COUNTRY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Mongolia is the world’s least densely populated country – with just two people per kilometre. Situated in Asia, Mongolia is a landlocked country, most of which is moutainous and uninhabitable. It is susceptible to a wide range of disasters, including blizzards, heavy snowfalls, floods, dust storms, droughts, wildfires and earthquakes. Given the extremely harsh natural conditions and people’s heavy reliance on pasture in terms of livelihoods, the Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS) has set its organizational strategy for 2020 as “to increase disaster preparedness and prevention; to improve the livelihoods of vulnerable people; to promote the active involvement of volunteers, members, supporters, children, youth, the community and the public in building a healthy and non-violent society; and to ensure the sustainable development of the National Society.”

Mongolia has, since the early 1990s, seen internal migration which today still drives the country’s rapid urbanization. According to the Mongolia: Internal Migration Study conducted by the National University of Mongolia, nearly half of the country’s population (47 per cent) are now living in the capital, up from a little over a quarter (26.8 per cent) in 1989. Between 2011 and 2016, some 126,143 people arrived in Ulaanbaatar, bringing the total population of the city to 1.4 million, according to the National Statistical Office of Mongolia.

Aligned with the MRCS’s vision and strategic plan, IFRC will focus its support on the priority areas of disaster risk reduction; livelihoods and basic needs; health; water, sanitation and hygiene; protection, gender and inclusion; migration; and the capacity building of the National Society. We will keep working with the MRCS on Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction and Red Ready to enhance its capacity in disaster preparedness and response, and to build community resilience. We will develop livelihoods intervention in Mongolia to improve ‘dzud’ preparedness and build people’s resilience to natural hazards.

We will also support the MRCS to roll out first-aid training, boost its partnership with the government and other National Societies and connect it with more partners. In addition, IFRC will provide strong support to the MRSC to enhance its corporate structure, especially in the filed of financial sustainability.
Deadly effects of dzud on Mongolian communities

‘Dzud’ is the Mongolian term for a severe winter in which large numbers of livestock die, primarily due to starvation or directly from the cold. Without these animals as a source of income, food and transport, herders and their families remain trapped with a lack of basic healthcare and social services, or forced to migrate to Ulaanbaatar and live in extreme poverty. On 15 February 2018, IFRC released 258,000 Swiss francs from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund to assist 2,500 herder families and the hardest-hit households in seven provinces in Mongolia with cash grants or emergency supplies.

AREAS OF FOCUS

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 1,030,000

IFRC will support the MRCS to enhance its capacity in disaster preparedness and response at both national and local levels, and build community resilience through National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) training and Forecast-based Action. We will develop community-based intervention activities in Mongolia as follows:

- 5,000 people will be reached through the MRCS programmes for disaster risk reduction and community resilience building.
- 15,000 people will be reached by climate change mitigation and environmental sustainability awareness-raising campaigns.
- 1 NDRT training, based on the updated curriculum, will be conducted.
- 1 National Society pre-deployment agreement will be developed.

LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS
REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 320,000

The MRCS will be assisted in developing and implementing a sustainable livelihoods project in 20 communities following recommendations from assessment reports and based on a dzud preparedness plan to increase the resilience of herder communities:

- 2,000 people will be supported with cash for recovering or strengthening economic activities.
- 1,000 people will be reached with food assistance or cash for basic needs.

HEALTH
REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 110,000

The MRCS will be supported in facilitating an epidemic preparedness workshop and campaign before the next influenza season, and to organize a Psycho-Social Support (PSS) workshop to enhance its PSS capacity and provide training to volunteers. We will also facilitate MRCS’s development on partnerships, engaging it with partners such as the World Health Organization and UNICEF (the United Nations Children’s Fund). We will also focus on strengthening the MRCS in terms of commercial First Aid and help it to establish a new business model as well as training delivered to the general public:

- 7,200 people will be trained by the MRCS in first aid.
- 1,000 blood donor recruitment campaigns will be organized.
- 60,000 people will be reached by a blood donor recruitment campaign.
- 30,000 people will be reached by long-term healthcare support.
- 15,000 volunteers will be trained by MRCS in epidemic control.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE
REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 10,000

IFRC is committed to strengthening MRCS’s capacity in providing nationwide water services support. We will also help it to organize 180 nationwide hygiene promotion campaigns:

- 10,000 households will be provided with safe water services that meet agreed standards according to the specific operational and programmatic context.
- 36,000 households will be reached through the promotion of personal and community hygiene.

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION
REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 190,000

We will facilitate the MRCS’s attendance at IFRC’s Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy meeting and help it to develop a policy and build humanitarian classrooms to disseminate knowledge of disaster protection, first aid and humanitarian assistance to young people. We will also support the MRCS to conduct 12 sessions of training on Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change (YABC).

- MRCS will have a PSEA policy in place.
- 21 humanitarian classrooms will be built in Mongolia.
- 600 YABC peer educators will be trained or supported.

MIGRATION
REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 75,000

- 5,000 internally displaced people to be reached and assisted.
- MRCS will create a focal point for Migration and Displacement, becoming a member of and contributing to the Asia Pacific Migration Network.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES
REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 350,000

Our primary focus is to support MRCS in developing a financial sustainability strategy. We will also help it to develop a business plan for the East Asia Youth Camp and to conduct a youth engagement case study. In addition, we will integrate and incorporate all the capacity building elements from other development initiatives to strengthen the MRCS’s capacity comprehensively.

- Red Ready programme.
- Financial sustainability and Human Resources system improvement.

CONTACTS

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