Mongolia is vulnerable to a wide range of natural disasters, including blizzards, heavy snowfalls, floods, dust storms, droughts, wildfires, and earthquakes. These events have an adverse impact on people’s lives and livestock, the key source of food, transport, and income for a number of Mongolian families. Close to half of Mongolia’s three million population leads a nomadic life and depends entirely on livestock for a living. A prolonged dry summer drought followed by harsh winter conditions often leads to the death of a large number of livestock, posing particular risks to the survival of herder families, especially in remote and rural areas. During this slow-onset climatic phenomenon, unique to Mongolia and locally known as ‘dzud’, temperatures can drop to as low as -50°C across the country. Mongolia experienced two consecutive dzud events in 2016 and 2017, causing more than one million livestock to perish and threatening the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of people. The increasing frequency of the event has been attributed largely to the impact of climate change and the overgrazing of the Mongolian steppes.

On the development front, Mongolia scores high and ranks 92nd out of 189 countries according to the 2018 Human Development Index. Over a span of 25 years, Mongolia has transformed into a vibrant democracy, with treble the level of GDP per capita and increasing school enrollments, and dramatic declines in maternal mortality and child mortality. In the boom years following 2010, poverty fell as the economy grew. Between 2014 and 2016, however, when the non-mining economy was particularly hit by falling investment and declining private consumption, Mongolia’s poverty rate rose again in 2012. According to The World Bank, to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth and to reduce poverty, Mongolia will need to strengthen governance; build institutional capacity to manage public revenues efficiently; and ensure equal opportunities to all its citizens in urban and rural areas, and it needs to do this in a manner which protects the environment and intergenerational equity.

The Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS) was established in 1939, as auxiliary to the Mongolian government, it defines its priority strategic goal by building its capacity in disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery, to develop community based public health activities, and provide social and psychosocial support to vulnerable populations. Aligned with MRCS’s vision and strategic plan, IFRC will continue to focus its support on priority areas of disaster risk reduction; health; water, sanitation and hygiene; social care; and an integrated Community-Based Risk Reduction (CBDRR) programme. To supplement on-going initiatives in building safer and more resilient communities IFRC will ensure continued enhancement of MRCS’ preparedness for response through capacity building of mid-level branches while ongoing initiatives such forecast based action; a trigger-based financing which provides financing coverage to disaster response needs before a disaster strikes.
Spotlight on Mongolia’s Rapid Urbanization

Rapid urbanization has become one of Mongolia’s most critical development issues. Ulaanbaatar, the capital’s population has grown by 70 percent in a span of 20 years. In 2017, Ulaanbaatar accounts for more than 40 percent of the country’s three million inhabitants, with the city’s total administrative area now 30 times larger than the original area it was built on. Migrants are settling in ger areas, sprawling, unplanned neighborhoods vulnerable to natural disasters such as flash floods. In these unplanned areas, basic services and infrastructure are unable to keep up with rapid population growth. A future challenge is the potential rise of unregistered inhabitants, ineligible and unable to access basic social services such as education and health care.

**NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

### AREAS OF FOCUS

#### DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

**CHF 820,000 REQUIRED**

MRCS aims at reducing the impact of disasters on vulnerable communities through sustainable risk reduction and resilience building interventions by strengthening cooperation with, and capacities of government authorities and communities in localised disaster preparedness and response. The program aims to reach the following goals:

- 150 communities are better prepared through having access to field training and disaster drills.
- 2500 households reduce risk of climate related disaster through forecast based action.
- 20 communities improve resilience through community based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation programmes.
- 1500 households are covered by pre-positioning of relief stocks at regional logistics centers.

#### LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS

**CHF 420,000 REQUIRED**

To build resilience for extreme winter or Dzud, it is crucial to prepare hay and fodder resources to complement winter shelters for livestock. Local authorities are often short of hay and fodder resources during winter due to limited state budget. The MRCS programme aims to reach the following goals:

- MRCS is ‘cash ready’ with increased capacity in cash based assistance by developing localised cash standard operating procedures that will align with early actions triggered by Forecast-Based Financing mechanism.
- Livelihood assessment in 20 of targeted rural or urban areas and create a dzud preparedness plan with proposed practical mitigations and solutions to increase resilience of herder communities.

#### HEALTH

**CHF 590,000 REQUIRED**

Infectious and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Mongolia continue to have negative consequences such as human casualties, increased health hazards, declining livelihoods, and impact on the social order by loss of labor capacity, higher medical treatment costs and worsening public health. Therefore the MRCS health programme aims to address those challenges by reaching following goals:

- Prevent NCDs by organizing awareness raising activities on NCDs.
- Provision of training to 75 community members on common diseases prevention and treatment such as TB screening, including info sharing on sexually transmitted infections.
- Dissemination of First Aid (FA) knowledge and skills nationwide by establishing First Aid training center, conducting First Aid-based competitions, and Training of Trainers events.
- Strengthening capacity in emergency health and response during disasters and emergencies.

#### WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

**CHF 1,280,000 REQUIRED**

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in schools, urban and rural communities have remained a challenge and contributes to the negative impact on the health and environmental conditions in Mongolia. The MRCS aims to replicate and scaling up sanitation-related good practices in communities by implementing national standards on sanitation and minimum requirements for WASH in schools. The programme will reach one million people in 21 provinces and 9 districts with community-based WASH activities for preventing the spread of disease, open defecation, poor sanitation and hygiene practices, through capacity improved water/sanitation facilities, training of trainers and peer educators.

#### PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION

**CHF 170,000 REQUIRED**

Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) is IFRC’s cross cutting approach to ensure the dignity, access, participation and safety for all individuals across all activities and programming. It is based on a thorough and ongoing analysis of how people’s gender, disability, age and other diversity factors affect their vulnerability to harm before, during and after a disaster.

- Support internal migrants by registering/referring to employment opportunities and providing life skills trainings
- Psychosocial support to people affected by Gender Based Violence targeting 20,000 people
- Establish social care centers at all midlevel branches of the MRCS.
- Establish and sustain violence prevention multi-disciplinary teams.

#### STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

#### STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES

**CHF 730,000 REQUIRED**

- Establishing online registration system for 75,000 Red Cross youth members.
- Conduct Youth Agents of Behavior Change (YABC) training to influence positive change in behaviour of 600 young people.
- Improving the conditions and capacity of mid-level branches via income generating activities
- Efficient and transparent financial reporting is established at midlevel branches.
- Improving logistics, fleet and security management at all mid-level branches.

#### INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNERS

**CHF 17,000 REQUIRED**

IFRC will support and enable MRCS to effectively contribute to lead and shaping the humanitarian landscape through a responsive, priority-driven, evidence-based approach developing or pursuing advocacy elements such as World Disaster Report, launch of One Billion Coalition for Resilience, promotion of World First Aid Day and other key programmatic focus that offers partnership opportunities including but not limited to Migration and Protection, Gender and Inclusion.

**STATISTICS**

- 30% of the country’s population live below the poverty line.
- 35,000 of the country do not have access to basic health services.
- 58% women in the country have experienced some or multiple forms of violence
- 8th most vulnerable globally on the climate risk index

**CONTACTS**

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