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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Mongolia: Cold wave 2018

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF n° MDRMN007	Glide n° CW-2018-000011-MNG
Date of issue: 14 February 2018	Expected timeframe: 3 months Expected end date: 14 May 2018
Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: Yellow ¹	
DREF allocated: CHF 257,842	
Total number of people affected: 52,800 herder households	Number of people to be assisted: 2,500 herder households (approx. 9,000 people)
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS). The MRCS has 32 mid-level branches and over 800 primary level branches covering all provinces of Mongolia. MRCS has 12,500 volunteers and 70,000 youth members. MRCS has established 7 regional disaster preparedness centres.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: The National Society works with International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in this operation.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Mongolia National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), local government units (LGUs), social welfare offices, KHAN Bank	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Mongolia has suffered from severe winter conditions known as Dzud since the last two winters. The extremely harsh winter that continued after the drought in summer has depleted the herders' reserves of hay and fodder. Continuous harsh conditions have put at risk millions of livestock, which are the only source of food, transport and income for almost half of the Mongolian population. As herders experienced two consecutive droughts throughout the country followed by severe winters, it did not allow herders enough recovery time to be prepared for this winter.

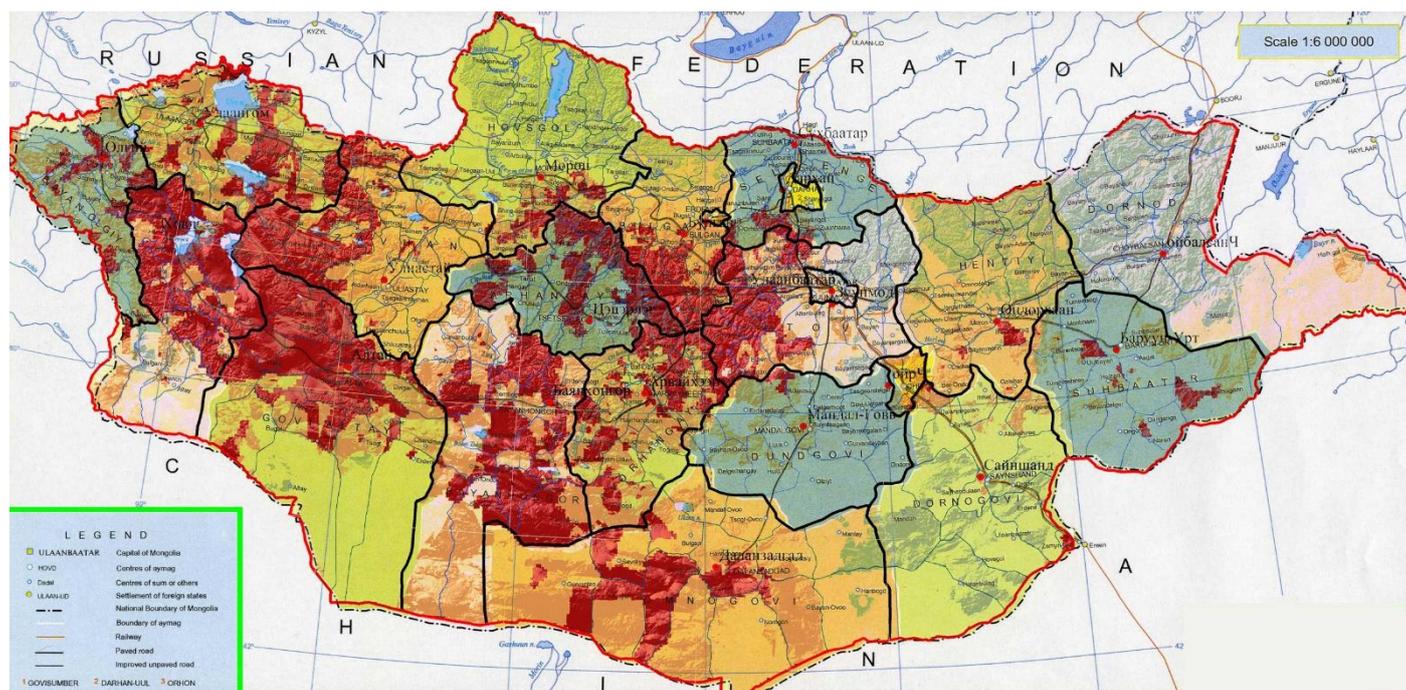
In the current situation, according to a statement by Brigadier General Ariunbuyan, First Deputy Head of NEMA in a meeting on 31 January 2018, about 70 per cent of the country is covered in 10-45 cm deep snow with density from 0.12-0.36 gr/cm³. Out of 330 soums in 21 provinces, 143 soums in 20 provinces and one city are experiencing extreme winter situation and are now in Dzud condition.

In January, temperatures dropped to between -30 to -46.5 degrees Celsius below freezing point during the nights. These conditions are anticipated to persist for the whole month of February 2018. Therefore, NEMA is disseminating warning messages on possible extreme winter to herders and mobilizing local resources such as hay and fodder to provinces that maybe badly affected and are at high risk.

Weather forecast information released from the Information and Research Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Environment stated that throughout Mongolia, most areas experienced extreme cold weather which was above annual average by -1.1 to -15.6 degrees Celsius.

¹ Based on the IFRC Secretariat's Operational Response Framework. This categorization implies that the response intervention is within the capacity of the National Society of an affected country to manage with resources available in-country. If requested, the IFRC country office may provide any necessary technical or management support to the National Society, and if required, the IFRC regional office may support the mobilization of regional disaster response tools, with Geneva supporting the allocation of Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF).

Picture 1: Dzud risk mapping released in January 2018. Most-at-risk areas marked in red.



Dzud (or 'zud'- зуд) is a condition created by threat multipliers and inter-linked factors that exacerbates already fragile situations of livestock herders in Mongolia. This term is unique to pastoral communities in Central Asia, and can be caused by a combination of summer drought, heavy snowfall, and high winds in concurrence with extremely low winter temperatures which combine to cause unsustainable conditions for animal survival. In this condition, mortality of the livestock is caused by a combination of starvation because of being unable to graze and access fodder due to heavy snow, ice or drought, freezing due to extreme cold temperature, exposure to storms and wind, and a weakened immune system response due to exposure.

The effects of Dzud are further magnified by worsening socio-economic conditions of the affected populations in the country. This emergency situation, not only devastates livelihoods, but also causes many of the most vulnerable herders to give up herding completely, which results in a mass migration to peri-urban (*ger*) areas of Ulaanbaatar. According to vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCA) done by MRCS in 2014, the vast majority of the people who are living in flood prone areas in the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar are former herders who have moved to Ulaanbaatar to find better living conditions after losing their livestock during 2009-2010 Dzud. This reveals that once herders lose their only source of livelihood, herders become more vulnerable and face secondary risks in trying to find better living conditions.

Coping mechanisms

The livelihood of Mongolian herders depends almost entirely on their animals. To feed their families, herders either slaughter the animals for their own consumption or sell in exchange for cash which is used to buy other types of food. During the summer, the herders may be able to hunt and gather wild herbs, roots and berries and supplement their nutritional needs, which are considered only as secondary food sources.

The herders graze their animals all year round. Depending on their means, they may also store limited amounts of hay to cover the most urgent needs of their livestock in critical times during winter. To survive the winter, the animals rely on the reserves of fat that they have built up during summer when in normal conditions, there is an abundance of grass in the pastures. During winter the animals may have to endure prolonged periods of limited grazing due to dense and thick snow which covers the grasslands, when a good reserve of fat stored up in the summer is then essential for survival.

The drought during the summer of 2017 has hampered growth of grass in the pastures of Mongolia². Additionally, livestock numbers in the country are at an all-time high which has resulted in serious overgrazing in many parts of the country, leaving insufficient grass left for winter grazing. When there is an abundance of grass under the snow, animals will in most cases reach sufficient amounts to sustain themselves through winter, even if the grass is covered by snow. When winter grazing is poor, animals become undernourished and more likely to succumb to freezing temperatures as they have less energy reserves to resist the cold.

²According to information from NEMA, at the beginning of the winter 2017-2018 there are 160,000 herder families, herding a total of 66,0 million animals

Livestock is extremely important for the future livelihood of the herders. Even if they run out of food and cash, vulnerable herders who only have few animals left will in most cases rather starve than slaughter them for food. If the animals die because of the Dzud, they will still eat the carcasses even though livestock that has died from starvation will give very little meat. Many animals are not grown for food but for other products such as cashmere and it makes little sense to slaughter them for their meat when there is a chance that they might survive and later yield valuable products such as cashmere wool that can secure future income.



MRCS/IFRC joint assessment team in Tuv province, February 2018. Photo by IFRC

If herders lose all their animals, they have few other means of livelihood on the grassland. The only other coping mechanism available to herders who are left with no animals is to work for a minimum salary herding other people's livestock, which is enough to ensure basic survival. Those who cannot find work herding for others will mostly be forced to move into the slum areas of Ulaanbaatar and other population centers where already hundreds of thousands of former herders struggle to survive in extreme poverty.^{3 4} While approaching the lunar new year in Mongolia, providing the most vulnerable herder families with their basic needs such as food and cash will alleviate the suffering of hundreds of people from the misery of Mongolian slums where most people live in deplorable conditions.

The protracted emergency winter conditions will force upon Mongolian herders to suffer another two to three months of heavy snow and extreme cold. Due to the extremely low prices for all animal products, it is very important that the most vulnerable herders receive food assistance and cash as soon as possible, in order to alleviate the extreme deprivation. While the food and cash provided in this operation cover only an estimated one month of necessities, it reduces the long period of extreme food shortage and hardship that the poorest herders have to endure before the winter is over.

Social safety nets play an important role in ensuring people's welfare and survival, but in the present situation most herders are likely to suffer great losses during the winter, and most of them have fewer resources than in a normal year, making them less able to feed friends and relatives.

Herding supports 160,200 families in a country of only roughly three million inhabitants. Therefore, the expected scope of the disaster puts a serious strain on government resources. The government is mobilizing the available resources of its ministries and agencies to ensure continuation of services in the affected areas, such as clearing snow, providing medical services, fuel for ambulances, coal for heating centers in provinces, and has started allocating hay from the state hay reserves free of charge. However, it is only possible to allocate 1-2 bales of hay for each herder family due to high demand. In normal situations, two bales of hay are enough to feed only 100 livestock for one day.

The government has released fodder from state reserves with 50 per cent discounted price but due to lack of cash in hand, herders lack purchasing power. However, due to the expected scale of this disaster, the government is far from having sufficient resources or capacities to fulfill the humanitarian needs of herders in the country. This operation will therefore be providing vital assistance to vulnerable populations that have little or no other means of support.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

The Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS) is a member of the National Emergency Commission and is actively involved in the planning and design of the national response to the emerging crisis. MRCS is coordinating its plans closely with NEMA, receiving on the ground information from the government-led assessment teams.

³<http://www.benoitmayer.com/files/ManagingCMinMongolia.pdf>

⁴<https://www.iom.int/countries/mongolia/general-information>

On 26 November 2017, the National Meteorological and Environmental Monitoring Agency (NMEMA) released “Dzud risk map” which triggered the Forecast-based Financing (FbF) programme supported by British Red Cross. MRCS started the implementation of this programme with technical support from the Climate Center and targeted 40 most-at-risk soums in 12 provinces based on the risk map. MRCS assisted 2,000 herder households in most-at-risk areas with unrestricted cash grants in December 2017 and with animal care kits in January 2018.

Additionally, based on Dzud risk map, 55 herder households were selected to renovate their winter shelters and distributed 15,000 bales of hay to herders in 13 soums of two provinces through the emergency appeal 2017.

Through community-based disaster risk reduction, MRCS targets vulnerable herder households to build winter shelters for their livestock in order to protect their main livelihood resource. The on-going FbF programme assists 14 households per year, which is not enough to cover all vulnerable households to be prepared for winter.

The MRCS National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members were alerted and are on standby to provide assistance to affected communities. Mid-level branches of the MRCS are collecting information from their local soum⁵ authorities and conducting interviews with affected herders and are participating in their respective local emergency commission meetings.

MRCS has previous experience from response to Dzud with capacity strengthened through development and adopting response mechanisms such as cash-based interventions, and building stronger partnerships and establishing strong ties with relevant service providers.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

IFRC will support the MRCS in the implementation of activities through joint assessment; cash transfer support, procurement and monitoring. The IFRC country cluster support team (CCST) in Beijing in coordination with the IFRC regional office for Asia Pacific, has been working closely with MRCS and maintains close communication. The CCST Beijing has deployed a disaster risk management delegate to Mongolia to closely assess the ongoing situation and support development of the activities and strategies of this action with the MRCS. British Red Cross is working in Mongolia bilaterally on the FbF programme.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The Mongolian Deputy Prime Minister led government assessment teams in 10 provinces. State reserves started to release 8,000 tons of hay free of charge and 6,500 tons of fodder at 50 per cent discounted price for herders in Dzud risk area. Secretary of the State Emergency Commission led the second assessment team assessing the current situation in eastern part of the province.

UN agency FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) coordinated with MRCS to assist five soums in five provinces through a de-stocking plan. FAO bought livestock from vulnerable herder households and is distributing the meat from livestock to vulnerable households in Ulaanbaatar area, free of charge.

The NGO People in Need is preparing to launch early action\early response programme to assist herders in affected areas and is closely coordinating with MRCS to ensure no duplication of action and beneficiaries.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

Needs assessments carried out by respective mid-level branches in January 2018, indicating that the affected herders are mainly in need of cash, fuel for heating, warm clothes, animal care kit⁶ and food. Out of these, cash, food and animal care kits have been identified as the most important lifesaving factor.

The MRCS assessment team visited seven vulnerable households in two soums – Bayankhangai and Bornuur of Tuv province, to evaluate the relevance and practicality of the planned cash, food and animal care kit support. This included gathering information on:

- Level of vulnerability and relevance of beneficiary selection criteria at soum level
- Accessibility to markets for food and basic necessities
- Availability and cost of banking services at soum level
- Access to bank accounts by herders
- Accessibility of soum centres (distribution points and bank outlets)

⁵Soum is the smallest administrative unit in Mongolia

⁶ Animal care kit comprises mineral block and nutritional vitamin which helps already weakened animals to recover

On 7 February 2018, MRCS and IFRC conducted a joint assessment of two vulnerable households in Tuv province. During interviews with the herder families, it was asserted by those families that although spring time may bring rising temperatures, at the same time all supplies of resources such as food and fuel would already be consumed and the needs for assistance peak before reaching the summer season. Mongolian winter season starts in December to February and even though spring season starts March to May, temperatures do not get warmer until June. So far, the families that are visited by the assessment team revealed that they have lost 10 per cent of their total livestock since 25 January this year. Many of the surviving livestock in the herds are extremely weak and sick, therefore are not consumable. The level of animal starvation has reached an unprecedented point that some of the livestock have started to show aggressive behaviour such as biting each other in attempts to survive.

It is clear that the protracted emergency conditions over the past few years have not allowed sufficient time for vulnerable herders and their livestock to recover from accumulative negative multi-effects of the previous dzud. During this assessment mission, a coordination meeting was held at the Bayanchandmani Soum Council. In this meeting the head of the citizens representative, an experienced agronomist, indicated this year's white Dzud emergency is a vastly different compared to the past five years which had been categorised as black Dzud. In the past 2-3 weeks, temperatures as cold as -49 degrees Celsius have been experienced which has put 50 per cent of total 41,000 remaining livestock of the soum at high risk of mortality.



Wounded livestock. Photo: MRCS

The head of the citizens representative also expressed concerns that a large number of herders who own larger animals (cows, horses) have migrated from the soum which can also cause a food insecurity situation in this administrative area. The head of citizens representative provided an example that out of 1,000 households living in the Bayanchandmani soum, there are 370 herders of which 90 per cent are considered vulnerable – those vulnerable families are also the ones for whom 50 per cent of their livestock already trapped in the dzud and are potentially weak enough to be at high risk of mortality. Humanitarian assistance in the observed conditions is required to provide adequate livelihoods support where survivability of the herders is in question.

Access to those vulnerable families during the assessment trips were extremely difficult and roads into the remote areas were covered with heavy snow. Unfortunately, those areas are where most of the vulnerable families are located and are in dire need of assistance. It was observed that for herders, their only means of transportation would be a horse which if lost due to conditions described here, then mobility and access to any services shall completely cease.

The assessment concludes that cash transfers would be a very cost effective and fast way of providing assistance to herders and also allow them to adapt the support provided to the specific needs of individual families. Most herders have bank accounts which makes cash transfers possible in most cases.

An established distribution network ensures that herders can purchase needed goods at soum centres although they do not own vehicles and have to travel by horse or by getting a lift from others. Currently 2,000 herder families received unrestricted cash grant from MRCS through the forecast based financing programme, which allowed this information to be collected and analysed.



Livestock carcasses are kept near the herders' ger until spring for proper disposal. Photo: MRCS

The appropriateness of cash only assistance or a combination of food and cash depends on the accessibility of the bank outlets in soum centres where beneficiaries need to collect the cash. Cash is distributed where there are good road connections and distances to soum centres are relatively short. Food and animal care kits will be distributed at village level in soums where the distance from the herding areas to the soum centre is too far to allow them to travel there in one day. In these cases, food and animal care kits are more applicable as it ensures that beneficiaries get the assistance faster. Food and animal care kit assistance will also target herders who are in Otor ⁷ as herders who are in otor lack food to provide their basic needs.

A post distribution survey will be done both by phone and on ground visitation. Mobile phone numbers will have been collected from beneficiaries which will make it possible to target beneficiaries only. This survey will make it possible to gather information about the impact of the assistance and other feedback from recipients of the relief.

MRCS currently has an effective contract with Khan Bank, as it is the most favoured partner. This is based mainly on the bank's previous experiences in working with the IFRC and MRCS in 2015-2016, 2016-2017, which reduces the risk, the best coverage among herders and ease of opening accounts. MRCS staff and volunteers will collect bank accounts and phone numbers from the targeted beneficiaries.

Targeting

Out of the 20 provinces and one city that are facing extreme winter situation, the DREF operation will target seven of the most affected provinces.⁸ MRCS is currently implementing Forecast-based Financing programme with support from British Red Cross and Climate Center and assisting 2,000 herder households through unrestricted cash grants and animal care kit which covers 12 provinces. The UN Food and Agricultural Organization is assisting herders in five soums in five provinces through cash programme. People in Need (PIN) is also planning to cover two eastern provinces through cash programme and is coordinating its activities with MRCS.

MRCS branches select herder-households in collaboration with local authorities in the soums of targeted provinces that are worst affected by the extreme winter conditions. Beneficiary selection in the soum will be done by MRCS branches from registers of vulnerable people in the soum based on data collected from local authorities as well as data collected in Local Emergency Management Agency. Beneficiary selection by MRCS branches will be validated by NDRT members at HQ.

To be eligible for assistance, herder-households must fit the selection criteria of having < 200 animals, and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- i. Be single headed household (HH) with three or more children under the age of 16 (male or female)
- ii. HH with five or more children under the age of 16
- iii. HH includes an elderly person
- iv. HH includes a disabled person

Most of the areas that receive cash have main roads connecting them to urban centres. Therefore, they have relatively short distances to go to buy food and fuel for heating and cooking purposes.

In order to make the assistance more accessible to herders living in areas where road access is more difficult, food and animal care kit will be purchased and distributed at village level.

The choice of the monthly minimum wage 240,000 MNT as a standard amount to cover essential necessities for one-month. Vulnerable people interviewed during the assessment identified the amount of approximately 200,000 MNT as enough to cover essential needs for one month. This excludes any resources that herders identified as necessary to ensure the survival of their livestock such as feed or shelter. Families with children at school age will need to cover school related costs, including boarding fee of 100,000 MNT per quarter and also per student.

This DREF will target following soums in seven provinces (areas not reached through FbF programme, FAO and PIN):

No	Target provinces	Target soums
1	Arkhangai	Battsengel, Tsetserleg, Ikhtamir, Tariat, Tsakhir, Khairkhan
2	Bayankhongor	Jargalant, Zag, Gurvanbulag, Shinejinst
3	Darkhan-Uul	Darkhan, Shariin gol
4	Dornogobi	Altanshiree
5	Umnugobi	Servei, Bayandalai, Bayan-Ovoo

⁷ Nomadic way of traveling between soums to look for better grazing place

6	Tuv	Bayan-Unjuul, Sergelen, Altanbulag, Ugtaal, Bayanchandmani, Jargalant
7	Uvs	Zavkhan, Undurkhangai, Baruunturuun

DREF assistance will reach 1,500 herder families in Arkhangai, Tuv, Uvs provinces with cash grants of 240,000 MNT per family, which is minimum wage of Mongolia. This assistance will enable herder families in the soum to buy basic necessities for their families, such as food and fuel. Beneficiaries are free to use the cash assistance the way they prefer in order to ensure that the assistance is as useful as possible.

DREF assistance will reach 1,000 herders families in Bayankhongor, Darkhan-Uul, Dornogobi, Umnugobi provinces, with a food parcel which consist of 25kg flour, 10kg rice, 1litre cooking oil, 2 kg sugar, 1 block tea and 0.5kg salt and animal care kit which consists of 30 kg of mineral block and 1kg of nutritional vitamin which is enough to feed 100 livestock for one month. Food parcel items consists of products commonly used by herders and fits country's cultural content.

No	Province	# of soums*	# of targeted herder households	Type of assistance	Planned distribution date
1.	Arkhangai	6	600	Cash	February\March
2.	Bayankhongor	4	400	Food/animal care kit	February\March
3.	Darkhan	2	200	Food/animal care kit	February\March
4.	Dornogobi	1	100	Food/animal care kit	February\March
5.	Umnugobi	3	300	Food/animal care kit	February\March
6.	Tuv	6	600	Cash	February\March
7.	Uvs	3	300	Cash	February\March
8.	Total	25	2500		

*Estimated number of soums targeted in the operation in each of the selected provinces

Scenario planning

More detailed information on conditions for transportation of goods is being collected by MRCS from local Red Cross branches and other sources. Road conditions depend on weather and may change on a daily basis. Road conditions may affect fuel consumption.

Major difficulties are not expected in transporting food and other relief items to larger urban centres. However, at the soum level the large distances to and between herders may pose considerable challenges to transportation. Cash transfers only will cover soums where herders have good access to soum centres but mixed food and cash transfers in provinces where it is difficult for beneficiaries to reach the soum centre. The food parcel and animal care kit will be transported further into the field and distributed at soum level.

Depending mainly on snowfall in the period before distribution takes place, lack of appropriate means of transportation and difficult road conditions may affect the ability of some herders to access distribution points during the time of distribution. However, information gathered from MRCS branches and by the MRCS/IFRC assessment team indicates that beneficiaries will be able to access soum centres to collect their cash from their bank account and purchase necessities. Recipients of food parcel and animal care kit assistance will be able to reach villages to collect their assistance. For the herders that reside furthest away from soum centres this may necessitate travelling over long distances. As beneficiaries are selected from the most vulnerable population groups, they do not own their own vehicles and depend on others for their transportation to the soum centre. Alternatively, they can travel by horse, but for herders that live furthest away this means a whole day of travel each way.

Distribution of relief items provided by the MRCS will be coordinated with NEMA based on existing MoU between MRCS and NEMA. Relief goods are planned to be procured in Ulaanbaatar and transported with support from NEMA to soum centres, and from soum centres to distribution points by local government. Fuel for vehicles is paid by the operation. Five MRCS volunteers in each location (Bayankhongor, Darkhan, Dornogobi and Umnugobi provinces), or a total of 20 volunteers, will help local branches to pack relief items and loading and unloading from truck. Three volunteers in each location (Arkhangai, Tuv and Uvs provinces) or total of 9 volunteers, where unrestricted cash grants are being distributed, will work at Khan Bank to assist herders and promote Red Cross action.

B. Operational strategy

Overall objective

The overall objective is to meet the essential needs of the 2,500 most vulnerable herder households (approximately 9,000 people⁹) who are affected by severe winter through provision of emergency relief items and/or small amounts of cash.

This operation is expected to cover the most essential needs of 1,000 herder households for 40 days with food and animal care kit and the needs of 1,500 herder households for one month with cash support.

Proposed strategy

Assessment and beneficiary selection

1. MRCS assessment by mid-level branches in affected provinces
2. MRCS NDRT field assessment in one provinces (Tuv)
3. Government led assessment team in 10 provinces

For beneficiary selection see section above.

Food parcel and animal care kit

In order to provide timely and appropriate assistance, cash will be transferred to 1,500 herder households in three provinces and a combination of food and animal care kit to 1,000 herder households in four provinces. (See table and detailed explanation in chapter on beneficiary selection). In total, 2,500 herder households in seven provinces will be identified based on their vulnerability status (as determined by soum authority vulnerability data) and on how much their province is affected by the disaster.

Activities planned:

- Assessment of all four provinces targeted with food parcel and animal care kit assistance.
- Refresher training for volunteers to ensure effective response.
- Preparation of final beneficiary lists.
- Preparation of distribution plan.
- Procurement of emergency items in Ulaanbaatar.
- Cross check beneficiary list with bank information.
- Distribution of cash through Khan Bank.
- Distribution of emergency items to provincial Red Cross branch offices. After relief items reached provinces, branch will coordinate with local emergency management agency and soum authorities to distribute to beneficiaries according to list. Branch volunteers will help to pack food parcels and animal care kit.
- Coordination meetings with local emergency departments and social welfare authorities.
- Monitoring and reporting.
- Evaluation.

Operational support services

Human resources

MRCS closely coordinates its actions with central and local governments through its headquarters in Ulaanbaatar and seven mid-level branches in affected areas. MRCS has 11 programme staff at headquarters level and around 28 at branch level. There are more than 12,500 volunteers across the country.

The IFRC country cluster support team (CCST) in Beijing will actively support the National Society in the implementation of the DREF operation. IFRC CCST staff providing technical support remotely and Mongolia-based national programme coordinator and finance and administration manager will provide technical support in-country.

HR planning table			
Position, Title	Sector Area	Time	Specific roles, responsibilities, tasks
MRCS branch volunteers (20)	Relief	1 month	Monitoring and managing relief distributions
MRCS branch volunteers (9)	Cash	1 month	Monitoring and post distribution survey

⁹ Approx. 3,6 persons per household according NSO of Mongolia

MRCS branch disaster response team (28)	Relief/Cash	1 month	Beneficiary selection/registration and managing relief distributions
MRCS Finance Officer (book keeping)	Relief	1 month	Procurement support
NDRT member (11)	Relief/Cash	1 month	Assessment, distribution, monitoring
MRCS Logistics officer	Relief	1 month	Procurement support
RDRT member	Relief	1 month	Assist NS with logistics
IFRC (Mongolia office) Country Programme Coordinator	Relief	1 month	Monitoring and reporting
IFRC (Mongolia office) Finance and Administration Manager	Relief	1 month	Monitoring and reporting

Refresher training for volunteers will be provided to ensure effective response. Twenty-eight members of branch disaster response team will coordinate with relevant government and non-government organizations through-out the operation. MRCS Finance and logistics officers will provide support in procurement of relief goods and cash transfers.

The IFRC CCST (Beijing), Mongolia country office and IFRC regional office in Kuala Lumpur will provide technical support to monitor the implementation of the emergency plan of action. PMER and finance units at all levels will follow up on regular reporting requirements.

Logistics and Supply Chain

Logistics activities aim to effectively manage the supply chain, including, procurement, fleet, storage and transport to distribution sites in accordance with the operation's requirements and aligned to IFRC's logistics standards, processes and procedures. Sourcing and procuring relief items will be carried out locally in Ulaanbaatar by MRCS in compliance with MRCS and IFRC procedures to ensure quality and timely delivery. IFRC country office will support MRCS with local procurement and other logistical aspects on the ground and IFRC AP Operational Logistics, Procurement and Supply Chain Management department will extend its technical logistics support as required. Relief items will be transported from Ulaanbaatar to targeted provinces and soums with support from NEMA. Local authorities will support MRCS with distribution in villages. Cash will be transferred to bank outlets at soum centres.

Information technologies (IT)

The cost of communication will be low and mainly the use of mobile phones and mobile internet by assessment teams. Also, NDRT members will use mobile phones to collect survey from herder beneficiaries post distribution.

Communications

With support from the regional communications unit in Kuala Lumpur, the IFRC CCST communications delegate will support the production of news stories to be published on the IFRC website. Partner National Societies will be provided with information on the response through Newswire and information bulletins.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

MRCS planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting team members will monitor the implementation of the DREF operation in the field with support from NDRT members.

A special telephone line and complaint desk will be established at MRCS headquarters. The telephone number will be communicated to beneficiaries. An evaluation of the DREF operation will be carried out after the emergency in May-June 2018. Twenty branch volunteers will monitor distribution of relief goods in the four provinces targeted with food parcel and animal care kit (five volunteers per branch). Nine branch volunteers will be working during distribution of cash to monitoring distribution process and collect post distribution beneficiary satisfaction survey.

C. Detailed Operational Plan



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 9,000

Male: 4,410

Female: 4,590

Needs analysis: From the initial assessment by MRCS, many of the affected households are either partially or fully need food, fodder, hay and fuel; food parcel and animal care kit will be distributed to the herder households in remote areas while cash assistance will be granted to the herders who have access to the soums centres which will allow them to utilize it with to buy the most emerging items they are in need.

Population to be assisted: 1,500 herder households in three provinces will receive unrestricted cash grant through Khan bank and 1,000 herder household in four provinces will receive food parcel along with animal care kit. During assessment, herder beneficiaries consulted with appropriate type of assistance and their needs.

Programme standards/benchmarks: Food parcel items are identified in consultation with herder beneficiaries and quantity of each items determined using consumption ratio by National Statistics Office of Mongolia. SHPERE and Core humanitarian standard trainings are provided to the NDRT and BDRT members. MRCS consulted with Ministry of Agriculture and herder beneficiaries on quantity and type of the items to be included in the animal care kit.

P&B Output Code	Livelihoods and basic needs Outcome 1: Herder households in affected areas restore and strengthen their livelihoods	# of herder households that have restored their livelihoods through food and cash assistance															
	Livelihoods and basic needs Output 1.1: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities	# of herder households that have enough food for one month to meet their survival threshold															
	Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP008	Assessment of needs, capacities and gaps	■	■														
AP008	Identification and verification of beneficiaries		■	■	■												
AP008	Analysis of the local market to identify availability of the food items			■	■												
AP008	Tendering and procurement of food parcel			■	■												
AP008	Distribution of the food parcel to the affected population				■	■	■										
AP008	Monitoring of the use of distributed food parcel						■	■	■								
AP055	Evaluation of the support provided											■	■	■			

Budget

DREF OPERATION

MDRMN007 Mongolia: Severe Winter

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Food	40,000
Seeds & Plants	25,000
Cash Disbursements	141,000
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	206,000
Distribution & Monitoring	8,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	11,200
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	19,200
Volunteers	725
Total PERSONNEL	725
Workshops & Training	3,500
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	3,500
Travel	7,000
Information & Public Relations	3,000
Communications	2,500
Financial Charges	180
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	12,680
Programme and Services Support Recovery	15,737
Total INDIRECT COSTS	15,737
TOTAL BUDGET	257,842

Contact information

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [DREF budget](#)
- [Map of DREF intervention areas](#)
- [Return to title page](#)

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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**.