



EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL OPERATIONS UPDATE

Ethiopia | Drought

23/12/2025



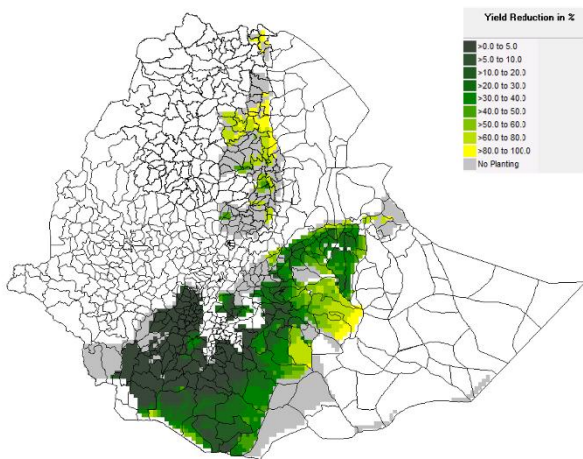
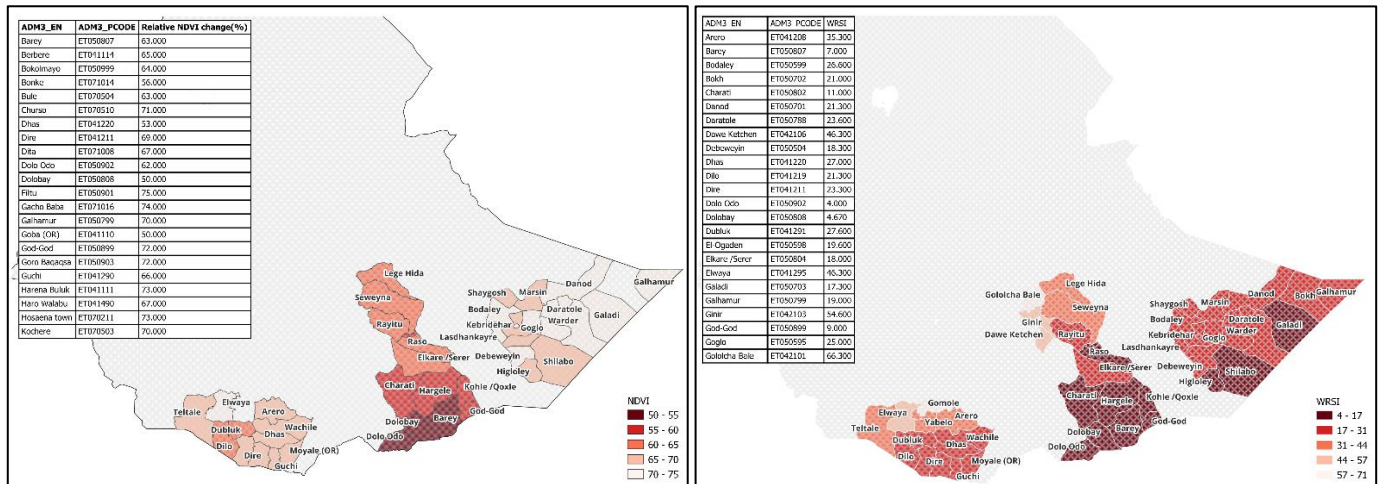
Pictures Taken by ERCS communication expert in October 2023 during First Drought Activation work by the community. Early actions like Range land management and Risk communication by ERCS Volunteers

EAP No: EAP2022ET02	Operation No: MDRET033	EAP approved: 08/09/2023
Trigger date: 21/11/2025	Early action timeframe: 1 Months and 11 days	Timeframe covered by this update: 21/11/2025 – 31/12/2025

Budget: 141,671 CHF
To assist: 35,000 people

EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL

Summary of revisions to the operation



The intervention approach was refined to ensure feasibility and alignment with the realities on the ground. The modality for fodder assistance was adjusted from cash for fodder to in-kind distribution. While both options were included in the original EAP, the preferred delivery mechanism initially was cash. However, a rapid market assessment, supported by guidance from local authorities, confirmed that fodder was not available in local markets, making in-kind distribution the only practical and effective modality.

A further adjustment relates to the asset protection intervention. The asset protection intervention through cash for work /food for work to construct water points activity under DRR has been fully replaced with fodder procurement and distribution under planned livelihoods along the total 81,473 CHF budget allocated to it.

The analysis done by the deployed team in consultation with local branch and authorities showed that the water point construction/maintenance activities in the target kebeles could not be implemented through cash/food for work alone, as all required spare part procurement, which was an activity not planned in the original EAP and therefore not feasible to introduce during implementation. Since cash/food for work could not be carried out as planned, and the originally planned fodder support was insufficient relative to the scale of need, consultations with the branch and local authorities identified expanded fodder assistance as the most suitable and timely support for the predominantly pastoralist communities.

Additional refinements were made to integrate operational costs (transportation, mileage, fuel, lubricants, monitoring, operational team deployment, and campaign activities) across all sectors. These adjustments were covered by reallocating within planned activities without affecting the intended targets. This change was required because operational costs had not been specifically budgeted under Trigger 2, based on the earlier assumption that both triggers would be activated simultaneously.



The EAP lead time has also been extended to 31 December 2025 due to the following unforeseen challenges


- The initial plan to conduct water point maintenance through cash-for-work combined with procurement of spare parts required consultation with the DREF team, as this approach was outside the originally approved EAP. The review and decision process took approximately 15 days, significantly reducing the effective lead time.
- Following the non-approval of the revised asset protection approach, the National Society requested to scale up fodder procurement and distribution, which received final approval on 5 December 2025, leaving limited time for implementation.

- The original implementation plan relied on local procurement of fodder, which was feasible at the initially planned scale. After scale-up approval, the required quantities were not available locally, necessitating procurement at HQ level.
- Limited fodder availability in the market is further delayed procurement, despite the procurement process being fast-tracked once initiated.
- The revised plan required long-distance transportation (over 750 km), including sections of road in poor condition.
- Several transport service providers were unable to deliver as agreed, requiring additional time to identify and contract alternative providers.

Early Action Overview

PLANNED OPERATIONS

 Livelihoods	Female:	7500	120,670 CHF
	Male:	2500	AP Code: 007
Indicator:	% reduction of livestock death		
Priority Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote systematic destocking (together with marketing) market assessment. 2. Promote systematic Migration with livestock to other pasture and water available areas (herd splitting like browsers can say behind a bit longer) whenever it is applicable 3. Vaccination of Livestock including operational cost 4. Provide Cash/in kind for animal feed 3100 HH including distribution, volunteers' deployment lubricant and fuel cost 5. Conflict resolution or negotiation of resource sharing 		
 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	Female:	6000	8,328 CHF
	Male:	4000	AP Code: 110
Indicator:	Number of people reached with WASH interventions in advance of a hazard		
Priority Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create awareness and Implement hygiene promotion intervention focusing on potential health risks from WASH related diseases. 2. Introduce water allocation based on availability and needs 3. Engage the WASH sector for Water Treatment. 4. Cleaning and de-silting of water sources – river, springs, and wells to avoid mosquitoes breeding in stagnant water using community labor with guidance from Development workers and Extension workers including field level operation. 		

 Secretariat Services			9,053 CHF
			AP Code: 122
Objective:			
Priority Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Technical accompaniment for the implementation of the early actions. 2. Support with reporting and lessons learned. 		

 National Society Strengthening			3,621 CHF
			AP Code:124 & 125
Objective:			
Priority Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Activate Community and National platforms. 2. Conduct post Activation Lessons learned workshop. 		

Budget

The budget for asset protection intervention through cash for work /food for work to construct water points which 81,473 CHF planned under DRR has been fully shifted to fodder procurement and distribution planned under livelihoods.

Additional refinements were made to integrate operational costs (transportation, mileage, fuel, lubricants, monitoring, operational team deployment, and campaign activities) across all sectors. These adjustments were covered by reallocating within planned activities without changing the total cost planned for that activity. This change was required because operational costs had not been specifically budgeted under Trigger 2, based on the earlier assumption that both triggers would be activated simultaneously.

Contact information

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

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Reference



Click here for:

- EAP summary and budget
- Early Action Notification