16,963 CHF
	Male:	18,988	AP Code: 101, 103, 105,106
Indicator:	Number of people reached with risk reduction and/or climate adaptation interventions in advance of a hazard		
Priority Early Actions:	Readiness Activities: - Refresher training for volunteers on DRR and dissemination of EW messages - Meeting to sign and review EWM MoU with the relevant ministries or government departments on dissemination of EWM. Preposition Stock - IEC Materials Priority Early Actions: - Dissemination of EWM and advisory services through volunteers, Radios, TV, social media platforms, bulk messaging. Narrative description of achievement of outstanding activities To enhance disaster preparedness in drought-prone districts, the SRCS conducted specialized training sessions on early warning message dissemination for staff, volunteers, and Village Disaster Response Teams (VDRTs). Totally 35 staff and volunteers, along with 50 VDRT members, participated in the training. The sessions focused on building practical skills in interpreting weather forecasts, understanding drought patterns, and effectively communicating early warning information to local communities. Key topics included last-mile communication, identifying weather anomalies, and the use of early warning systems to support timely and informed community action. These efforts were aimed at ensuring that all participants are well-equipped to respond proactively to climate-related risks.		

Community Engagement and Accountability	Female:	15,900	0 CHF
	Male:	14,100	AP Code: 129
Indicator:	Number of people reached with community engagement and accountability interventions in advance of a hazard		
Priority Early Actions:	SRCS also distributed its hotline and toll-free number to beneficiaries, ensuring access to real-time information, the ability		

to provide feedback, and improved accountability and responsiveness to community needs

Enabling approaches

 Coordination and Partnerships			
			AP Code: 118, 119, 127, 128
Objective:	Continued engagement with the Community of Practice and Technical Working Groups to monitor drought hazards in Somalia		
Priority Early Actions:	Engagement with external partners - Continued representation and coordination within the community of practice and technical working groups. Movement Cooperation - Continued engagement with Movement actors to guide and review the implementation of the EAP. Narrative description of achievements - The National Society has been actively participating in the National Anticipatory Action Technical Working Group, where stakeholders exchange ideas, share experiences, and collaborate on best practices. As part of its engagement, the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) has taken the lead in the sub-group focused on Anticipatory Action (AA) design and trigger development		
 Secretariat Services			21,488.92 CHF
			AP Code: 122
Objective:	Strengthen Secretariat Service to provide technical and operational EAP implementation support to the Somali Red Crescent Society		
Priority Early Actions:	- Bank charges - Monitoring visits The IFRC has been supporting the NS and the implementation of the EAP through provision of technical supporting during the preparation of technical document for the rehabilitation of Berkeds and Boreholes.		
			6,776 CHF



Objective:

Somali Red Crescent Society is able to maintain readiness to activate the early actions.

Priority Early Actions:

Readiness Activities:

- Forecast based Financing (FbF) Manager/EAP Manager salary (100%)
- Technical Data Officer salary (100%)

Prepositioning Activities:

- Purchase of Office Stationery materials

Priority Early Action

- Car Hire costs
- Fuel costs
- Communication costs

Narrative description of achievements

- The NS promptly filled the two positions and procured the necessary stationery to ensure smooth and efficient implementation of the operation. These timely actions have contributed to maintaining operational continuity and supporting effective program delivery.

Success Story

Success Story: Rehabilitated Water Point Transforms Life in Habariso Village, Somaliland

In Habariso village, located in the drought-prone Sanaag region of Somaliland, access to clean water was once a daily struggle. For many families, fetching water meant a six-hour round trip under the scorching sun—an exhausting and time-consuming task, especially for women and children. With support from the Somali Red Crescent Society under the Drought Early Action Protocol this reality has changed dramatically.

The rehabilitation of a key water point in the heart of the village has brought clean, safe water within reach for over 145 families. Before this intervention, residents relied on distant, unprotected sources, exposing them to waterborne diseases and limiting their time for school, work, and family care. Now, the community enjoys reliable access to water for drinking, cooking, hygiene, and livestock—greatly improving their quality of life.

Jawahir Dahir, a 42-year-old mother of six, shared how the project has impacted her family: “Before this water point was built, I used to walk two hours every morning just to collect water. Sometimes we didn’t have enough to drink or cook. Now, my children can drink clean water, and I have time to care for my home, tend to our livestock, and even take milk to the market. This water point has truly changed our lives.”

This success story from Habariso highlights the power of timely, community-driven interventions in building resilience and restoring dignity in the face of climate challenges.



Figure 5 - Pictures showing Jawaahir Dahir Fetching a water to new rehabilitated Berkeds in Habariso village Sanaag region

Challenges

The total available funds in CHF-equivalent have significantly declined due to the recent depreciation of the USD against the Swiss Franc. This unfavorable exchange rate fluctuation has directly impacted on the budget allocated for planned cash assistance and berked rehabilitation activities.

As a result, two key adjustments were necessary:

1. The number of households targeted for cash assistance had to be reduced from the original 1,500 to 1,330 households, in order to align with the new Cash values, set by MPC cluster technical working group per regions rate.
2. The updated transfer value recommended by the Somalia Cash Working Group, which reflects the rising cost of living, has further strained financial resources. While this adjustment ensures that each beneficiary receives adequate support, it also means that fewer households can be reached within the same funding envelope.

These changes highlight the challenges of operating in volatile financial environments and underscore the importance of flexible planning and adaptive budgeting in humanitarian interventions.

Budget

Due to pending financial returns not yet submitted to IFRC NBO CCD Office, it is currently challenging to produce comprehensive financial reports. However, based on the expenditure reports collected from the National Societies, the total project expenditure to date is approximately **327,319.92 CHF (61.7%)** of the total allocated budget.

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Reference



Click here for:

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