SIMPLIFIED EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL

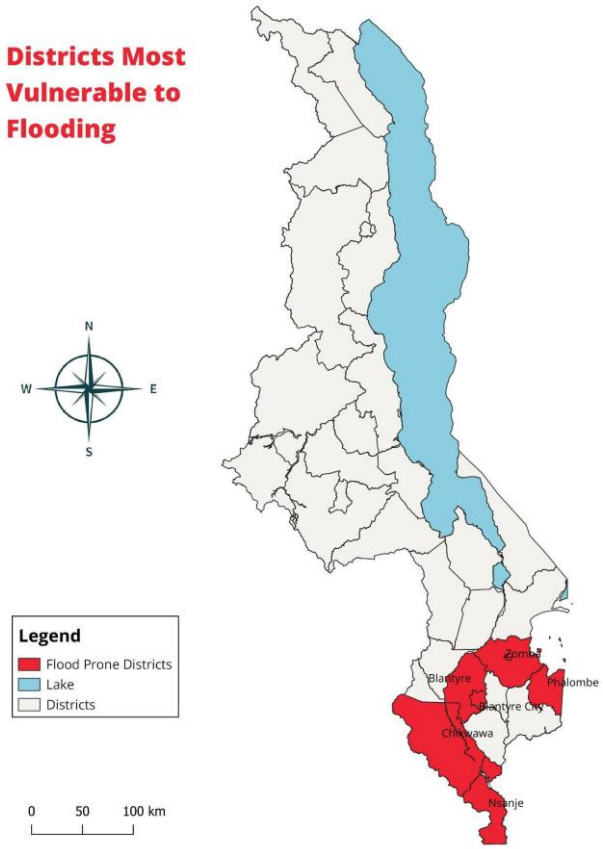
Malawi, Africa | Pluvial Floods

Malawi Red Cross Volunteers in Blantyre disseminating alert messages for TC Chido, informing people to be prepared and carry out early actions before the disaster

sEAP №: **sEAP2024MW01**	Operation №: **MDRMW023**	Total Budget **CHF 219,287**	Readiness: **CHF 93,083**	
			Prepositioning: **CHF 49,437**	
			Early Action: **CHF 76,768**	
People targeted: **12,500 people direct support** **100,000 indirect**	sEAP approved: **17/10/2025**	sEAP timeframe: **2 Years**	sEAP lead time: **5 days**	Operational timeframe: **3 months**

Prioritized geographical areas:

This Simplified Early Action Protocol will be applied across all districts in Malawi, with particular focus on high-risk areas that are more prone to flooding, including Chikwawa, Nsanje, Phalombe, Zomba, and Blantyre (refer to the map below for districts most vulnerable to flooding).



RISK ANALYSIS

Prioritized hazard and its historical impact.

Despite having one of the smallest greenhouse gas emissions footprints in the world, Malawi is considered highly vulnerable to climate change and has suffered significant losses in terms of both lives and livelihoods, including heightened levels of displacement, food insecurity, and disease outbreaks as a result of climate-related disasters. The country was listed as 163rd out of 182 countries in 2020 on the ND-GAIN Index, which indicates a country's readiness and vulnerability to climate change.

Malawi is highly exposed to the consequences of climate change, thereby experiencing recurrent shocks and emergencies, which are compounded by an underlying household vulnerability linked to food insecurity, population growth, environmental degradation and seasonal patterns of production and consumption.

The country is particularly prone to adverse climate hazards such as dry spells, seasonal droughts, intense rainfall, riverine floods, and flash floods. Among these hazards, flooding emerges as one of the primary concerns, as these events are exacerbating in frequency and severity due to global climate conditions resulting in increasingly detrimental weather patterns. The flooding events, therefore, become increasingly impactful, leading to loss of lives and livelihoods, displacement, food insecurity, and outbreaks of disease, among other consequences.

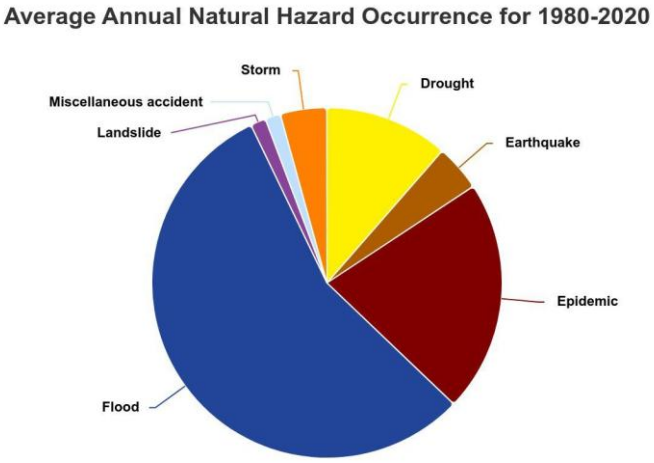
This first sEAP will address **flooding caused by heavy rain and induced by Tropical Cyclones**. Over the past decade, Malawi has experienced a series of severe climate-induced disasters, with increasing frequency and magnitude. These events have had far-reaching consequences on communities, infrastructure, and the economy, particularly in the southern and central regions of the country.

The first major disaster in recent memory occurred in 2015, when intense and prolonged rainfall led to widespread flooding across six districts in the southern region. The floods displaced approximately 121,000 people and caused

extensive damage to homes, infrastructure, and farmland. In 2019, Tropical Cyclone Idai struck, further highlighting the country's growing vulnerability to extreme weather events. The cyclone affected an estimated 840,330 people and displaced over 94,000 individuals. The destruction included loss of shelter, disruptions to basic services, and damage to critical infrastructure. Tropical Storm Ana followed in early 2022, impacting 10 districts across southern and central Malawi. The storm affected 193,558 people and resulted in the displacement of 22,364 individuals. Many of those affected were communities still in the process of recovering from prior events, deepening their vulnerability.

The most devastating disaster in recent years occurred in March 2023, when Tropical Cyclone Freddy made landfall. The cyclone affected more than 2.2 million people, displaced around 660,000, caused 679 fatalities, and left 530 individuals unaccounted for. The impacts were widespread, affecting food security, public health, infrastructure, education, and livelihoods across multiple sectors. Cumulatively, these disasters have had a profound impact on Malawi's development gains. According to government estimates, the total value of losses and damage across the social, productive, infrastructure, and cross-cutting sectors now exceeds USD 500 million. These figures reflect not only the immediate humanitarian consequences but also the long-term socio-economic setbacks associated with recurrent climate shocks.

Since 2010 alone, Malawi has experienced 16 major flooding events, and a rainfall-related landslide. These numbers do not account for Tropical Cyclone Freddy in 2023.



The greatest flood potential occurs during and following the most intense and prolonged rainfall in the rainy season between November and April, with the highest rainfall in December and January. The annual average rainfall exceeded 1,200 mm in 2022, with a recorded 1,400 mm in 2019. Heavy rainfall amplifies the risk of both riverine and flash flooding nationwide. Although riverine flooding bears the most devastating impact, instances of flash flooding have surged in recent years.

The risk of flooding spans across Malawi, with the Central and Southern regions particularly vulnerable due to their exposure to storms and cyclones originating from the Southeast Indian Ocean and Mozambique Channel.

Explain which risks have been selected for this protocol and why

1. Direct loss of lives

Due to the rapid onset of floods, loss of life is a primary concern that must be addressed through preparedness and early action measures. Flooding in Malawi consistently results in numerous fatalities and injuries as rivers overflow. This could be due to unstable structures falling over people or people crossing dangerous waterways.

Households impacted by death and/or chronic injuries are also at heightened risk of poverty, food insecurity, disrupted education and compromised mental well-being due to income loss from inability to work or loss of a household member. Given the short lead time before flood events, adequate preparedness and early actions are critical to enabling communities to strengthen shelters, respond to early warnings, and evacuate before disaster strikes.

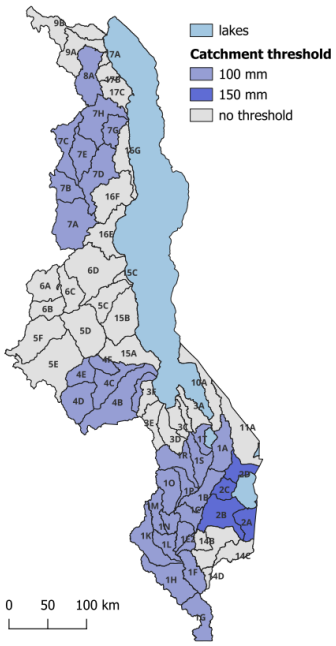
2. Damage to infrastructure and shelter

Damage to infrastructure is one of the main risks arising from flooding. Floods disrupt housing, electricity service, travel, and business operations, and impose large costs for repairs and rebuilding, diverting scarce resources from other development needs. Water from floods weakens buildings' foundations and walls, rendering them too unstable and too risky for occupation. The damage to shelter and infrastructure forced thousands of people to move from their homes and cut off communities from receiving crucial services and goods, exacerbating already existing vulnerabilities.

Additionally, floods have a high potential of destroying bridges and road networks in and between districts, limiting access to crucial facilities such as health services, market centers, schools, and work centers. This disruption not only affects education and access to healthcare but also reduces income, causing a decline in livelihoods as access to commercial centers, fishing, and agriculture is hampered.

During Tropical Cyclone Freddy, over 600,000 people became internally displaced, with over 10,000 still displaced nine months after the event as their homelands became permanently inhabitable. Losses of housing, transport, crops, and irrigation infrastructure amounted to several hundred million USD. To reduce the risk of extensive damage and long-term impact, it is crucial to protect essential infrastructure and enforce shelter ahead of flooding.

EARLY ACTION INTERVENTION

Overall objective of the intervention	The objective of the Simplified Early Action Protocol is to proactively support communities before they are impacted by flooding caused by heavy rains through the provision of early warning messages, evacuation assistance, emergency shelter, multi-purpose cash transfers, health and hygiene promotion, and infrastructure protection, thereby saving lives, preventing outbreak of diseases and reducing damage to shelter and infrastructure.
Potential geographical high-risk areas that the simplified EAP would target	The interventions will target flood prone districts in Malawi, prioritizing areas based on the predicted impacts. The high-risk areas targeted by this Simplified EAP will depend on the relevant forecast issued by the Department of Climate and Meteorological (DCCMS). There is a high risk of flooding across the entire country, with populations in the Southern and Central region being most exposed. This is mainly due to the regions' geographical features, with low-lying areas, intersection with major rivers such as the Shire River, high exposure to storms and cyclones, as well as poor infrastructure and dense population. High-risk districts include Chikwawa, Nsanje, Phalombe, Zomba and Blantyre. The sEAP is not limited to these districts; however, based on past events, they have been identified as high-risk areas due to frequent flooding and their position along tropical cyclone tracks. The trigger is linked to specific catchment areas (see map below), meaning the sEAP can also activate in districts outside the high-risk ones listed above 

Who will be assisted through this operation and what criteria will be used for their selection?	The intervention will seek to target 2,500 households. The main group to be covered by the prioritized early actions in the sEAP will include small-scale subsistence farmers in the flood prone households who have semi-permanent housing structures. For the identified groups of households to be targeted in the identified communities as stipulated in the above scenario, the group will be further analyzed and prioritized to the following: • Elderly people (60 and above) • Pregnant or lactating women • Female/child headed households • Poor and most impoverished households based on income • HHs with people with disabilities *The identification of HHs for the intervention will be done as outlined below:* Following the trigger by DCCMS with a 5-day lead time, MRCS will activate the National Response Team (NRT) to prepare for activation, alongside preparing for potential dissemination of early warning messages and other prioritized early actions. The NRT will support in verifying pre-targeted households eligible for anticipatory cash assistance. The selection of participants will be based on the data generated by the Unified Beneficiary Registration System (UBR) and where this data is not available or updated, MRCS will follow a community-centered approach in line with the JEFAP guidelines. This process will involve existing committees and local leaders, with volunteers refining the targeting when mobilized for early actions. It will build upon ongoing CEA efforts and be guided by the pre-established selection criteria. Additionally, continuous coordination with the government and other stakeholders will ensure that any relevant data available at the time of the intervention is reviewed and incorporated as appropriate. The trigger, set with a 5-day lead time, will inform MRCS to deploy NRTs and notify financial service providers to begin preparedness activities, such as confirming pre-identified cash distribution points. Moreover, since there is continuous coordination with the government and other stakeholders any available data that becomes available at the time of the intervention will be reviewed and adopted where appropriate agreed criteria and upon verification a list will be generated and further analysis will be made to ensure that the list prioritize the most vulnerable people who will be targeted for the CVA interventions to enable carry out early responses.
Trigger(s) statement	*Following a thorough analysis of the available forecast services and skill capacities in the country, it was agreed that MRCS will use the following trigger statement:* Phase 1: Monitoring Monitoring of the trigger will be initiated when the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services issues a seasonal weather outlook indicating normal to above-normal rainfall, with a high probability of wetter-than-average conditions expected between November and March. This includes anticipated rainfall totals exceeding the seasonal average of 800 mm to 1,200 mm across the identified catchment areas. Upon issuance of this forecast, readiness and preparedness actions will be activated. Phase 2: Activation The activation of the sEAP will follow Malawi's agreed trigger system – a tiered activation model outlined in the National Anticipatory Action Framework.

The Simplified Early Action Protocol is pre-activated when the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS) issues an alert followed by a warning, triggering Tier 1 – Forecast-Informed Readiness, based on:

- Rainfall forecast of ≥100–150 mm within 72 hours in key basins (Shire, Linthipe, Lake Chilwa, etc.), with 3–5 days lead time.
- Cyclone forecast predicting ≥100 mm of rainfall within 24 hours in flood-prone districts, with 3–5 days lead time.
- Rainfall forecast combined with exposure analysis showing ≥30% of households at risk, with 3–5 days lead time.

The sEAP will be fully activated for Early Actions under Tier 2 – Observational and Activation when:

- River gauge readings exceed the alert stage at ≥2 stations (real-time trigger).
- Inundation modelling projects ≥30% of households affected in flood-risk zones, with 2–5 days lead time.

The trigger will prompt MRCS to implement prioritized Early Actions outlined in the intervention plan. All actions will be suspended if DCCMS daily forecasts indicate a reduction in anticipated rainfall amounts.

Monitoring and Communication

- Trigger monitoring will be carried out by DCCMS in coordination with MRCS.
- While the forecast remains active, DCCMS will provide MRCS with daily technical updates via email or phone, confirming whether the trigger thresholds have been met.

Below is a table of reference for catchment areas with predefined thresholds.

Catchment Area	Threshold
Shire River Basin *(Mwanza Gauging Station)*	100 mm
Lake Chilwa Basin	150 mm
Salima/Linthipe/Rifidzi	100 mm
North Rukuru Catchment *(Virauri Gauging Station)*	100 mm
South Rukuru Catchment *(South Rukuru Bridge Gauging Station)*	100 mm

Trigger threshold justification

The trigger thresholds were established through an analysis of historical flood events, comparing forecasted rainfall data with observed impacts across key catchment areas and river basins. This analysis utilized meteorological precipitation forecasts provided by DCCMS. The table below outlines key examples, highlighting the forecast versus actual rainfall amounts and the corresponding impacts experienced.

	<table><tr><th>Event</th><th>Year</th><th>Forecasted Rainfall in 24hrs</th><th>Actual Rainfall Experienced</th><th>Impact (Number of people affected)</th></tr><tr><td>Extreme Flood</td><td>2015</td><td>??</td><td>~913 mm over 1 week</td><td>121,000 people affected</td></tr><tr><td>Cyclone Idai</td><td>2019</td><td>>100mm/24h</td><td>~278 mm/24h</td><td>94,000 people displaced</td></tr><tr><td>Storm Ana</td><td>2022</td><td>>100mm/24h</td><td>~300 mm/24h</td><td>22,364 people displaced</td></tr><tr><td>Cyclone Gombe</td><td>2022</td><td>>100mm/24h</td><td>~98 mm/24h</td><td>141,968 affected, 106,879 displaced</td></tr><tr><td>Cyclone Freddy</td><td>2023</td><td>>150mm/24h</td><td>300–458 mm/24h</td><td>2.2 million people were affected, 660,000 displaced</td></tr></table> Drawing on data from major flood events such as Tropical Cyclone Idai, Tropical Storm Ana, and Tropical Cyclone Freddy as well as other significant episodes of heavy rainfall, it was observed that forecasted rainfall amounts in the range of 100–150 mm within a 72-hour period consistently preceded severe flooding and displacement. Therefore, the proposed trigger range of 100–150 mm over 72 hours is justified and would have allowed the MRCS to activate timely anticipatory actions to mitigate the humanitarian consequences in these events.
Next steps – For National Societies that intend to develop a full EAP	Based on the lessons learnt from the activation of the sEAP, we will refine the triggers, and the early actions selected that will be incorporated into the full EAP. MRCS is working with DCCMS and movement partners (Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre) in a Clare-funded project called "Resilience and Preparedness to Tropical Cyclones in Southern Africa" (REPRESA). Through this project, the Climate Centre will support the development of triggers for floods. The development will further support MRCS to come up with a full EAP.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

	**Shelter, Housing and Settlements**	**Budget**	**36,426CHF**
		No. people targeted	**12,500** people
Indicator:	**Number of people reached with shelter, housing and settlement interventions in advance of a hazard**	**Target:**	**2,500** HH

	Number of volunteers to support with emergency shelters	**Target:**	**100 Volunteers**
Readiness activities:	1. Conduct refresher training of 100 volunteers (20 per district) on temporary shelter construction and tent mounting (Training to focus on ensuring that volunteers include some members of the Area/Village Disaster Risk Management Committees have adequate capacity to support communities in pitching large evacuation tents and also construction of temporary shelters when a warning has been issues). 2. Conduct 1 assessment with communities in each of the five target districts to strategically identify evacuation centers in the communities prone to flooding, identify pathways and enhance awareness to the communities.		
Prepositioning activities:	1. Procurement of 500 plastic paper sheets rolls (50 meters) to cover shelters on the sidewalls or rooftops in order to protect them from collapsing. The plastic rolls will account for 25,000meters which will be shared to 500 targeted HH per district. 2. Procurement of 72m^2 tents for communal evacuation. 3. Prepositioning of 5 communal tents in strategic warehousing facilities		
Prioritized Early Actions:	Pre-activation 1. Awareness raising to the communities on flood risks, early warning and advisories to enable them to protect their shelter. 2. Strategic reallocation of tents to communities that do not have safe evacuation centers 3. Conduct beneficiary verification to be supported with rolls of paper sheets to protect their houses Full activation 1. Carry out distribution of plastic paper rolls to households for them. to strengthen their houses before the rain starts. 2. Pitching tents in strategic evacuation areas. 3. Support evacuation of people to upland areas when 3-day lead time alerts have been issued by DCCMS of persistent rains in high-risk areas.		

	**Multi-purpose Cash**	**Budget**	**68,629CHF**
		No. people targeted	**6,500 people**
Indicator:	**Number of households reached with multi-purpose cash in advance of a hazard**	**Target:**	**1,000 HH**
Readiness activities:	1. Conduct 2 market assessments to determine the minimum expenditure basket (to be coordinated by the National Cash Technical Working Group) in the prioritized districts.		

	2. Conduct pre-registration of beneficiaries using UBR or JEFAP guidelines and vulnerability identification criteria (outlined in the MRCS CVA SOPs) 3. Train 100 staff and MRCS volunteers on CVA including sensitive CVA checklist, beneficiary registration and cash distribution process, including key messaging, code of conduct and use of CEA specific tools. 4. Conduct 2 Reviews on FSP performance and carry out meeting with pre-identified FSP teams to discuss and agree on modalities (cash/mobile money), revisit terms and conditions in case trigger is not reached and prepositioned funds not used, followed by orientation of FSPs in distribution methodology, code of conduct and humanitarian standards, RC principles and respect and dignity for beneficiaries. 5. Conduct coordination meetings with Movement Cash Working Group to effectively prepare for MPCT.
Prepositioning activities:	1. Preposition cash with FSP to enable timely distribution
Prioritized Early Actions:	<u>Pre-Activation</u> 1. Coordinate with Movement Cash Working Group on the possibilities and feasibility of response using cash upon receiving an alert from DCCMS. 2. Deploy NRTs, 4 staff and 20 volunteers previously trained to provide information and assistance to the population related to CVA, including beneficiary selection. 3. Sensitize and mobilize communities on selection criteria and eligibility, including dissemination of the beneficiary list 4. Verification of recipients based on the vulnerability criteria selection list. 5. Inform FSPs to start preparatory arrangements. 6. Pre-positioning of cash and sharing of cash disbursement plan with the FSP. <u>Full activation</u> 1. FSP conduct Resource and funding mobilization. 2. Conduct cash distribution to support 1,000 targeted HH with a transfer value of MWK 100,000 3 days before peak of the floods (the transfer value might be adjusted in line with the National Cash Technical Working Group recommendations).

For anticipatory cash distributions, MRCS will utilize Financial Service Providers (FSPs) with existing contractual framework agreements, namely Standard Bank and Logistics and Transport Services (LTS). To ensure effective and timely delivery of cash assistance, the intervention will follow a structured process outlined in the planned intervention table below.
This process spans from the initial alert issued by DCCMS through to the activation of Early Action once the trigger thresholds have been met, ensuring all necessary steps are carried out smoothly and efficiently.

Processes	Day	Steps	Activities	Authorization requirement
Pre-Activation Phase				
Assessment	5/2	1	Trigger confirmation (with meteorology or hydrological services-DCCMS/DWR).	

	5/2	2	Coordination and communication (Internal and External communication channels activation with MRCS (MCWG looks at the response analysis and modality options) and FSP and the targeted district respectively).	X
	4/2	3	Deployment of NRT to conduct verification to pre-identified targeted beneficiaries.	
	4/2	4	Pre-positioning of cash and sharing of cash disbursement plan with the FSP.	X
	3/2	5	Verification of beneficiary pre-identified list, adjustment and confirmation of distribution points.	
	3/2	6	Community engagement and communication.	
Activation upon meeting the trigger threshold				
Planning Set-up and Distributions	3/2	7	FSP conduct Resource and funding mobilization.	
	3/2	8	FSP planning/final design of delivery.	X
	2/2	9	ENCASHMENT/DISTRIBUTION	
Set-up and Distributions Evaluation and reporting	Post distribution monitoring			
	Evaluation and review/re-assess			

	**Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and Recovery**	**Budget**	**19,736CHF**
		No. people targeted	**100,000 people**
Indicator:	**Number of people reached with risk reduction and/or climate adaptation interventions in advance of a hazard**	**Target:**	**100,000 people**
Readiness activities:	1. Support awareness and sensitization of the communities on the seasonal weather forecast (1 per year). 2. Conduct staff, Government Stakeholders and volunteer orientation on risk monitoring, interpretation of risks levels, using the DCCMS/DWR forecast information and trigger mechanisms – 1 meeting per district. 3. Conduct 5 simulations per district in the community to test the SEAP prioritized activities, identify gaps and document lessons learnt with focus on communication and feedback, CVA and other cross-cutting issues.		
Prepositioning activities:	1. Procurement of 50KGs polythene bags (5,000 Bags-1000 per district) for filling in sand to be used for building embankments. 2. Procurement of 50 shovels and 25 wheelbarrows (10 and 5 respectively per district) to support the building of the embarkments. 3. Procure 100 bags cement (20 Per District) for embankment reinforcement - the cement will be mixed with sand and the money for buying cement will be done to work within the lead time. 4. Reinforce dykes and riverbanks using sandbags.		

	5. Identify areas which have potential to drive water in the community, fill in sand in sandbags and establish temporary dykes/embankments to protect public and community infrastructure.
Prioritized Early Actions:	Pre-activation 1. Clean and clear drainage systems in the communities to allow safe passage of storm water.

	**Community Engagement and Accountability**	**Budget**	**9.445CHF**
		People targeted	**100,000 people**
Indicator:	**Number of people reached with community engagement and accountability interventions in advance of a hazard**	**Target:**	**100,000 people**
Readiness activities:	1. Develop jingles focused on flood risk and preparedness. 2. Develop standardized messages for warnings and alerts in local languages (to be used for dissemination when DCCMS has issues alerts). 3. Develop simple guide on disability-inclusive warnings and alerts in line with the standardized messages. 4. Establish a feedback system to gather community input, complaints, and suggestions through their preferred and trusted communication channels. 5. Develop or revise referral pathways for managing sensitive complaints. 6. Mainstream CEA and PGI in all phases of program implementation.		
Prepositioning activities:	None		
Prioritized Early Actions:	Pre-activation 1. Implement the feedback mechanism to involve the community and their representatives in planning the distribution process, while also gathering feedback, complaints, and suggestions. 2. Communicate grievance redressal plans and feedback mechanisms to the community, ensuring beneficiaries are informed in advance about the distribution day, venue, time, and their entitlements following the activation of the trigger. Develop contextualized messages for media dissemination. Full Trigger 1. Support 200 volunteers conducting meetings and door-to-door dissemination of alerts.		

	2. Support van publication to disseminate alerts and warnings. 3. Buy airtime for community radio alert on flood risk, preparedness and general advisories through Jingles.

ENABLING APPROACHES

	National Society Strengthening	**Budget**	**60,263CHF**	
		People targeted	**86 people**	
Indicator:	# of MRCS staff supported and trained		**Target:**	**86 Staff members and volunteers.**
Readiness activities:	1. Anticipatory action focal point to support implementation and deliver the readiness and early action activities. 2. Support 1 NRT training and include AA refresher topics. 3. Conduct training in First Aid for first responders. 4. Mapping of warehousing facilities.			
Prepositioning activities:	1. Procurement of search and rescue equipment (5 first aid kits) 2. Procurement of safety equipment for securing warehousing facilities such as lighting materials, PPEs and padlocks			
Prioritized Early Actions:	Pre-activation 1. Identify and preposition NRT based on the predicted forecast and districts to be affected. 2. Update MRCS AA implementation strategy and ToRs for the NRTs. Full Trigger 1. Deployment of 23 NRT to support coordination and implementation of Early Actions across targeted districts.			

	Partnership and Coordination	**Budget**	**3,914CHF**	
		People targeted	**30 stakeholders and MRCS Staff**	
Indicator:	# of coordination meetings conducted		**Target:**	**4 meetings**
Readiness activities:	1. Conduct monthly coordination meetings with stakeholders DoDMA and DCCMS and other relevant stakeholders for effective implementation of AA. 2. Monthly Coordination meetings with authorities.			
Prepositioning activities:	None			
Prioritized Early Actions:	Full Trigger 1. Activate the EOC			

	Secretariat services	**Budget**	**20,874 CHF**
		People targeted	10 Staff
Indicator:		**Target:**	
Readiness activities:	1. Support Supervision costs from the Cluster Team 2. Bank Charges 3. Support salary Operations Management for Cluster		
Prepositioning activities:			
Prioritized Early Actions:	1. Support Supervision costs from the Cluster Team 2. Bank Charges 3. Support salary Operations Management for Cluster		

CONDITIONS TO DELIVER THE EARLY ACTION

Experience and/or capacity to implement the early actions	MRCS has substantial experience in implementing Early Warning (EW) activities, focusing on disaster preparedness, risk reduction, and anticipatory action. The efforts are generally aligned with national priorities and frameworks for disaster risk management, with significant integration into community-based initiatives. Over the past 10 years, MRCS has supported the establishment of EWS at community level, especially in flood-prone areas. These systems aim to provide timely and actionable information to communities, allowing them to take preventive measures before disasters such as floods or storms occur. MRCS has over 70,000 volunteers in the 28 districts who work with community government structures, such as the Area Disasters Management Committees as well as the Village Disaster Management committees, in monitoring and disseminating EW information. At the national level, MRCS has a highly trained National Response Team (NRT) that is capable of being deployed to various regions across the country when a response is required. The NRT is composed of skilled personnel trained in areas such as disaster management, including anticipatory action, first aid, search and rescue, and relief distribution, ensuring they can respond effectively to emergencies. This capacity for rapid deployment enhances the society's ability to deliver timely interventions and coordinate with local stakeholders, ensuring a more efficient and organized response. MRCS has been at the forefront of implementing Early Actions ahead of forecasted disasters, demonstrating its capability during major events such as Tropical Cyclone Idai in 2019, and Tropical Cyclones Anna, Gombe in 2022, and Freddy in 2023. These experiences have strengthened MRCS's role in effectively coordinating with key hydrometeorological agencies (DCCMS and DWR) and the Department of Disaster Management Affair (DoDMA) stakeholders at both national and community levels. Through these collaborations, MRCS has ensured that vulnerable populations receive timely and accurate information about impending hazards, enabling them to take precautionary measures.

	In addition to EW communication, MRCS has provided targeted assistance, such as Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) and other lifesaving interventions in anticipatory actions, which helped mitigate disaster risks and protect lives and livelihoods for over 14,040 beneficiaries in response to TC Freddy in 2023. This proactive approach has strengthened MRCS's operational readiness and reinforced the importance of anticipatory action in reducing the impact of disasters on at-risk communities. MRCS possesses strong and proven capacity in shelter and settlement interventions. In all previous response operations, shelter support has remained a key activity ranging from the provision of temporary shelters to the construction of permanent housing for affected populations. The Society has built on the capacity of both volunteers and staff across all regions of the country to effectively support these efforts. Additionally, MRCS serves as the co-lead of the Shelter Cluster at both the national and district levels, further reinforcing its leadership and technical expertise in this sector For anticipatory cash transfers, MRCS will use a Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) value of MWK 100,000.00 for MPCT. This amount aligns with the average value agreed upon by the National Technical Cash Working Group. It is designed to support critical early actions, including evacuation, livelihood protection, and the procurement of food and essential non-food items, as part of household preparedness for the anticipated hazard impact.
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners, Governmental / other agencies consulted/involved on this simplified EAP	MRCS has greatly benefited from the support of Partner National Societies (PNSs), such as the Danish Red Cross (DRC) and the IFRC. These partners have provided invaluable technical expertise and guidance throughout the planning process. MRCS has also worked closely with key stakeholders at both national and district levels, focusing on developing disaster triggers, mapping high-risk areas for targeted interventions, and prioritizing early actions. Key collaborators include the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS), the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), UN agencies, international NGOs, and district and community structures. This collaborative approach ensures that early actions are data-driven, well-targeted, and effectively implemented, thereby strengthening preparedness and disaster risk reduction efforts across Malawi. The sEAP was developed through workshops conducted in partnership with these stakeholders.

BUDGET

Early Action Protocol Summary

MDRMW023 - Malawi Red Cross Society
Heavy Rains Floods

Operating Budget	Readiness	Pre-Pos Stock	Early Action	TOTAL
Planned Operations	**37,967**	**39,508**	**56,762**	**134,236**
Shelter and Basic Household Items	9,505	25,355	1,566	**36,426**
Livelihoods	0	0	0	**0**
Multi-purpose Cash	15,833	3,131	49,664	**68,629**
Health	0	0	0	**0**
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	7,880	11,021	835	**19,736**
Community Engagement and Accountability	4,749	0	4,697	**9,445**
Environmental Sustainability	0	0	0	**0**
Enabling Approaches	**55,116**	**9,929**	**20,006**	**85,051**
Coordination and Partnerships	3,914	0	0	**3,914**
Secretariat Services	13,307	0	7,567	**20,874**
National Society Strengthening	37,895	9,929	12,439	**60,263**
TOTAL BUDGET	**93,083**	**49,437**	**76,768**	**219,287**

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

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