



EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL NOTIFICATION

Zimbabwe| Drought Protocol

8 September 2023



EAP No: EAP2022ZW01	Operation No: MDRZW020	EAP approved: 12/12/2022	EAP revised timeframe: 12/12/2022 – 30/08/2024
Trigger date: 24/08/2023	Early action lead time: 12 months	Early action timeframe: 12 Months	

Budget: 366,878 CHF
To assist: 21,000 people

EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL ACTIVATION



Activation Overview

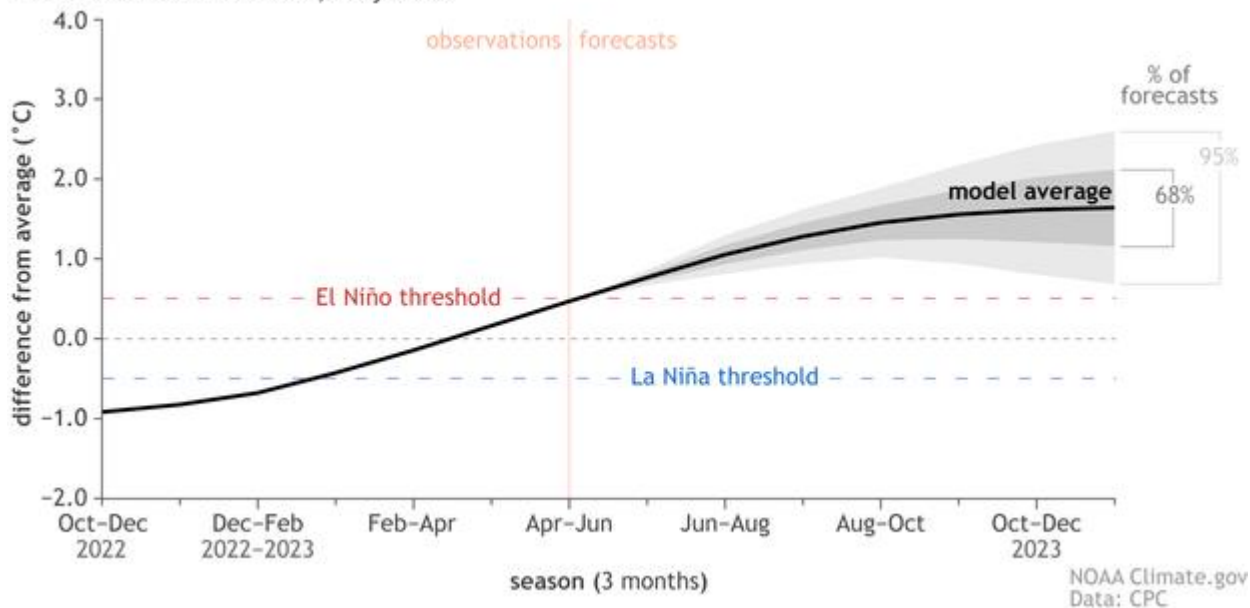
Based on current El Niño forecast the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society is requesting to trigger first stage Early Actions under the EAP for Drought. The activation of the EAP for drought is based on a two-stage trigger, which allows for long lead time that can address a series of expected drought impacts. The IBF Drought model utilises five meteorological indicators, which are monitored throughout the agriculture season, as forecast features for drought, with increasing certainty as the season progresses. Combining ENSO¹ forecasts, CHIRPS² Data and the Vegetation Condition Index, the forecast model runs on a monthly basis starting from September (7 months lead time to end of season). The model is informed by two separate trigger events which will activate sets of impact mitigating Early Actions. According to the trigger statement of the Early Action Protocol, the following will result in an activation of the protocol:

First Trigger: A forecast of an El Niño event, with an impact level corresponding to once-in-six-year event, will act as the first trigger for low investment Early Actions (Early warning disseminations, drought tolerant seed distributions and livestock dosing).

Second Trigger: A forecast of IPC4 conditions in the FEWSnet Food Security Forecast Reports in both March and June will trigger the second set of early actions that address drought induced food insecurity (livestock support, multi-purpose Cash Transfers and school supplemental feeding)

Current ENSO forecasts indicate a very strong likelihood of an El Niño event in 2023 which is currently above 90% and a very strong correlation to future drought conditions in Zimbabwe.

NMME seasonal forecasts, July 2023



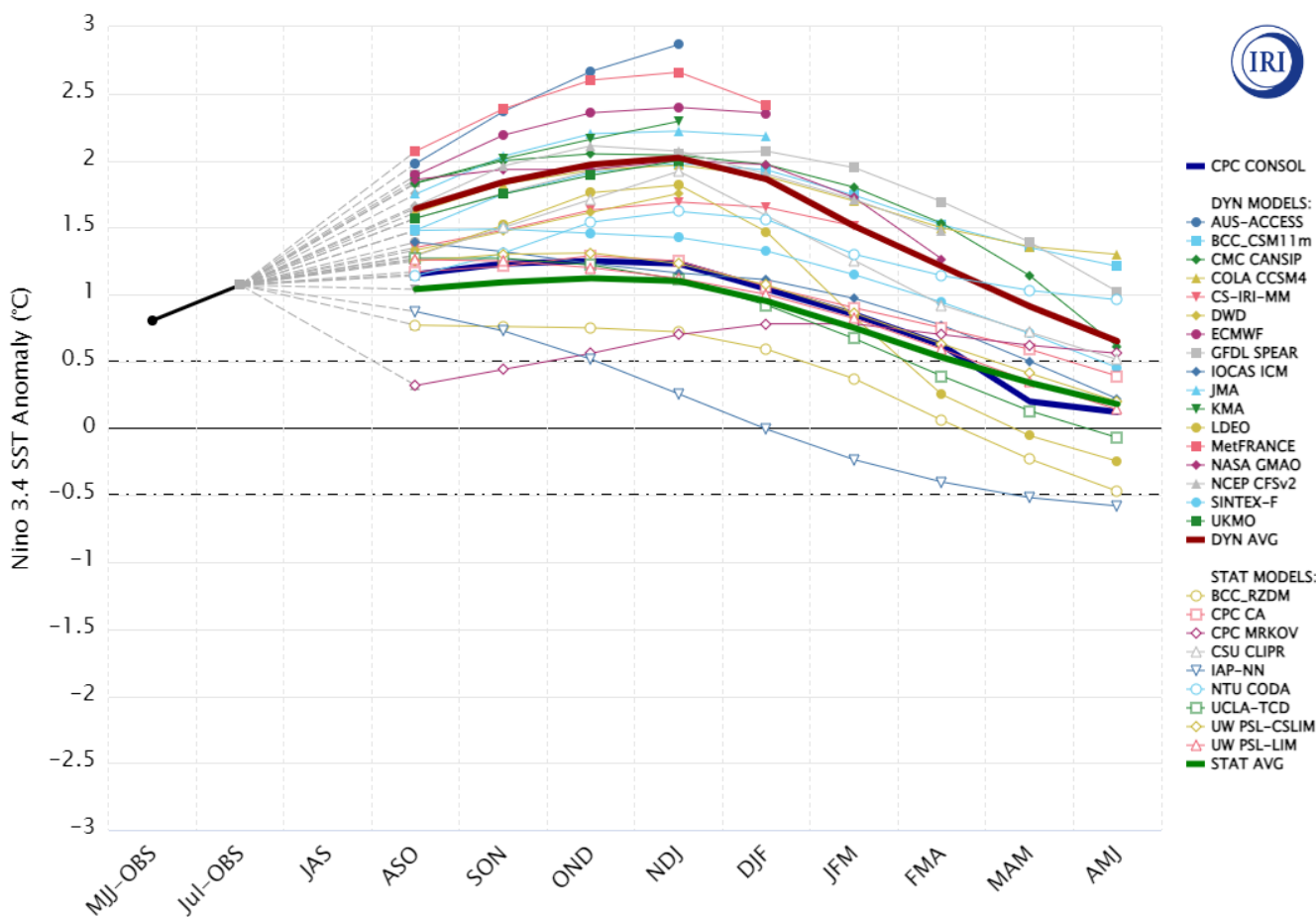
¹ El Niño-Southern Oscillation

² Climate Hazards Group InfraRed Precipitation with Station

There is a greater than 95% chance that El Niño will continue through the Zimbabwean summer. Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the tropical Pacific are exceeding El Niño thresholds, with climate models indicating this is likely to continue at least through to March 2024. The most recent IRI plume indicates El Niño will persist through the Zimbabwean summer 2023-24. Forecasters favour continued growth of El Niño through the fall, peaking this summer with moderate-to-strong intensity (81% chance of November-January Niño-3.4 $\geq 1.0^\circ\text{C}$). An event that becomes "historically strong" (seasonally averaged Niño-3.4 $\geq 2.0^\circ\text{C}$), rivalling the summers of 1997-98 or 2015-16, has an approximately 1 in 5 chance.

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently neutral. Climate model forecasts suggest a positive IOD is likely to develop in September or October. A positive IOD typically decreases early summer rainfall for much of Southern Africa and can exacerbate the drying influence from El Niño. These conditions have reached the trigger level 1 for the Binga Drought EAP activation.

Model Predictions of ENSO from Aug 2023



Source: https://iri.columbia.edu/our-expertise/climate/forecasts/enso/current/?enso_tab=enso-sst_table

Based on this information the first trigger has been reached and will require ZRCS to trigger early action activities associated to the first trigger. The early actions will be in the five (5) targeted wards in Binga and will be implemented starting from October 2023.

First Trigger Actions

The first trigger early actions will be initiated in October following the seasonal forecast issued by the MSD which confirms the El Niño forecasts, predicting a poor rainfall season. The first trigger early actions include:

Drought Early Warning Communication- A critical component of planning for drought is the provision of timely and reliable climate information, including seasonal forecasts, that supports at-risk communities in planning

critical drought mitigation actions. Weather and climate information helps to prepare communities to anticipate, counter and absorb climate shocks, enhance agricultural productivity, stay informed, at the same time contributing to local knowledge and weather information repository banks. This information, if properly used, can reduce the impact of drought and other extreme weather events and is an effective tool for drought mitigation. This early action is aimed at supporting GoZ to disseminate accurate, people-centred and user-friendly weather and climate information in the languages best understood by communities.

Distribution of drought tolerant short season certified seed varieties- Households targeted by this action have the potential of salvaging some harvest even during drought years thereby ensuring some level of food security. It was noted that one of the reasons why the yields are very low in small-scale agriculture is that communities use uncertified and holdover seeds that are susceptible to pests and diseases. Distributing certified seeds will boost the yield potential of the targeted households. The target for this action is 2,000 vulnerable households, who will each receive 5kg of millet (approx. 1Ha) and 2.5kg of cowpeas approx. 0.17Ha). The seed varieties selection will be guided by Agritex officials who are well versed with the suitable varieties in their areas of operation. This seed pack will enable the benefitting households to have cereal and legume in their diet.

Livestock dosing support- Livestock play a pivotal role in the livelihoods of most communities, acting as a store of wealth. Improving livestock conditions through vaccination and dipping ahead of a forecasted drought will decrease the vulnerability of animals, stressed by drought conditions, from developing and succumbing to bacterial and parasitic infections.

Second Trigger Actions


The second trigger will be the FEWSnet food security outlook indicating IPC4 in March will be used to trigger the second trigger actions. This will further be informed by the 2nd round crop assessments by Agritex that indicate a poor agricultural season or a failed harvest. The second trigger early actions include:

Cash/Voucher Assistance for food and basic needs purchases- This action is motivated by the realisation that even with all the drought mitigation early action proposed in this EAP, it is still possible that food insecurity impacts will be felt by the community. There is general consensus amongst humanitarian actors that cash/voucher assistance should be considered as the modality of choice, where conditions allow. CVA for food and basic needs purchases will provide a safety net for vulnerable households to reduce reliance on negative coping strategies such as selling of productive assets. The cash distributions will target 500 households with USD65 per round over a period of three months.


School feeding- This action will have multiple benefits in combating malnutrition amongst the school going children, reducing the number of hunger-induced school dropouts, and other social ills like early child marriages and child labour. School feeding will be implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and will only target primary schools in the target wards. The plan is to target all the 20 primary schools in the target wards to ensure all children from food insecure households in the target wards are included. The school feeding daily rations will be guided by UNICEF and WFP guidelines on school feeding to ensure that the recommended nutritional requirements are met.


Early Action Overview

PLANNED OPERATIONS

 Livelihoods	Female > 18: 2650	Female < 18: 5350	166,171 CHF
	Male > 18: 2649	Male < 18: 5349	AP Code: 005
Indicator:	Number of people reached with livelihoods interventions in advance of a hazard		
Priority Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verification of beneficiary registers for seed distributions 2. Distribution of seeds to targeted households 3. Post distribution monitoring assessments 4. Distribution of dosing chemicals to Veterinary department and support to dosing activities 5. Distribution of CSB to schools 6. Post distribution and regular monitoring of the school supplemental feeding 		
 Multi-purpose Cash	Female > 18: 540	Female < 18: 460	133,130 CHF
	Male > 18: 540	Male < 18: 460	AP Code: 081
Indicator:	Number of people reached with multi-purpose cash in advance of a hazard		
Priority Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Beneficiary engagement and sensitization by volunteer structures 2. Monthly distribution cycles using CVA modality once the trigger thresholds have been reached 3. Post distribution monitoring and evaluation to assess the impact of the early actions 		
 Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and recovery	Female > 18: 3375	Female < 18: 4125	1,678 CHF
	Male > 18: 3375	Male < 18: 4125	AP Code: 103
Indicator:	Number of people reached with risk reduction and/or climate adaptation interventions in advance of a hazard		
Priority Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alert dissemination and drought preparedness information disseminated to target areas through bulk SMS and community level messaging through lead farmer and agricultural extension service structures 		

Enabling approaches

 Coordination and Partnerships	Female > 18:	Female < 18:	4,462 CHF
	Male > 18:	Male < 18:	AP Code: 118
Objective:	Continued engagement with the Community of Practice and Technical Working Groups to monitor drought hazards in Zimbabwe		
Priority Early Actions:	1. Movement Cooperation a. Lessons learnt workshops with stakeholders		

 National Society Strengthening	Female > 18:	Female < 18:	61,436 CHF
	Male > 18:	Male < 18:	AP Code: 124
Early Action Activities:	1. District Field Officer at 100% 2. PMER Officer at 50% 3. Bank charges 4. NS Admin cost 5. Vehicle Lease		

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

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Reference



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- [EAP Summary](#)