

# EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL SUMMARY

Kyrgyzstan | Heatwave

8 August 2023

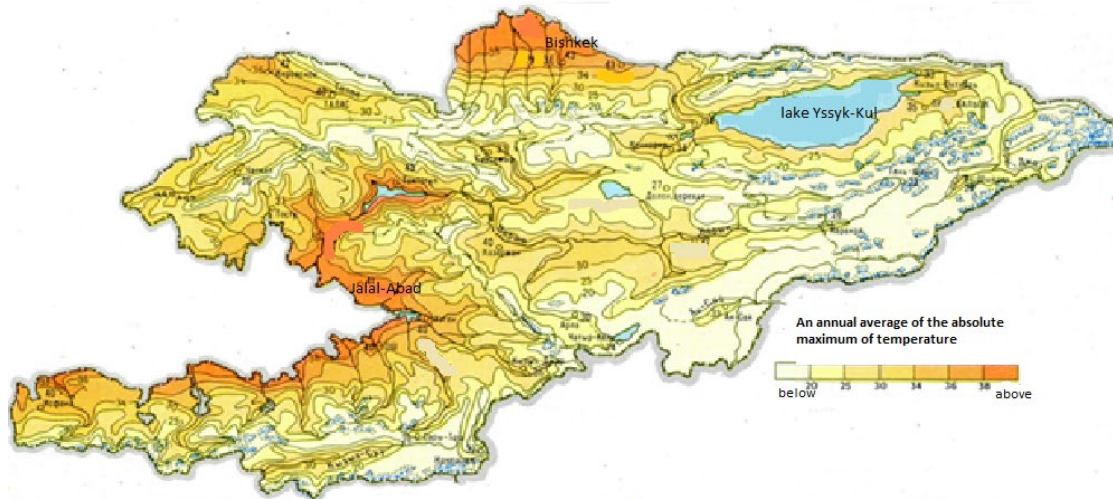


Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan (RCSK) staff and volunteers are distributing water for families during heatwaves in the summer of 2022, following the activation of the Early Action Protocol. Photo credit: RCSK

EAP №: <b>EAP2023KG02</b>	Early action lead time: <b>4 days</b>	Operation №: <b>MDRKG016</b>
EAP approved: <b>09/08/2023</b>	EAP timeframe: <b>5 Years</b>	Operational timeframe: <b>3 Months</b>

**Budget: CHF 499,151**  
**To assist: 16,200 people**

# SUMMARY OF THE EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL



Average of an absolute annual maximum of temperature over the territory of Kyrgyzstan

The IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) has approved a total of **CHF 499,151** from the Anticipatory Pillar for the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan (RCSK) Heatwave Early Action Protocol (EAP). The approved amount consists of an immediate allocation of **CHF 152,671** for readiness, **CHF 86,406** for prepositioning and **CHF 260,073** allocated to implement early actions once the defined triggers are met.

Allocations are made from the Anticipatory Pillar of the DREF, under the DREF appeal code MDR00001. Unearmarked contributions to the DREF are encouraged to guarantee sufficient funding is available for the EAPs being developed.

Kyrgyzstan is recognized as a “high disaster-prone” country. As a country with highly mountainous terrain and high poverty levels, Kyrgyzstan experiences significant vulnerability to natural disasters and climate-driven hazards, including earthquakes, floods, mudflows, avalanches, droughts, as well as heatwaves and cold waves. The ‘hazard and exposure’ dimension of the INFORM Global Risk Index 2019 has mapped Kyrgyzstan as ‘high exposure’ to both natural and human-induced hazards<sup>1</sup>. Furthermore, Kyrgyzstan is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change in Central Asia; according to estimates, the average temperature in Kyrgyzstan could increase by 8°C during this century.<sup>2</sup> An analysis of the period from 1980 to 2022 shows that the frequency and intensity as well as the area of occurrence of high temperatures have been increasing in recent decades in Kyrgyzstan.

The EAP for heatwave in Kyrgyzstan has been designed with the support of the German Red Cross (GRC), the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (RCRCCC), the key ministries and agencies (Ministry of Emergency of the Kyrgyz Republic (MES), Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic (MoH), and Kyrgyzhydromet), as well as local municipalities and community leaders.

The EAP targets vulnerable people, including 2,500 vulnerable families living below the poverty line, as well as 700 older persons in care homes; 700 children at the age range up to 16 years living residential institutions for orphans; 1,300 children living at orphanages and boarding schools for children with disabilities. While indirect recipients will be 1.5 million at-risk people throughout the country.

The EAP will address impacts of acute gastro infections in children aged 0-4 and general health impact on children under 16; impact on the health of older people living in social facilities.

Kyrgyzhydromet is producing weather forecast in Kyrgyzstan with 4 days lead time.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.inform-index.org/Countries/Country-profiles/iso3/KGZ>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/kyrgyzstan/press-releases/kyrgyzstan-one-most-vulnerable-countries-climate-change-central-asia>

# OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

## 1. Who will implement the EAP - The National Society

The EAP will be implemented by the RCSK Forecast-based Financing (FbF) team, which includes The Red Cross Society of Kyrgyzstan (RCSK) staff and volunteers, and a permanent consultant from Kyrgyzhydromet. Implementation will be further supported by the GRC, RCRCCC, and IFRC.

RCSK, established on 6 October 1926, is auxiliary to the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in the humanitarian area based on the RCSK Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 19 of 3 February 2018. It closely co-operates with key ministries within the frame of signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) (e.g., MES KR, MoH KR and Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Migration (MLSSM) KR) and works in collaboration with national and international non-governmental organisations.

The GRC, IFRC and RCCC will provide technical assistance and support in the areas of disaster risk management (DRM), strategic relationships, early warning/early action, as well as monitoring and evaluation within the framework of the FbF mechanism.<sup>3</sup> Kyrgyzhydromet will provide the best-estimated lead time for the activation of EAP and a better spatial resolution and verification of the forecast. MES will be involved in the preparation, activation, and monitoring activities of the EAP in Kyrgyzstan. MoH KR will be involved in the preparation, activation, and monitoring activities of the EAP with a special focus on the heatwave impact on the public health sectors. MLSSM, with local authorities of respective regions, will provide data on socially vulnerable populations in case of EAP activation.

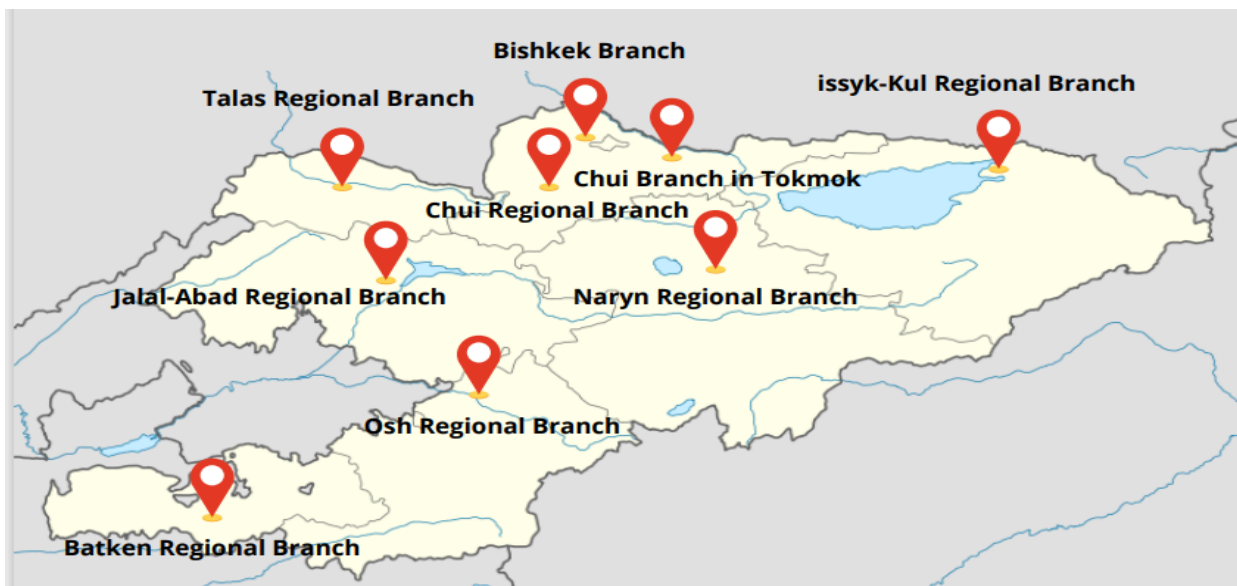
The RCSK implements its humanitarian activities in the entire country with the seven provincial and 38 district branches along with headquarters (HQ) in the capital city of Bishkek. RCSK is present in all target locations under the current EAP, namely in Chui, Issyk-Kul, Talas, Batken, Jalal-Abad and Osh provinces. The National Society has 80 primary organizations and more than 100 functional local disaster management committees (LDMC) (as of June 2023) in various locations of the country. LDMC teams are ready for immediate activation/deployment and provision of emergency needs assessment. Besides, there are 140 active and trained National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members (as of June 2023) based in seven provincial branches and HQ. Each team consist of ten members and includes at least one Disaster Management (DM) expert, a first-aid specialist, a psychosocial support specialist, and experienced volunteers ready to be deployed within a few hours after a disaster strikes. At the HQ level, there are also several trained staff and volunteers on different surge roles including cash and vouchers assistance, emergency team leader, community engagement and accountability. Overall, RCSK has 216 permanent staff members and 5,122 active volunteers.

RCSK is familiar with the IFRC Global Response Tools (GRT) such as an Emergency Appeal which was launched in 2010 (civil unrest) and Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF). DREFs were requested several times in 2012 (floods), 2012-2013 (cold wave), 2013 (bubonic plague), 2015 (earthquake), 2017 (earthquake), 2022 (border conflict). In July 2022, the EAP was activated for heatwave in southern part of the country for CHF 349,991 covering 11,308 people in Batken, Jalalabad and Osh.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.climatecentre.org/programmes-engagement/forecast-based-financing>





Map: RCSI regional branches.

## 2. How the EAP will be activated – The Trigger

Kyrgyzhydromet is the only official agency responsible for monitoring, analysing and issuing forecast information, including warning messages in the country. To date, there is no system in place to automatically monitor the forecasts and send an automatic alert message to relevant actors as soon as a trigger is reached. This is done manually by shift forecasters, which is then disseminated to all relevant partners, including RCSI. Alerts on heatwaves will be sent via e-mail, fax, and telephone. Within this EAP, this early warning forecast will be based on the pre-signed MoU between RCSI and MES KR, which facilitate activation of this EAP by the RCSI president as soon as the alert would be received.

Based on a comprehensive work, ***the trigger for the EAP was identified and it will be triggered if the seven-day forecast of Kyrgyzhydromet indicates that temperature will exceed the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile for three (3) and more consecutive days during June – August throughout the life cycle of the EAP with a lead time of four (4) days for the selected local points.*** The trigger will be monitored according to the official weather bulletin which is released by Kyrgyzhydromet in a range of two (2) degrees.

Having the local and regional models with high resolution, the forecast for 72 hours will be used as a confirmation of heatwave occurrence. If the probability of the occurrence of a heatwave with a lead time of 72 hours is less than 75%, **The Stop Mechanism** will be activated by the RCSI Head of the Disaster Management Department upon receiving the corresponding message from Kyrgyzhydromet. Following the activation of the stop mechanism, the implementation of early actions will be stopped accordingly. During the heatwave warning period, the RCSI FbF team will be informed of the updated forecast twice a day (08:00 and 12:00 local time) by the responsible Kyrgyzhydromet staff. Based on this, if the later forecast (after the activation of the stop mechanism) confirms the upcoming heatwave, then the early actions should be continued accordingly.

Target group will include vulnerable families living below poverty line, older people in care homes, children at the age range 0-16 living at residential institutions for orphans, children living at orphanages and boarding schools for children with disabilities.

Early action would include the following actions:

- Distribution of food parcels for families living below the poverty line
- Distribution of hygiene kits for families living below the poverty line
- Distribution of a set of colouring books and pencils for children from vulnerable families
- Installation of air conditioners in care homes and orphanages
- Installation of information boards with general protective measures against heatwave
- Distribution of a set of colouring books and pencils for children in orphanages

- Conducting information campaigns on heatwave in public places (first aid master classes, animated videos)
- Conducting early warning system through SMS

The possibility of using the Cash and Vouchers Assistance (CVA) option was studied during the EAP development process along with the analysis of past RCSK CVA interventions. Since the process of CVA distribution might take longer time than four (4) days (lead time), it is not foreseen to use CVA in the current EAP, however, using CVA modality in future EAPs will still be explored.

Intervention areas are potential high-risk areas in Chui, Issyk-Kul, Talas, Batken, Jalal-Abad and Osh provinces.

The stop mechanism will have a cost equal to 6.5% of the total budget (approximately CHF 23,582) and this will include the initial cost for mobilizing the RCSK FbF team and volunteers.

### **3. How the EAP will reduce the impact on the population – The Early Actions**

The early action activities have been selected based on the analysis of the impact of a heatwave, exposure elements and vulnerability of the susceptible population and these interventions can minimize the impact and can be implemented within a short time (four days), available between the forecast and the occurrence of the hazard.

The early actions have been selected taking into account the following information:

- The type of hazard (no measures have been taken in the country ever to reduce the impact of heatwaves);
- The geographical scope (urban and rural areas);
- The available capacity of RCSK;
- The recommendations from the local and international stakeholders (Ministry of Health and Social Development, WHO, etc.);
- The results of conducted surveys and focus group meetings, as well as the results of the international studies, have been done in this area.

The selection process was carried out in several stages using the following methods:

- Conducting surveys and focus group discussions with at risk communities;
- Recommendations from local and international stakeholders organizations working in the health sector;
- Analysing existing reports and studies on heatwaves.


The main criteria for the selection of early actions were easiness of use, efficiency, and accessibility for the general population, Moreover, most of the activities were implemented in the EAP for heatwave activated in summer of 2022.

Early actions will address the following impacts:


- Acute gastro infections in children (aged 0-4) and general health impact on children under 16 years;
- Impact on the health of older people living in social facilities (nursing homes);
- Food insecurity in vulnerable families.


The financial capacity of the RCSK to advance funds in case of the EAP activation is mainly based on agreements signed with pre-selected suppliers of goods and services (e.g., supermarket chains, transportation companies). Thus, selected early actions such as food parcels, hygiene kits and air conditioners do not require pre-stocking and will be delivered to target communities by pre-selected suppliers upon EAP activation. Other items (e.g., visibility materials, information, communication and education (IEC) materials, personal protective equipment (PPE), and sets of colouring books and pencils) will be pre-stocked in RCSK warehouses. The RCSK will be able to cover necessary expenses to initiate the implementation of early actions until the FbF funds arrive (e.g., information campaigns, deployment of the RCSK staff and volunteers to target province/communities, etc.).

## PLANNED OPERATIONS

 <b>Livelihoods</b>	Female:	7,500	<b>CHF 89,473</b>
	Male:	5,000	AP Code: <b>007</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	12,500 people reached with livelihoods interventions in advance of a hazard		
<b>Readiness Activities</b>	1. N/A		
<b>Prepositioning Activities</b>	1. N/A		
<b>Priority Early Actions:</b>	1. Procure and distribute food parcels for 2,500 most vulnerable families		


 <b>Health &amp; Care</b>	Female:	4,656	<b>CHF 33,587</b>
	Male:	4,844	AP Code: <b>107, 109</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	9,500 people reached with health and care interventions in advance of a hazard		
<b>Readiness activities</b>	1. N/A		
<b>Prepositioning Activities:</b>	1. Procure colouring books and pencils for children (to prevent children from playing outdoors during heatwave) – 9,500 sets 2. Procure and distribute PPE for four days (face masks, gloves, hand sanitizers) – two times purchase 100 sets each		
<b>Priority Early Actions:</b>	1. Distribute colouring books and pencils for children (to prevent children from playing outdoors during heatwave)		

 <b>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</b>	Female:	7,500	<b>CHF 79,838</b>
	Male:	5,000	AP Code: <b>111</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	12,500 people reached with WASH interventions in advance of a hazard		
<b>Readiness Activities:</b>	1. N/A		
<b>Prepositioning Activities:</b>	1. N/A		
<b>Priority Early Actions:</b>	1. Procure and distribute hygiene kits (soap, antiseptic hand spray, wet wipes, diapers, etc.) for 2,500 most vulnerable families		

 <b>Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and recovery</b>	Female:	50%	<b>CHF 166,622</b>
	Male:	50%	AP Code: <b>101, 103</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	1,500,000 people reached with risk reduction and/or climate adaptation interventions in advance of a hazard		
<b>Readiness Activities:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Heatwave awareness campaigns (on annual basis)</li> </ol>		
<b>Prepositioning Activities:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Production of information boards for care homes and orphanages and boarding schools for children with disabilities. (General protection measures against heatwave)</li> <li>2. Production of heatwave brochures for beneficiaries/general public (15 packs of 500 each)</li> <li>3. Mobile sliding folding tent</li> <li>4. Bench for waiting areas for targeted people</li> <li>5. Mobile fogging system for air cooling</li> <li>6. Incentives in form of hats for active participation in annual heatwave awareness campaigns (among the general public)</li> <li>7. Roll up banners, banners and stickers with FbF/Implementing partners/NS logos</li> </ol>		
<b>Priority Early Actions:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Deploy staff/volunteers from HQ to province branch (land and/or air)</li> <li>2. Distribution of relief items for seven provinces (transport costs)</li> <li>3. Heatwave awareness campaign</li> <li>4. Encouraging volunteers who participate during the heat response</li> <li>5. Provision of air conditioners in care homes for older people and orphanages and boarding schools for children with disabilities</li> <li>6. Installation work of air conditioners in care homes for older people</li> <li>7. Monitoring of distribution process on field level</li> </ol>		

## Enabling approaches

 <b>Coordination and Partnerships</b>			<b>CHF 55,027</b>
			AP Code: <b>049, 106, 118, 119, 127, 128</b>
<b>Readiness Activities:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kyrgyzhydromet consultant involvement (five months per year)</li> <li>2. IFRC monitoring visits</li> <li>3. IFRC staff salary contribution</li> </ol>		
<b>Prepositioning Activities</b>	N/A		
<b>Priority Early Actions:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kyrgyzhydromet monitors forecast and is involved in the activation</li> <li>2. IFRC DM Coordinator monitoring visits</li> </ol>		

 <b>National Society Strengthening</b>	Female:	N/A	<b>CHF 74,604</b>
	Male:	N/A	AP Code: <b>105,124,125,128</b>
<b>Readiness Activities:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Annual FbF refresher workshop for RCSK staff/volunteers</li> <li>2. RCSK staff salary contribution</li> <li>3. RCSK indirect administrative costs</li> <li>4. RCSK Bank Fees</li> <li>5. Annual working group meeting with FbF relevant partners to update on possible changes in the EAP</li> <li>6. Annual meeting with suppliers to extend existing contracts/re-select suppliers</li> </ol>		
<b>Prepositioning activities:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Visibility items for staff/volunteers (set of T-shirts and hats) 750 sets</li> </ol>		
<b>Priority Early Actions:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Post-distribution monitoring and evaluation post activation</li> <li>2. Lessons Learned Workshop for RCSK FbF team and partners-post activation</li> <li>3. RCSK staff salary contributions</li> <li>4. RCSK Bank Fees</li> <li>5. RCSK indirect administrative costs</li> </ol>		

## Budget

To implement the EAP **CHF 499,151** have been allocated, split between readiness, pre-positioning of stock and early action costs as per below summary by area of intervention.





# Early Action Protocol Summary

## EAP2023KG02 - Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan (RCSK) Heatwave

### Operating Budget

	Readiness	Pre-Pos Stock	Early Action	TOTAL
<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>67,278</b>	<b>65,759</b>	<b>236,483</b>	<b>369,520</b>
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0	0	0	0
Livelihoods	0	0	89,473	89,473
Multi-purpose Cash	0	0	0	0
Health	0	33,587	0	33,587
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0	0	79,838	79,838
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0	0	0	0
Education	0	0	0	0
Migration	0	0	0	0
Risk Red., Climate Adapt. and Recovery	67,278	32,172	67,172	166,622
Community Engagement and Accountability	0	0	0	0
Environmental Sustainability	0	0	0	0
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>85,393</b>	<b>20,648</b>	<b>23,590</b>	<b>129,631</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	53,376	0	1,652	55,027
Secretariat Services	0	0	0	0
National Society Strengthening	32,017	20,648	21,939	74,604
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>152,671</b>	<b>86,406</b>	<b>260,073</b>	<b>499,151</b>

*all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)*

*\*The activities for readiness and pre-positioning of stock will be captured in the IFRC Country Operational Plan (COP), reporting on annual basis. In case of an Early Action trigger, the annual readiness funding allocation is terminated with a 12-month notice, allowing the National Society to conclude its 3rd party financial and legal commitments and liabilities under the Early Action Protocol.*

## Contact information.

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

### **In the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan**

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  - RCSK FbF Focal Point, [info@redcrescent.kg](mailto:info@redcrescent.kg)

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