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| s EAP No. :<br><b>EAP2025PY01</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Operation number:<br><b>MDRPY024</b>  | Total Budget<br><b>CHF 219,867</b>           | Readiness: <b>CHF 75,261</b>      |                                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                       |                                              | Prepositioning: <b>CHF 42,877</b> |                                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                       |                                              | Action: <b>CHF 101,729</b>        |                                                       |
| Population to be assisted:<br><b>2,450 people</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | s EAP Approved :<br><b>13/08/2025</b> | EAP implementation period:<br><b>2 years</b> | EAP lead time:<br><b>3 months</b> | Operational Implementation Period:<br><b>3 months</b> |
| Priority geographical areas: 9 hydrographic units along the Main Basin of the Paraguay River ( Aquidabán , Caañabe , Jejui Guazú, Laguna Vera, Manduvirá , Piribebuy, Río Salado and Lago Ypacaraí, Tebicuary , Vertientes Río Paraguay and Ama), as well as communities of Asunción and the Departments of Concepción, San Pedro, Cordillera, Central, Paraguari, Caazapá, Misiones and Ñeembucú. |                                       |                                              |                                   |                                                       |

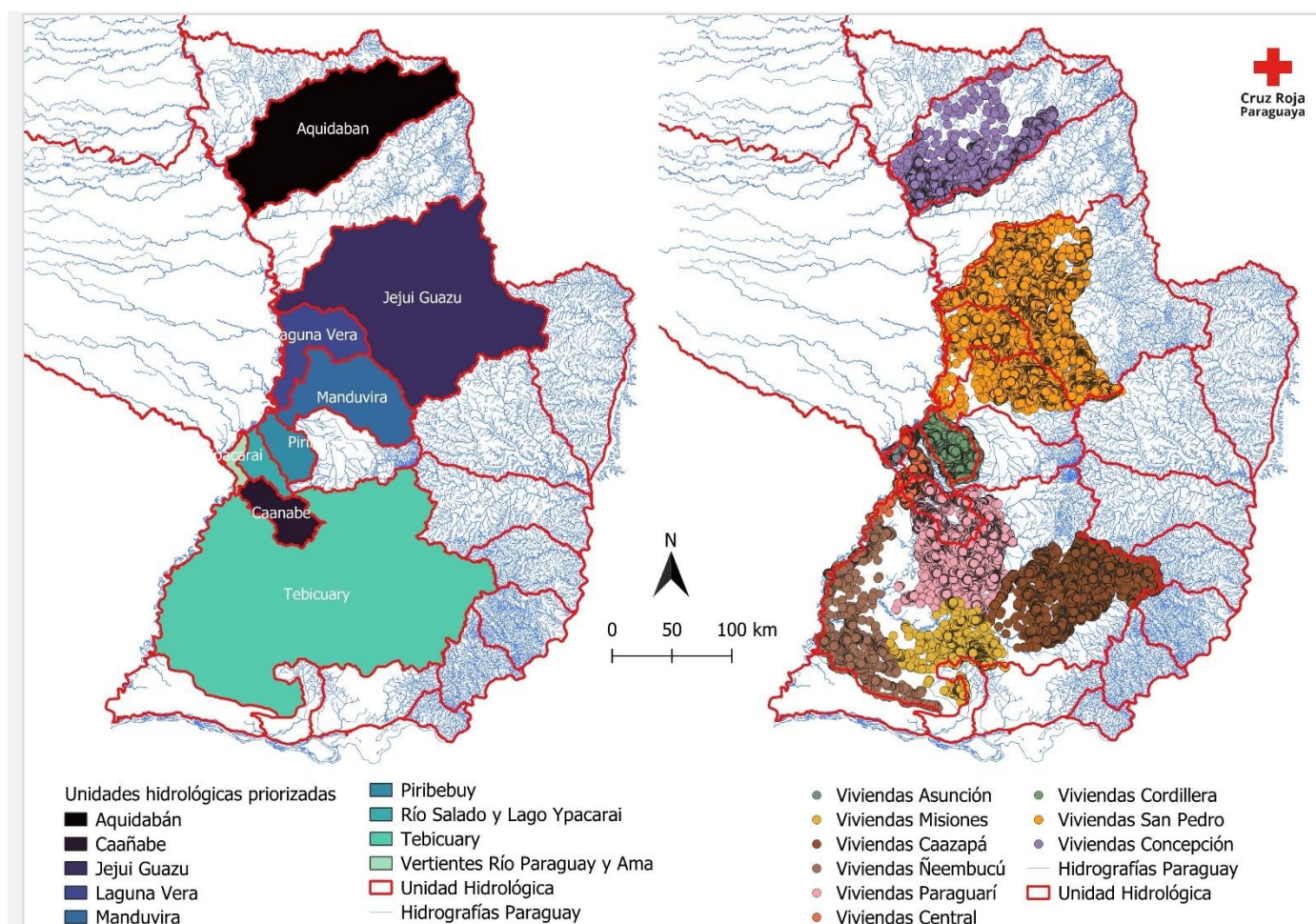


Figure 1. Hydrographic units<sup>1</sup> and communities selected for Paraguay's Early Action Protocol (EAP) in response to the threat of drought. Prepared by the Paraguayan Red Cross (2024), based on data from the Paraguayan Hydrographic Basin Atlas, 2022<sup>2</sup>.

## RISK ANALYSIS AND SELECTION OF EARLY MEASURES

### Priority threat and its historical impact.

In Paraguay, drought represents a significant and complex threat with profound impacts on various sectors, especially rural areas and communities dependent on agricultural activities. This phenomenon not only affects water availability but also food security, health, and the economy, amplifying the vulnerability of the population, particularly those living in small-scale family farming and riverside communities.

A meteorological drought refers to a prolonged rainfall deficit that remains below the historical average in a given region. In Paraguay, various climate indices such as the SPI (Standardized Precipitation Index) and the SPEI (Standardized Precipitation and Evapotranspiration Index) have shown the recurrence of drought events since the 1960s. Among the most severe episodes were those that occurred in the periods 2008-2009 and 2018-2019. However, the drought that lasted from 2019 to 2022 was the most intense since 1944, severely affecting the La Plata Basin region, according to reports from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Hydrological drought manifests itself through a significant reduction in river flow, a decline in groundwater levels, and a decrease in the volume of water in surface bodies. This condition is closely related to the lack of rainfall and the resulting lack of aquifer recharge. In Paraguay, the reduction in rainfall has had a visible impact on the levels of the Paraguay and Tebicuary Rivers, alarmingly reducing the water flows that support numerous communities, especially those located in riverine areas.

<sup>1</sup> Hydrographic unit: It is a unit established for the purposes of planning and administration, and is composed of a hydrographic basin, a portion of it or a group of these, based on similar or common physical, social, environmental and economic characteristics (Law 3239/07, Chapter V, paragraph e). [MADES \(2012\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [MADES \(2022\)](#)

The actions established in the EAP for Paraguay will be promoted in communities located mainly in the Eastern Region, in communities adjacent to the Paraguay River basin, in addition to the communities located in the area of influence of the Tebicuary hydrographic units , middle basin and upper basin (See Figure 1), considered the most vulnerable and exposed to the impacts of both meteorological and hydrological drought.

The communities selected for the Early Action Protocol (EAP) are located in vulnerable areas and depend heavily on the resources provided by the Paraguay and Tebicuary Rivers , key elements of their livelihoods. The Paraguay River is an essential source of drinking water for more than one million citizens <sup>3</sup>. In addition to being a source of drinking water, it is also vital for fishing activities, which constitute an important source of food and income for local families. Fishing, especially the commercialization of species such as surubí, dorado, pacú, and manguruyú, represents one of the main economic activities of these communities, directly linked to the river. Furthermore, the watersheds of these rivers are fundamental for agriculture and livestock, sectors that depend on the availability and quality of water for irrigation, livestock consumption, and the supply of agricultural products. The lands near these rivers allow for subsistence farming and are essential for the production of crops such as corn, soybeans, sugarcane, and fruits. Furthermore, the Paraguay River is a key transportation route, facilitating navigation and trade between regions, strengthening the local economy and connecting communities with other productive areas of the country. <sup>4</sup>

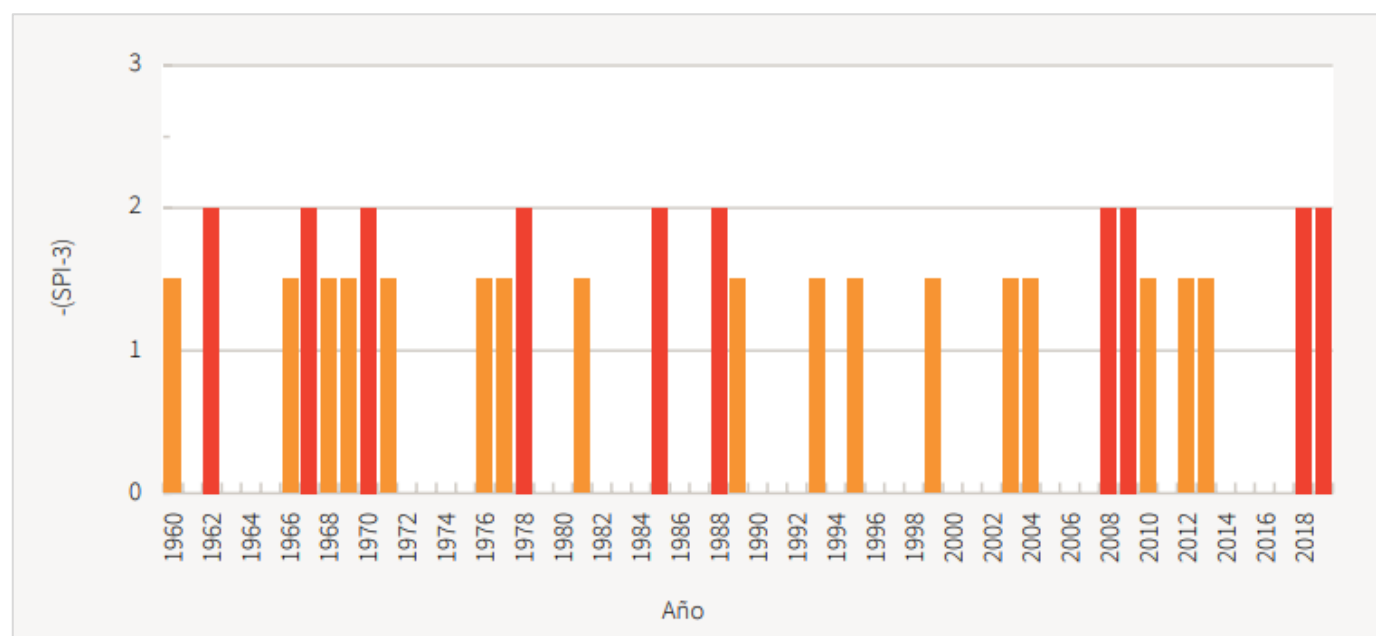
### Historical Impact of Drought in Paraguay

Drought in Paraguay is a constant threat to most people, especially small-scale family farmers, <sup>5</sup>as well as to communities living in coastal areas on which their livelihoods depend (fishermen, boatmen, among others).

<sup>6</sup>Drought, in general, represents the greatest threat to national and global food security. It is a devastating event depending on its duration and intensity, causing both social and economic damage <sup>7</sup>.

Limited access to safe water for the population and the increase in the incidence of gastrointestinal and vector-borne diseases are considered to be the main impacts of the drought <sup>8</sup>, primarily as a consequence of the consumption of unsafe water and inadequate sanitation conditions <sup>9</sup>.

### Impacts of meteorological drought:



<sup>3</sup> [JICA, DIGESA, SEAM \(2006\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> [FAO \(2015\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> [UH \(2024\)](#)

<sup>6</sup> [FAO \(2005\)](#)

<sup>7</sup> [FAO \(2020\)](#)

<sup>8</sup> [UNDP \(2022\)](#).

<sup>9</sup> [MSPyBS \(2019\)](#).

Recent studies on meteorological drought in Paraguay have analyzed its characterization using two different methods: the standardized precipitation index (SPI) and the standardized precipitation and evapotranspiration index (SPEI). These indices represent both meteorological droughts and wet periods. Of the two, the SPI is the most widely used, as it is based solely on precipitation data and utilizes statistical functions such as probability distribution and standard deviation. The results of these studies have identified moderate to severe meteorological droughts in the periods 1967–1969, 1971–1972, 1977–1979, 1981–1982, 1986–1989, 1993–1995, 2003–2004, 2008–2009, 2012–2013, and most recently, 2018–2019. This type of drought had a particularly severe impact on the agricultural and hydroelectric sectors, and its effects extended into early 2020. Furthermore, it is noted that, although large-scale droughts do not always affect the entire country, the meteorological drought of Figure 2. Extracted from the document *State of the Climate in Paraguay, 2019. Years with moderate droughts (ochre bar) and severe droughts (brown bar) in Paraguay during the period 1960–2019. Vertical scale only shows negative SPI-3 values. These cases consider droughts that have covered at least a large portion of the territory. Prepared by Benjamín Grassi, using data from Benítez, 2018.*

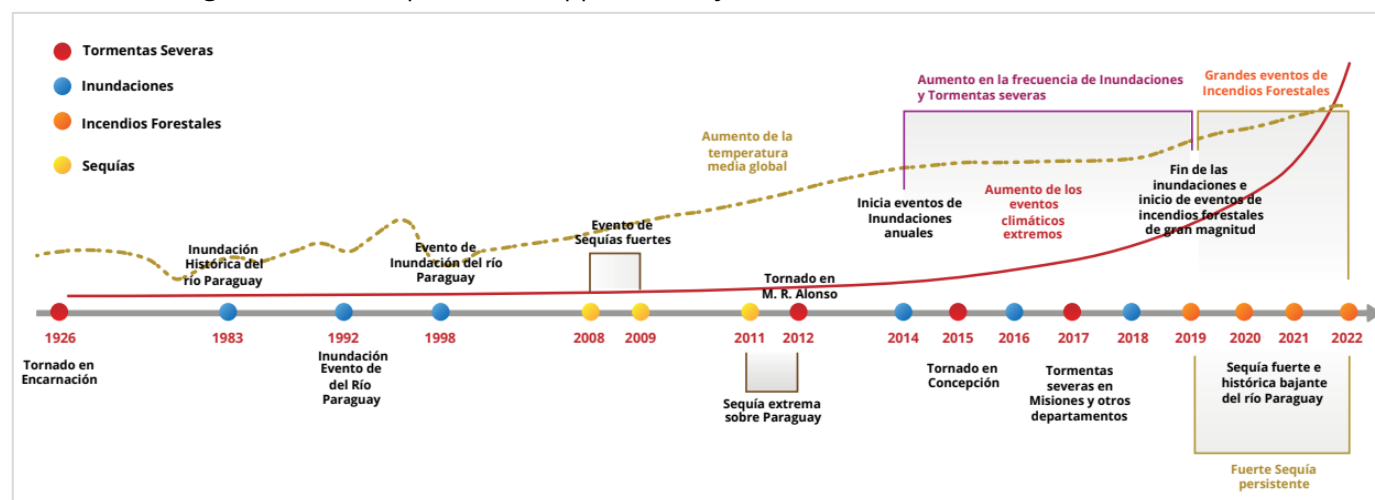
2008-2009 did have a national impact. In the first two decades of the 21st century, one severe drought has been recorded per decade, a frequency that appears to be like that observed during the 20th century, particularly in events such as those of 2008-2009 and 2018-2019.<sup>10</sup>

The meteorological drought has affected both technical and small-scale agriculture, reducing producers' income and affecting family consumption of goods and services. For family farmers, the situation has become even more precarious: although the early, less intense stages of the drought caused only minor damage to their crops, this led them to replant crops without success. However, the summer drought was more intense and decisive, generating an even greater economic impact on these vulnerable groups.<sup>11</sup>

Regarding hydrological drought, in its latest report, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) noted that the drought in the Plata basin, which began in 2019, was the most severe since 1944. This drought caused a notable decrease in the flow of the Paraguay and Paraná rivers due to a significant reduction in rainfall that lasted three years, increasing the risk of forest fires.<sup>12</sup>

The main effects of hydrological drought in recent years have been a decline in economic activity, higher unemployment levels, inflationary pressures on food, a reduction in exports of the country's main crop (soybeans) and, consequently, lower foreign exchange earnings.

The recent study, Paraguay: National Climate Risk Assessment (CRP et al., 2024),<sup>13</sup> highlights that drought is one of the most frequent extreme weather events in the country (Figure 3). Its negative effects include drinking water shortages, food insecurity, and a decline in population well-being. In July 2021, the Paraguayan government declared a state of emergency for navigation on the Paraná, Paraguay, and Apa rivers, resulting in economic losses exceeding US\$3 billion, equivalent to approximately 8% of GDP in 2022 (Ferreira, 2022, cited in La Nación).



<sup>10</sup> Grassi, B. (2020)

<sup>11</sup> UNDP (2022)

<sup>12</sup> SISSA (2022)

<sup>13</sup> Not published, the source of the information is in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Extracted from the document *Paraguay: National Climate Risk Assessment, 2024*. Series of extreme events that occurred in Paraguay. Source: MADES, 2023.

Priority risks that have been selected for this protocol and why.

### Risk of shortage of drinking and sanitary water

The decline in the availability of drinking water is an immediate risk during both meteorological and hydrological droughts, especially in rural areas and communities with limited infrastructure for water access, storage, and distribution. The lack of running water worsens sanitary conditions, increasing the population's vulnerability to disease and affecting their quality of life.

Reason for Selection: This risk was included due to its direct relationship with public health. Communities in Paraguay, especially in the Eastern Region and areas surrounding the Paraguay and Tebicuary River basins, face difficulties accessing safe water, which is essential for preventing disease.

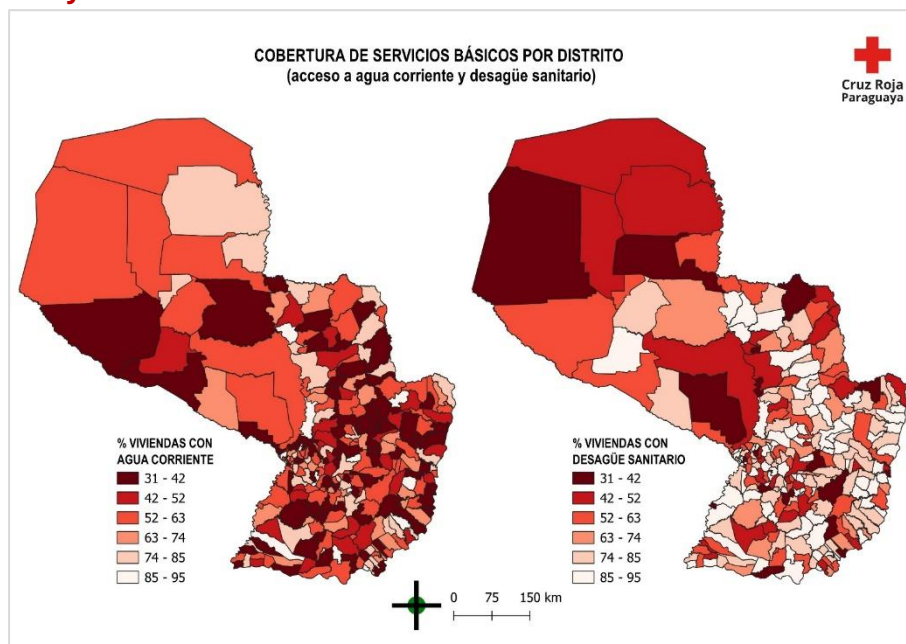


Figure 4. Coverage of basic services in relation to access to running water and sanitary sewage at the district level. Prepared by the Paraguayan Red Cross based on the final results of the 2022 National Population and Housing Census (INE 2022).

### Risk of increased incidence of waterborne and vector-borne diseases

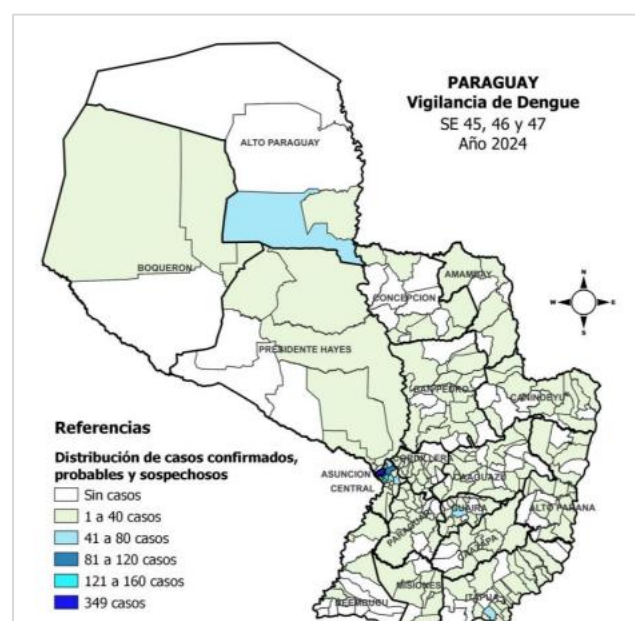


Figure 5. Distribution of confirmed, probable, and suspected dengue cases nationwide. Source: MSPyBS, 2024.

Hydrological drought contributes to the spread of gastrointestinal illnesses due to the consumption of water from unsafe sources and favors the emergence of vectors

that transmit diseases (such as dengue, Zika, and chikungunya), <sup>14</sup>which often thrive in makeshift or poorly managed water reservoirs.

Reason for Selection: This risk was prioritized due to its cumulative impact on the population's health. Poor sanitation conditions and a lack of safe water amplify the risk of these diseases, especially in communities with poor health infrastructure.

**Risk of food insecurity**

The meteorological drought has serious effects on agricultural and livestock production, especially on small-scale family farming. The selected communities have a high percentage of family farmers working for consumption and income. <sup>15</sup>Crop losses reduce producers' income and affect food supply, raising prices and generating food insecurity.

Reason for Selection: Food security is fundamental to the well-being of the population. This risk was included due to its direct impact on rural communities, where agriculture is the primary source of income and food. Furthermore, family farming supplies the market in much of the country, so the shortage of fruits and vegetables directly impacts the economy of families in urban areas. Economic and food losses are critical in a country where a large portion of the population depends on agriculture and livestock.<sup>16</sup>

Table 1. Prevalence of household food insecurity by representative department (%). Year 2021

| Representative department | Prevalence of food insecurity |             |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
|                           | Mod-grave                     | Serious     |
| Asunción                  | 13.25 (±7.3)                  | 2.67 (±2.9) |
| San Pedro                 | 26.88 (±9.8)                  | 5.13 (±4.2) |
| Caaguazú                  | 25.79 (±10.8)                 | 4.61 (±4.7) |
| Caazapá                   | 37.55 (±11.2)                 | 7.95 (±5.8) |
| Itapúa                    | 33.63 (±8.5)                  | 6.55 (±4.4) |
| Alto Paraná               | 23.93 (±6.6)                  | 7.85 (±3.9) |
| Central                   | 23.06 (±6.1)                  | 4.51 (±2.6) |
| Rest                      | 24.78 (±4.2)                  | 5.20 (±2.0) |

Source: INE, Permanent Household Survey, Third Quarter 2021.

Note: Does not include Boquerón and Alto Paraguay

EARLY ACTION INTERVENTION

|                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| General objective of the intervention                                    | Reduce the anticipated impact of drought on 700 families (2450 people, 3.5 people per dwelling <sup>17</sup> ) in the prioritized hydrographic units, through the implementation of readiness, prepositioning, and early interventions that strengthen their livelihoods, access to water, and community resilience.                                                  |
| Potential high-risk geographic areas to which the EAP would be directed. | 9 hydrographic units along the Main Basin of the Paraguay River ( Aquidabán , Caañabe , Jejui Guazú, Laguna Vera, Manduvirá , Piribebuy, Río Salado and Lago Ypacaraí, Tebicuary , Vertientes Río Paraguay and Ama), as well as communities of Asunción and the Departments of Concepción, San Pedro, Cordillera, Central, Paraguarí, Caazapá, Misiones and Ñeembucú. |

<sup>14</sup> <https://dgvs.mspbs.gov.py/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/WEB-ARBOVIROSIS-SE-47-28-11-2024.pdf><sup>MSPyBS</sup>  
[https://dgvs.mspbs.gov.py/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/WEB-ARBOVIROSIS-SE-47-28-11-2024.pdf\(2024\)](https://dgvs.mspbs.gov.py/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/WEB-ARBOVIROSIS-SE-47-28-11-2024.pdf(2024))

<sup>15</sup> [MAG \(2022\)](#)

<sup>16</sup> [FAO \(2017\)](#)

<sup>17</sup> [INE \(2022\)](#)

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| <p><b>Who will be helped with this operation and what criteria will be used for their selection?</b></p> | <p>Inclusion criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communities where less than 70% of households have access to safe drinking water.<sup>18</sup></li> <li>Families that depend on wells or unsafe water sources.</li> <li>Producers whose main source of income comes from drought-sensitive crops (corn, cassava, vegetables, etc.).</li> <li>Rural families with limited access to irrigation or water storage systems.</li> <li>Fishermen, boatmen, and people whose livelihoods depend directly on bodies of water (such as rivers or lagoons) affected by drought.</li> <li>Communities with outbreaks of vector-borne diseases during times of drought.</li> </ul> <p><b>General criteria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pregnant and lactating women.</li> <li>Households with children under 10 years old.</li> <li>People over 60 years of age without support networks.</li> <li>People with disabilities facing additional barriers to accessing resources and services during crises</li> </ul> <p>Selection process:</p> <p><b>1. Preliminary Identification at the District Level</b><br/> Secondary data is used to prioritize communities based on three criteria:<br/> Access to safe drinking water: Areas with less than 70% coverage. Official data indicating access to safe drinking water in established hydrological units and communities.<br/> Poverty rates and access to basic services: Areas with high poverty and low coverage of essential services.<br/> Disease incidence: Communities with a prevalence of diseases associated with a lack of water or poor sanitary conditions.</p> <p><b>2. Community Surveys for the Final Selection of Families</b><br/> In selected communities, household surveys are conducted to assess:<br/> Access to water: Sources and daily availability.<br/> Dependence on activities affected by drought: Agriculture, fishing or others.<br/> Socioeconomic conditions: Income, access to basic services and poverty status.<br/> Vulnerable groups: Presence of children, pregnant women, elderly people or people with disabilities.<br/> Incidence of diseases: Health problems associated with drought.</p> <p><b>3. Final Selection Process</b><br/> Families are classified into:<br/> High vulnerability: They meet all priority criteria (Families with limited access to water, high dependence on productive activities affected by drought, high levels of poverty, presence of vulnerable groups and high incidence of disease).<br/> Moderate vulnerability: Meets at least three criteria.<br/> Low vulnerability: They meet one or two criteria.<br/> Prioritization: Highly vulnerable families will receive assistance first, followed by those with moderate vulnerability. If resources are available, support will be provided to those with low vulnerability.</p> |
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<sup>18</sup>In the context of Paraguay, the National Plan for Drinking Water and Sanitation (PNAPS) establishes that a safely managed water service refers to an improved source of drinking water that is on-site and available when needed, free from fecal and chemical contamination, and a priority. Source: [MOPC \(2023\)](#)

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| <p><b>Activation statement</b></p> | <p><b>Activation Statement</b></p> <p>The triggering criterion will be determined by the Climate Outlook Bulletin (<a href="#">Click here</a>) issued by the Directorate of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH), which identifies a 50% or greater probability that rainfall will remain in the lower tercile between December and February, which would imply a reduction in precipitation for the quarter compared to normal levels for that time of year. The window between the alert and the imminent impact of the drought is considered to be 3 months.</p> <p><b>Setting the Triggers:</b></p> <p>The trigger is related to expected weather conditions and will be activated according to the defined threshold (50% probability of decreased precipitation for the current quarter). In this case, the Directorate of Meteorology and Hydrology's (DMH) climate outlook forecast will be used as the primary trigger.</p> <p><b>Weather Activator:</b></p> <p>Precipitation Forecast: According to the DMH, if the precipitation forecast for the current quarter indicates a 50% or greater probability that rainfall will remain in the lower tercile (i.e., a 50% or greater probability that rainfall will be below normal levels), this will be a trigger to initiate drought-preventive actions.</p> <p><b>2. Forecast Sources</b></p> <p><b>Main sources:</b></p> <p>Directorate of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH): Climate and precipitation forecasts will be taken directly from official reports issued by the DMH (Climate Outlook Bulletin), which provides short-, medium-, and long-term forecasts based on national and international meteorological and climatological models.</p> <p><b><i>The forecasts are published monthly and cover a three-month projection. For example, in January the forecast includes January, February, and March; in February, it covers February, March, and April; and so on. These publications are released before the 5th of each month.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>According to current projections, EAP activation is expected between September and November, or during the region's summer months (December, January, or February).</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Secondary sources:</i></b> Daily river-level forecasts for selected hydrological units, provided by the Directorate of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH). These forecasts will be used as a <b>prioritization criterion</b> but <b>will not trigger the activation of the EAP</b>.</p> <p><b>3. Forecast Monitoring</b></p> <p>The monitoring of meteorological and socioeconomic forecasts, as well as the validation of the triggers for the activation of the Early Action Protocol (EAP), will be carried out by:</p> <p><b>Directorate of Programs and Operations of the Paraguayan Red Cross (SN):</b></p> <p>This department will be responsible for coordinating and overseeing the overall implementation of the EAP , including the integration of meteorological and socioeconomic forecasts into operational decisions. Its role includes validating data obtained from the Directorate of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH), the National Institute of Statistics (INE), and the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (MSPyBS).</p> <p>Key functions: Validate weather forecasts, coordinate with local and regional authorities, and ensure that actions are aligned with identified community needs.</p> |
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|                                                                                               | <p><b>National Society (NS) Early Action Focal Point:</b></p> <p>Responsible for continuously monitoring climate and socioeconomic conditions, ensuring that forecasts and triggers align with the needs of at-risk communities. This person will act as a bridge between the Programs and Operations Directorate and local communities, providing regular updates on the situation and ensuring the proper implementation of early actions.</p> <p>Key Duties: Collect and analyze forecast data and make operational adjustments based on changing conditions; also responsible for making EAP updates and adjustments based on changes in weather forecasts or socioeconomic conditions.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <p><b>Next steps – For National Societies intending to develop a full EAP (Optional).</b></p> | <p>Building on the lessons learned from the activation of the Simplified Early Action Protocol (EAP), the triggers and early actions will be further refined for integration into the Full EAP. A comprehensive assessment of the forecasting tools to be utilized is essential, with a focus on evaluating their accuracy and the occurrence of false alarms. This analysis will enhance the reliability of the system and optimize forecast-based decision-making, ensuring that early actions are implemented only when both necessary and effective.</p> <p>To support this process, formal agreements will be established with the Directorate of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH), the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (MSPyBS), and local sanitation boards. These partnerships will facilitate access to critical data—including river levels, precipitation patterns, disease incidence, and other relevant variables—thereby enabling the definition of precise and evidence-based triggers for EAP activation. This will ensure that responses are timely, appropriate, and grounded in reliable information.</p> <p>In addition, capacity-building initiatives will be implemented to strengthen communities and early response teams in priority areas such as water management and anticipatory planning. Simultaneously, an inter-institutional coordination committee will be established to clearly define roles and responsibilities among the actors involved in EAP implementation. This mechanism will guarantee effective coordination, institutional accountability, and alignment with national public policies.</p> |

## PLANNED INTERVENTION

|                                                                                   |                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                           |                                                                                                                      |
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|  | <b>Livelihoods</b>                                                             | <b>Budget</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>CHF 57,127</b>                         |                                                                                                                      |
|                                                                                   |                                                                                | <b>Target people</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 285 families (approximately 1,000 people) |                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Indicator:</b>                                                                 | Number of family farmers implementing climate-resilient early action practices |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Goal:</b>                              | 80% of participating families implement at least one climate-resilient practice upon implementation of the protocol. |
| <b>Enlistment activities: from EAP approval to activation declaration</b>         |                                                                                | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Training of volunteers and staff from participating branches in identifying the most vulnerable communities and families using the AVCA tool and in applying criteria for selecting participating families (1 AVCA workshop in year 1 of the EAP)</li> <li>2. Selection of the 285 participating families who will work to strengthen their agricultural livelihoods according to the established selection criteria (year 1)</li> <li>3. Training in resilient livelihoods (water, soil, seeds and sustainable agriculture) (1 workshop in year 1 and a refresher workshop in year 2)</li> <li>4. Identification of suppliers for the acquisition of inputs (seeds), agricultural implements (drip tapes, shade nets, mulching, minor tools) (year 1 of the EAP)</li> <li>5. Establishment of local distribution points for the delivery of supplies and tools in each selected community. (Year 1 of the EAP)</li> <li>6. Conduct a rapid survey of community water systems (water tanks, disused wells, tanks, pipes) (year 1)</li> <li>7. Identify critical points such as leaks, damaged pumps, or clogged pipes (year 1 and year 2 if the alert has not yet been triggered)</li> <li>8. Check whether there are alternative water sources (such as community cisterns) that can be optimized (year 1 and year 2 if the alert is not yet activated)</li> </ol> |                                           |                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Prepositioning Activities: from EAP approval to activation declaration</b>     |                                                                                | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prepositioning materials for workshops.</li> <li>2. Pre-seeding of vegetable seeds (five varieties, 100 grams per family) for 285 families, based on the preferences of participating families. The acquisition of short-cycle, drought-resistant seeds will be considered as a selection criterion, in response to anticipated climate challenges.</li> <li>3. Pre-positioning of agricultural implements described below for 285 families (80 m<sup>2</sup> of semi-shade nets, 100 m of mulching, 1 wheelbarrow, 1 shovel, 1 hand watering can, 1 hoe, 100 meters of drip tape, 10 butterfly connectors, 5 germination trays).</li> <li>4. Call for bids and award of contracts for community-supported repair and rehabilitation of disused wells.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                           |                                                                                                                      |

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hire services to clean and unclog pipes and tanks to improve system efficiency.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Prioritized Early Actions: from the EAP activation statement</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of seeds and tool kits to participating families.</li> <li>Execution of repair and rehabilitation services for disused wells.</li> <li>Implement regular cleaning and maintenance of pipes, tanks, and associated infrastructure to ensure optimal system performance.</li> </ol> |

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|  | <b>Cash Multipurpose</b>                                 | <b>Budget</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>CHF 70,737</b>                         |                                                         |
|                                                                                   |                                                          | <b>Target people</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 300 families (approximately 1,050 people) |                                                         |
| <b>Indicator:</b>                                                                 | Number of people reached through cash transfer programs. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Goal:</b>                              | 1,050 people reached through the cash transfer program. |
| <b>Enlistment activities: from EAP approval to activation declaration</b>         |                                                          | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop for volunteers and branch staff on registration and distribution processes for multipurpose cash handouts (1 Workshop in Year 1 of the EAP)</li> <li>Workshop for volunteers and branch staff on participant selection methods based on prioritization criteria with a focus on protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and community participation (CEA) (1 workshop in year 1 and a refresher workshop in year 2)</li> <li>Identification and selection of 300 families in highly vulnerable conditions according to established criteria such as poverty, income, dependence on drought-affected activities, and the presence of vulnerable groups (year 1 of the EAP)</li> <li>Definition of amounts, delivery mechanisms for multipurpose cash, and development of an operational guide for deliveries (Year 1 of the EAP)</li> <li>Establishment of local distribution points for multipurpose cash (Year 1 of the EAP)</li> <li>Establish help lines to resolve doubts or receive feedback (year 1 of the EAP)</li> </ol> |                                           |                                                         |
| <b>Prepositioning Activities: from EAP approval to activation declaration</b>     |                                                          | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepositioning materials for workshops.</li> <li>Sign agreements with banks, e-wallet operators, or entities that can process transfers.</li> <li>Pre-positioning of participants in the financial system for multipurpose cash transfers</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                           |                                                         |

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| <b>Prioritized Early Action: from the EAP activation statement</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Issuance of key messages regarding transfer details and technical assistance in case of problems.</li> <li>2. Transfer of the allocated amount to 300 families.</li> <li>3. Conducting random post-distribution surveys with 70% of families participating in the cash transfer program.</li> </ol> |
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|  | <b>Health &amp; Care</b>                                                                                                                            | <b>Budget</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>CHF 12,703</b>                         |                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Target people</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 700 families (approximately 2,450 people) |                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Indicator:</b>                                                                 | Number of families in selected communities that have received preventive health and basic care interventions related to the effects of the drought. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Goal:</b>                              | 80% of families identified as priority in selected communities receive preventive health interventions and basic care related to the effects of the drought. |
| <b>Enlistment activities: from EAP approval to activation declaration</b>         |                                                                                                                                                     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Train volunteers and branch staff in drought-related health risk identification, CEA, and preventive interventions (hygiene promotion, water-related disease management) (year 1 and year 2 update).</li> <li>2. Train community representatives to act as focal points for disease monitoring, reporting suspected cases, and coordinating with local health services (Year 1 and Year 2)</li> <li>3. Community training in water conservation, home purification methods, and safe storage for consumption. Training in good water management practices at home and in the community. Awareness raising on efficient water use in drought situations (years 1 and 2).</li> </ol> |                                           |                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Prepositioning Activities: from EAP approval to activation declaration</b>     |                                                                                                                                                     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prepositioning materials for workshops.</li> <li>2. Prepositioning of 700 20-L jerrycans for drinking water, ready for distribution. The SN already has prepositioned jerrycans, so their purchase was not included in the budget.</li> <li>3. Pre-positioning of awareness materials (posters, guides, educational kits) and water purification (liquid chlorine).</li> <li>4. Prepositioning of water quality test kits.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                           |                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Prioritized Early Actions: from the EAP activation statement</b>               |                                                                                                                                                     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Distribute jerrycans for drinking water in communities with severe water shortages. This will be carried out through the budget line for "Community Awareness on Safe Water Management."</li> <li>1. Conduct rapid community awareness campaigns on safe water management, with emphasis on the</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                           |                                                                                                                                                              |

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|  | <p>importance of filtering and treating water before consumption.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Reinforce hygiene practices adapted to water scarcity through short educational sessions.</li> <li>3. Conduct community campaigns to strengthen hygiene in conditions of water scarcity, such as the efficient use and safe management of available water, clearing unoccupied land, and cleaning canals, among others.</li> <li>4. Distribute educational materials (brochures, how-to guides) to increase knowledge about disease prevention during drought.</li> </ol> |
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|  | <b>Community Engagement and Accountability</b> | <b>Budget</b>                                                                                                          | <b>CHF 7,272</b> |  |
|                                                                                   |                                                | <b>Target people</b>                                                                                                   |                  |  |
| <b>Indicator:</b>                                                                 |                                                |                                                                                                                        | <b>Target:</b>   |  |
| <b>Readiness Activities:</b>                                                      |                                                | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Technical support visits, monitoring, SN follow-up and evaluation</li> </ol> |                  |  |

## ENABLING APPROACHES

|                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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|  | <b>Coordination and partnerships</b>                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Budget</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>CHF 4,154</b>                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Target people</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 5 key local institutions per community |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Indicator:</b>                                                                 | Level of active collaboration with key local stakeholders (government, community organizations, suppliers, NGOs) in the implementation of early action activities in response to drought. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Goal:</b>                           | Achieve 80% active collaboration with key local stakeholders (government, NGOs, community organizations and suppliers) in all stages of early drought response implementation (at least 3 key stakeholders per intervention community). |
| <b>Recruitment activities: from EAP approval to activation declaration</b>        |                                                                                                                                                                                           | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Coordinate with health institutions, such as hospitals and local health centers, to ensure service preparedness in the event of outbreaks of drought-related diseases (diarrhea, cholera, etc.).</li> <li>2. Meet with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community associations to review roles and responsibilities in drought response and define on-the-ground coordination mechanisms.</li> <li>3. Collaborate with educational institutions to promote awareness about water management and hygiene practices in affected schools and communities.</li> <li>4. Conduct Anticipatory Action (AA) training with local governments in at least 5 communities.</li> <li>5. Participate in inter-institutional working groups to share information on the drought situation and coordinate interventions in the areas of health, WASH, and food security.</li> <li>6. Work with water resource management entities (such as hydrographic authorities) to identify alternative water sources and establish access priorities during drought.</li> <li>7. Coordinate actions with organizations currently working on anticipatory action in the country, such as FAO.</li> <li>8. Establish agreements with health and civil protection institutions to review and update emergency response protocols for droughts, including water distribution, hygiene promotion, and healthcare. Define logistical coordination mechanisms with local authorities and other entities to guarantee timely access to affected areas and ensure the rapid and effective distribution of resources.</li> <li>9. Establish a reporting and monitoring system with local authorities to track water levels and resource availability in communities.</li> </ol> |                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Prepositioning Activities: from the EAP activation declaration</b>             |                                                                                                                                                                                           | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prepositioning of materials for AA training sessions with local governments.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

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| <p><b>Prioritized Early Actions: from the EAP activation statement</b></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish and activate inter-institutional coordination committees with government institutions, NGOs, and key stakeholders for drought response. Ensure that actions and resources are aligned and efficiently distributed among all stakeholders.</li> <li>2. Coordinate with local and regional meteorological authorities to share drought forecasts and real-time situation assessments. Facilitate the exchange of key data on water, health, and basic needs.</li> <li>3. Work with other institutions to develop and implement advance action plans that define the responsibilities of each stakeholder in the drought response, establishing clear protocols and procedures.</li> <li>4. Ensure that key institutions (government, health sector, water and sanitation institutions) are aligned in terms of resource distribution, including water, hygiene, and food kits. Establish joint distribution and mutual reinforcement mechanisms in the most affected areas.</li> <li>5. Organize regular coordination meetings with other institutions (government, health, water, civil protection, etc.) to update drought forecasts, review response activities, and ensure that efforts are complementary and non-duplicative.</li> <li>6. Develop awareness and education campaigns on drought-related health risks, including the importance of hygiene, proper water management, and disease prevention, in collaboration with health institutions and local communities.</li> <li>7. Coordinate with local and national institutions to prioritize interventions in high-risk areas, based on vulnerability information and the existing response capacity of communities.</li> </ol> |
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|  | <p><b>Strengthening the National Society</b></p>                                             | <p><b>Budget</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p><b>CHF 52,667</b></p>                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <p><b>Indicator:</b></p>                                                            | <p>Number of staff and volunteers trained in Early Action Protocols for Drought Warnings</p> | <p><b>Target people</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p>100 trained volunteers<br/>10 institutions linked to the EAP</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                                                                     |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p><b>Goal:</b></p>                                                 | <p>100% of key staff and volunteers are trained in EAP activities, including risk identification, resource management, early interventions, and coordination with other institutions.</p> |
| <p><b>Enlistment activities: from EAP approval to activation declaration</b></p>    |                                                                                              | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Initial outreach and coordination sessions on droughts (in-person, virtual, year 1, during technical support visits, follow-up, and monitoring).</li> <li>2. Develop and update a training plan for staff and volunteers on Enhanced Anticipatory Action and EAP Simulations.</li> </ol> |                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                           |

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|                                   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Organize and implement regular training for key staff and volunteers in the areas of early action, resource management, and drought monitoring (1 workshop in year 1 of the EAP)</li> <li>4. Conduct drought-related drills, focusing on rapid response and resource distribution.</li> <li>5. Establish a continuing education program on early action strategies and coordination with key stakeholders (government, NGOs, etc.) (year 1 and year 2)</li> <li>6. Conduct coordination meetings and workshops with other local institutions (government, health services, community organizations) to strengthen partnerships and ensure an integrated response (year 1 and year 2)</li> </ol> |
| <b>Preparatory activities:</b>    | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Acquisition of office supplies (tubs, stationery, among others)</li> <li>8. Prepositioning of materials for workshops and training sessions.</li> <li>9. Uniforms and visibility equipment for volunteers and staff.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Prioritized Early Actions:</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. 1. Lessons learned workshop with volunteers and communities.</li> <li>11. 2. Salary of SN technical staff for two years.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

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|  | Secretariat Services | Budget                                        | CHF 15,208 |    |
|                                                                                     |                      | No. People targeted                           | NA         |    |
| Indicator:                                                                          | NA                   |                                               | Target:    | NA |
| Readiness activities:                                                               |                      | 1. Support, monitoring and follow-up missions |            |    |

## EARLY ACTION

|                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| <p>Experience and/or capacity to implement early actions.</p> <p>Minimum assumptions or conditions necessary to comply with early actions (including problems to be resolved)</p> | <p>The National Society (NS) has key capabilities that will enable it to implement the actions in the anticipatory action plan, although it faces challenges related to geographic coverage and volunteer staff training. The capabilities and challenges that need to be addressed to ensure effective implementation are detailed below:</p> <p><b>National Society Capabilities</b></p> <p>Network of Committed Volunteers: The Paraguayan Red Cross (PRC) has a strong network of committed volunteers, comprised of approximately 1,000 active volunteers distributed across 19 active branches nationwide. Although not all priority areas have local branches, the PRC has the capacity to mobilize volunteers from nearby branches or from areas with greater operational capacity, ensuring an effective response in the affected areas.</p> <p>Emergency Management Experience: The CRP is known for its experience in emergency management, including the implementation of rapid awareness-raising actions, humanitarian aid distribution, and health support. A significant example was the most recent DREF operation, where 45 volunteers from several</p> |
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|                                                                                                                | <p>branches were mobilized to assist affected communities. This intervention included the distribution of multipurpose cash (MPC) (See <a href="#">Annexes</a>), and hygiene (WASH) kits to 500 families, in addition to hygiene, health, and protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) promotion activities, reaching 900 families. These activities strengthened the capacity of the branches and ensured an adequate response to community needs.</p> <p>Training in Early Intervention Techniques: A key component of the CRP's strategy is its capacity to provide training in early intervention techniques. Although not all volunteers in priority areas have specific training, the CRP has experience training its staff. During the recruitment stages, specific training is organized for mobilized volunteers, ensuring they are prepared to carry out effective interventions aligned with local needs.</p> <p>Development of Strategic Frameworks: Furthermore, the CRP has made significant progress in developing strategic frameworks. Its Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Policy includes anticipatory action as a strategic line. In parallel, the National Health Policy addresses climate change as a crucial pillar, while a National Climate Change Policy is being developed, strengthening institutional capacity to respond to climate challenges.</p> <p><b>Problems to Solve</b></p> <p>Limited geographic coverage: The SN does not have branches in all priority areas, which can delay mobilization and the implementation of initial actions in some hard-to-reach areas.</p> <p>Need for additional volunteer training: Despite having committed volunteers, mobilized volunteers will need to be trained to perform their duties effectively, especially in areas such as risk identification and the implementation of specific drought response activities.</p> <p><b>Strategies for Solving Problems</b></p> <p>Mobilization of volunteers from nearby branches: To overcome the lack of branches in some areas, volunteers from nearby branches will be mobilized. Through sound logistical planning, these volunteers will be able to quickly reach the affected areas, reducing response times.</p> <p>Intensive training during induction: During the induction process, training sessions will be organized for mobilized volunteers. These sessions will include specific topics on drought-related risks, water resource management, hygiene practices, and proper emergency management in the context of drought. This ensures that all volunteers have the necessary knowledge to effectively implement early action activities.</p> <p>Formation of trained volunteer groups by area: A group of trained volunteers will be created and specifically assigned to priority areas. These groups will be led by volunteers with specific experience and training, ensuring a well-coordinated and effective intervention. Each group will be responsible for supervising activities based on the needs of each area.</p> <p>Partnerships with other local organizations: To complement the SN's capabilities, partnerships will be established with local organizations in areas where there are no branches, facilitating access and implementation of activities in those areas.</p> |
| Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners, government agencies and others consulted for this simplified EAP | <p>IFRC Regional Office</p> <p>The IFRC Regional Office plays a key role in the development of the Early Action Plan (EAP). Its main function is to review and revise the document, ensuring that it complies with international standards and guidelines established by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. In addition, the Regional Office funds the EAP, ensuring that the necessary resources are available for its effective implementation.</p> <p>IFRC Cluster Southern Cone and Brazil Delegation</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

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|  | <p>The IFRC Cluster Delegation for the Southern Cone and Brazil directly manages the EAP, acting as an intermediary between the Regional Office and the local teams. Its participation in the plan's development includes a thorough review of the document, providing suggestions and comments to improve its viability and effectiveness. During implementation, the delegation oversees field activities, ensuring that actions are implemented according to plan and providing technical and logistical support as needed.</p> <p>Other relevant actors</p> <p>The implementation of the Early Action Plan (EAP) involves collaboration with various key stakeholders to strengthen its effectiveness and reach. Among these stakeholders is the Directorate of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH), the country's primary official source of climate information. The EAP plans to work closely with the DMH to monitor the drought and explore other sources of complementary information that can enhance early warnings related to this phenomenon.</p> <p>The Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (MSPyBS) is another key partner in addressing the public health consequences of the drought. Collaboration with this ministry will help identify potential increases in diseases related to water scarcity and poor water management, as well as develop joint preventive and response strategies.</p> <p>The National Dialogue Platform has established partnerships with multiple institutions that contribute to strengthening climate risk management. Although the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) does not act as a direct source of data in the national context, its support through international standards and methodologies can add value to the collaborative work with the WMO and other local entities.</p> <p>Furthermore, the National Institute of Statistics (INE), which was also contacted through the National Dialogue Platform, will play a key role in providing socioeconomic and demographic information on priority communities. This data is essential for contextualizing interventions, prioritizing the most vulnerable populations, and designing responses tailored to local realities.</p> |
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## BUDGET



### Early Action Protocol Summary

- Paraguayan Red Cross  
Droughts

#### Operating Budget

|                                         | Readiness     | Pre-Pos Stock | Early Action   | TOTAL          |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Planned Operations</b>               | <b>20,307</b> | <b>40,116</b> | <b>87,415</b>  | <b>147,839</b> |
| Shelter and Basic Household Items       | 0             | 0             | 0              | 0              |
| Livelihoods                             | 1,917         | 31,055        | 24,154         | 57,127         |
| Multi-purpose Cash                      | 4,793         | 4,984         | 60,961         | 70,737         |
| Health                                  | 6,326         | 4,077         | 2,300          | 12,703         |
| Water, Sanitation & Hygiene             | 0             | 0             | 0              | 0              |
| Protection, Gender and Inclusion        | 0             | 0             | 0              | 0              |
| Education                               | 0             | 0             | 0              | 0              |
| Migration                               | 0             | 0             | 0              | 0              |
| Risk Red., Climate Adapt. and Recovery  | 0             | 0             | 0              | 0              |
| Community Engagement and Accountability | 7,272         | 0             | 0              | 7,272          |
| Environmental Sustainability            | 0             | 0             | 0              | 0              |
| <b>Enabling Approaches</b>              | <b>54,954</b> | <b>2,760</b>  | <b>14,314</b>  | <b>72,028</b>  |
| Coordination and Partnerships           | 2,556         | 320           | 1,278          | 4,154          |
| Secretariat Services                    | 15,208        | 0             | 0              | 15,208         |
| National Society Strengthening          | 37,190        | 2,441         | 13,036         | 52,667         |
| <b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>                     | <b>75,261</b> | <b>42,877</b> | <b>101,729</b> | <b>219,867</b> |

*all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)*

## Contact Information

**For more information, especially related to the Simplified EAP, please contact:**

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