

EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL SUMMARY

Somalia | Drought

August 2024



EAP №: 2024SO01	Early action lead time: 3 Months	Operation №:
EAP approved: 15/08/2024	EAP timeframe: 5 Years	Operational timeframe: 6 Months

Budget: 530,533 CHF
To assist: 30,000 people

SUMMARY OF THE EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL



The IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) has approved a total of CHF 492,619 for the implementation of the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) Drought EAP. The approved amount consists of an allocation of CHF 157,431 for readiness and prepositioning and CHF 373,102 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 enough funding is available for the Early Action Protocols being developed.

During the last twenty years, Somalia has experienced unprecedented shocks namely droughts, flooding, cyclones, desert locust invasions, and conflict. Among these shocks, Drought is the most high-impact natural

hazard in terms of the number of people affected. Recurrent droughts have become the new norm occurring consecutively with devastating results on human life. Drought continues to aggravate the pre-existing fragile situation by causing food insecurity, losses of livelihoods, and large-scale internal displacement. The country has endured multiple, severe drought episodes since 1965, the most recent drought (in 2022) affected 5.6 million people. The impact of drought in the country is further compounded by conflict and insecurity facing large parts of the country. The extent of poverty and vulnerability in the country, along with the frequency of droughts and other natural and man-made shocks, demands approaches that predict and address shocks before negatively impacting the vulnerable populace.

The SRCS adopted a consultative and participatory process that involved community consultations and stakeholder engagements in the development of the Drought EAP. Stakeholders were drawn both from the subnational and national levels, contributing to the overall development of EAP. Further to the workshops with external stakeholders, internal workshops were also held with the SRCS branches and senior management to ensure ownership of the process. The Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (RCCC), the Heidelberg Institute for Geoinformation Technology (HeiGIT), and the German Red Cross provided technical support related to drought risk assessment, trigger development, forecast skill assessment/evaluation as well as capacitating the SRCS in data and information management.

This EAP will aim to mitigate the cascading impacts of drought (water scarcity and food insecurity) by providing vulnerable people with early warning information, multi-purpose cash as well as rehabilitation of key water infrastructure. The target population will be pastoral farmers (host communities) as well as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

The drought trigger mechanism will be based on two datasets i.e the merged SPI-12 forecast produced by ICPAC and the Food Insecurity projection produced by FEWSNET. The SPI-12 will be utilized to capture hazard forecasts whilst the Food Insecurity Projection captures dynamic vulnerability. In this way, imminent drought events (SPI) that most probably will lead to food insecurity (IPC) will be captured.

Technical and financial support for the development of this EAP has been provided by the German Red Cross through the Forecast-based Financing (FbF) Project.

OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

1. Who will implement the EAP - The National Society

The SRCS will implement the Drought EAP leveraging on its capacities and wide presence across the country. The SRCS's strength is defined by its strong network of volunteers, a network of branches and sub-branches, good networking, and advocacy with stakeholders. The National Society has trained staff and volunteers to monitor pre-identified disaster risks in their communities and to report them as soon as they are detected. The volunteers and staff are also part of the National Disaster Response Team and are well-trained in DRR, CVA, and Community Engagement. The National Society is made up of the following departments: Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, Finance and Administration, Communications, PMER, Health and Nutrition. These technical departments will be involved and contribute to the activation and implementation of the EAP. Furthermore, an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has also been recently established and the center will house the trigger activation mechanism. Since the 2010–2011, 2016–2017, and 2021–2023 drought episodes, the NS has effectively operated the DREF using different needs-based sectoral interventions. Due to its experience in DREF operations, SRCS can effectively and efficiently manage the Drought EAP. It is important to note that the SRCS continues to deliver humanitarian services across the country despite the protracted conflict and increased insecurity. Readiness activities will mainly consist of yearly refresher trainings for volunteers. The refresher trainings will be related to Cash, WASH, and Early Warning Communication and this will ensure the SRCS is in a position to readily implement the EAP in the event that the trigger thresholds are reached.

As a result of the wide stakeholder consultation and participation, the following stakeholders will be involved in the implementation/activation of the EAP:

- **Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS):** The National Society will be responsible for risk monitoring, triggering, and implementation of the Early Actions and also evaluation of impact. The SRCS will also be responsible for undertaking readiness activities.
- **The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC):** The IFRC will coordinate the Anticipatory Pillar of the DREF to ensure that funds are available for potential activation. During the implementation of the EAP, the IFRC will provide support and guidance for the procurement, financial, and PMER processes.
- **The German Red Cross (GRC):** The GRC is a technical partner for the SRCS and supports the development and implementation of Anticipatory Action Plans. GRC will continue supporting the SRCS in testing this EAP and strengthening SRCS's capacity to activate and implement this EAP.
- **Somalia Cash Working Group:** The Somalia Cash Working Group will provide the latest information related to transfer values pegged to the Somalia Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB).
- **Local government authorities (both at regional and district level):** The targeting and selection of beneficiaries will be done in consultation with the local authorities – with the criteria developed and agreed upon jointly with the communities and local authorities.
- **Financial Service Providers (FSPs):** The FSPs will be responsible for delivering the cash intervention to the beneficiaries. The dominant mobile money transfer service providers in the country are divided per region (EVC Plus in South Central, Sahal in Puntland, and Zaad in Somaliland). The SRCS already has framework agreements with Zaad in Somaliland and with Sahal (Gollis) in Puntland. The wide network coverage in the country also enables mobile money transfers.
- **Ministry of Agriculture, Weather Forecasting Department:** The weather forecasting department of the Ministry of Agriculture will be responsible for developing Early warning messaging and weather advisory services (climate information services) that will be relayed to the at-risk communities. Furthermore, the department will support the SRCS in conducting readiness activities related to Early Warning communication refresher training.
- **Ministry of Livestock:** The Ministry of Livestock will be responsible for developing tailor-made livestock advisory services. The Ministries will also be involved in conducting readiness training sessions in partnership with the SRCS.

2. How the EAP will be activated – The Trigger

The drought triggering mechanism will be based on two datasets:

- i) the merged Standard Precipitation Index (SPI-12) forecast produced by ICPAC and
- ii) the Food Insecurity projection produced by FEWSNET.

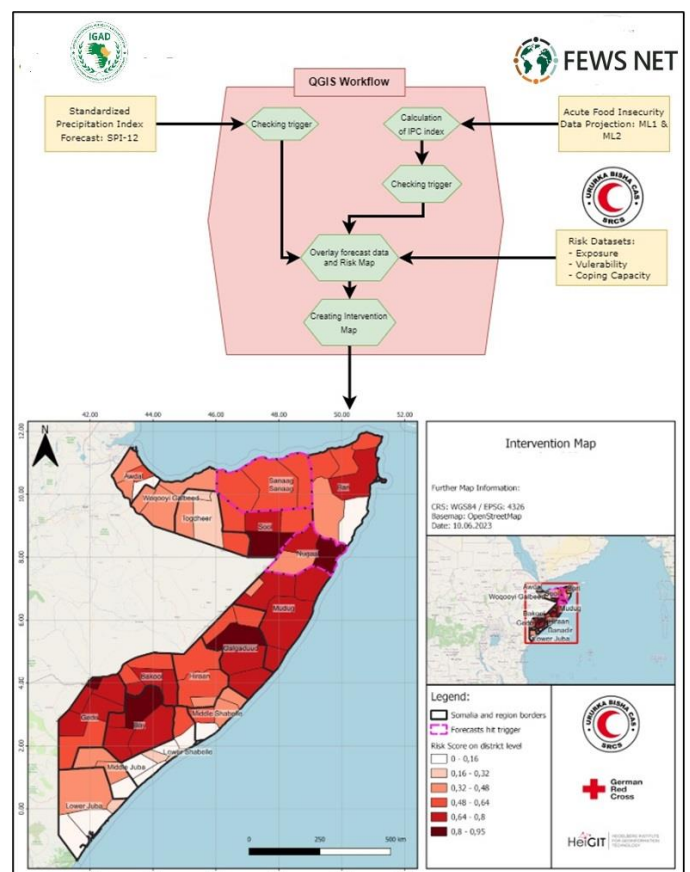
The SPI-12 will be used to capture hazard forecast whilst the Food Insecurity Projection will capture dynamic vulnerability. In this way, imminent drought events (SPI) that most probably will lead to food insecurity (IPC) will be captured. When ICPAC issues an SPI-12 forecast of less than -1 for a district AND the FEWSNET food insecurity projection reaches at least 0.7 in its derived population-weighted index in the same district, then Anticipatory Actions will be triggered in the district. The lead time will be 90 days (about 3 months).

The magnitude of droughts that will be triggered is based on data from past drought responses of the SRCS. In the time frame from 2000 to 2023, SRCS responded to four drought events in the framework of emergency appeals. These events have in common that they led to significant water shortages, high levels of food insecurity, internal displacement, crop failure, and livestock deaths. EM-DAT lists droughts from 2000 to 2023 (y=23) and there were four events with an SRCS response in the framework of an emergency appeal (e=4). Based on this data the return period of drought is $T= 5.75$ ($y/e=T$).

The trigger monitoring and activation system will be operated by a Technical Data Officer who upon the trigger thresholds being reached will notify the EAP/FbF Manager. The EAP/FbF Manager will verify the trigger information shared, and if correct the manager will relay the notification to the respective DRM Directors who will jointly activate the EAP. The stop mechanism will be activated when the situational analysis indicates that the situation is set to improve. The stop mechanism will only be activated by the SRCS if the subsequent monthly SP1 12 data and the FEWSNET projections updates indicate an improvement in the projected food security situation. The stoppage of the activation will be initiated by the FbF/EAP Manager who communicates with the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Directors (from both coordination offices) who, upon assessing and confirmation of the change. The branches will then be notified of this, and volunteers will relay this to the communities.

Targeting

Targeting for drought-induced food insecurity will focus on vulnerable households who have limited coping capacity to respond to the impacts of food insecurity in the target areas. Targeting will be guided by existing vulnerability criteria of the SRCS and the government. Beneficiaries will include the disabled, child-headed households, female-headed households, the chronically ill, and the elderly. Water scarcity is a cross-cutting impact impacting both pastoralists (host communities) and IDPs. Thus, selecting and targeting of the villages/communities to rehabilitate the water points will be guided by the state of the water points per village with priority given to water points in a poor state within the triggered districts.




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


The following early actions were prioritized to reduce the impact of drought:


1. **Providing early warning communication and advisory services to reduce drought risk:** Drought, being a slow onset event, brings with it a long window of opportunity for early warning communication and advisory services. EW communication and advisory services in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture will be offered to improve community preparedness and thus reduce the risks associated with food insecurity. This Early Action contributes to household food security and nutrition by providing households with information on timely destocking (considering market prices), drought management and water conservation/harvesting practices.
2. **Rehabilitating water points to enable optimal water capture and storage to address water scarcity:** Drought will result in shortage of water that forces animals and humans to consume contaminated water as well as travelling longer distances to access water. This leads to communicable disease outbreaks, malnutrition and increased mortality, displacement, loss of livestock and conflict risk. Rehabilitating water points will help mitigate potential water scarcity during a drought situation by increasing access to clean water and thus mitigating the secondary impacts of such a shortage (displacement, disease outbreaks, livestock loss and conflict).
3. **Multi-purpose cash transfers to stabilize the purchasing power of vulnerable people.** During drought agricultural yields fall and livestock conditions deteriorate reducing income for farmers and pastoralists. At the same time, food prices rise, reducing purchasing power for vulnerable households who will be forced to liquidate their assets. Therefore, households will be provided with unconditional cash transfers to prestock food prior to the drought and invest in productive activities.

The feasibility of the Early Actions to address the drought impacts was based on literature review, a review of Anticipatory Action impact evaluations done in other countries, experiences within the SRCS (SRCS post-evaluation exercises) as well as a drought scoping study done at community level.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

 Multi-purpose Cash	Female:	4,680	218,509 CHF
	Male:	4,320	AP Code: 081
Indicator:	Number of people reached with multi-purpose cash in advance of a hazard		
Readiness Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refresher training for volunteers on multi-purpose cash transfers. 2. Renewal of Financial Service Provider agreements 3. Participation in cash working group cluster meetings 4. Development of beneficiary selection criteria 5. Market Assessment/ (based on Secondary data from Somalia CWG) to get the latest transfer value rate (Quarterly Activity) 		
Prepositioning Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Procurement of FbF visibility and IEC materials. 2. Establishment of Hotline Feedback Mechanism 		
Priority Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community mobilization on the intended use of cash & beneficiary selection criteria 2. Verification of beneficiaries 3. Cash transfers 4. Post Distribution Monitoring 5. Lessons learnt workshop 		

 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	Female:	3,456	141,444 CHF
	Male:	3,544	AP Code: 110, 111
Indicator:	Number of people reached with WASH interventions in advance of a hazard		
Readiness Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refresher training on rapid water point assessments for SRCS volunteers 2. Rapid Assessment of functionality of water facilities and prioritize key/critical water facilities 3. Compilation and updating of prequalified lists of contractors for water point rehabilitation 		
Prepositioning Activities:	nil		
Priority Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Repair and rehabilitation of water facilities 2. Assessment of the rehabilitated water points. 		

 Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and recovery	Female:	15,600	23,233 CHF
	Male:	14,400	AP Code: 101, 103, 105,106
Indicator:	Number of people reached with risk reduction and/or climate adaptation interventions in advance of a hazard		
Readiness Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refresher training for volunteers on DRR and dissemination of EW messages 2. Sign and review the EWM MoU with the relevant ministries or government departments on dissemination of EWM. 		
Prepositioning Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pre-positioning of dissemination packages. 2. Development of IEC materials 		
Priority Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dissemination of EWM and advisory services through volunteers, Radios, TV, social media platforms, bulk messaging 		

Enabling approaches

 National Society Strengthening			99,116 CHF
			AP Code: 124,125,126
Readiness Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forecast based Financing (FbF) Manager/EAP Manager salary (100% for 5 years) 2. Technical Data Officer salary (100% for 5 years) 		
Prepositioning activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purchase of Office Stationery materials 		
Priority Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Car Hire costs 2. Fuel costs 3. Communication costs 		

 Secretariat Services			45,230 CHF
			AP Code: 122
Readiness Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Financial charges 2. Salary Contribution for international staffs 		
Prepositioning Activities:			
Priority Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitoring visits 		



Early Action Protocol Summary

- Somali Red Crescent Society
Drought

Operating Budget

	Readiness	Pre-Pos Stock	Early Action	TOTAL
Planned Operations	22,506	5,547	355,134	383,187
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0	0	0	0
Livelihoods	0	0	0	0
Multi-purpose Cash	6,047	5,001	207,461	218,509
Health	0	0	0	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	7,775	0	133,670	141,444
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0	0	0	0
Education	0	0	0	0
Migration	0	0	0	0
Risk Red., Climate Adapt. and Recovery	8,684	546	14,004	23,233
Community Engagement and Accountability	0	0	0	0
Environmental Sustainability	0	0	0	0
Enabling Approaches	127,842	1,537	17,967	147,346
Coordination and Partnerships	0	0	0	0
Secretariat Services	35,091	173	12,966	48,230
National Society Strengthening	92,750	1,364	5,001	99,116
TOTAL BUDGET	150,347	7,084	373,102	530,533

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

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