



Rapid Response Fund

ACT Secretariat Approval

Project Code 06/2024

Project Name Emergency response to people affected by El Niño

The ACT Secretariat has approved the use of **USD150,000** from its Global Rapid Response Fund (GRRF24) and would be grateful to receive contributions to wholly or partially replenish this payment.

For further information please contact:

National Forum Coordinator

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ACT Regional Representative

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cyra".

Cyra Michelle Bullecer

Global Humanitarian Operations Manager

ACT Alliance Secretariat



Rapid Response Fund

Project Proposal

Emergency Prepared and Response Plan

Do you have an EPRP	Yes
When was the last update?	19th June 2024
Do you have a Contingency Plan for this response?	Yes
EPRP link on the online platform	Submitted manually

Please submit this form to the Regional Humanitarian Programme Officer of your region with a copy to the Regional Representative

Date submitted to ACT Secretariat

18 Jun 2024

Section 1 Project Data

Project Information

Project Name	Emergency response to people affected by El Niño
Project Code	06/2024
Country Forums	Malawi
ACT Requesting Member	Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD) Evangelical Lutheran Development Service (ELDS)
Name of person leading the project	Felix Minjale
Job Title	Malawi Act Forum Coordinator
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Location(s) of project (city / province)	Nsanje and Chikwawa districts
Project start date (dd/mm/yyyy)	1st July, 2024
Project end date (dd/mm/yyyy)	31st December, 2024

Which sectors your response activities most relate to

Sectors	Churches action in Relief and Development (CARD)		Evangelical Lutheran Development Project (ELDS)		Male	Female
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Cash/ Vouchers	160	240	160	240		
Camp Management						
Education						
Food/Nutrition						
Health						
Household items						
Livelihood	400	600	400	600		
Psychosocial						
Shelter						
Wash						

Section 2 Project Description

2.1 Context

1. CHS Commitment 1. Summarize the crisis event and how it is likely to develop over the duration of the project (maximum 5 bullet points)

The Malawi government declared a state of disaster in March 2024 as it entered the dry season with very low food supply. The next rainy season is forecasted towards the end of 2024, with the first harvest in April 2025. Planting and harvest cycles in 2023 have also been affected by Cyclone Freddy in the first quarter of 2023 as most communities affected have not been able to recover from the cyclone's impact. The government estimates that about nine million people have been affected by drought, which has been considered as the worst in years with February recorded the driest and hottest month since 1981 (SADC Regional Humanitarian Appeal, May 2024). The drought has been persistent in the southern Africa regions affecting the whole Zambesi basin (JRC Global Drought Observatory, Drought in Southern Africa, April 2024).

2. CHS Commitment 1,2,3,4. Explain the impact of the crisis specific to the people you want to help (maximum 5 bullet points)

Twenty-three out of 28 districts in Malawi have been affected by El Niño, with up to two million household and 44 percent of the national cropping area have been affected. Maize production is 23% below the 5-year average (SADC regional humanitarian appeal). At least 2,522 hectares of crop fields have been destroyed by drought affected maize, beans, and sweet potato crops in two districts. Families have resorted to selling small livestock and charcoal to meet their daily needs while some households have started harvesting bitter-tasting natural water lilies for food. Twenty-three percent of the total population are food insecure.

3. CHS Commitment 9. Explain the availability of funding each of your organization can access for this crisis. (maximum 3 bullet points)

Currently CARD has accessed €125,000 from Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH) for Nsanje district and \$540,000 from BHA USAID through Catholic Relief Services for Mulanje for seeds for both winter and irrigation and also under rainfed. CARD has also secured \$1,800,000 through Catholic Relief Services for the cash transfers from BHA USAID for Mulanje and Chikwawa districts. All the secured funding received is not targeting Nsanje where the RRF is being proposed and CARD will still need the financial support. The DKH financial support is not supporting the community that the RRF is going to support.

ELDS has not secured any pledge or funding for the crisis at the moment.

2.2 Activity Summary

1. CHS Commitment 1, 2, 4. Explain your proposed project and why you have selected this particular response to the crisis. If multiple members are responding, please explain the role of each member in the coordinated response as indicated in your EPRP Contingency Plan.

The proposed project will support the people in crisis with two interventions. The selection of these activities is based on the outcomes of the needs assessment conducted in May 2024:

1. **Cash transfers-Cash equivalent to daily energy intake of 2,100 kraal per person will be distributed.** This type of response has been chosen because the cash will be sufficient to buy food items. On the daily food intake, according to the "Joint Emergency Food Aid Programme (JEFAP) guidelines in Malawi (Developed by UN Humanitarian Agencies, Malawi Government and INGOs) the food basket include a 50 kg white maize grain which provides an equivalent of daily energy intake of 2,100 kraal per person per day to an average of 5.5 persons in a household, 2 litre cooking oil and 10 kg of beans and the cash transfer value will be able to buy these items in the food basket. The markets are also functioning very well.

2. **Early recovery support in form of seeds and planting materials for the upcoming rainy season.** The predictions are that the next rainy season will have adequate rainfall to support a good harvest during the upcoming cropping season and this is the La Nina season which comes with adequate rainfall. The seeds will help the affected households as a kick start for the next growing season. We plan to do the communal seed multiplication of cassava cuttings and sweet potato vines that will later be shared to the individual households as kick starter seed. These are drought tolerant seeds and early maturity crops. With the anticipation of good rains this year according to the Government weather forecast, we expect that this will help them as a kick starter pack to support for their early recovery since they lost all the crops due to the drought hence no seeds at household level.

2. CHS Commitment 2. Explain how you will start your activities promptly.

CARD and ELDS have field offices and their presence in the two districts targeted. With the good working relationships the two members have with District Councils and other actors, CARD and ELDS will be able to start their activities promptly and initiate the activities within two weeks discussions with the Councils' Disaster Risk Management Committees and other community leadership groups to start activities promptly. Immediately after the approval, CARD and ELDS will brief the district councils and agree on which Traditional Authorities should be targeted or which affected communities should be targeted to avoid duplication of efforts in the areas by other actors.

CARD and ELDS will within a week establish contacts with Disaster Risk Management Committees both at district and community levels so that the proposed project starts promptly by conducting project start up and targeting the project participants quickly.

CARD and ELDS will simultaneously begin MoU signing with cash transfer service providers to ensure that the first cash distribution is conducted in a timely manner, the two requesting members will source the services from already pre-qualified suppliers and quotations will be requested.

To ensure a smooth initiation of the project, the members will deploy their Field officer to start the preparatory work of coordination at district and community levels.

3. CHS Commitment 6. How are you coordinating and with whom? Coordination ensures complementarity of interventions within forum members and other humanitarian actors to maximize the use of our resources and will address all unmet needs

The Malawi Forum Member Directors including CARD and ELDS will attend meetings with the UN, Government and other INGOs involved in disaster response activities to ensure coordinated efforts in the implementation of activities.

CARD and ELDS will coordinate with ACT Malawi forum members during forum meetings to share updates on the response.

The two members will work closely with the ACT Malawi forum coordinator and the Humanitarian Program Officer Africa for coordination outside Malawi.

CARD and ELDS will work closely with Malawi government at national and district level through the office of the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DODMA) which coordinates at national and district levels all the humanitarian efforts within the country.

CARD and ELDS will work closely Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security to determine the best seeds and planting material to be distributed for the upcoming cropping season.

4. CHS Commitment 3, 9. Where are you planning to procure your goods or services? Please tick boxes that apply. Goods and services procured locally supports and revitalizes economic activity

Locally or within the affected areas	Yes	Nationally	Yes	Regionally or neighboring countries		Internationally	
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Do you have a procurement policy? What factors did you consider when you made this decision?

Yes, both CARD and ELDS have a procurement policy.

To save on time for advertising and request for quotations, the two organization have already prequalified suppliers.

Procuring through already prequalified suppliers will reduce preparatory time and allow the project to start within two weeks.

2.3 Description of Target Population

1. CHS Commitment 1, 9. How do you calculate the people in need numbers for this project? For example, food and hygiene kits given to 2500 families, and 1 family = x beneficiaries.

The target population will comprise of the people in crisis. The population of people in crisis is estimated at: 1000 households for ELDS representing 5500 individuals. Among the affected households are 2,200 males; 3,300 females. The target for the people in crisis for CARD is estimated also at 1000 Households which translates to 5500 people, 2,164 males, 3,336 females.

CASH RESPONSE AND DISTRIBUTION OF SEEDS/PLANTING MATERIAL

ELDS=1000 HH, X 5.5 persons per HH= 5,500 (2,200 M/3,300F)

CARD= 1,000 HH X 5.5 persons per HH = 5,500 (2,164M/3,336F)

2. CHS Commitment 1, 2, 3, 4. Which vulnerable groups are you specifically targeting? What makes them vulnerable? Please explain.

The people in crisis which the project will target will include women headed households, children headed households, households with people with disabilities, the elderly and chronically ill. What make these people in crisis more vulnerable is their condition, they cannot do anything, they cannot do piece works to get little cash and their economic status is very poor. From the assessment report, these are the people in crisis who are the most vulnerable. Refer to the assessment report attached.

3. CHS Commitment 4. Explain how the target population has been/is involved in your proposed intervention (maximum 5 bullet points)

The target population was involved in the designing of the proposed action through the participatory rapid assessment exercises conducted before the submission of the alert. During the assessment, the affected communities through the Village Disaster Risk Management Committees, they were able to assess the extent of the damage that has been caused by the EL Nino. These committees were able to identify the most affected groups; come up with emergency needs required and proposed ways on how they felt their needs could be addressed. The assistance given to the affected people will focus on the results of the assessment report.

2.4 Expected Results

1. What will this project's success look like based on your time frame? *Please write your activities milestones including dates.*

The expected results of the project will include contribution to better health and nutrition due to improved access to various food sources through the cash transfers that people in crisis will be receiving. Continued access to food sources due to drought tolerant seeds and planting material of cassava and sweet potato vines that will be distributed to individual households from communal seed multiplication gardens.

2. Describe the risks to a successful project and how you are managing them.

The main identified risks for the project include:

Political interference as Malawi will be getting into elections next year, 2025 and political rallies may distract targeted people in crisis who may not be available during certain activities.

This will be mitigated by making sure that the project field staff work with the Political Liaison Committee to get firsthand information on the dates of political rallies so that the activities can be planned on the dates when there will be no political meetings.

2.5 Monitoring, Accountability & Learning

1. CHS Commitment 7. Describe how you will monitor the project. What monitoring tools and process will you use? How will you gather lessons from the project?

ELDS and CARD as ACT requesting members will report to the ACT Secretariat, with support from the Forum Coordination desk. The two implementing members will facilitate documentation and sharing evidence based lessons that reflect the project experience. The team will also provide achievement of outcomes including relevant analysis of project efficiency using Monitoring and Evaluation tools. Monitoring, learning and sharing of best practices between CARD and ELDS will be done for better learning.

Monitoring & Evaluation staff for the ELDS and CARD will regularly review progress of the project through field visits to project sites to measure level of achievement of the project. Monthly progress reports from the project visits will be done to provide a summary of key issues and way forward for the project planned activities for the month, progress to date and plans for the upcoming month.

Standardized monitoring tools will be developed and used to collect key data of the project which will guide the project staff in tracking the project activities and outputs.

The RRF will also be audited to check the financial prudence in the two ACT Malawi Forum members.

Complaints box will be placed at strategic places during distribution of items and during meetings to allow right holders to provide feedback.

A complaint desk will also set up during distribution to provide feedback and receive and resolve issues and complaints. Complaints will be responded to and feedback provided to the community gatherings by the Field Officers.

2. CHS Commitment 8. Does your organization have a Code of Conduct? Have all staff and volunteers signed the Code of Conduct?

Both CARD and ELDS use Act Alliance's code of conduct by virtue of them being Act Alliance members, and every member of staff including new staff to be employed for this project will sign the code of conduct. Any new staff recruited will also be oriented on Code of Conduct after signing for it.

3. How will you ensure you and all stakeholders will be accountable to the affected population. How will you share information. How will you collect and use feedback and complaints? CHS 4 and 5

The design of this project proposal has used the findings of the assessment report, the project activities and items to be provided to the affected people have been decided upon by the affected households. And to ensure transparency and accountability, all the activities and budget will be presented to the District Disaster Risk Management Committee members, Area Development Committees and Area Disasters Risk Management Committees and Village Development Committees and Village Disaster risk Management Committees and finally to the affected households in local language they know in vernacular. The targets will be presented at all these levels so that CARD and ELDS will be held accountable to all what will be spelt out in the plans for the RRF. During distribution of the seeds/planting materials and cash distribution, the district council representatives and local leadership will be key players to demonstrate the level of accountability to the people in crisis. The project will start with briefing meetings at district and then to the communities so that expectations of the people in crisis is met. Continued coordination with other humanitarian actors as lessons learnt from previous response will help in making sure the assistance reaches out to the real affected people. Currently coordination meetings are being attended on Food security cluster and during these meeting organizations are indicating their assistance to the affected areas.

Feedback from the people in need will be through post distribution monitoring, suggestion boxes, complaint desk, sensitive issues will be investigated.



Rapid Response Fund

Consolidated Financial Report

Project Code RRF 06.2024

Project Name Emergency Response to people affected by El Nino

Budget Exchange rate (local currency to 1 USD) 0.000570000

Please use exchange rate from this site: <https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

	Total Budget	Total Expenses	Budget		Member 3	Total Expenses		
			CARD	ELDS		Member 1	Member 2	Member 3
1 Total Project Staff Costs	8,256	-	4,188	4,068	-			
2 Project Activities	109,324	-	55,119	54,205	-			
2.1 Cash/Vouchers	88,859	-	44,430	44,430	-			
2.2 Camp Management	-	-	-	-	-			
2.3 Education	-	-	-	-	-			
2.4 Food/Nutrition	-	-	-	-	-			
2.5 Health	-	-	-	-	-			
2.6 Household items	-	-	-	-	-			
2.7 Livelihood	20,464	-	10,689	9,776	-			
2.8 Psychosocial	-	-	-	-	-			
2.9 Shelter	-	-	-	-	-			
2.10 WASH	-	-	-	-	-			
3 Project Implementation	14,820	-	7,410	7,410	-	-	-	-
3.1. Forum Coordination	14,820	-	7,410	7,410	-			
3.2. Capacity Development	-	-	-	-	-			
4 Quality and Accountability	5,444	2,964	2,480	2,964	-			
5 Logistics	4,546	2,742	1,804	2,742	-			
6 Assets and Equipment	-	-	-	-	-			
Direct Costs	142,390	5,706	71,001	71,389	-	-	-	-
Staff Salaries	3,418	-	3,418	-	-			
Office Operations	4,192	-	581	3,611	-			
Indirect Costs	7,610	-	3,999	3,611	-	-	-	-
Total Budget	150,000	5,706	75,000	75,000	-	-	-	-