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Emergency appeal Mongolia: Severe Winter

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Appeal n° MDRMN006

11,264 people to be assisted

Appeal launched 10 February 2017

Glide n° [CW-2017-000001](#)

177,349 Swiss francs DREF allocated

Appeal ends 2 November 2017

655,512 Swiss francs current Appeal budget

This Emergency Appeal seeks a total of 655,512 Swiss francs to enable the IFRC to support the **Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS)** to deliver assistance and support to some **11,264 people for 10 months**, with a focus on **detailed assessments, immediate household needs, health, livelihoods, community preparedness and disaster risk reduction**. The planned response reflects the current situation and information available at this time of the evolving operation, and will be adjusted based on further developments and more detailed assessments. Details are available in the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) [<click here>](#)

The disaster and the Red Cross Red Crescent response to date

17 December 2016: An Information bulletin was issued highlighting the upcoming dzud and its potential impacts. The bulletin informs that more likely, it is the northern part of the country that will be most affected. It also indicates that shortage of food is already impacting more than 16,000 families that had to move to new pastures.

20 December 2016: The Government of Mongolia officially sent letters to the MRCS and other humanitarian actors in the country to request international assistance for the most vulnerable herder households who are experiencing extreme winter conditions.

4 January 2017: 117,349 Swiss francs allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).

December-January 2017: IFRC disaster risk management coordinator from Beijing country cluster support team (CCST) and IFRC operations coordinator from the Asia Pacific regional office (APRO) are deployed to assist MRCS team with assessments and operational support.

10 February: IFRC issues Emergency Appeal for CHF 655,512 francs to assist 11,264 people.



Mongolian Red Cross Society assessment team visited Dzud affected herder's household in Selenge province, January 2017. Photo: MRCS

The operational strategy

Needs assessment and beneficiary selection

The *Dzud and DRR Assessments* conducted by the British Red Cross in Mongolia in June 2016 and findings from the recent assessments from MRCS and other partners emphasized that priority short term needs include financial support to meet immediate needs as livelihoods are affected and value of livestock low due to oversupply; technology and equipment for efficient hay collection; psychosocial support (PSS) and psychosocial first aid support (PSSFA); first aid training and kit for most herder households in order to address injuries from handling livestock. Finally, improving household level disaster risk reduction and preparedness will contribute in the longer term. The cash transfer programming's feasibility study conducted in December 2015 is still relevant and applicable and MRCS has finalized its framework agreement with Khan Bank as a service provider.

MRCS, in coordination with Ministry of Social Welfare and its local branches have identified around 2,740 vulnerable herder households across ten targeted provinces as the most in need of assistance. The Ministry of Social Welfare maintains good, reliable and accurate information concerning the poorest and most vulnerable herder households (poverty stricken families, families with disabled persons, single headed families or those with multiple-children, elderly people living alone, households with those in ill health) within their responsibilities area. These will be targeted with the Red Cross's assistance.

Beneficiary registration will be done by MRCS and will be facilitated by a network of local government social workers. MRCS will establish both local and national hotlines to collect information from stakeholders. The Trilogy Emergency Response Application (TERA) platform will complement the beneficiary communication aspect of the operation if and when required.

Khan Bank, as one of the largest financial institutions in Mongolia, has a good network of outlets to serve the clientele and strong internal control mechanisms to prevent diversion of funds. Several arrests recently made by the Mongolian graft agency at the grass-root, local and national levels, with some officials holding ministerial posts, shall send a strong signal to all-levels of the government about the strong determination to curb the corruption. MRCS/IFRC will be regularly monitoring the operation both remotely and through field visits, as well as conduct internal audits. These measures will contribute to significantly reduce the risks associated with cash transfer programming (CTP).

Overall objective

The overall objective of the operation is to ensure that 2,740 vulnerable families (11,264 people) have been supported in an effective, efficient and appropriate way, ahead of a potential dzud disaster to reduce its devastating impact and mitigate negative consequences.

The operation consists of closely integrated sectors aiming to provide:

1. Cash-transfer component will include cash assistance to some 2,740 families (11,264 people) from the most vulnerable groups of herder community.
2. Health: Psychosocial support, in cooperation with Save the Children, will be provided to 2,000 children at boarding schools and living in school dormitories away from their herder parents. Basic First Aid kits along with its manuals will be provided to dzud affected 1,000 herder households. First Aid (FA) training will be provided to 600 regional herder representatives. Representatives will be providing basic FA training further to their representing communities with demonstrations so that training any herder will be able to grasp the importance of knowing FA and be able to deliver FA to whom needed. These communities in the future will form herders communities in disaster risk reduction to serve their areas with facilitation and guidance from the MRCS.
3. Community preparedness and disaster risk reduction, including preparedness against snow storms, high winds and extreme winter situation. Portable grass harvesters distributed to MRCS branches will be rented to herder teams for hay collection in exchange of some hay. The portable grass harvesters are the property of the mid-level branches. It will be rented out to beneficiaries and will be returned upon completion of usage. The grass harvester will then be rented again to another beneficiary herder. This process will allow the mid-level branches to reach multiple people with grass harvesters available. Also. MRCS beneficiaries will receive basic first aid training from the MRCS. 380 First Aid kits will be prepositioned at the MRCS warehouse.
4. MRCS institutional preparedness and disaster response capacity. The emergency operation will further strengthen the capacity of the MRCS by providing PSS and disaster response trainings for its branch volunteers.

Coordination and partnerships

The National Emergency Management Authority (NEMA) is the main disaster response coordinator and responder in the country. It also provides logistics support to government services (such as ambulances), the police and for some humanitarian organizations in the affected areas. As part of their response, Local Emergency Management Agencies (LEMAs) are dealing with evacuation of severely affected herders from remote locations.

State reserves provided herders with 2,410 tons of hay at no cost, and 1,700 tons of fodder at 50 per cent discounted price. A total of 36 vehicles were provided to 19 provincial health centers to assist prompt delivery of services to citizens. Animal medicines and nutritional products were provided for some provinces at a cost of 41.8 million Tugrug (19,800 CHF). Four vehicles were provided to provincial emergency management departments and food and agriculture departments in key areas for provision of public services.

The UN will provide relief assistance to 36 soums of 12 provinces. The UN Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) approved to release USD 1.1 Million for 3,500 dzud affected vulnerable herder households. CERF will cover survival needs of affected vulnerable herders including cash grants, fodder, hygiene kits, which will be delivered in February. The UN Population Fund has donated 2,465 dignity kits, worth 160 million MNT (78,000 CHF) as winter assistance to 17 provinces

Other humanitarian NGOs planning to provide relief assistance in areas where they operate such as People in Need and Caritas Czech in Khentii, Dornod and Sukhbaatar provinces, World Vision International through its local branches in Zavkhan, Khuvsgul and Selenge provinces and Save the Children in Arkhangai, Dornod, Zavkhan, Bayan-Ulgii provinces.

The World Animal Protection Organization (WAPO) and IFRC have a global partnership and through this partnership WAPO has supported IFRC/MRCS to conduct technical assessments for livestock needs. WAPO plans to distribute some relief through MRCS' networks to support livestock at risk. WAPO and IFRC have worked together in the previous operations to improve livestock management in emergencies and are engaged in long-term training and resource mobilization for NS activities in livestock management.

As for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, only IFRC has a presence of staff in-country. Some National Societies such as Australian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Finnish Red Cross and the Republic of Korea National Red Cross are actively supporting MRCS projects.

IFRC is an active member of the Mongolian Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and leads the shelter cluster. The HCT holds regular meetings to coordinate response actions planned by its members.

Proposed sectors of intervention

 Livelihoods; Nutrition; Food security
Outcome 1 Immediate food and other priority needs of the targeted families are met
Output 1.1 : Target population of 2,740 households in 10 provinces are provided with unconditional cash transfers for meeting priority needs
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of soums in 10 provinces across the country • Beneficiary registration and cash form preparation • Distribution of unconditional cash grants (MNT 245,000/ CHF 100) through bank transfer • Post distribution monitoring and reporting

 Health
Outcome 2 The immediate and medium-term risks to the health of affected populations are reduced
Output 2.1 Provision of First Aid kits to affected herder households
<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of soums in 4 provinces across the country • Beneficiary selection and registration • Orientation and mobilization of volunteers at soum levels for FA training for herders • Local procurement of first aid kits • Distribution of first aid kits • FA trainings for herders • Onsite monitoring during the distribution
Output 2.2 School-going children affected by the dzud are provided with psychosocial first aid support (PSS/FA)
<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSSFA TOT (training of trainers) at the province level • PSSFA service for school children at soum school levels

 Community preparedness and disaster risk reduction
Outcome 3 Communities' resilience to disasters is protected
Output 3.1 Risk reduction measures are incorporated in disaster recovery programmes
<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of beneficiaries for community preparedness and risk reduction activities • Procurement and distribution of 300 portable grass harvesters • Procurement of First Aid kits for prepositioning • Preposition First Aid kits • Monitoring and reporting

 Quality programming
Quality programming (areas common to all sectors)
Outcome 4 Continuous and detailed assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation
Output 4.1 Needs assessments are conducted and response plans updated according to findings
<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize MRCS staff and volunteers for assessments • Mobilize/deploy regional tools to support MRCS in conducting assessments and implementation of activities • Develop detailed response plans with activities that will meet identified beneficiary needs • Cash transfer programming (CTP) component's implementation • Continued information collection from local branches • Monitoring visits by joint teams of MRCS headquarters and IFRC • Beneficiary satisfaction survey • Internal final evaluation

Programme support services

Human resources: MRCS has mobilized 47 local volunteers and 13 NDRTs in support of the operation. MRCS will recruit staff in support of the operation at both national headquarters and branch levels. Five MRCS staff members at headquarters will support the operation.

The operation will mobilize a surge capacity delegate from one of the partner National Societies for a combined period of 3-5 months, depending on the operational needs, to oversee and provide technical support, specifically within aspects of planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER).

A regional disaster response team (RDRT) member will be deployed to support the cash transfer component of the operation in February 2017.

The IFRC CCST in Beijing and APRO in Kuala Lumpur will provide a wide range of technical, administrative and logistical support to the operation.

Logistics and supply chain: Logistics activities aim to effectively manage the supply chain, including: procurement, fleet and transport to distribution sites, in accordance with the operation's requirements and aligned to IFRC's logistics standards, processes and procedures. The transportation cost of the grass harvesters will be borne by MRCS, however, NEMA will support in logistics of distributing FA kits and supplemental feed to dzud affected herder households through provision of man power and trucks. Distribution of portable grass harvesters will be handled jointly by MRCS/IFRC, with MRCS mid-level branches in a coordination role. Procurement of first aid kits and grass harvesters will be done in Mongolia by MRCS with support from IFRC CCST in Beijing.

Information technologies (IT): The cost of communication will be low and consist of mobile phone and mobile internet usage. Mobile cellular networks operate normally in the targeted areas. The MRCS' 13 national disaster response team (NDRT) members have portable radios and Iridium satellite phones as a backup emergency communication means.

Beneficiary communication: MRCS has an access to a two-way SMS communication with almost 600,000 G-mobile subscribers through TERA. TERA is free of charge for both the Red Cross and the G-Mobile subscribers who receive or send messages. MRCS will also be using traditional beneficiary communication methods such as face-to-face communication, leaflets and bill boards.

Communications: With support from the regional communications unit in Kuala Lumpur, the MRCS's communications officers will support the development of stories, articles and documentary films. Partner National Societies will be provided with information on the response through Newswire operation updates. MRCS will also develop beneficiary stories, documentaries and articles to be published locally. The Finnish Red Cross Field Communication Unit will be deployed to Mongolia in early February to produce a documentary video and stories in support of the operation's communication. IFRC will collaborate with international media to cover MRCS and IFRC activities in the field.

Security: Security management is a vital element of the operation to ensure security of personnel, assets and programmes. The MRCS's operational coordination centre will ensure that volunteers and staff follow security rules when working in affected areas. MRCS will continuously monitor the security environment and respond to changes in the threat and risk situation, if any, by implementing adequate security risk reduction measures. This includes measures related to safety-related threats and risks, e.g. road traffic accidents, fire safety, and health and weather-related concerns. All MRCS personnel are encouraged to complete the respective IFRC Stay Safe courses; Stay Safe Personal Security, Stay Safe Security Management and Volunteer Stay Safe. IFRC is a member of various inter-agency groups including the HCT and Mongolia International NGO forum, which allows monitoring any changes in the security situation. MRCS, with its wide network of branches and volunteers will be aware of any possible security threats and/or volatile situation.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER): NDRT members will continuously monitor the implementation of the emergency operation. MRCS with IFRC support had provided team members with refresher

training on PMER in December 2016. MRCS headquarters will receive weekly updates from operating branches. Weekly/monthly update formats will be developed and introduced to responding branches.

Regular monthly updates on the operation will be developed and shared during the emergency phase. A special telephone line will be established at MRCS headquarters. The telephone number will be communicated to beneficiaries through TERA. All bagh¹ leaders will be notified through TERA. The bagh leaders will then reach the beneficiary households without cellular network or cell phones through word of mouth. Similarly, messages to provide information on the distribution and cash disbursements, post distribution monitoring and a beneficiary satisfaction review will be conducted through TERA and through household visits. A beneficiary satisfaction survey will be carried out during the operation and a final evaluation will be carried shortly before the end of the operation.

Reporting on the operation will be carried out in accordance with the IFRC minimum reporting standards. A final report will be available 90 days after the end of the operation.

Administration and Finance: MRCS has a well-established finance and administration team consisting of six specialists.

IFRC has a finance and administration manager based in Mongolia. IFRC teams at Asia Pacific regional office and the CCST in Beijing have the capacity to provide a range of support services to the operations, including finance, administration and logistics. Technical support related to cash transfer programming will be provided by IFRC through RDRT and IFRC technical staff.

Budget

See attached [IFRC Secretariat budget](#)

Garry Conille
Under Secretary General
Programme and Operations Division

Elhadj As Sy
Secretary General

¹ Smallest administrative primary level unit in Mongolia

Budget

EMERGENCY APPEAL

10/02/2017

MDRMN006 Mongolia : Severe Winter

Budget Group	Appeal Budget CHF
Medical & First Aid	57,500
Cash Disbursements	279,708
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	354,333
Other Machinery & Equipment	52,500
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	52,500
Distribution & Monitoring	18,670
Transport & Vehicle Costs	10,700
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	29,370
International Staff	44,000
National Staff	14,271
National Society Staff	28,250
Volunteers	5,686
Total PERSONNEL	92,207
Workshops & Training	44,250
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	44,250
Travel	8,500
Information & Public Relations	7,000
Office Costs	4,750
Communications	4,832
Financial Charges	1,303
Shared Office and Services Costs	16,459
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	42,844
Programme and Services Support Recovery	40,008
Total INDIRECT COSTS	40,008
NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS	655,512

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Previous Appeals and updates](#)
- [DREF operation](#)
- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



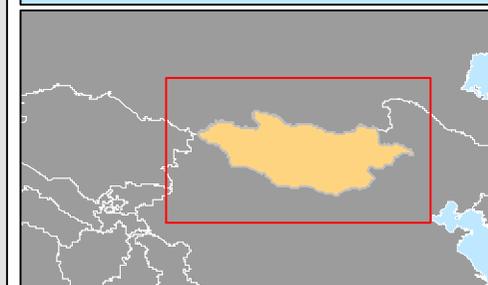
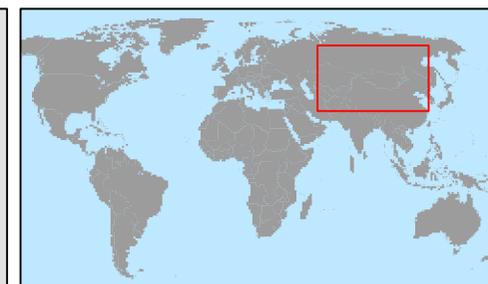
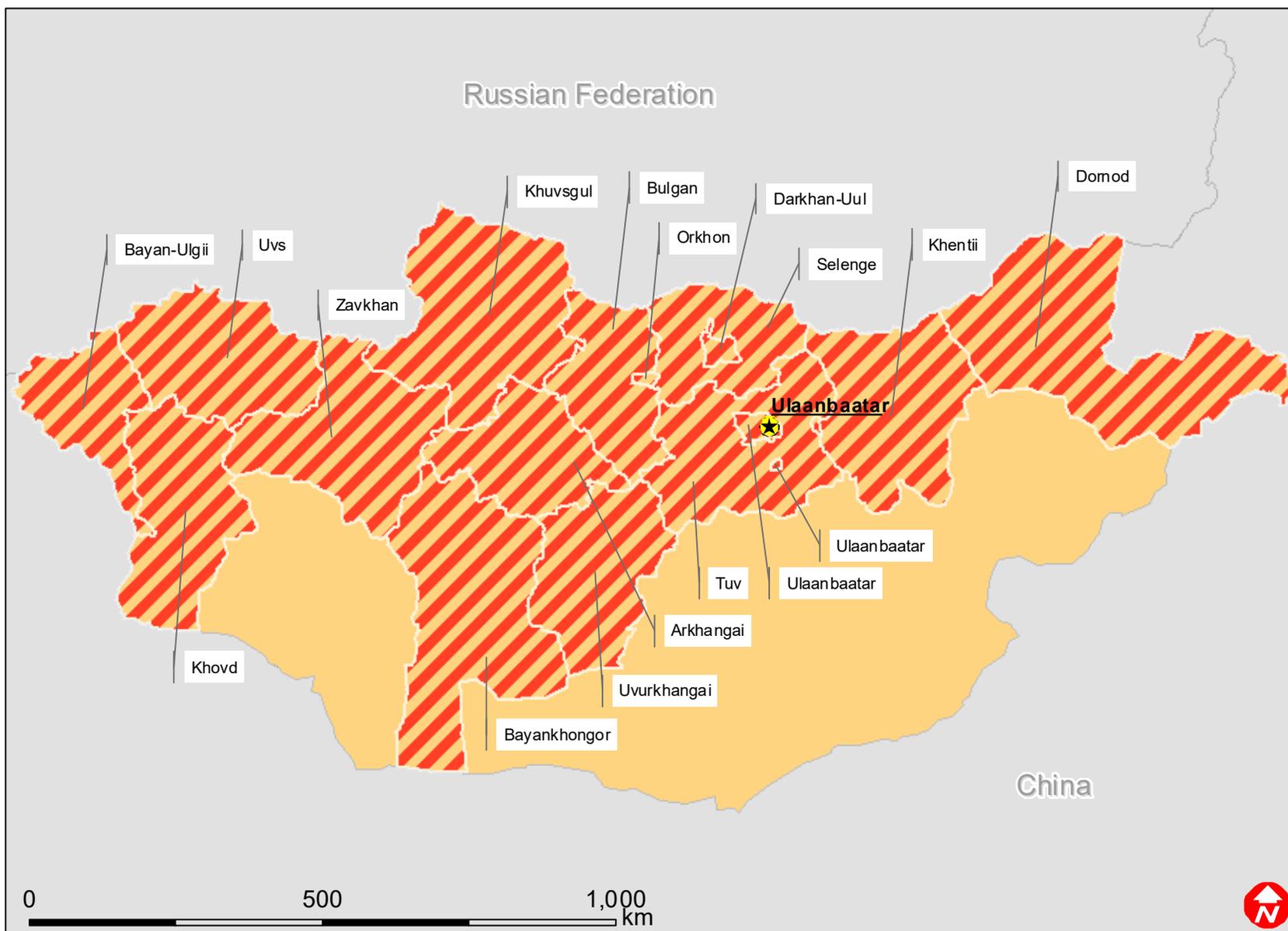
Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.



Mongolia: Severe Winter



 Affected Districts