

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Emergency appeal operation update Mongolia: Extreme winter condition



Emergency Appeal n° MDRMN005	GLIDE n° CW-2016-000004-MNG
Operation update n° 4 24 January 2017	Timeframe covered by this update: 15 July 2016 to 25 December 2016
Operation start date: 15 January 2016	Operation timeframe: 12 months - Until 28 February 2017
Overall Operation budget: CHF 979,346	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 158,459
Current Appeal coverage: CHF847,242 (87%)	Funding gap: 132,104 (13%) (see donor response)
N° of people being assisted: 32,981 people (5,500 households + 5,175 children)	
Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staffs, branches): The Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS) has 33 mid-level branches and over 800 primary level branches and has more than 12,500 volunteers and 70,000 youth members nationwide. MRCS has seven established regional disaster preparedness centers.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: MRCS is working with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in this operation. Partner National Societies (PNS) who have extended their bilateral support to the emergency appeal operation are American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Red Cross of Monaco, Swedish Red Cross, and The Republic of Korea National Red Cross. The emergency appeal response 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). MRCS expresses its sincere gratitude to all the partners, and donors for their support towards helping vulnerable herders in Mongolia.	
Number of other partner organizations involved in the operation: National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of Labour, local social care departments, local governor's offices, Save the Children, World Animal Protection Organization Mongolia, World Vision International, Mercy Corps, G-Mobile (mobile-phone operator), and the Khan Bank.	

Appeal history:

- IFRC allocated CHF 158,459 from a [DREF](#) on 15 January 2016 to support MRCS in provision of food and unconditional cash grants for 1,500 households (7,500 people) affected by livestock dying due to severe winter (Dzud), and apart from the provision of food and cash, there was also a mobilization and deployment of 13 NDRT members and 1 RDRT member.
- The emergency appeal was launched on 29 February 2016 for CHF 833,415 to assist 5,100 households (25,500 people) affected by Dzud disaster, for a period of 12 months, with a focus on detailed assessment, food security, nutrition and livelihoods, community preparedness and risk reduction. *See emergency appeal.*

- An operation update ([no. 1](#)) was issued on 31 March 2016 to provide an overview of the progress made since the allocation of CHF 158,459 from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF - covering the period until 15 March) and the launch of the emergency appeal operation. The main focus of MRCS during this period has been on assessments, procurement of food items and distribution of food to households in need. A total of 1,500 vulnerable herder households (7,500 people) were assisted.
- An operations update ([no. 2](#)) was issued on 13 June 2016 to provide a progress update of the operation since the previous update (16 March to 30 April 2016). During this reporting period a total of 1,767 households (8,835 people) were assisted.
- A [revised emergency appeal](#) was issued on 20 July 2016, with an increase in number of affected people to be reached (from 25,500 to 35,000 people), an increase in activities, slight increase in budget (from CHF 833,945 to CHF 979,346); and a refocused on the geographic scope (from 20 to 17 provinces)
- An operation update ([no. 3](#)) was issued on 27 August 2016 to provide consolidated information on the first six months of the operation.

This is the fourth operation update on the progress of implementation, up to the end of December 2016, and largely reflects that all planned outputs under this operation are completed except for some monitoring activities and the final evaluation.

Operation summary

The appeal was launched following the Dzud disaster which started early November 2015. The extreme winter condition had extreme low temperature and heavy snowfall that affected 90 percent of the territory and a total of 965,000 people, mostly herders, causing a loss of their livestock, created food insecurity, collapse of household economic security. It equally created severe psychological effect that led to increased level and scope of vulnerability. Among the affected population are 5,019 expectant women, 20,874 children aged below five years, 6,117 people with disability and 4,173 households living below the national poverty line. The slow onset disaster has affected disproportionately the elderly, single parent, multi-children, disabled, poor and vulnerable herder households.



Newborn calf struggling to survive the harsh spring, being fed and covered by blanket in Bayan-Ulgii province

As of early January 2016, a total of 50 soums (districts) in 16 provinces (Arkhangai, Bayan-Ulgii, Bayankhongor, Bulgan, Govi-Altai, Govisumber, Dornogovi, Dundgovi, Zavkhan, Uvurkhangai, Sukhbaatar, Tuv, Uvs, Khovd, Khuvsgul, Khentii) were categorized as experiencing Dzud while another 120 soums in 20 provinces were close to having Dzud conditions. Even though the extreme winter ended and with the onset of spring, the aftermath effect of the disaster prolonged, further increasing the death of livestock and their calf. By the end of April 2016, a total of 858,100 adult livestock perished due to Dzud. This number increased to 1.1 million by June 2016. The main contributing factors are, but not limited to, insufficient pasture growth, weakened livestock, severe wind and dust storms, lack of hay and fodder, and livestock migration from their winter shelter to better pasture land.

In the past eleven months, unconditional cash transfer¹ was granted to 3,500 households (17,500 people) in 17 provinces (*outcome 1*), food parcels and unconditional cash transfers² were distributed to 1600 households (8,000 people) in 17 provinces (*outcome 2*) and 300 households (1,500 people) received food parcel. 5,175 school-going children affected by Dzud had been provided with

¹ Amount equivalent to official minimum monthly salary in Mongolia – MNT 192,000 (CHF 96)

² Food parcels worth two months, together with MNT 64,000 (CHF 32) that is equivalent to MNT 192,000 (CHF 96) Households with significant difficulties to accessing local markets are targeted. Small amount of unconditional cash will allow these families to cover the remaining needs including coal, firewood for heating, cooking, hay and fodder for livestock and transportation.

psychosocial first aid (PFA) support (*outcome 4*). Previously trained 1,725 children showed peer to peer support to classmates and friends. Each child reached to at least three peers. In collaboration with World Vision International, MRCS conducted "Rapid market assessment" training from the 23-29 August 2016. A Total of 26 volunteers were trained. Later, based on the rapid market assessment, small business grants were provided to 100 herder families of 9 newly formed target herder groups in 9 soums from 3 provinces (*outcome 3*). A total of 300 grass harvesters were distributed to 16 provinces (Arkhangai, Bayankhongor, Bayan-Ulgii, Bulgan, Gobi-Altai, Darkhan-Uul, Dornod, Uvurkhangai, Sukhbaatar, Selenge, Tuv, Zavkhan, Uvs, Khovd, Khuvsgul, Khentii) and 1 district (Nalaikh) (*outcome 5*). The location and the number of harvesters were allocated according to the state ranking of provinces in hay growth³. Provinces were classified with the highest ranked (1st), receiving 25 harvesters, and the subsequent ranks (2nd, 3rd, ...) receiving 10 harvesters respectively. Herder's consultation meeting to raise the awareness of herder's in climate change and DRR was held twice in Uvs and Gobi-Altai provinces with a participation of 200 herders (*outcome 5*). Lastly, the personal protection equipment (PPE) for first responders were provided to 80 staff of mid-level branches to prepare themselves for future emergencies (*outcome 5*).

During times of snow storm and heavy snow fall, the herders have no choice but to keep livestock in their winter shelter, relying on stored hay resources. The small-electrical grass harvester was efficient and reduced the labour input compared to conventional scythe. With the traditional scythe, one family was able to get one mid-size truck of hay load by working for three days. However, with the grass harvester, one family was able to get the same amount of hay load by working for a day. As per the information from Gobi Altai, mid-level branch, one man harvested around 400kg of hay with his portable grass harvester, which is 3 times more than using scythe, moreover he was able to earn some income by renting out the grass harvester. This initiative has contributed significantly to the mid-level branch income towards cumulating funds for maintenance and spare parts for rented grass harvester.

The procurement of Personal Protection Equipment for first responders (for branch volunteers: boots, clothes, goggles) was requested (80 parcels), moreover, the replenishment of a set of winter jacket and pants for adults and children in total 150 parcels were requested. A logistic requisition with the specification letter was received from MRCS by the IFRC logistics. The logistics unit in Kuala Lumpur conducted a tender for the items. The 230 parcels were received in Mongolia mid-December.

Coordination and partnerships

Movement coordination:

From the beginning of the operation, MRCS with the support of IFRC, ensured a coordinated response and delivered timely information to the PNSs about the needs, progress, gaps, challenges, and responses in the operation. The appeal has been well covered as a result of these efforts. A close coordination is being maintained with the British Red Cross and the Finnish Red Cross to ensure synergy, avoiding duplication of efforts with ongoing programmes and projects that they are supporting



D. Lkhagva, a 38 years old herder and a father of three lives with his wife in Gobi-Altai province Taishir soum. He has a family of five and herds 183 livestock, mainly consisting of goats and sheep. This year, he has rented the grass harvester. The Red Cross branch signed tripartite agreement with him and the local authorities to harvest hay in his area. His family was able to prepare 1 ton (50 bundles) of hay which can feed his livestock for a week. As a rent fee, Lkhagva gave one sheep (monetary value of USD10) to the Gobi-Altai mid-level branch. Herder Lkhagva was fully satisfied with the grass harvester. This year, he came to know about this grass harvester after he bought a few bundles of hay. In the coming year, he wants to rent the harvester as early as possible to better prepare for winter.

³Provinces ranked 1st has the highest hay growth, and subsequent ranks are based on decreasing hay growth by provinces

in a bilateral basis. Senior management, disaster management team (DM), and national disaster response team (NDRT) members at MRCS headquarters are coordinating well in field operations.

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

To support MRCS in implementing an effective response, a member of the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) worked closely with the MRCS team. As a continuous support, NDRT training was conducted by IFRC, which covered psychosocial support (PSS), global surge capacity tools and needs assessment. Remote technical support was provided by the DM and Livelihoods coordinator from the IFRC country cluster support team (CCST) in Beijing and the Cash and Livelihoods coordinator from the Asia Pacific regional office in Kuala Lumpur.

Coordinating with authorities:

MRCS works in close cooperation with the government disaster coordination and response body, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). Furthermore, MRCS shares assessment data, information and logistics capacity with NEMA. The mid-level branches of MRCS work closely with Local-level Disaster Management Agencies (LEMA) and local authorities. The beneficiary selection, registration, and response actions were coordinated by the working groups, which consisted of local authorities, LEMA, and MRCS mid-level branches in each province. MRCS branches also collect information from their local soum authorities and participate in local emergency commission meetings. Many of the key stakeholders at the local level are board members of mid-level branches; thus allowing better coordinated and timely action.

Inter-agency coordination:

MRCS is being supported by IFRC in the procurement, mobilization of resources as part of the operation and technical capacity needed in its implementation. MRCS is one of the main non-state agencies to mount a significant response to the current Dzud disaster, and other humanitarian actors have approached the national society to establish partnerships in delivering assistance to the affected populations. As a member of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), inter-agency coordination is improved. International organizations, INGOs, and local NGOs have approached MRCS for information, experience 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. MRCS took over the distribution from Ulan-Bator (capital city) to the province centers and Mercy Corps handled the distribution from province centers to beneficiaries.

In early December, through an initiative by Save the Children, MRCS jointly organized a one-day “cash transfer programme (CTP) learning workshop” to discuss the challenges of previous winter’s cash transfer programmes in Mongolia. The workshop was attended by 25 participants from 12 organizations and agencies (Mongolian Red Cross Society, IFRC, Ministry of Social Protection and Labor, UNRC, UNDP, UNICEF, FAO, People In Need, Save the Children, World Vision, Caritas Czech Republic in Mongolia, and Mongolian Bank Association).

In order to improve the inter-agency coordination mechanism, a Cash Coordination Working Group under the Humanitarian Coordination Team was established. It was further agreed to have a working group on CTP to improve the programme implementation in any upcoming disasters. To strengthen CTP component, the RDRT global deployment tool will be utilized in MRCS to supplement relief along with capacity building of the National Society.

Operational implementation

Within the reporting period of operations update No. 1, MRCS distributed food parcels⁴ together with unconditional cash worth MNT 64,000 to 1,200 households (6,000 people) in eight most-affected provinces – Arkhangai, Bayan-Ulgii, Bulgan, Khuvsgul, Selenge, Tuv, Uvs, and Zavkhan. Additional 300 families (1,500 people) in three provinces of Bulgan, Khuvsgul, and Selenge received unconditional cash assistance at a later stage. By the end of the reporting period of operations update No. 2, up to 3,600 additional households (18,000 people) were being registered in Sukhbaatar, Bayankhongor, Dundgovi, Khovd, Uvurkhangai, Govi-Altai, Dornogovi, Khentii, and Govisumber provinces – from which 3,200 households received cash assistance, and 400 households received food parcel with cash assistance at a later stage.

The MRCS prioritizes the most vulnerable among affected herder households based on clearly defined selection criteria⁵.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the Khan bank, which has the most number of branches in Mongolia with a presence of branches in all areas with soums.

The mid-level branches recruited volunteers for food parcel distribution, and cash transfer monitoring to be placed at the local level bank branches. A total of 300 volunteers have been recruited, trained, and insured to be involved in the delivery of humanitarian assistance at the mid-level branches of the MRCS in Dzud affected target provinces.



A herder of Dundgovi province riding a motorcycle after receiving food parcels from the soum center.

The procurement, transportation, blockage of roads and poor road conditions were some of the contributing factors to the setback in the agreed time schedule. Moreover, the government elections held in June 2016, contributed greatly in the delay of humanitarian assistance. Many of the local people, as well as political parties were sensitive about CTP and food-parcel distribution during the election period, as it might have influenced the election outcomes. There were many complaints received to the compliance committee about the distribution, mostly assuming the humanitarian assistance's correlate to the upcoming election. MRCS has responded quickly to such complaints and provided necessary information to state that MRCS is an independent,

neutral, and an impartial humanitarian organization that seeks to assist the most vulnerable people.

With the support from IFRC, 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 hotline integrated with TERA was set up in collaboration with G-mobile, a mobile-phone operator. This helpline is to serve as a medium through which affected people can seek information on the response, make inquiries and submit complaints confidentially. The telephone hotline number were distributed through mid-level branches, social media, traditional media, as well as banners posted at local bank-branches delivering cash transfers. In the six month's period, a total of 47 calls were received. Most of the calls to the hotline were from herders seeking information on how to



Food parcel distribution in Dundgovi province. Mercy Corps associated with MRCS in the transportation

⁴ Food parcel includes 25 kg flour, 10 kg white rice, 2 kg sugar, 0.5 kg salt, 1-liter vegetable oil, 1 block (app. 1.5 kg) tea leaves. These food items are expected to cover two-month basic necessity.

⁵A Herder household with 200 or less livestock, who haven't received any humanitarian aid from other humanitarian actors, and is either one of the following: single-headed, multi-children, elderly people living alone, disabled, poverty-stricken families, or those in ill-health conditions.

withdraw cash from the bank, secondly, with whom to liaise if they needed further support, and finally, information about beneficiary selection criteria. All the complaints and inquiries were responded in a timely manner.

The MRCS DM team along with IFRC gave live interviews to TV stations with national coverage. Moreover, information was disseminated during the Humanitarian Conference held on 9 May 2016 under the auspices of the Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia with a total of 500 participants comprising of key stakeholders, attracting a high media coverage. The detailed information on the food distribution and unconditional cash grants were provided to the public during these events.

MRCS and IFRC continue to coordinate with the authorities and other humanitarian actors at both national and branch levels to ensure synergies, and to avoid duplication of efforts. On 6 May, in a collaboration with NEMA, MRCS organized a theory-practice conference under the theme disaster response and humanitarian aid. On 9 June, HCT and NEMA participated in experience-sharing meeting hosted by NEMA. In all of these events, humanitarian actors shared their experiences, addressed their challenges, and gave recommendations for further improvements in humanitarian aid actions. Duplication of efforts was avoided with extensive information sharing among the humanitarian actors.

A rapid market assessment training was conducted with the support of World Vision International in Mongolia. A 2 days in-class training was followed by a 3-days field rapid market assessment and a 1 -day in class wrap-up session. A total of 26 volunteers were trained. Each of the volunteers were able to assess the local market and rank the business opportunities within the local market.

After the assessment, each volunteer shared their findings. Prioritization was made in accordance to business success and sustainability criteria. Each of the businesses were ranked which most suits the local needs in target area (shown in table 1 below).



Z. Bayarsaikhan and B. Battsetseg, Red Cross volunteers from Taragt soum of Uvurkhangai province participated in the training. They appreciated their learning from the rapid market assessment training to be very helpful. The training taught them not only the methodologies, but also provided opportunities for them to put into practice in the field. They were able to rank the business opportunities after assessing the local shops, conducted interviews with business holders and focus group discussions with the herders. Usually small local businesses are not included in the assessments. Therefore, this training was very helpful to successfully implement small business plans in the market. The challenges they faced during the assessment was to get information from the current business holders. For example, small shops do not want to share their information about the most-demanded product etc. to prevent competition. "This kind of information is very useful, but needs a lot of skills to get it from the business holders".



The focus group discussion with herders about the business opportunities in the local market – Orkhon soum of Bulgan Province



An interview being held with the volunteer Osorjmaa and local business holder Ariunaa – Nariinteel soum,

The mid-level branch was responsible for selecting the beneficiary herder households for the small business grants. The selection criteria were based on herder household who are:

- MRCS beneficiary of CTP or food parcel distribution of previous Dzud
- Herders who lost more than 10 percent of their total livestock
- Supports the business plan developed by the market assessment volunteers
- Able to work collectively in a team
- Did not receive any other grant or aid from other international organizations.

100 herders were selected from nine *soums* in three provinces (Bulgan, Uvurkhangai, Dundgovi). Each of the herders were organized into herder groups (each group consisting of 11-12 herders) and were provided with business grants. Various businesses were selected to operate at the local level.

Table 1: Market priorities by targeted areas

	Province	Soum	Business
1	Dundgovi	Delgertsogt	Milk and dairy products
		Luus	Leather processing
		Saintsagaan	Livestock by-product processing
2	Bulgan	Bulgan	Dairy products
		Orkhon	Fruit tree planting
		Saikhan	Leather processing
3	Uvurkhangai	Arvaikheer	Vegetable greenhouse farming
		Nariinteel	Leather processing
		Taragt	Bakery

The selected beneficiary herders were trained in leather processing, milk and dairy product, bakery, fruit tree planting, depending on the businesses selected in their local area based on the rapid market assessment. Official certified trainers from each local soums and provinces were selected as trainers for the skills training. The training was a 2 to 7 days of practical training.



Luus soum of Dundgovi province – The trainer, Nasanbayar is teaching Herder, Ochirbat.D on how to make small souvenirs using leather

Ochirbat.D – Said that “I thought leather key chains and souvenirs were only made at big factories. However, today I learnt how to process cow skin and make leather souvenirs by myself. Our family would usually sell the raw cow skin for a very cheap price. Now, I am able to make it into a final product to sell for a better price. Now I learnt how to do it, making souvenirs are also very interesting. I am happy to be part of a herders group for this business grant. It would be very helpful for our family income”.

Ch. Dorjpurev – A leader of the herders group of Delgertsogt soum: “Traditionally we know how to make dairy products in our daily use. However, processing dairy and packaging into a final product is a thing that I have never done before. Now finally we have the necessary skills, equipment to operate and a team to work together for a common goal. I am thankful to the Red Cross in providing livelihood opportunities for many vulnerable herder households”.

A herder’s consultation under the theme of ‘Climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, building resilience and One Billion Coalition’ was organized in Govi-Altai and Khuvsgul province with the participation of 100 herders. During this herder’s consultation, MRCS introduced briefly about the updated Strategy 2020 and One Billion Coalition initiative. The main consultation was about the Dzud risks, mitigation, experience sharing and upcoming winter preparation.

Distribution of grass harvester to Dzud affected herders

A total of 300 grass harvesters were distributed to provinces consisting of rich pasture lands. This was in compliance with state ranking of provinces in hay growth⁶. Provinces ranked as 1st received 25 harvesters, those ranked as 2nd or 3rd received 10 harvesters. The procurement of grass harvester was conducted via IFRC. The provision of grass harvesters was done in early August before the harvesting season. After receiving the grass harvesters, each mid-level branch drafted a tripartite agreement between the beneficiary herder and his/her guarantor (local authorities, usually the community leader, soum governor or head of local social welfare department). The grass harvester is to be owned by the mid-level branch and rented out to beneficiary households at an operational cost. In case the herder does not have funds to run the machine, the local authorities would supplement the costs. Some of the mid-level branches were renting the grass harvester for one sheep (monetary value is USD 10) as the maintenance cost of harvesters, a small amount of money, or for a few bundles of hay, the value for one-time maintenance of grass harvesters.



100 Herders consultations group photo – Govi-Altai province.

This is to benefit more herders and contribute to the longevity of its utilization. The hay growth in provinces affected by Dzud was normal this year, however, it was low in the eastern parts of the country which were less affected by Dzud. This year, due to weather challenges, in particular the late rain and early snow in September, resulted in the hay collection becoming impossible for some of the eastern and northern part of the country.

Herders were happy to rent, or even barter for the grass harvester. This allowed the herders to prepare hay resources for the winter season at a very low cost. During snow storm and heavy snow fall, the livestock had no choice but to stay in their winter shelter relying on hay resources.



Baruun-Urt soum, Sukhbaatar province – Jambaldorj renting a grass harvester for hay collection

Jambaldorj.D, - A herder aged 65 lives in Baruun-Urt soum of Sukhbaatar province, lives with his wife. He has a current total of 264 livestock and had lost 66 livestock's in the last Dzud. Jambalsuren recalled the harsh times from last winter that he was unable to feed his livestock. This year, he wants to better prepare for the upcoming winter, so he rented the grass harvester. He gave one sheep⁷ as the rental fee. This year Jambalsuren was able to collect 10 bundles of hay. He said "This grass harvester was efficient and easy to use. I am very happy that I was able to prepare this much hay bundles at a very low cost. Thank you".

⁶ Provinces ranked 1st has the highest hay growth, while provinces with lesser hay growth were ranked 2nd, 3rd and other subsequent ranks.

⁷ Two-year sheep – which costs 20,000 MNT (Equivalent to 8.3 USD).

Operational progress

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		% of progress (estimate)
	Yes	No	
1.1.1 Mobilize MRCS staff and volunteers for assessments	X		100%
1.1.2 Mobilize/deploy regional tools to support MRCS staff and volunteers for 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		100%
Outcome 1: Continuous assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation.	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		% of progress (estimate)
	Yes	No	
1.2.1 Beneficiary satisfaction survey	X		100%
Outcome 1: Continuous assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation.	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		% of progress (estimate)
	Yes	No	
1.3.1 Monitoring visits by joint MRCS HQ and IFRC teams	X		100%
1.3.2 Internal final evaluation			0%
Progress towards outcomes			
Assessments			
The MRCS and other humanitarian actors worked hard in scaling up their interventions to complement government efforts. A Joint evaluation is planned to evaluate and build a case study to serve as feasibility support for Forecast Based Financing for the MRCS.			

Community engagement and accountability

IFRC has supported MRCS in developing a community engagement strategy for their responses to ensure that affected people receives information and is able to provide feedback about the assistance from MRCS. A helpline in collaboration with G-mobile was set up through which affected people, those provided with assistance, and other stakeholders can convey concerns, observations, and complaints that they may have with regards to the response. The helpline allows placement of confidential calls. A total of 47 calls were received via the helpline since its establishment. All of the concerns, questions and complaints were replied and addressed in a timely manner.

Monitoring and evaluation

In July 2016 after the second distribution of food and cash transfer, Mid-level branches made monitoring visits to each targeted soums. The beneficiaries selected for monitoring, were randomly chosen from every 8 herders.

A monitoring team comprising of NDRT members made a field visit to Bulgan, Khentii, Sukhbaatar, Khuvsgul, Govi-Altai, Zavkhan, Uvs, Bayan-Ulgii, Dundgovi, Dornogovi provinces to monitor and evaluate cash-transfer program by randomly choosing from the most-vulnerable herder households affected by Dzud disaster, as well as to organize the 4th stage of PFA training which is jointly organized by Save the Children. In November and December 2016, NDRT members conducted CTP, grass harvester, herders group, business grant, PFA for children monitoring in Zavkhan, Uvs, Govi-Altai, Sukhbaatar, Khentii, Bayan-Ulgii, Khovd, Dundgovi, Dornogovi and Bulgan provinces.

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 (8,000 people) in 20 provinces are provided with food parcels and unconditional cash transfers. (2 months' worth of food parcel along with MNT 64000 or CHF 32 per household)		100%
Activities	Is implementation on time		% of progress (estimate)
	Yes	No	
2.1.1 Identification of soums in 20 provinces across the country	X		100%
2.1.2 Beneficiary selection and registration	X		100%
2.1.3 Orientation and mobilization of volunteers at district levels	X		100%
2.1.4 Local procurement of food parcels	X		100%
2.1.5 Distribution of food parcels and provision of unconditional cash grants through bank transfer	X		100%
2.1.6 Onsite monitoring during the distribution	X		100%
Outcome 2: Immediate food and other priority needs of the targeted families are met	Outputs		% of achievement
Output 2.2 3,500 households (17,500 people) in 20 provinces are provided with unconditional cash transfers for meeting other priority needs. (MNT 192,000 per household for those not receiving food assistance)		100%	
Activities	Is implementation on time		% of progress (estimate)
	Yes	No	
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		100%
2.2.4 Post distribution monitoring and reporting	X		100%
Food assistance			
Two-month's food parcels along with MNT 64,000 unconditional cash transfer was provided to beneficiary households to meet their immediate priority needs.			

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.	100%

Activities	Is implementation on time		% of progress (estimate)
	Yes	No	
3.1.1 Selection of 100 beneficiary households for livelihood intervention	X		100%
3.1.2 Market assessments/training needs assessments	X		100%
3.1.3 Vocational/business trainings, skills transfer	X		100%
3.1.4 Monitoring and reporting	X		80%

Progress towards outcomes

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 disaster. Despite the improved weather, increased temperatures, and better pasture condition, as livestock were severely weakened and deaths continued, herder households was left in a vulnerable situation. Based on advice from World Vision Mongolia, 3 provinces were targeted: Bulgan, Uvurkhangai and Dundgovi.

Livelihoods

Meetings were held with World Vision International (WVI) who has an extensive expertise in rapid market assessment (RMA) to finalize the plans for RMA training for MRCS mid-level branch staff in June 2016. Due to already planned training of WVI in June 2016, some modifications on the date of the training were made. As a result, the RMA training for MRCS was held in August 2016. The training context, agenda and process is planned with WVI. The 100 herders are chosen from Bulgan, Dundgovi, and Uvurkhangai provinces. RMA is an intensive, one-time market-day snapshot of a business idea. This RMA was organized and led by the MRCS. RMA uses simple, tested methods to count market customers, survey technique, and compile market observations and recommendations. RMA were facilitated jointly by the Economic Development Department of World Vision Mongolia and the Emergency Appeal (EA) Officer of MRCS. The participant list of RMA training was eight (8) volunteers from each province, a total of 24 volunteers were selected to participate in a 2-day's training held in Ulaanbaatar city. After the training, the volunteers conducted a RMA to identify the needs of the herder families. Volunteers collected necessary information, then analysed the information with the coaching of WVI specialist and the EA project officer. As a result, the volunteers identified the livelihood income diversification opportunities for herder households, and conducted necessary trainings for those herder beneficiaries.

The herders were organized into groups and all the 9 herder groups have started their start-up businesses following the skills training. All groups made an agreement with the local Red Cross branch for the utilization of grants and started their production in early November 2016 with a majority of them having placed their products for sale in local shops. Impact assessment of these are still early at this given time.

Health and care			
Outcome 4: The immediate and medium term risks to 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)		100%
Activities	Is implementation on time		% of progress (estimate)
	Yes	No	
4.1.1 Mobilize volunteers for school based PSS/FA in collaboration with Save the Children	X		100%
Progress towards outcomes			
<p>a memorandum of understanding was signed between MRCS and Save the Children through which the partners cooperated on the provision of psychosocial support and first aid to school children (aged between 7-16) from Dzud affected families. As part of the agreement PSS/PA training was facilitated by experts from Save the Children Tokyo, Japan. Manuals for the training of trainers and for volunteers were printed in Mongolian language and distributed to MRCS mid-level branch staff who then provided training to school teachers including dormitory teachers at schools. The EA officer and PMER officer conducted a joint monitoring and evaluation with Save the Children in selected soums of Arkhangai province.</p> <p>The project had four steps.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Step one: ToT training in Ulaanbaatar The PFA ToT was organized in Ulaanbaatar from 19-22 April 2016 with four MRCS delegates participated in the training. Step two: ToT training in province One MRCS staff from each province was trained as ToTs of PFA from 11-14 May 2016 in Ulaanbaatar city. The trained ToTs returned to their respective provinces and trained two secondary school teachers from each targeted soums. The teachers selected were dormitory teacher, classroom teacher, school social worker, or other subject teachers. Step three: ToT training in soum The trained secondary school teachers returned to their respective soums and selected 25 senior students from their school to present the “<i>I support my friend</i>” methodology. Looking over the sustainability and impact of the training, the senior students were recruited at their own will, taking into consideration age, sex, and diversity. The senior students ranged from grade 6 to 11 (children aged from 12 to17). Step four: ToT training for pupil Child-to-Child support to be carried out by the 25 trained senior students in the secondary schools of each soums. The trained senior students are expected to reach at least 2-3 junior students in need for PFA. In Arkhangai and Uvurkhangai province where the ToT training for secondary school teachers were held in April 2016, the step four was implemented on time. However, the other provinces were unable to implement the fourth step due to early start of school summer vacation. Thus, the school children have conducted the 4th phase of the training peer-to-peer in September 2016. Altogether 5,175 children were supported in PFA. <p>Monitoring& Evaluation: The training was appreciated by the teachers, students and other stakeholders since it used a context, new methodology in training manual, it was interesting, easy to understand for children, the games were very participatory, and the child-to-child approach was effective to give necessary information and knowledge to children on how to act during disaster situations and give necessary</p>			

PFA to peers. For monitoring, the method of focus group discussion, in-class observation, interviews with children were used. The teachers and children who received the PFA were all giving positive comments about the PFA programme.

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.		100%
Activities	Is implementation on time		% of progress (estimate)
	Yes	No	
5.1.1 Selection of beneficiaries for community preparedness and risk reduction activities	X		100%
5.1.2 Procurement and distribution of a 100 portable grass harvester	X		100%
5.1.3 Climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness training among herders	X		100%
5.1.4 Monitoring and reporting	X		80%
Progress towards outcomes			
<p>During last spring, many herders expressed their need for hay and fodder. Many of the beneficiaries, who received food parcel and cash during the Dzud last year, expressed the need for grass harvesters while the NDRT team was conducting the post-distribution monitoring. The MRCS logistics system was supported by the IFRC logistics in KL as described above. MRCS received the requested items by end of July and August 2016. It is quite often the case of lacking necessary equipment's that the herders were unable to prepare enough hay for winter. In Mongolia, late August is usually the hay collection season. Hay is available for harvest in most of the provinces, except for the southern and the Gobi provinces. Gobi provinces lack's hay, even lack's pasture for livestock. Therefore, providing portable grass harvesters to the herders will help them recover from the consequences of the previous year's Dzud and increase their preparedness for the coming winter. The grass harvesters will become a property of the mid-level branches and it will be rented at a reasonable price to the herders. MLB's made a tri-partite agreement between the mid-level branch, local authorities (guarantor) and the herders. The total amount of hay could vary from different grass lands and could range from 50 bundles to seven tons of hay by the herders in different provinces.</p> <p>Eighty (80) winter clothes sets were procured and distributed to the volunteers whom are affected by Dzud as personal protection equipment for the RC staffs in their field works during times of extreme winter. Procurement was done by IFRC regional logistics unit (RLU) and distribution was completed by MRCS logistics to the branches.</p> <p>The herder's consultation under the theme of 'Climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, building resilience and One Billion coalition" was organized in Govi-Altai and Khuvsgul province with a participation of 200 herders. The main consultation was about the Dzud risks, mitigation, experience sharing and winter preparation for upcoming winter. The main recommendations among the herder's consultation was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase the number of veterinarian doctors and leaders at the bagh level - Have government policy to support young herders - Cooperate with the meat processing companies and make decision on when, where and how to sell the meat. - Have sustainable policy to support cooperates and allow them to have long-term loan system. 			

- Renovate winter shelters and improve water wells.

These points need to be considered to reduce disaster risk and be better prepared. The herders that participated in the consultation will further discuss deeply on these topics and develop an action plan in order to approach it collectively.

The recommendations will be carried out in the future planning of disaster strategy of MRCS and projects, activities related to the livelihood and recovery of disaster affecting herders.

Challenges:

There were two kinds of blades for the grass harvester. One was inappropriate to use for hay collection, while the other with a round metal blade was suitable for hay collection. Mid-level branches exchanged the unsuitable metal blade with the suitable blades.

Moreover, the provision of the grass harvester was in August when all the hay harvesting has already started. Hay harvesting season usually starts at the end of July. The transportation of grass harvesters, administration time for tripartite agreements took quite long to hold back the efficient utilization of the grass harvesters.

The delay in the transportation of grass harvesters and the slow administration time for tripartite agreements have held back its maximum utilization.

Operational support services

Logistics and supply chain

Procurement of food items has been done in Mongolia by MRCS with support from IFRC. Sourcing and procurement of relief items (food) were carried out in compliance with the IFRC standard procedures to ensure quality and timely delivery. Transportation of relief goods (food) was provided by NEMA in accordance with an MoU between MRCS and NEMA. Local emergency management agencies (LEMAs) provided logistics and transportation support to the relief operation. In some areas, the services of local transportation companies were needed. The operation also includes the World Animal Protection Organization to deliver and distribute temporary winter shelters for livestock. Procurement of NFI, PPE and 300 grass harvesters was done in Mongolia by IFRC.

Communications

The communications team in IFRC AP regional office and CCST Beijing developed several materials for the Dzud response, including the following:

14 web stories were produced from the beginning of the operation up until now. Link to web stories produced: <http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/asia-pacific/mongolia/>

Press release: <http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/press-releases/asia-pacific/mongolia/red-cross-launches-emergency-appeal-as-extreme-winter-dzud-threatens-mongolian-herders/>

Video produced and published on the IFRC Youtube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cA4kL-TXDxk&t=187s>

Red Cross Social care in Mongolia (produced by British Red Cross):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4rk6nb-7uA&t=6s>

Security

The MRCS' operational coordination centre ensured that volunteers and staff follow security rules when working in affected areas. IFRC is a member of various inter-agency groups including the HCT and Mongolia International NGO forum, which allows monitoring of any changes in security situation. MRCS, with its wide network of branches and volunteers will be aware of any possible security threats

and/or volatile situation. There were no security incidents reported during this update period.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER)

Implementation of the activities under this operation is continuously monitored as explained in the progress update under each outcome above. The preparation for the final evaluation is in progress and will be carried out at the closing of operations in late January 2017. It is planned as a joint evaluation by IFRC, MRCS and PNS.

Contact information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

Mongolian Red Cross Society:

- Nordov Bolormaa, secretary general; phone: +976 11 323334; mobile: +976 99119395; email: nordovbolormaa@yahoo.com

IFRC country cluster support team in Beijing; phone: +86 10 6532 7162; fax: +86 10 6532 7166:

- Gwendolyn Pang, head of CCST; email: gwendolyn.pang@ifrc.org
- Baktiar Mambetov, development delegate; mobile: +86 135 110 6515; email: baktiar.mambetov@ifrc.org
- Enkhjin Garid, Mongolia national programme coordinator; phone: +976 11 312720; email: enkhjin.garid@ifrc.org

IFRC Asia Pacific regional office in Kuala Lumpur; phone: +603 9207 5700; fax: +603 2161 0670:

- Martin Faller, deputy regional director; email: martin.faller@ifrc.org
- Timothy Lam, operations coordinator; mobile: +60 13 360 0366; email: timothy.lam@ifrc.org
- Riku Assamaki, regional logistics coordinator; mobile +60 12 298 9752; email: riku.assamaki@ifrc.org
- Patrick Fuller, Communications Manager; email: patrick.fuller@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- Diana Ongiti, relationship manager, emergencies; email: diana.ongiti@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- Peter Ophoff, head of PMER; email: peter.ophoff@ifrc.org

↘ **Click here**

1. **Financial report up to 30 November 2016 [below](#)**
2. **Click [here](#) to return to the title page**

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**.

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	2016/1-2016/11	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		979,347				979,347	
B. Opening Balance							
Income							
Cash contributions							
<i>American Red Cross</i>		88,018				88,018	
<i>British Red Cross</i>		272,329				272,329	
<i>Danish Red Cross (from Danish Government*)</i>		53,438				53,438	
<i>European Commission - DG ECHO</i>		129,005				129,005	
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>		50,248				50,248	
<i>Japanese Red Cross Society</i>		27,500				27,500	
<i>Norwegian Red Cross</i>		51,016				51,016	
<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		847,333				847,333	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)		847,333				847,333	
D. Total Funding = B + C		847,333				847,333	

* 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		847,333				847,333	
E. Expenditure		-758,612				-758,612	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		88,721				88,721	

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	2016/1-2016/11	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)			979,347			979,347		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Clothing & Textiles	53,450		353			353	53,097	
Food	72,832		55,803			55,803	17,029	
Utensils & Tools			38,311			38,311	-38,311	
Other Supplies & Services			4,353			4,353	-4,353	
Cash Disbursement	407,583		371,283			371,283	36,300	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	533,865		470,103			470,103	63,762	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Others Machinery & Equipment	52,500						52,500	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	52,500						52,500	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	480						480	
Distribution & Monitoring	30,000		12,691			12,691	17,309	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	29,000		2,441			2,441	26,559	
Logistics Services	3,150		5,000			5,000	-1,850	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	62,630		20,133			20,133	42,497	
Personnel								
International Staff	126,350		21,635			21,635	104,715	
National Staff	48,260		11,842			11,842	36,418	
National Society Staff	21,000		1,629			1,629	19,371	
Volunteers	7,920		7,797			7,797	123	
Total Personnel	203,530		42,904			42,904	160,626	
Consultants & Professional Fees								
Professional Fees			337			337	-337	
Total Consultants & Professional Fees			337			337	-337	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	36,050		11,391			11,391	24,659	
Total Workshops & Training	36,050		11,391			11,391	24,659	
General Expenditure								
Travel	7,500		10,586			10,586	-3,086	
Information & Public Relations	11,500		6,035			6,035	5,465	
Office Costs	4,250		1,250			1,250	3,000	
Communications	6,790		3,154			3,154	3,636	
Financial Charges	960		2,599			2,599	-1,639	
Shared Office and Services Costs			19,687			19,687	-19,687	
Total General Expenditure	31,000		43,311			43,311	-12,311	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions			118,532			118,532	-118,532	
Total Operational Provisions			118,532			118,532	-118,532	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recover	59,772		45,936			45,936	13,836	
Total Indirect Costs	59,772		45,936			45,936	13,836	
Pledge Specific Costs								
Pledge Earmarking Fee			4,139			4,139	-4,139	
Pledge Reporting Fees			1,828			1,828	-1,828	
Total Pledge Specific Costs			5,967			5,967	-5,967	

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	2016/1-2016/11	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)			979,347			979,347		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	979,347		758,612			758,612	220,735	
VARIANCE (C - D)			220,735			220,735		