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Emergency appeal operations update

Mongolia: Extreme winter condition

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRMN005		GLIDE n° CW-2016-000004-MNG
Operations update n° 2 Issued on 13 June 2016		Timeframe covered by this update: 16 March to 30 April 2016
Operation start date: 15 January 2016		Operation end date: 28 February 2017
Appeal budget: CHF 833,945	Appeal coverage: 79%	Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: CHF 158,459
N° of people being affected: 965,000		
N° of people being assisted: 25,500 people (5,100 households)		
Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): The Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS) has 33 mid-level and over 800 primary level branches working all over Mongolia, 12,500 volunteers and 70,000 youth members. MRCS has seven established regional disaster preparedness centres.		
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: The National Society is working with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in this operation. Partner National Societies who have supported the emergency appeal response are American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross Society, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Republic of Korea National Red Cross, Red Cross of Monaco and Swedish Red Cross. The operation has also been supported by the governments of Canada and Denmark via their National Societies as well as from the European Union Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO). On behalf of MRCS, IFRC would like to thank all partners and donors for their support towards this operation.		
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: G-Mobile, local governor's offices, local social care departments, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of Labour, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Save the Children, World Animal Protection Organization Mongolia and World Vision International.		

Summary

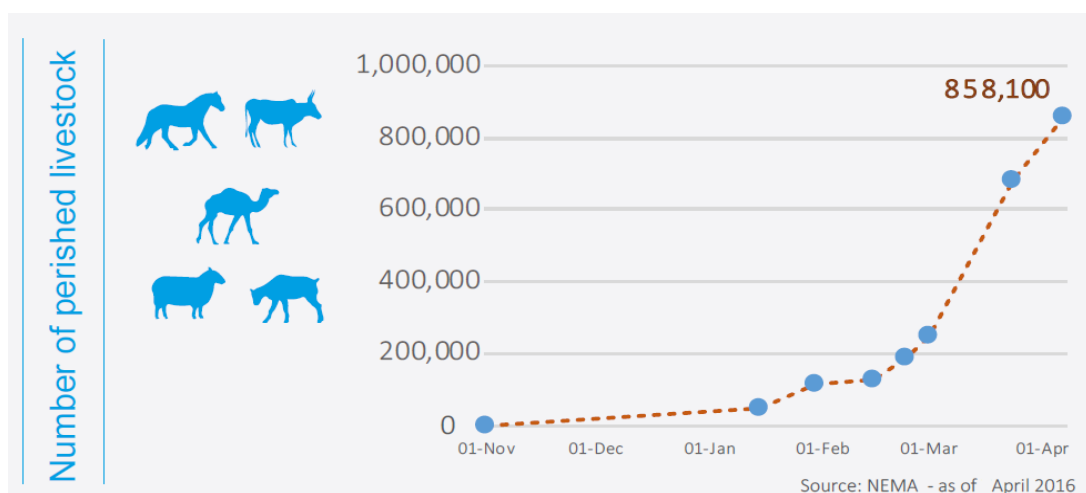
At the end of April, nightly temperatures were around 0 degrees Celsius in the north-western part of Mongolia and several degrees higher during the day. At the same time the provinces of Bayan-Ulgii, Uvs, Govi-Altai, Zavkhan, Khuvsgul, Arkhangai, Uvurkhangai, Bulgan, Orkhon, Selenge, Darkhan-Uul, Tuv, Khentii, Dornod and Dundgovi had various levels of precipitation and heavy storm.

According to official government figures, the number of *soums* (districts) affected by *dzud* (extreme winter conditions) had decreased considerably during the reporting period. At the end of April there were dzud conditions in 62 soums in 17 provinces and 51 soums in 15 provinces were close to having dzud conditions.

At the end of April, the Government of Mongolia had allocated MNT 7.3 billion (about CHF 3.5 million) to the dzud response, mainly for the maintenance of infrastructure and the purchase and distribution of hay and fodder. While the weather is improving, herders do not have enough cash to buy basic necessities or hay and fodder for their livestock. At the end of this reporting period 858,100 animals had died because of the dzud (see table 1).

The Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) have assisted a total of 1,767 households in the eight most affected provinces during the reporting period. Up to 3,600 households in nine other dzud affected provinces were being registered and will receive unconditional cash grants and food parcels. During this time, MRCS has been preparing to implement psychosocial support to reach 5,000 dzud affected school children who are living in dormitories away from their parents.

As the operation moves into recovery phase in the coming months and with the evolving situation being monitored, a revision of the budget and plan being considered.

Table 1: Number of perished livestock by April 2016 in Mongolia

Coordination and partnerships

Movement coordination:

With support from IFRC, the MRCS ensures a coordinated response, informing partner National Societies (PNS) about the needs of beneficiaries and about the progress of the response. Close cooperation ensures that the emergency operation and the bilateral programmes supported by the British and the Finnish Red Cross in the country are carefully aligned for more efficiency in the implementation. Senior management and disaster management teams at MRCS headquarters level cooperate closely in their coordination of field operations.

The disaster management (DM) team provides technical guidance to mid-level branches of MRCS while secretaries and instructors of mid-level branches coordinate interventions by primary level branches. MRCS takes all necessary measures to ensure that its development programmes, including the community-based disaster risk reduction programme, are not disrupted by the operation. In this regard, the senior management and disaster management teams of MRCS with IFRC support, have formed a task force to oversee the operation.

To support MRCS in implementing the relief response, a member of the regional disaster response team (RDRT) worked closely with the MRCS team. Remote technical support was provided by the disaster management and livelihoods coordinator of the IFRC country cluster support team (CCST) in Beijing and the cash and livelihoods coordinator of the Asia Pacific regional office in Kuala Lumpur.

Coordinating with authorities:

MRCS works in close cooperation with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), which is the government's disaster coordination and response body. MRCS shares assessment data, information and logistics capacity with NEMA. They also work closely with local-level disaster management agencies (LEMA) and local authorities and have established working groups to coordinate beneficiary selection, registration and response actions. The heads of LEMA and head of governor's office at the provincial levels are members of these groups. MRCS branches also collect information from their local *soum* authorities and participate in local emergency commission meetings.

Inter-agency coordination:

IFRC supports MRCS in coordinating the mobilization of resources as part of the operation and provides technical support in its implementation. As a member of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in Mongolia, IFRC represents MRCS in coordinating with international actors who are present in the country and shares information about MRCS response. MRCS is one of the main non-state agencies to mount a significant response to the current dzud, and other humanitarian actors have approached the National Society to establish partnerships in delivering assistance to the affected populations.

International actors have approached MRCS for information sharing and have requested support from MRCS networks to assist herders in the eastern provinces. Mercy Corps has offered logistics support in two provinces where MRCS is distributing food parcels.

Operational implementation

Overview

At the end of April weather conditions had improved throughout the country, but many herders have lost their livelihood in the months following the dzud and cannot provide for their families. MRCS had assisted 1,570 very vulnerable herder households in the provinces of Arkhangai, Bayan-Ulgii, Bulgan, Khuvsgul, Selenge, Tuv, Uvs and Zavkhan.

Up to 3,600 additional households were being registered in Sukhbaatar, Bayankhongor, Dundgovi, Khovd, Uvurkhangai, Govi-Altai, Dornogovi, Khentii, Govi-Sumber provinces at the end of April.

At the end of the reporting period mid-level branches (MLB) in these nine provinces had started recruiting volunteers for food distribution and to work at the branches of banks to assist in cash transfers. A total of 300 volunteers were involved in the delivery of humanitarian assistance at the MLBs of the MRCS in dzud affected areas. This included distributing food and helping herders to receive their cash grants in the branches of Khan Bank.



A herder is receiving unconditional cash at Khanbank branch in April 2016 in Selenge province. Photo: MRCS

In consultation with the cash transfer programming (CTP) RDRT, distribution and post distribution methodologies were developed. Volunteers and branches were involved in this process with facilitation of and coordination by national disaster response teams (NDRT). Monitoring was conducted in four randomly selected provinces (Bayan-Ulgii, Selenge, Tuv and Zavkhan). Beneficiaries who received both food packages and cash indicated that response was timely and that the type of relief they received matched what they needed. They mentioned that they were short of food at the time and that the cash enabled them to purchase much needed medicine.

The MRCS prioritizes the most vulnerable among affected herder households based on clearly defined selection criteria. Selection and registration are done by MRCS branches and coordinated by a working group comprising representatives of MRCS, IFRC, LEMA and provincial governors' offices.

With support from IFRC, the MRCS has established a feedback and two-way communication mechanism using the Trilogy Emergency Relief Application (TERA) to enhance community engagement and accountability. A telephone helpline integrated with TERA has been established by MRCS as a medium through which affected people can seek information on the response, make inquiries and submit complaints confidentially. In the reporting period, 32 calls were received. Most of calls to the helpline were from herders seeking information on to how to withdraw cash from the bank, and with whom to liaise if they needed further support.

The MRCS DM team along with IFRC gave live interviews to TV stations with national coverage to explain the current emergency appeal and the progress of the operation. They also presented detailed information on the food distribution and unconditional cash grants, and presented the helpline. After the broadcast many different stakeholders contacted MRCS through the helpline for information on the cash transfer programme.

Consultation meetings were held with other international actors such as Asian Development Bank (ADB), iWV, UN agencies, NEMA and Ministry of Food and Agriculture, especially with regard to adequately addressing the underlying risks that contribute to the development of dzud in Mongolia. Providing winter shelter for livestock is considered an effective way of reducing the risk of extensive livestock deaths, but this requires extensive funding and human resources, including skilled construction workers. Another challenge to the construction of winter shelters is the limited sustainability and ownership in the long term. In collaboration with Ministry of Food and Agriculture the MRCS is planning to explore possible options in cost-efficient and sustainable ways of providing winter shelters to vulnerable herders.

Quality programming			
Outcome 1 Continuous assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation.	Outputs		% of achievement
	Output 1.1 Needs assessments are conducted and response plans updated according to findings..		Continuous
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
1.1.1 Mobilize MRCS staff and volunteers for assessments	X		80%
1.1.2 Mobilize/deploy regional tools to support MRCS in conducting assessments and implementation of activities	X		100%
1.1.3 Undertake assessments to determine specific needs of beneficiaries	X		100%
1.1.4 Develop detailed response plans with activities that will meet identified beneficiary needs	X		100%
1.1.5 Continued information collection from local branches	X		Continuous
	Outputs		% of achievement
	Output 1.2 Mechanisms are in place to facilitate two-way communication with and ensure transparency and accountability to disaster-affected people.		100%
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
1.2.1 Beneficiary satisfaction survey	X		50%
	Outputs		% of achievement
	Output 1.3 Management and delivery of the operation is informed by an appropriate monitoring and evaluation system.		Continuous
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
1.3.1 Monitoring visits by joint teams of MRCS headquarters and IFRC	X		50%
1.3.2 Internal final evaluation	X		0%
Progress towards outcomes			
<p>Assessments MRCS NDRT members and volunteers in the affected areas continue to monitor the situation. They conduct assessments of the changing situation and report these to NDRT for detailed analysis. The collected information showed that the economic situation in most of the affected provinces was deteriorating day by day during the reporting period.</p> <p>The government scaled up its relief efforts in March and April and had used 80 per cent of the national disaster response funds, and this is expected to limit further response, adding difficulties to meet the needs of the dzud affected population. The effects of the dzud are expected to continue until beginning of June, resulting in continued humanitarian needs among the affected population. In this context there is growing interest among international humanitarian actors to contribute to the emergency response.</p>			

Monitoring and evaluation

A joint monitoring team comprised of MRCS DM team and IFRC visited the most affected areas during the first week of March. The mission was combined with a communications mission by IFRC and Finnish Red Cross field communications unit, which resulted in the production of a short documentary, several web stories and close coverage through IFRC channels. The IFRC CCST engaged with all major news agencies and TV networks, as well as other smaller news outlets and independent reporters, which resulted in close international coverage of the dzud through TV and print media. This extensive media coverage has contributed to close support for the operation by partners and a global interest by humanitarian actors and the general public in providing assistance to herders who are affected by the dzud.

Food security, Nutrition, and Livelihoods			
Outcome 2: Immediate food and other priority needs of the targeted families are met.	Outputs		% of achievement
	Output 2.1 1,600 households in 20 provinces are provided with food parcels and unconditional cash transfers.		75%
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
2.1.1 Identification of soums in 20 provinces across the country	X		100%
2.1.2 Beneficiary selection and registration	X		95%
2.1.3 Orientation and mobilization of volunteers at district levels	X		100%
2.1.4 Local procurement of food parcels	X		75%
2.1.5 Distribution of food parcels and provision of unconditional cash grants through bank transfer	X		75%
2.1.6 Onsite monitoring during the distribution	X		60%
	Outputs		% of achievement
	Output 2.2 3,500 households in 20 provinces are provided with unconditional cash transfers for meeting other priority needs.		8% ¹
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
2.2.1 Identification of soums in 20 provinces across the country	X		100%
2.2.2 Beneficiary registration and cash form preparation	X		100%
2.2.3 Distribution of unconditional cash grants	X		8%
2.2.4 Post distribution monitoring and reporting	X		on-going

¹ Correction: There was an error in the previous operation update no. 1, which stated 40% achievement of output 2.2. It has been verified that as at 30 April 2016, 300 households have received unconditional cash transfers.

Outcome 3: Livelihoods are protected and negative coping strategies reduced among affected population and households.	Outputs		% of achievement
	Output 3.1 Households restart income generating activities.		0%
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
3.1.1 Selection of 100 beneficiary households for livelihood intervention	X		0
3.1.2 Market assessments/ training needs assessments	X		20%
3.1.3 Vocational/ business trainings, skills transfer	X		0
3.1. 4 Monitoring and reporting	X		0
Progress towards outcomes			
<p>The provinces and soums that are targeted by this operation were identified based on dzud conditions, livestock deaths and the situation of the most vulnerable herder households who are affected by the dzud.</p> <p>Despite the weather improving considerably with higher temperatures and less snow, as animals were severely weakened and there was very limited grazing, livestock deaths continued .</p> <p>Food assistance Due to improved road conditions, the estimated cost of distributing the remaining food parcels is lower than that of the first food parcel distribution. Khan Bank cross-checks beneficiary lists from soum level branches to ensure correct identification. Any errors or mismatches that are found in the process are immediately corrected by the MRCS.</p> <p>As of the end of the reporting period, 1,467 households in the eight most affected provinces have received two-month food parcels.</p> <p>Procurement of food items has been done locally in Mongolia by MRCS with support from IFRC. All procurement related to this Emergency Appeal has been done following IFRC standard procurement procedures. Transportation of relief goods (food) has been completed and done according IFRC standard logistics procedures.</p> <p>IFRC's regional logistics unit (RLU) in Kuala Lumpur has been providing technical support to MRCS.</p> <p>Unconditional cash transfers Further to providing food assistance, MRCS is undertaking unconditional cash transfers to enable the most vulnerable affected households to supplement food needs and meet a range of other priority household needs. As of the end of this reporting period, 1,200 households in the eight most affected provinces had received receive cash transfers worth MNT 64,000 (CHF 32) each in addition to the two-month food parcels. In addition, another 300 households in the provinces of had received receive cash transfers worth MNT 192,000 (CHF 96) each.</p> <p>A RDRT member was deployed from early March for one month to support the operation and continued to work with MRCS and IFRC on the development of a more comprehensive and detailed work plan for cash distribution. The extensive experiences of the RDRT member from previous disaster response in Nepal and Pakistan contributed to improvements in work processes and fruitful cooperation with local stakeholders.</p> <p>Livelihoods Meetings were held with World Vision International (WVI) to finalize the plans for rapid market assessment training for MRCS mid-level branch staff in June. World Vision has extensive expertise in rapid market assessment and will continue to coach MRCS staff in this field as needed throughout the operation.</p>			

Health & care			
Outcome 4 The immediate and medium-term risks to the health of affected populations are reduced.	Outputs		% of achievement
		Output 4.1 School-going children affected by the dzud are provided with psychosocial first aid support (PSS/FA)	
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
4.1.1 Mobilize volunteers for school-based PSS/FA in collaboration with Save the Children			40%

Progress towards outcomes

A memorandum of understanding was signed between MRCS and Save the Children through which the partners will cooperate on the provision of psychosocial support and first aid to school children (aged 7-16) from dzud affected families. As part of the agreement PSS/FA training will be facilitated by experts from Save the Children in Tokyo, Japan. Manuals for the training of trainers (and for the volunteers) will be printed in Mongolian language and distributed to MRCS mid-level branch staff who will provide training to school teachers including dormitory teachers at schools. Mid-level branch staff will also conduct joint monitoring and evaluation together with Save the Children. As the MRCS and other does not have the same level of expertise in providing psychosocial support to children the cooperation with Save the Children greatly enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of this component of the operation.

Community preparedness and risk reduction			
Outcome 5 Communities' resilience to disasters is protected.	Outputs		% of achievement
		Output 5.1 Risk reduction measures are incorporated in disaster recovery programmes.	
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
5.1.1 Selection of beneficiaries for community preparedness and risk reduction activities			0%
5.1.2 Procurement and distribution of 100 portable grass harvester			0%
5.1.3 Climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness training among herders			0%
5.1.4 Monitoring and reporting			

Progress towards outcomes

No report during this period.

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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 \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster 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.

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The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Disaster Response Financial Report**MDRMN005 - Mongolia - Extreme Winter Condition**

Timeframe: 14 Jan 16 to 28 Feb 17

Appeal Launch Date: 29 Feb 16

Interim Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2016/1-4	Programme	MDRMN005
Budget Timeframe	2016/1-2017/2	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget		833,945				833,945	
B. Opening Balance							
Income							
Cash contributions							
<i>American Red Cross</i>		88,018				88,018	
<i>British Red Cross</i>		133,539				133,539	
<i>Danish Red Cross (from Danish Government*)</i>		53,438				53,438	
<i>European Commission - DG ECHO</i>		131,816				131,816	
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>		50,248				50,248	
<i>Japanese Red Cross Society</i>		27,500				27,500	
<i>Red Cross of Monaco</i>		10,920				10,920	
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>		122,201				122,201	
<i>The Canadian Red Cross Society (from Canadian Government*)</i>		25,659				25,659	
<i>The Republic of Korea National Red Cross</i>		17,000				17,000	
C1. Cash contributions		660,339				660,339	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)		660,339				660,339	
D. Total Funding = B + C		660,339				660,339	

* Funding source data based on information provided by the donor

II. Movement of Funds

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance							
C. Income		660,339				660,339	
E. Expenditure		-152,165				-152,165	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		508,174				508,174	

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRMN005 - Mongolia - Extreme Winter Condition

Timeframe: 14 Jan 16 to 28 Feb 17

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Interim Report

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2016/1-4	Programme	MDRMN005
Budget Timeframe	2016/1-2017/2	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)			833,945			833,945		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Food	72,832		44,042			44,042	28,790	
Cash Disbursement	387,583		63,836			63,836	323,747	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	460,415		107,878			107,878	352,537	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Others Machinery & Equipment	17,500						17,500	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	17,500						17,500	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	480						480	
Distribution & Monitoring	20,000		15,952			15,952	4,048	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	12,000						12,000	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	32,480		15,952			15,952	16,528	
Personnel								
International Staff	148,650		2,070			2,070	146,580	
National Staff	27,083		1,979			1,979	25,104	
National Society Staff	21,000						21,000	
Volunteers	7,920		2,050			2,050	5,870	
Total Personnel	204,653		6,099			6,099	198,554	
Consultants & Professional Fees								
Professional Fees			337			337	-337	
Total Consultants & Professional Fees			337			337	-337	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	42,000		2,987			2,987	39,014	
Total Workshops & Training	42,000		2,987			2,987	39,014	
General Expenditure								
Travel	7,500		3,477			3,477	4,023	
Information & Public Relations	9,500		586			586	8,914	
Office Costs	1,250		1,250			1,250	0	
Communications	6,790		2,009			2,009	4,781	
Financial Charges	960		1,188			1,188	-228	
Total General Expenditure	26,000		8,510			8,510	17,490	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recover	50,898		9,215			9,215	41,684	
Total Indirect Costs	50,898		9,215			9,215	41,684	
Pledge Specific Costs								
Pledge Earmarking Fee			1,189			1,189	-1,189	
Total Pledge Specific Costs			1,189			1,189	-1,189	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	833,945		152,165			152,165	681,781	
VARIANCE (C - D)			681,781			681,781		