

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Mongolia: Flash floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF n° MDRMN008	Glide n° FL-2018-000092-MNG
DREF; Date of issue: 15 July 2018	Expected timeframe: 3 months Expected end date: 15 October 2018
Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: <u>Yellow</u>	
DREF allocated: CHF 163,909	
Total number of people affected: 2,850 people (792 households)	Number of people to be assisted: 1,710 people (475 households)
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS): The MRCS has 34 mid-level branches and over 800 primary level branches covering all provinces of Mongolia. MRCS has 12,500 volunteers and 75,000 youth members. MRCS has established 7 regional disaster preparedness centres.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: The National Society works with International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in this operation.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Mongolia National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), local government units (LGUs), social welfare offices, Bank service.	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

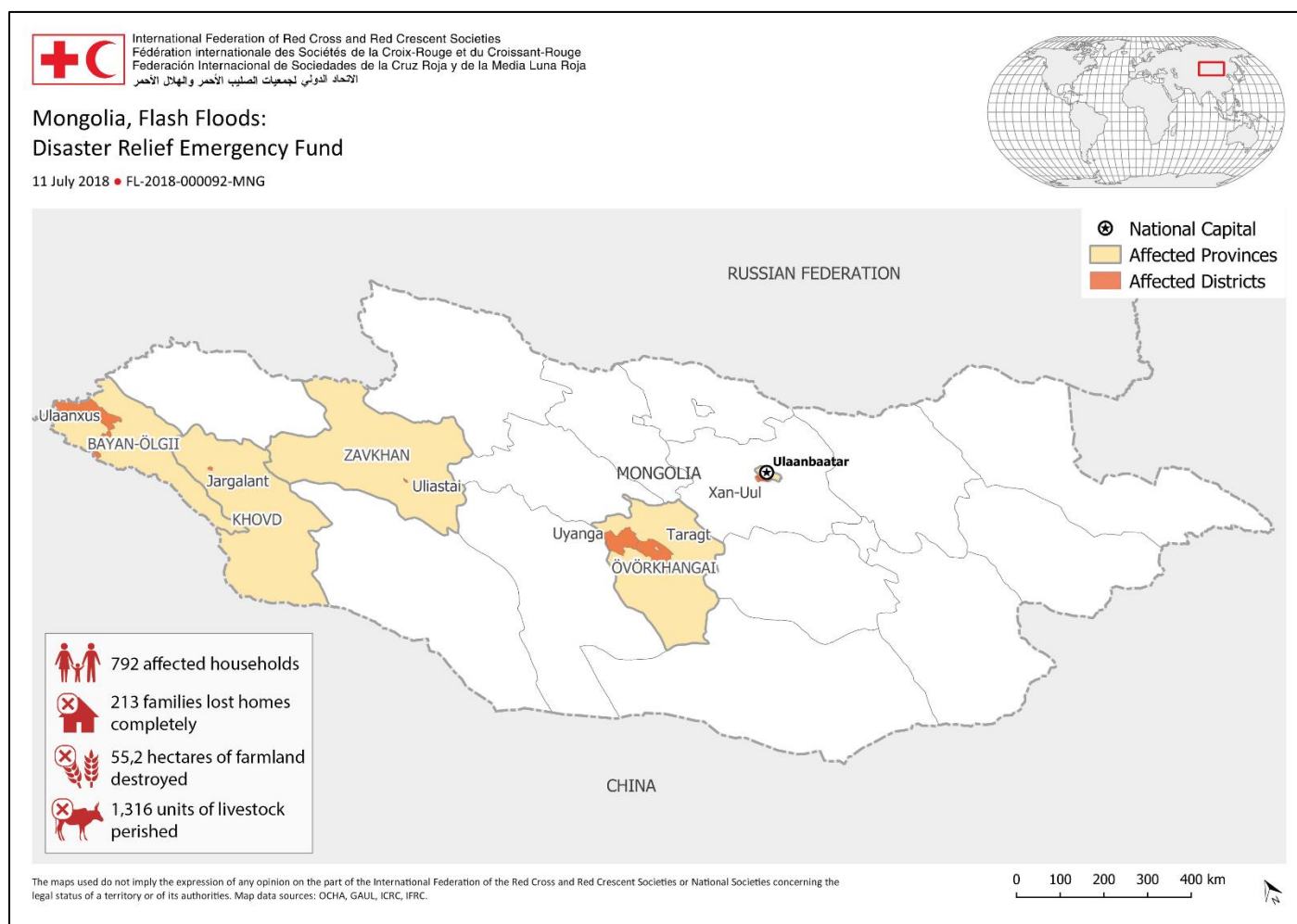
Between 3 to 5 July 2018, heavy rainfalls of unprecedented intensity caused flash floods in several parts of the country, affecting more than 792 households. Following the heavy rainfall, the province centers of Khovd, Bayan-Ulgii, Zavkhan, Uvurkhangai, and 1 khoroo¹ in Khan-Uul district were flooded, resulting in the loss of lives, damages to shelters, properties, and livelihoods of the community members.

Affected families in Khovd province have been relocated to temporary shelters, but due to heavy winds and rain, plastic shelter covers have not been able to hold and protect people living in these temporary shelters. The local Emergency Commission then made the decision to relocate affected families to different areas, and to settle their land issues. Some families found shelter with their relatives and are living in host families.



Gers flooded with water become inhabitable and require relocation and new shelters. (Photo: MRCS)

¹ A "khoroo" is an administrative subdivision of Ulaanbaatar, and is often translated as a sub-district.



Map of affected districts and provinces, Mongolia and general overview of assessment findings. (Source: IFRC)

Between the 9 to 11 July 2018, The National Disaster Response Team members (NDRT), together with the Branch Disaster Response Team (BDRT), conducted assessments and interviews of the affected population in Khovd province. Meetings with local authorities were also held to get more information on what kind of support would be provided by the local authorities and identify gaps. Flooding overwhelmed the local response capacity, thus the local emergency management agency is requesting assistance from neighboring provinces to provide additional human resources to help with response operations. Local authorities have deployed its emergency teams to help clean the flooded area of debris, mud, and to drain the flood waters. The decision then to request for DREF support was initiated on 9 July 2018.

As a member of the Emergency Commission, MRCS has been requested by the local authorities to assist the affected families. As most of the families in flood affected areas lived in the ger² district area, pit latrines were flooded with water, causing water borne diseases and diarrhea among the young children. As of 10 July, 12 people have been hospitalized for diarrhea – a number that represents 20 per cent of the all the emergency calls received by the hospital in Khovd province. Branch Disaster Response Team members in Khovd and Uvurkhngai provinces have been working closely with local authorities and are continuing to conduct assessments of the damages and effects to the population. Information from the ground has been provided to the Secretary General and disaster management programme. By the order of Secretary General, two members from MRCS's NDRT were in the field to conduct assessments with the BDRT, while the remaining members are on full alert and are ready for deployment. Summary of the affected population and location based on assessment is tabulated below.

² A "ger" is a traditional round shaped dwelling that has been used since the Mongols started nomadic life with animal husbandry. It is similar to a Russian yurt.

Location	Number of affected households	Number of affected people	Number of deaths	Damage
Jargalant soum, Khovd province	630	2,268	-	200 families lost houses completely
Ulaankhus soum, Bayan-Ulgii province	10	36	1	3 families lost houses completely
Uliastai soum, Zavkhan province	43	154	-	3 families lost houses partially
Uyanga soum, Uvurkhangai province	19	68	-	604 livestock perished
Taragt soum, Uvurkhangai province	20	72	-	712 livestock perished, 55, 2 hectares agricultural land washed
Khan-Uul district	70	252	-	10 families lost houses completely
Total	792	2,850	1	

Summary of affected population and locations. (*Source: MRCS*)

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

The Mongolian Red Cross is a member of the National Emergency Commission and is actively involved in the planning and design of the national response to the emerging crisis. MRCS is coordinating its plans closely with local emergency management agencies in the respective provinces.

MRCS NDRT members have been alerted and are on standby to provide assistance to affected communities. Mid-level branches of the MRCS and two NDRT members are collecting information from local soum³ authorities and conducting interviews with affected families and are participating in their respective local emergency commission meetings.

Through its Regional Disaster Preparedness Centers, MRCS has provided support to 10 families affected in Bayan-Ulgii, 43 families in Zavkhan, and 25 families in Khan-Uul district with non-food items. These include blankets, mattresses, a kitchen set, and a hygiene kit. BDRT members are also providing psychosocial support to the affected population.

The MRCS has had previous experiences from responses to emergencies, has the capacity to respond, and has been strengthened through the development and adopting of response mechanisms. These include cash-based interventions, and building stronger partnerships and establishing strong ties with Khan Bank.



NDRT and BDRT members in response operations, Khovd province. (*Photo: MRCS*)

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

IFRC will support the MRCS in the implementation of activities through cash transfer support, procurement, and monitoring. The IFRC Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) in Beijing has been working closely with MRCS, and maintains close communication. The MRCS is also coordinating with the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO).

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

Local authorities in each province have deployed their emergency response teams to help affected families in evacuating from flooded areas, cleaning debris, mud, and draining flood waters. They have also established temporary shelters for families that have lost their homes completely, and have distributed bottled water to the affected families.

No other developmental or humanitarian organizations are present in the field.

³ A "soum" is equivalent to a district - the smallest administrative unit in Mongolia.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

Needs assessments carried out by respective mid-level branches from 4 to 7 July 2018 indicated that the affected families are mainly in need of cash to provide for their immediate needs, and are in need of non-food items (NFIs) including blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets and hygiene kits.

During the assessment, MRCS also looked at the possibility and practicality of the planned cash and NFI assistance. This included gathering information on:

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

BDRT and NDRT members conducted assessments in affected areas and found that families whose homes were damaged completely and partially have both lost most of their household items, including mattresses, blankets, and kitchen utensils. Affected families who are currently in temporary shelters are also experiencing food shortages due to the loss of livelihoods and purchasing power. Markets are functioning and physically accessible, and banks are in close proximity.

Affected families are also at health risks due to flooded pit latrines, water wells, and contaminated surrounding areas. Hygiene kits and hygiene promotion are needed for the families who are affected by the flooding.



A ger flooded with contaminated water in one of the affected districts.
(Photo: MRCS)

The assessment concluded that cash transfers would be a very cost-effective and fast way of providing assistance to families. This would also allow them to adapt to the specific needs of individual families. Most families have bank accounts which makes cash transfers possible in most cases, and standing arrangements with the bank service allows for the creation of bank accounts free-of-charge.

The appropriateness of cash-only assistance or a combination of non-food items and cash depends on the accessibility of the bank outlets and level of damage to each family.

Targeting

The DREF operation will target three soums in two provinces of Khovd and Uvurkhangai, and a total of 475 households (60 per cent of the total affected) affected by flooding. These soums are not receiving any aid and urgently need assistance. 475 households will receive a combination of unrestricted cash grants and NFIs.

Beneficiary registration will be conducted by the BDRT and local emergency management agencies, and the verification by the NDRT.

The choice of the monthly minimum wage of MNT 240,000 MNT (approximately CHF 98) is set as a standard amount to cover essential necessities for one month. The size of the cash grant has been determined by the government and is based on the minimum wage in Mongolia. It is standardized for humanitarian country team members.



An excavator is clearing debris and draining flood waters in Khovd province. (Photo: MRCS)

DREF assistance will reach 475 families in Khovd and Uvurkhangai provinces with unrestricted cash grants of MNT 240,000 per family which will enable affected families in these provinces to buy basic necessities for their families, such as food and clothing.

No.	Target soums	Province
1.	Jargalant	Khovd
2.	Taragt	Uvurkhangai
3.	Uyanga	Uvurkhangai

Targeting of districts and provinces. (*Photo: MRCS*)

The DREF assistance will reach 475 families in Khovd and Uvurkhangai provinces with NFIs in addition to the unrestricted cash grant support. NFI assistance will consist of two blankets, two mattresses, six pieces of 10-litre capacity jerry cans, a kitchen set, and hygiene kits, based on the SPHERE standards. If continuous assessments and beneficiary registration deem that more items are needed, the operation would scale up to cover those needs. Authorities will be providing clean drinking water through portable water distributing points, and families need jerry cans to store clean water. The actual size of families will also be determined during beneficiary registration.

Operation Risk Assessment

Travelling across Mongolia can be difficult and potentially dangerous. Mongolia does not have an extensive road network, Global Positioning Systems may not always function reliably, and vast areas of the country do not have mobile phone coverage. Thus, other means of communication like satellite phones should be considered. The operational staff must always ensure that they know the routes and keep track of times of arrival and departure. Traffic rules must be observed strictly as road accidents are not uncommon. The teams involved in this operation must avoid travelling after daylight hours.

Weather forecasted for the coming days shows rainfall in most of the country and flood warnings have been issued. If heavy rainfall occurs again in the area, it may delay the distribution of NFIs as roads may become impassable. MRCS will work closely with local authorities and the local emergency management agency to ensure accessibility of the affected areas. Volunteers in relief distribution activities or other operations should be protected from the elements too.

B. Operational strategy⁴

Overall objective

The overall objective is to meet the essential needs of the 475 most vulnerable families (approximately 1,710 people⁵) who are affected by flooding through provision of NFIs and small amounts of cash. As agreed with local authorities, MRCS will target the most vulnerable families including those who have lost their gers completely, while the government works its way to find solutions for the remaining affected population.

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

MRCS currently has an effective contract with Khan Bank as it is its most favoured partner. This is based mainly on the bank's previous experiences in working with the IFRC and MRCS in 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, which reduces risks, provides the best coverage among the population, and there is ease of opening accounts. MRCS Staff and volunteers will collect bank accounts and phone numbers from the targeted beneficiaries.

Proposed strategy

Assessment and beneficiary selection

1. MRCS will conduct continuous assessments by mid-level branches in affected provinces.
2. MRCS NDRT field assessment and beneficiary verification in the province of Khovd.
3. Establishment of baseline for PMER purposes.

Livelihoods and basic needs

To provide timely and appropriate assistance, cash will be transferred to 475 families in 2 provinces, identified based on their vulnerability status (as determined by soum authority vulnerability data) and the extent their province is affected by the floods.

⁴ The plan should be prepared by the National Society, with support from the Secretariat technical departments and support services.

⁵ This is an estimation derived from the national statistics of 3.6 persons per household.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

To prevent waterborne diseases, awareness (hygiene promotion) and sanitation (clean up) campaigns in affected locations will be conducted, and hygiene kits for affected families will be distributed. An RDRT WASH member will assist MRCS with the WASH related components of this operation.

Activities planned:

- Preparation of final beneficiary lists and establishment of baseline for PMER purposes.
- Preparation of distribution plan.
- Procurement of emergency NFIs (blankets, mattresses, kitchen set, hygiene kit and jerry cans) in Ulaanbaatar.
- Preparation of cash transfer through agreement with bank and collection of account information.
- Distribution of cash through banks.
- Distribution of emergency NFIs to provincial Red Cross branch offices. After relief items have reached the provinces, the branches will coordinate with the local emergency management agency and soum (district) authorities to distribute to beneficiaries.
- Hygiene promotion training conducted among BDRT members, including volunteers and hygiene promotion activities conducted in affected areas.
- Sanitation clean-up activities by branch volunteers.
- Coordination meetings with local emergency departments and social welfare authorities.
- Monitoring and reporting.

Operational support services

Human resources

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

Human resources planning table			
Position, Title	Sector Area	Time	Specific roles, responsibilities, tasks
MRCS branch volunteers (20)	Relief	1 month	Monitoring and managing relief distributions
MRCS branch volunteers (6)	Cash	1 month	Monitoring and post distribution survey
MRCS branch disaster response team (8)	Relief/Cash	1 month	Beneficiary selection/registration and managing relief distributions
MRCS Finance Officer (book keeping)	Relief	1 month	Procurement support
NDRT member (8)	Relief/Cash	1 month	Assessment, distribution and monitoring
MRCS Logistics officer	Relief	1 month	Procurement support
RDRT member	WASH	1 month	Assist NS with WASH
IFRC (Mongolia office) Country Programme Coordinator	Relief	1 month	Reporting
IFRC (Mongolia office) Finance and Administration Manager	Relief	1 month	Reporting

BDRTs will coordinate with relevant government and state services throughout the operation. MRCS finance and logistics officers will provide support in the procurement of relief goods and cash transfers.

Logistics and Supply Chain

Logistics activities aim to effectively manage the supply chain. This includes: procurement, fleet, storage and transport to distribution sites in accordance with the operation's requirements, and aligned to IFRC's logistics standards, processes and procedures.

Sourcing and procuring relief items will be carried out locally in Ulaanbaatar by MRCS in compliance with MRCS and IFRC procedures to ensure quality and timely delivery. Relief items will be transported from Ulaanbaatar to targeted provinces and soums with support from NEMA. Local authorities will support MRCS with distribution in villages.

Cash will be transferred to bank outlets at soum centres.

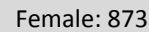
Information technologies (IT)

The cost of communication will be mainly related to the use of mobile phones and mobile internet by assessment teams. NDRT members will also use mobile phones to collect surveys from beneficiaries' post-distribution. As communications is important in this operation, basic mobile phones may be procured. Satellite phone usage will be planned as a contingency.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

MRCS PMER team members will monitor the implementation of the DREF operation in the field with support from NDRT members. PMER and finance units at all levels will follow up on regular reporting requirements.

A special telephone line and complaint desk will be established at MRCS headquarters and NDRT members will receive complaints directly and resolve the issues from HQ. The telephone number will be communicated to beneficiaries through beneficiary certification – a process that is similar to previous operations. Branch volunteers will monitor the distribution of relief goods in provinces targeted with NFI distributions. Nine branch volunteers will be assigned to monitor the distribution of cash process, and to collect post-distribution beneficiary satisfaction surveys.

[illegible]

Strategies for Implementation

[illegible]

Budget

DREF OPERATION

15/07/2018

MDRMN008 Mongolia : Flash Floods

Budget Group	DREF Budget CHF
Clothing & Textiles	24,700
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	11,875
Utensils & Tools	34,675
Cash Disbursements	46,550
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	117,800
Distribution & Monitoring	8,700
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	8,700
Volunteers	4,348
Total PERSONNEL	4,348
Workshops & Training	8,500
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	8,500
Travel	7,000
Information & Public Relations	5,000
Communications	2,500
Financial Charges	57
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	14,557
Programme and Services Support Recovery	10,004
Total INDIRECT COSTS	10,004
TOTAL BUDGET	163,909

Reference documents



Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

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

In the Mongolian Red Cross Society

- Nordov Bolormaa, secretary general; phone: +976-99119353; email: bolormaa.n@redcross.mn
- Munguntuya Sharavnyambu, DM manager; phone: +976-99311909; email: munguntuya.sh@redcross.mn

In the IFRC country cluster support team (CCST), Beijing

- Gwendolyn Pang, Head of CCST; mobile: +86 135 1107 5162; email: gwendolyn.pang@ifrc.org
- Bahram Amintorabi, disaster risk management manager; mobile +86 135 1106 5152; email: Bahram.amintorabi@ifrc.org

In the IFRC Asia Pacific regional office (APRO), Kuala Lumpur

- Martin Faller, deputy regional director; email: martin.faller@ifrc.org
- Necephor Mghendi, head of disaster and crises unit; email: necephor.mghendi@ifrc.org
- Victor Ng, interim operations coordinator; mobile: + 60 14735 9088; email: opscoord.apro@ifrc.org
- Riku Assamaki, logistics coordinator; mobile +60 12 298 9752; email: riku.assamaki@ifrc.org
- Rosemarie North, regional communications manager; email: rosemarie.north@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- Sophia Keri, resource mobilization in emergencies coordinator; email: sophia.keri@ifrc.org

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

- Fadzli Saari, acting PMER manager; email: fadzli.saari@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva

- Susil Perera, senior officer, response recovery and preparedness; phone: +412 2730 4947; email: susil.perera@ifrc.org

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.