



# Mongolia Unified Plan Annual report 2023

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The website of the Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS): <https://redcross.mn/>

## Overall progress

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### Context

Mongolia is a landlocked country with an average altitude of 1,580 meters above sea level. It is characterized by a strong continental climate (relatively dry, with hot summers and extreme winter conditions). Mongolia already has encountered and continues to experience significant warming and drying temperatures as a result of the climate crisis. It is also rising faster than the global average (certain). This is already being felt by communities across Mongolia, challenging traditional pastoralist-herder lifestyles and catalyzing a strong rural-urban migration trend. While climate change may drive changes in the exposure to and the frequency of natural hazards, existing natural climate variability also affects weather and extreme events, including drought, dust storms, extreme cold, flash floods, forest fires, and heavy snowfall within a single year. In comparison between last three decades the number of extreme event in Mongolia has risen by 1.5 to 2.7 times in the last decade.<sup>1</sup> Drought, Dzud, and flooding cause particularly huge socioeconomic damage and loss across the country (TNC 2018)<sup>2</sup>.

The changing temperature patterns, with a consistent trend towards colder, drier conditions observed from 2021 to 2023 in Mongolia contributed to the severity of duzd<sup>3</sup>. In 2023, Mongolia grappled with intense and multifaceted disasters that tested the nation's resilience and adaptive capacities. From January to June, the country experienced extreme climatic variations, including harsh winter conditions, which significantly impacted over 115,956 people from the rural and nomadic populations, leading to substantial livestock losses. From December 2022 to May 2023, around two million livestock perished, representing 1.4 per cent of the total livestock in Mongolia. In contrast, some regions faced unusually **warm and dry conditions**, accelerating desertification and exacerbating water scarcity issues. These adverse weather patterns were further complicated by the increased frequency and intensity of wildfires, ravaging vast expanses of Mongolia's unique ecosystems, and disrupting lives and livelihoods.

In May 2023, violent **storms** swept across western Mongolia with heavy precipitation. According to the Khovd provincial emergency commission, the snow height reached 80 to 120 centimetre (cm) in the mountainous areas, and at least 40 cm in the steppe areas completely isolated. Due to the isolation from the snow, about 350 households could not take their herd on pasture and their livestock were being exposed to cold and malnourishment.

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<sup>1</sup> *Recent Extreme Events In Mongolia (2019)*

<sup>2</sup> *Climate Change Impacts On Health And Livelihoods: Mongolia Assessment*

<sup>3</sup> *Dzud (a Mongolian term that describes 'severe winter conditions') is a cold-season disaster in which anomalous climate (i.e. heavy snow and severe cold) and/or landsurface (snow/ice cover and lack of pasture) conditions lead to reduced accessibility and/or availability of forage/pastures, and ultimately to high livestock mortality during winter and spring.*

Ulaanbaatar city was affected by **flashflood** due to continued heavy rainfalls, from the beginning of July until mid-August, to an unprecedented level for the past 60 years. Heavy rainfalls occurred on 5 August across the central area of Mongolia. Flash floods impacted two of Ulaanbaatar's ger sub-districts and caused four (two adults, two children) casualties.

Furthermore, Mongolia, contended with substantial **socio-economic hurdles** in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, was profoundly affected its financial stability. These challenges are further exacerbated by the reverberations of the Russia-Ukraine crisis, which indirectly affect both the economy and social dynamics of the region.

The MRCS elected a new President, Vice-President, Governing Board members, and members of the financial committee and compliance committee at the **National Assembly** that was held on 10 to 11 August 2023. Revised statutes of the National Society and an updated 2030 Strategy were adopted on that occasion.

## Key achievements

In collaboration with the IFRC, **the Australian Red Cross (ARC), the Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS), the Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS)** the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, MRCS distributed MNT 5.2 billion in humanitarian aid in 2023. This assistance **reached 58,590 people** in 15,100 households affected by natural disasters, supporting disaster response measures, public health, and household livelihoods.

The MRCS strengthened its domestic positioning and advanced its humanitarian diplomacy agenda. The MRCS convened its regular **National Assembly**, which is held every four years, on 10 to 11 August 2023 at the Youth Development Center. It gathered 99 representatives from its Governing Board, Red Cross Youth Movement and 33 mid-level branches in the capital city and 21 provinces, and delegates from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement including leaders from the Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) and Country Cluster Delegation for East Asia (CCD EA) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). MRCS presented its successful initiatives and achievements over the past years.

With the support of IFRC, the **Partnership-2023 meeting** of MRCS took place. A total of 150 people involved in humanitarian action and sustainable development in Mongolia including the IFRC, Participating National Societies, international organizations and private sectors participated in to determine the direction and field of cooperation in 2024 to 2025. MRCS's Mid-level and Primary level representatives also participated to share their challenges and views on the upcoming four-year Strategic Plan of Action.

# IFRC Network Action

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## Strategic Priorities

### Climate and environment

In response to the climate and environmental hazards, **Anticipatory Action (AA)** has proven to be effective in reducing the negative humanitarian impacts through scientific and evidence-based approach. The MRCS was committed to consolidating the early warning action system and implementation mechanism to reach the vulnerable population who have a high risk of being affected by climate and environmental hazards. In May, the IFRC APRO Anticipatory Action (AA) Coordinator and CCD EA Disaster Risk Management Senior Officer engaged some discussions with the MRCS Disaster Management team in Bangkok during the Regional Red Ready Meeting. They agreed to update the expired Early Action Protocol for Dzud, and the potential to develop simplified Early Action Protocol (EAP) for other hazards like heatwaves, epidemics, and floods. MRCS also explored with IFRC the potential of establishing a national technical working group on AA, led/co-led by MRCS to promote the AA agenda in Mongolia. The IFRC APRO AA Coordinator also visited Mongolia for the AA National Workshop and had a follow-up discussion on the AA topics. In addition, with the support of IFRC, the Director of the MRCS Climate Change and Disaster Management Department in attended the Global Climate Champions Workshop in July in Geneva, Switzerland, where she was exposed to the latest global climate agendas and programmes.

The National Society hosted various national **conferences and workshops** with a strong focus on disaster prevention, climate change adaptation, and risk reduction. These events brought together stakeholders from different regions to share best practices, enhance coordination, and improve preparedness and response strategies.

- MRCS conducted an **academic conference on "Current Status, Scope and Impact of the Disaster Prevention Training"** with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). International experience was shared and studied to determine the content and methodology of disaster prevention training and practice programmes organized for citizens, communities, and enterprises, to increase accessibility and improve training results. The goal was to analyse the current state of training in Mongolia, identify training needs and improve it, exchange experience, and activate cooperation between relevant parties. The National Security Council, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, the Ministry of Education and Science, the National Emergency Management Agency, the University of Internal Affairs, the National University of Mongolia, the National Defence University, the University of Agriculture, the Defence Research Institute, the Institute of Border Studies, the National Institute of Educational Research and other non-governmental organizations, scientists, researchers and public representatives who conduct research in the field of disaster prevention participated. On behalf of the MRCS, the Disaster Management Officer participated in and presented on the topic "*The Results of the Research to Determine the Need for Disaster Prevention Training for Enterprises and Organizations*".
- On 20 October 2023, in cooperation with the University of Internal Affairs, the MRCS organized **the International Academic Conference on "Risk-Based Sustainable Development"** at the Youth Development Center. At this conference, more than 90 scientists and researchers from Russia, China, the USA, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Socialist

Republic of Vietnam universities, scientific institutions, research institutes, governmental and non-governmental, and international organizations participated. More than 70 reports were submitted to the scientific conference, 12 of which were discussed.

- The Climate Change and Disaster Management Department organized a **“Women Leadership on Disaster Risk Reduction”** nationwide conference, attended by 80 women from 21 provinces and nine districts on 6 March 2023. The conference provided an opportunity to ensure gender equality in risk reduction activities, enhance women's participation and leadership, support their livelihoods, increase economic opportunities, disseminate ideas and initiatives that bring positive changes to society, contribute to climate change adaptation, and share best practices.

## Disasters and crises

In terms of **Disaster Response**, 2023 was marked by intense work from MRCS on various contexts related to the Dzud Cold Wave, sand and snowstorms, and urban flooding. The MRCS collaborated with various partners, including the IFRC via three Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) relief operations, UNICEF, USAID, and SDC to address humanitarian needs in post-disaster situation over the past year. The MRCS successfully delivered humanitarian aid to herding families and households in high-risk areas, affected by disasters in 2023. MRCS assistance mainly included unconditional multi-purpose cash assistance, conditional cash, gers, food packages, distribution of essential items, hygiene promotion, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to address critical humanitarian needs related to the encountered disasters and to ensure affected people was able to recover from severe winters and disasters.

- In collaboration with the IFRC, UNICEF, USAID, Embassy of Germany in Mongolia and SDC, MRCS delivered MNT 2.6 billion in humanitarian aid. This assistance reached over 18,000 herder households in 4,800 targeted locations across 20 provinces and two districts identified as having high and very high risks of **dzud and severe winters** during the winter of 2022 to 2023.

Partner	Supported Interventions
IFRC	Unconditional cash for 3,000 families, animal care kits for 2,000 families, MHPSS support for 583 people via the DREF
UNICEF	Unconditional cash for 400 families
USAID	Unconditional cash for 850 families in 17 provinces
Embassy of Germany in Mongolia	Cash and kitchen sets for 700 families in 7 provinces and 3 districts
SDC	Food and sanitation packages for 550 herding families

- In response to the impacts of the sudden snow and sand storms in May in Mongolia, IFRC provided funding to MRCS through DREF (coded as [MDRMN018](#)). With the support, 99 herder households who lost their homes due to the strong storms received new gers and 3,440 people

(1,000 households) received unconditional multi-purpose cash to meet their immediate needs including food, water, medicine, and house/ger repair, and psychosocial support. The disaster management team of CCD EA undertook a 3-day field trip to the affected province to monitor the operation. The people reached all expressed gratitude for and were satisfied with the timely assistance provided by MRCS. The team also collected feedback for future improvement and interventions, such as how to ensure the early warning information can reach the herders without devices/channels to access it. A lessons-learned workshop was held in Ulaanbaatar on 16 and 17 September. There were 24 representatives from Eastern and Southern provinces participated to share their experiences and challenges during the response.

- To respond to floods in July and August, 2,000 disposable masks, 500 pairs of gloves, 70 personal protective clothing, 10 water-proof shoes, and 400 sanitizers were distributed by MRCS to the people affected by the floods due to the continuous watery and heavy rains, as well as to the staff and volunteers who worked in the flood areas. Also, 80 blankets, 60 mattresses, and children's packages were distributed to people who were in shelters. The IFRC provided MNT 236 million funding to support the early action under [MDRMN019](#) imminent DREF for flood. In total, 11,033 people were supported in evacuation in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar and neighboring provinces and received essential household items such as mattresses and blankets. There were 313,034 people were reached indirectly by the water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion campaign.

In addition to massive efforts on Disaster Response activities in 2023, MRCS has continued to strengthen its **Disaster Preparedness** capacity, to be prepared to respond to crises and disasters, with an increased capacity to analyse and address the associated needs of affected people.

- 2023 is the last and fifth year for the **Red Ready programme** in Mongolia since its implementation by MRCS in 2018. As part of a collaboration between the IFRC and the American Red Cross, the Red Ready programme focuses on increasing the Capacity, Readiness, and Resilience of National Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Societies in East Asia and the Pacific to respond to local disasters programme. In 2023, MRCS revised the Red Ready work plan to align with the project timeline extension and completed the project amendment between MRCS and IFRC, with additional funds reallocated to cover the expenses during the extended period. The main outcomes from the five-years Red Ready project by MRCS include:
  - Conducted the second review of Preparedness for Effective Response (PER). The assessment helped to review a recent disaster operation identify strengths and weaknesses within the MRCS disaster management system and prioritize areas and components to further analyse and invest in, which will contribute to immediate readiness actions and longer-term planning. In addition, the Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) was held in five district mid-level branches between Jan to March 2023. The common weak areas were identified.
  - In March, "Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment" training was organized. A total of 60 participants (35 female, 25 male) from the National Disaster Response Team, Branch Disaster Response Team, 20 provinces, 9 districts, and Ulaanbaatar Railway Red Cross midlevel branch participated in the training. Through the training, participants learned how to report sustainable development indicators to the headquarters, provide psychological first aid, and conduct community-based vulnerability and capacity assessments. The trained facilitators conducted eight regional Vulnerability

and Capacity Assessments with a total of 217 people including branch staff, community volunteers, and local emergency management agencies.

- MRCS organized First-Aid Training of Trainers in March 2023 and a total of 30 participants (19 female, 11 male) from six provinces participated. Following the Training of Trainers, MRCS provided Basic First Aid Training in April and May 2023 for 90 volunteers from four branches. The training was facilitated by the trainers trained in the Training of Trainers.
- IFRC-DREF training was organized in June 2023 with technical support from IFRC's DREF team. The training was facilitated by IFRC emergency and disaster response experts from the global and Asia Pacific teams and 24 members of the National Disaster Response Team of MRCS attended. It provided a learning opportunity for staff and volunteers of the MRCS to use the DREF as a funding mechanism to reach populations before, during, and after disasters with lifesaving services in a timely manner. It contributed to the IFRC's ongoing efforts to improve the speed, effectiveness, efficiency, and quality of emergency responses as well as strengthen the National Society's response capacity.
- The training on "Business management to support sustainable livelihoods of local communities" was held in August with Technoj Business Incubation LLC. In the training, 53 participants from 7 provinces, participated and received information about business project development and successful project management.
- MRCS proactively contributed to reactivating the East Asia Large-Scale Disaster Preparedness (EA-LSDP) initiative and attended five online meetings of the dedicated Technical Working Group (TWG) with the rest of East Asia National Societies and IFRC. MRCS hosted the first face-to-face meeting of the TWG in June 2023. It led to the development of a concrete and detailed work plan and budget for the three identified priorities (Resource Mapping, Scenario-based Planning, Training, and Exercises) for the next two years. It was presented at the East Asia Leaders Forum in July in Hong Kong, on behalf of all EANS members of the TWG, by the MRCS Director of Climate Change and Disaster Management Department. It has been successfully endorsed by EANS leaders and reported as one of the major in the final statement of the EA5+ Leaders Forum.
- Several **training sessions, conferences, and simulations on disaster risk reduction** were organized with the support of the IFRC network, government agencies, and international organizations to strengthen the capacity of MRCS and the resilience of communities.
  - In collaboration with the **Japanese and Australian Red Cross**, a specialized training package was developed to deliver social and psychological support to children in grades 1 to 5 residing in general education boarding schools. In total, 2,300 children across 10 provinces were reached.
  - MRCS's Climate Change and Disaster Management Department organized the training on disaster risk reduction with NEMA to train local disaster responders and involved 49 people from seven provinces. The trained trainers, together with the local Red Cross branch will establish volunteer groups of 15 people capable of supporting the activities of the mid-level branch and local emergency management agency in 20 soums of seven provinces during disasters and emergencies and will train a total of 330 volunteers.
  - The Climate Change and Disaster Management Department conducted training to train the branch disaster response team and involved 26 people from two province mid-level branches. The training topic included the "Be ready" disaster preparedness module and first aid training modules.

- A pilot training module on "Temporary shelters during disasters" was held in November with the cooperation of the **Australian Red Cross**. Sixteen disaster management officers and volunteers from six districts of the capital city and the Ulaanbaatar Railway Red Cross branches participated in the training.
- In May, the National Emergency Management Agency together with the National Security Council, organized the "Ulaanbaatar City earthquake command post exercise" in the first week of June. A total of 272 people from all mid-level branch managers, staff, and volunteers took part. As part of the preparation for the command post exercise, MRCS organized a preparatory workshop and 45 members from six main districts and National Disaster Response Team members participated. The IFRC supported MRCS in the national "Earthquake Simulation" exercise. The Technical Working Group for East Asia Prepared and Effective Response to Large-scale Disasters Initiative is consisted of members from the Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS), the Republic of Korea National Red Cross (KNRC) and the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC). The group joined the simulation remotely to test how National Societies in the East Asia region could support MRCS in terms of coordination, relief items, response personnel, and related matters, in the case of a mega earthquake. The exercise enabled MRCS to identify gaps in response and enhance coordination between different actors.
- A joint **flood response preparedness plan** with UNICEF has been activated. Within this framework, a total of 1,780 kg of javelin, 50 automax disinfectants, 1,000 disposable masks, 100 boxes of disposable gloves or 5,000 disposable gloves, 320 personal protective clothing, 320 water-proof shoes, and 320 water-proof jackets were purchased. UNICEF proposed to extend the response to the education sector and purchased supplies for a total of 250 kindergarten, 200 elementary, and 220 middle schools, and uniforms for 34 first-grade schools. These supplies were handed over to school-age children of flood-affected families in the Bayanzurkh district.

In terms of **disaster law**, IFRC supported MRCS in developing a Disaster Protection Law Dissemination programme proposal in 2023 to keep consolidating the promotion of the law following the programs in 2021 and 2022. Due to time and human resources invested in the three IFRC-DREF operations and other priorities, MRCS decided to submit the proposal for funding support in 2024.

In 2023, with IFRC funding and technical support, MRCS started to implement a **Global Disaster Crisis Data Bank (GCDB) project**, aiming to create a unified disaster database. IFRC APRO Information Management Team, with the support and coordination of CCD EA and MRCS, undertook a scoping mission to Mongolia from 22 to 24 May on the project. During the visit, a meeting was held with the Disaster Research Institute of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the National Statistics Organization, and the Department of Meteorology and Environmental Analysis, which are representatives of organizations that process disaster historical data, methods of risk forecasting, and response data. Also, information management training was organized for the members of the National Disaster Response Team (NDRT), and instructions were given on data visualization and reporting using Powerbi and Excel tools. Based on the findings of the mission, IFRC, and MRCS signed a project agreement on implementing the GCDB project in Mongolia to provide the information needed for MRCS to enhance anticipatory action, preparedness, and responses to disasters through the development of a comprehensive crisis data bank with comparable validated data on past natural hazards and their impacts. In September, two staff members from the MRCS Disaster and Climate Department joined the

GCDB regional workshop in Kuala Lumpur to learn how they can use the data bank to benefit anticipatory action and early warning system.

To support recovery and to enhance long-term resilience after being affected by a disaster, families affected by crises and disasters received support and services from MRCS and developed their skills. MRCS has been implementing a **livelihood recovery programme**, using livelihood graduation tools with the cooperation of the Asian Development Bank and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Mongolia since July 2022. The goal of this programme is to assist 1,520 households in three districts that were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic's socio-economic impacts. Since the beginning of 2023, MRCS has trained 1,520 households on business management and vocational skills and provided the asset sets for their households' businesses.

## Health and wellbeing

MRCS Health Department and Climate and Disaster Management Department works very closely to address health needs and its dimensions involving preparedness and response. Activities like First Aid training sessions were included in the Red Ready Preparedness project. Emergency WASH and health-related activities, such as rapid health assessment and MHPSS mainly, were also part of the response interventions under DREF implementation.

MRCS organized training and mobilized 400 youth volunteers (gender-balanced attendance) to support community health promotion activities supported by the **Korean National Red Cross**. The MRCS strengthened its community-level capacity for effective detection, prevention, and response to infectious disease outbreaks. Through the **Community-Based Surveillance (CBS)** project funded by **the Australian Red Cross**, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the National Center for Zoonotic Diseases (NCZD), MRCS has trained 225 community volunteers on surveillance of zoonotic diseases and climate change. The following are the major results:

- MRCS has signed a MoU with NCZD for working collaboratively on community-based surveillance of Zoonotic diseases and technical support and training for MRCS staff and volunteers. Also, NCZD will coordinate with local health public authorities on project activities.
- Based on the opportunity to collaborate with NCZD, MRCS created five types of IEC materials such as brochures and posters about information and prevention of Anthrax, Rabies, hand, and foot mouth disease, plague, and tick-borne diseases to distribute to communities.
- A two-day CBS training was organized by the project team in three provinces in April, which involved 216 volunteers. NCZD specialists were present at the training and co-facilitated. The training helped increase the general knowledge of volunteers and team leaders about communicable and zoonotic diseases. Participants also learned about community case definition and how to send SMS alerts to their team leaders using disease codes. Team leaders were instructed to input alerts into Kobo tools.
- The project team organized a two-day CBS training in three provinces in April and involved a total of 216 volunteers. NCZD specialists attended the training and co-facilitated with the MRCS project team. During this training, all the volunteers and team leaders increased their general knowledge about communicable and zoonotic diseases. Community case definition and how

to send SMS alerts to their team leaders by using disease codes. The team leaders were also instructed to input the alerts to Kobo tools.

- A three-day refresher training for team leaders was organized at the MRCS Youth Development Center, focusing on climate change, health, and disease prevention. Specialists from the Ministry of Health and other agencies trained 26 soum team leaders from three provinces on communicable and zoonotic diseases, community-based surveillance, and the link between climate change and health. Training included practicing community case definitions, SMS alert protocols, inputting information into Kobo tools, and collaborating with health institutes and MRCS Headquarters.
- At the end of December, 300 volunteer handbooks and 55 team leader handbooks were printed and distributed with newly updated volunteer lists and training materials.

The MRCS expanded the reach, quality, and modalities of **first aid** activities.

- MRCS organized First Aid Training of Trainers (ToT) for 44 participants selected from the Railway Department and border protection authority's mid-level branches to enhance their first aid training capacity. The event was supported and facilitated by **the Red Cross Branch of Inner Mongolia of RCSC** and is under a 4-year cooperation agreement with the branch.
- Organized by CCD EA, the **East Asia First Aid Meeting** took place on 11 April 2023. The meeting is primarily an orientation for implementing the IFRC First Aid Vision and Policy, adopted in the twenty-third session of the IFRC General Assembly. The health focal point of MRCS attended this meeting and shared their plans for First Aid for 2023 to 2024 and their challenges.

The MRCS received support to enhance the capacity of **MHPSS** through various topics and initiatives to develop more trainers and for experience sharing from other National Societies.

- MRCS trained 66 participants consisting of 33 mid-level branch staff and 33 specialists from provincial and district Health Departments on "Risk Communication during Crisis and Psychological First Aid". This training was funded by UNICEF and co-organized with the Ministry of Health and the National Centre for Communicable Disease.
- MRCS was supported to develop its capacity for MHPSS. Coordinated by CCD EA, two representatives from the MRCS Health Department also participated in a Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) Training of Trainers and MHPSS Regional Conference from 27 February to 3 March. The training and conference were co-hosted by IFRC APRO and the Asia Pacific MHPSS Training and Learning Collaborative in Hong Kong, China. During the conference, the MRCS representatives exchanged their experience in implementing MHPSS projects during the COVID-19 pandemic. After the event, the two trained representatives were able to facilitate PFA training in April for 66 participants from MRCS mid-level branches and trained the Training and Communication teams of Public Health Departments from 21 provinces and nine districts of Mongolia.
- Towards further learning and sharing through the East Asia sub-region, MRCS has been engaged in the East Asia MHPSS network. Facilitated by both CCD EA and IFRC Asia Pacific MHPSS Collaborative, there were three related meetings organized (February, May, and October 2023), respectively focused on "*MHPSS data management*", "*MHPSS approach to support those suffering loss and grief*" and "*Caring for Staff and Volunteers*" (aligning with the global World Mental Health Day theme of 'Mental Health is A Universal Human Right'). MRCS dedicated professionals and service providers from Headquarters and branches, together with

representatives from other EANS (RCSC, JRCS, and KNRC) as well as special guests from the Global MHPSS Reference Centre (Danish RCS), the Syrian RCS, ICRC, and WHO experts, participated in those meetings. To give access to a larger audience from EANS domestic teams and local branches, the presentation of sessions was simultaneously translated into Mongolian languages (also in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean). This initiative provided opportunities for MRCS to learn different MHPSS approaches and strategies, supported the development of their domestic teams, and strengthened the exchanges among East Asia National Societies, and with National Societies from other regions and external stakeholders.

- “The PROtect and PROject” project has reached 21,990 people directly and 19,400 people indirectly with assistance from the Coordination Council for Crime Prevention in Mongolia. Workshops and training regarding mental health and mental health awareness have been organized 12 times for teenagers and other youth. Additionally, 12 children who have previously experienced abuse have been provided mental health services with assistance from professional organizations.
- The MRCS, in collaboration with the **Japanese and Australian Red Cross Societies**, developed a specialized training package aimed at delivering social and psychological support to children in grades 1 to 5 who reside in general education boarding schools. This collaborative effort allowed the organization to reach 2,300 children across 10 provinces, providing them with critical social and psychological support. These specialized training programmes played a vital role in enhancing the well-being and development of these children, ensuring they receive the necessary care and attention.
- The "Training of Trainers in Risk Communication and Psychological First Aid" training was held in April 2023 at the Youth Development Centre in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, and a total of 62 people participated in the training.

To promote **blood donation** and raise public awareness, the MRCS collaborated with the National Centre for Blood Transfusion and Research and organized “World Blood Donor Day” in cooperation with the National Centre for Blood Transfusion and Research to expand the blood donor pool, promote blood donation to the public, and increase participation from civil, governmental, and non-governmental organizations. In total, 243 blood donor promotion events were conducted, directly reaching 65,535 people and increasing the number of potential blood donors by 10,531 individuals.

The MRCS is dedicated to reducing the prevalence and impacts of **non-communicable diseases**.

- MRCS has provided free cataract surgery to 114 elderly individuals in partnership with the **Red Cross of China's** Inner Mongolia Autonomous Regional branch.
- In July 2023, within the framework of cooperation between the MRCS and the Korean Open Doctors Society, primary medical examination, diagnosis, and treatment were organized in two provinces, and a total of 2,218 people were included.
- Thirty elderly people were provided with medical care, medical information, and food aid packages in cooperation with a team of professional doctors and nurses from the National Gerontology Center for Mongolia.
- A significant partnership was established with the Red Cross branch of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region of RCSC, leading to the training of 200 individuals as workplace first aid providers. Furthermore, the society organized 34 paid training sessions for 771 participants in various workplace settings. Ten ophthalmologists from local and remote district health centers in Ulaanbaatar also received specialized training in "Ophthalmology Specialization" in China, enhancing their capacity to address eye-related health issues.

Through the micro-project granted by the Australian Embassy and the Direct Aid Programme by the Australian Government, the MRCS provided IT equipment to three Primary Health Centers to support them in strengthening their capacity to provide **immunization and pandemic preparedness**.

To promote **Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)** community awareness, MRCS organized a training course on "Water, sanitation, and hygiene during disasters" in November. Thirty-five staff and volunteers from 23 mid-level branches participated in the training.

## Migration and displacement

MRCS established **cooperation with the UN International Organization for Migration (IOM)** in 2020. In 2021, five mid-level branches received funding support from UN IOM to implement a pilot project for internal migration issues in their local communities. In 2023, the Gobi-Altai Red Cross branch was implementing the second round of the project with the support of UN IOM on internal migration issues. Within the framework of the project, the Branch has been expanding its cooperation with the local authorities to support newly arriving migrants to their community as well as providing documentation and livelihood support for migrants, as well as providing pre-departure messages to the departing community. Also, during the winter, animal care kits were provided to the migrant community affected by Dzud. **The skill-sharing workshop on Internal migration** issues was organized virtually in November. During the meeting, branch managers of Gobi-Altai, Dornod, and Orkhon Provinces shared the results of the project aimed at internal immigrants supported by the UN IOM, and the experience of current activities, and discussed the situation and needs of internal migration in the local area. The meeting was attended by 25 managers from mid-level branches.

## Values, power, and inclusion

The MRCS has taken comprehensive measures to promote the culture of being an inclusive organization at institutional and practical levels. Several **policies and guidelines on gender, diversity, and protection** were endorsed with concrete action plans to disseminate and implement them with all mid-level branches.

- The MRCS established an internal working group at the national level to develop Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) and Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEAH) guidelines based on MRCS PGI policy. The working group consists of 11 staff from each programme area, organizational development, and mid-level branch. The PGI and PSEAH guidelines developed by IFRC and the **Australian Red Cross** were translated into Mongolian language. With the support of the Australian Red Cross PGI Technical Lead and Child Safeguarding and PSEAH Advisor, the MRCS has conducted Basic PGI training for the working group members. Four working group meetings were organized to review the translation of the guidelines and develop a framework for context analysis and develop the PGI programme plan and budgeting for 2024. The working group also participated in the "Gender Equality and Disability" workshop and discussions with the Australian Red Cross to further enhance PGI programming.

- The PGI context analysis was conducted with the cooperation of gender specialists from external consultancy to assess the National Society's current capacity and work to develop Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting tools to ensure PGI/PSEAH components are integrated into programme planning and implementation.
- The PGI policy was presented to 30 mid-level branch managers, a basic session on PGI and PSEAH was organized to improve understanding of the area, and a meeting was held to discuss the currently developed PGI guideline during the regular joint training for mid-level branch managers.
- The Senior Specialist – PGI of the **Australian Red Cross** worked at the MRCS from 23 October to 2 November 2023. She visited the Umnugobi Red Cross branch to understand the local context and Red Cross branch activities and conducted training for trainers on PGI for 33 branch managers. The training engaged representatives from “Beautiful Heart” NGO, “Mongolian National Association of Wheelchair Users” NGO, and the Mongolian Volunteer Center and “Health for Men” center to discuss the Mongolian context regarding gender and inclusion matters and share their experiences. She also organized the “PGI, Gender Equality, and Disability” workshop at MRCS headquarters to discuss reflections on MRCS’ PGI work and understand new design and Australian government requirements for the international programme, promotion of gender and equality, disability equity and inclusion as well as develop a framework of further steps. MRCS management team and PGI technical working group members attended.
- MRCS Child protection policy was revised and adopted by the Governing board in November 2023. MRCS is currently developing a series of video content on PGI to raise public awareness on understanding PGI, PSEAH, and Child protection. MRCS conducted a nationwide public awareness campaign on child protection and the implementation of the policy.
- MRCS integrated the data collection mechanism into the current mechanism to include disability disaggregated data with the cooperation of “Ontslog News” LLC.
- In 2023, twenty-one Red Cross mid-level branches organized community-based campaigns to promote social care, inclusion, and improving livelihood and directly reached 15,496 people through the “Social cares” centers.
- MRCS hosted “GLOW Red”, the meeting for the Global Network for Women Leaders in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The meeting was attended by 16 women leaders from 10 National Societies from five continents. The meeting produced recommendations and a call for action for supporting women for leadership in the Asia-Pacific region.

**Community engagement and accountability (CEA)** approaches were adapted through specific programmes as well as in the operational procedure.

- MRCS implemented in 2023 the 12-month project of “**Building Trust during the COVID-19 pandemic**”, supported by USAID BHA and with technical support from the IFRC Regional Office and EA CCD. It aimed to improve MRCS CEA capacity by improving the quality and consistency of the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) approach. By the end of 2023, the Facebook Chatbot for enhanced feedback mechanism on both headquarters and all mid-level branch Facebook pages was developed. Training for the empowerment of volunteers of the mid-level branches was organized on the topic of “Volunteer Participation in Community Engagement” in six series. A total of 310 volunteers participated in training sessions to build the ability to conduct public opinion surveys about MRCS. A vaccination perception survey was conducted among 1,544 people (498 males, and 1,046 females) from 15 locations. A volunteer

survey was conducted and involved 127 volunteers who were mobilized during the COVID-19 response. IFRC CCD EA coordinated with IFRC Regional CEA and Information Management (IM) teams to monitor the implementation of the project and provided technical support. In October 2023, an IFRC team consisting of the APRO Regional CEA Coordinator, one Programme Officer from CCD EA, and one representative of IFRC Europe paid a visit to Mongolia to monitor the project and facilitate peer exchange between Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society and MRCS. Through the project, the IFRC supported the MRCS in adapting the vaccination perception survey and volunteer survey, as well as the community feedback channels such as Chatbot in generating, analyzing, and using evidence from the community for decision-making, and supported MRCS in developing the online CEA training session at its e-learning platform.

- MRCS was selected as one of the three National Societies that are part of the **Innovation Norway project**. The IFRC and those National Societies, along with **the Netherlands Red Cross (NLRC)** aim to scale Digital CEA within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. From 15 to 25 May, CEA and IM specialists from the NLRC, accompanied by one Program Officer from IFRC EA CCD visited MRCS. Through discussions, interviews with headquarters teams, community members, and field visits, the team planned a project, that will be implemented in 2024 that will facilitate two digital CEA solutions for MRCS. One called 'Reach', is one-way communication through sending mass messages to a large group of community members; the other one called "Connect", is two-way communication via a unified platform. Both products aim to support reaching communities, especially those who live in remote areas and do not have access to a smartphone. The new digital products will be combined with face-to-face feedback collection, to help MRCS develop a wider, more diverse feedback mechanism.

## Enabling functions

### Strategic and operational coordination

**Coordination and communication mechanisms** with public authorities, and other organizations were strengthened.

- From 9 to 15 March, the Senior Officer of Disaster Risk Management of CCD EA, together with representatives from European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Operations (ECHO) paid a field visit to Mongolia to learn about the situation and impact of Dzud in Mongolia and how organizations including the MRCS, World Vision and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) responded to the disaster and what the challenges those organizations were confronted. Together with the ECHO experts, the CCD EA representative met with the Mongolian public authorities such as the National Emergency Management Agency, the Deputy Prime Minister's Office and local public authorities, the MRCS headquarters and local branches, and World Vision and People In Need, and visited herder families supported by those organizations. The trip is constructive for understanding the situation, enhancing cooperative mechanisms between organizations and public authorities, and planning ways forward.
- IFRC supported MRCS in organizing the **Partnership-2023 meeting** at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The event aimed to determine the direction and field of cooperation for the coming two years (2024 to 2025). Participants actively contributed to themes of ensuring stable societal development, reducing vulnerabilities, and encouraging the public and the youth to become

involved in humanitarian efforts. A total of 150 people in Mongolia including the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the **Australian Red Cross**, the **Red Cross Society of China**, the **Finnish Red Cross**, the **Japanese Red Cross Society**, United Nations Agencies, Diplomatic Missions, USAID, International Non-Governmental Organizations and representatives of major Ulaanbaatar-based corporates attended the meeting. MRCS's Mid-level and Primary level representatives also participated to share their challenges and views on the upcoming four-year Strategic Plan of Action. IFRC Regional Director delivered opening remarks and presented the Movement to the prime minister of Mongolia. During the partnership meeting, approximately CHF 200,000 was raised to support ongoing flood response to assist 700 households.

- MRCS participated in the **"King's Quest-2023"** international peacekeeping exercise jointly organized by the US Indo-Pacific Command and the General Staff of the Mongolian Armed Forces. In the training, the MRCS team worked as a guide and simulation role at the humanitarian aid point of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

**Membership engagement** was enhanced, and MRCS played an active role in IFRC global, regional, and sub-regional networks.

- MRCS was actively engaged in the **East Asia Five Plus (EA5+) Leaders' Forum 2023** and played a major role in this annual event. Jointly organized by the RCSC and IFRC CCD EA, the meeting took place from 11 to 14 July 2023 in Hong Kong, China. Led by the Secretary General, the MRCS team consisting of department heads from the Climate Change and Disaster Management, Health and Social Protection, Partnership, and Resource Development, and Red Cross Youth Program together with leaders from other East Asia National Societies including **Japanese Red Cross Society**, **Korea National Red Cross** and **Red Cross Society of China** and IFRC regional attended the meeting. MRCS's key achievements, plan for 2024 and beyond, major assets, the cooperation between the State and the Red Cross, the "Forecast based financing" program, the experience of organizing the "Glow Red" female leaders meeting, and the activities of the Youth Development Center were presented with the IFRC memberships, which prompted further discussion and cooperation among IFRC members in Mongolia.
- With the support of IFRC, MRCS delegates including the Secretary General, the Head of the Climate Change and Disaster Management department, the volunteer development team leader, and the branch manager of Gobi-Altai province attended the **11<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of IFRC**. The conference was hosted by the Vietnam Red Cross from 21 to 23 November 2023 in Hanoi, Vietnam. 45 National Societies attended the event. It was the first time in five years that the leaders of the Movement met in the region. The event's theme "Becoming Disaster-Ready" is built on the last five years of the Movement's response to various natural and man-made disasters, taking place simultaneously with the COVID-19 pandemic. MRCS's Head of the Climate Change and Disaster Management department shared the experience of "National Society Disaster Preparedness and Response Capacity" The event created a shared understanding of what needs to be done to become ready as National Societies, a Federation, and a wider Movement. The fruit of the meeting, the Ha Noi Call for Action along with the annex on Youth Commitments was adopted in November. The leaders agreed to prioritize the protection, diversity, and engagement of volunteers, empowerment of Red Cross and Red Crescent Youth, readiness for climate and disaster, sustainability of National Societies, becoming trusted organizations, mutual aid, Seville 2.0, and advancing women leadership in Asia Pacific.

- The **General Assembly** of the IFRC was held on 11 to 12 December 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland. The Secretary General participated in the meeting of the Ethics Committee of the IFRC, and the Head of the Climate Change and Disaster Management department participated in the meeting on "Disaster Response".

**A variety of overseas training opportunities and events** were introduced and facilitated, and MRCS staff from different teams such as Health, Climate Change and Disaster Management, Volunteer, Youth, Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER) participated in several training sessions and events to exchange with the IFRC memberships and other organizations. These training and events included the Psychosocial First Aid Training of Trainers and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Regional Conference co-hosted by IFRC APRO and the Asia Pacific MHPSS Training and Learning Collaborative in March in Hong Kong of China, the Coordination, Assessment and Planning (CAP) for RCRC operations training in June in Nepal. "Great-6" youth meeting organized by the IFRC in June in Kuala Lumpur, "Needs assessment and planning during emergencies" training organized by IFRC in July in Indonesia. The "International Communications Forum" jointly organized IFRC and ICRC in July in Jordan, and the meeting for Disaster Data Bank was conducted by IFRC in September in Kuala Lumpur. "AI in PMER" workshop organized by IFRC in November in Geneva, the "International Humanitarian Third forum" jointly organized by the **Red Cross Society of China** and IFRC Solferino Academy in November where MRCS representatives shared MRCS experience on Early Action protocols and the

## National Society development

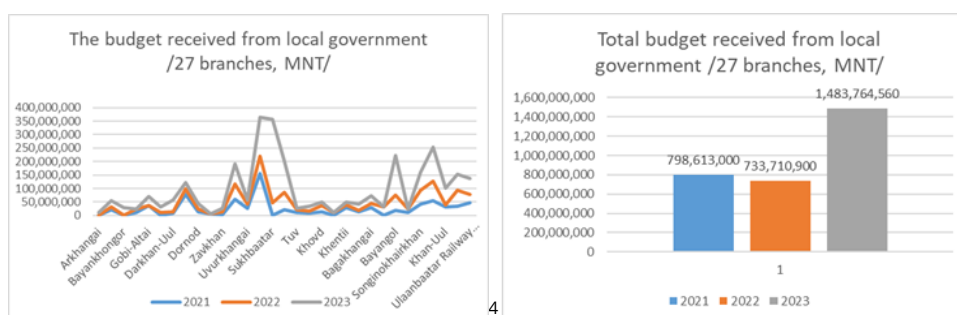
MRCS was supported for the **Statute revision**. The Deputy Head of CCD EA and the Membership Service Manager, together with the Membership Service Director from Geneva, visited MRCS to support the revision of the statutes of the National Society. They held discussions with the Governing Board and the Working Group for the Statute revision to review all the recommendations to the revised Statutes of the MRCS, which is an important undertaking to ensure adequate regulations are in place to look at the internal and external factors that may easily compromise the integrity of the National Society. It was the third time that MRCS revised its Statutes, which contributed to the continued consolidation and improvement of the National Society's position in Mongolia. The IFRC team also visited the headquarters, provincial branches, and youth camp of MRCS and had an in-depth understanding of the country context and MRCS's operations. The visit was helpful for IFRC to present the situation in Mongolia to stakeholders.

The MRCS **strengthened its network of branches:**

- **"Seed funding" project** was implemented at seven mid-level branches to enhance the resource mobilization capacity of the branches with the support of the **Australian Red Cross**. The MRCS resource mobilization team has been providing technical support to mid-level branches in cooperation with the "Development Solutions" NGO and jointly developed the business plan. Also, the joint team of MRCS and "Development Solution" NGOs conducted field visits for monitoring and providing technical support.
- **Red Cross branch managers and staff** were gathered on various occasions for thematic training such as finance and youth leadership and were consulted on national strategy. In July 2023, a total of 54 branch managers and staff participated in the "First Aid Training" organized in Hoh City and Jinin in cooperation with the Red Cross Organization of the Inner Mongolia

Autonomous Region of the **Red Cross Society of China** and were trained as trainers. Following the National Assembly of MRCS, the regional workshop on implementing the decisions of the National Assembly of the MRCS was organized at three locations, and a total of 69 participants from 21 Red Cross branches at the province level participated. During the workshop, the MRCS's Strategy-2030, the National Society's revised Statutes, and the decisions of the National Assembly were presented. The 2024 to 2027 action plan of the mid-level branches for the implementation of the "Strategy-2030" plan and the Regional Cooperation Plan were developed.

- **The State-Red Cross Cooperation workshops and meetings** were held in five regions: Eastern, Central, Western, Southern, and Ulaanbaatar city. These workshops aimed to expand cooperation among local State and Red Cross councils, exchange experience, and skills, strengthen collaboration, define implementation scope, and develop action plans. Participants included 154 members of State-Red Cross cooperation councils from various provinces and cities. Several Red Cross branches in different provinces in Mongolia saw improvements as a result of the meetings. In Uvurkhangai province, the Red Cross building's exterior facade was renovated with government support, while in Umnugobi province, the Red Cross branch received a new office after renovating a museum building. Additionally, Red Cross branches in Selenge province began receiving financial support from the local budget, with 27 branches receiving MNT 1.5 billion in funding in 2023, double the amount they received in previous years.



- MRCS conducted a **Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) exercise** at 16 mid-level branches throughout 2023. The Assessment included Mid-Level Branch staff, Governing Board, Primary-Level Branches, volunteers, and youth representatives, in total 217 people. Every Mid-Level branch has developed a plan to improve its organizational capacities. The below common challenges in the branches were identified based on the findings from the result of the BOCA exercise:
  - Safety and security,
  - Logistics,
  - Adapting to differing needs and priorities,
  - Volunteer recognition and retention,
  - Branch Governing Board,
  - Staff management,
  - Records management,
  - Planning and monitoring.

<sup>4</sup> The graph on the left shows the major changes of 27 branches respectively in terms of budget received from local government. The graph on the right shows the total budget received of the 27 branches from local government.

The MRCS **youth movement** was strengthened at all levels and youth participation in their development and skill sharing was ensured.

- With funding from IFRC's [Capacity Building Fund](#) and technical support from the IFRC, the MRCS developed their **Youth Engagement Strategy**. By using IFRC's Youth Engagement Strategy self-assessment tool, the MRCS organized a workshop in January to conduct an assessment, which involved 80 participants including MRCS youth programme staff at middle-level branches, Red Cross youth members, teachers, and volunteers of six districts of the capital. IFRC also promoted the experience of MRCS widely as a good case with East Asia youth focal point and Asia Pacific Youth Network to encourage East Asia National Societies to improve their youth engagement strategy.
- Collaborating with Kids&Co children's store and the Guren e-store, MRCS organized **the "Nice Hobby" field tour** in June 2023 in four provinces. Focused on educational activities, the tour included participation from various stakeholders such as the Red Cross Youth Governing Board and artists and reached over two million people. This initiative allowed the Red Cross and its partners to inspire, educate, and donate effectively, furthering their developmental objectives among the youth in those regions.
- **The Red Cross Youth Development Center** was renovated to improve its capacity to receive more people. By estimation, after the renovation, MRCS will be able to reach about 50 percent more people per year on average, or 2,200 to 2,500 people per year in the centre.
- A variety of events, platforms, and opportunities were introduced to young people in Mongolia to **share and exchange with youth across the world**. Coordinated by CCD EA, the youth representative of MRCS attended the Asia Pacific Regional Youth Mobilization Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The MRCS participant met with young people from the World Organization of the Scout Movement, Young Men's Christian Association, World Young Women's Christian Association, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to share values and priorities and discuss how to maximize impact. Within the framework of the project "Promoting the health of young people" supported by the **Korean National Red Cross**, the Korea-Mongolia member exchange programme was organized virtually. Ten participants from seven districts of Mongolia participated in the exchange of history, culture, traditions, and customs, and learned about the Red Cross and youth movements in other countries. MRCS's youth representative was funded by CCD EA to participate in the East Asia Youth Network meeting in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China. Guest speakers from the European Youth Network, the MHPSS team, and Solferino Academy shared their initiatives on youth development and leadership.
- MRCS hosted **an East-Asia Youth Gathering** themed on "Youth Engagement Strategy". The Gathering was attended by 48 youth members from **the Red Cross Society of China, the Republic of Korea National Red Cross**, the East Asia Red Cross Youth Network (EAYN), the IFRC Global Disaster Preparedness Center (GDPC), and the IFRC Solferino Academy. Thirty-six Red Cross Youth representatives attended this four-day camp to gain insight into IFRC Youth Engagement Strategy and discuss how youth could take action to enhance youth engagement in their community. Guest speakers including experts from IFRC Global Preparedness Centre and Solferino Academy introduced toolkits for climate and major programmes such as YABC. The camp came up with a youth engagement action plan. Youth participants were consulted for their suggestions and comments on the revision of the Youth Engagement Strategy 2.0.
- MRCS successfully organized **domestic events** to promote youth engagement. For example, on the thirtieth anniversary of the Red Cross Youth movement, the "National Camp Gathering-

2023" was organized. A total of 250 participants across Mongolia participated in this event, to share experiences and learn from each other. In February 2023, MRCS organized the 1,000 children's snow festival with the slogan "Fresh air - Healthy smile" in cooperation with the "Sky Resort" ski camp. Children from the care centers and with special needs were engaged.

MRCS improved its systems development on **logistics, procurement, and human resources**.

- To support MRCS in implementing **logistics development** initiatives under the Red Ready project to enhance their logistics capacity at national and branch levels, CCD EA coordinated to deployment of a Logistics Development Delegate from the **Finnish Red Cross** to Mongolia. The delegate facilitated training on "Basic Warehousing Principles", "IFRC Warehousing" and "Safe Driving" for participants from MRCS branches across the country. He helped to assess MRCS warehouse capacity and develop the strategic guide and action plan for improvement. He also supported the MRCS Disaster Management Department in developing their "In-kind Donation Policy", in which the "Shipping Instructions (SI)" was incorporated to enhance the flow of aid items in a time of crisis. A process was initiated to improve MRCS procurement rules to be in line with IFRC's. With support from IFRC, MRCS established a Framework Agreement for Financial Service Providers (FSP). The procurement of an FSP will be conducted according to the IFRC standards and enable DREF-funded cash assistance for future disasters. The Framework Agreement would be valid for two years, with a possible extension of two additional years.
- A total of 20 staff from MRCS headquarters attended the **procurement training** which was provided by a certified external training centre and received the official certificates. By obtaining the A3 certificate, staff members become eligible for selection as members of the procurement team for any procurement process. Additionally, it provides an opportunity to enhance their understanding of all aspects of procurement.
- MRCS cooperated with a human resources consulting firm to enhance its **human resources mechanism** by updating its staff performance indicators and Human Resource Policy.

MRCS was supported to improve their **financial sustainability** through investment in resource mobilization and financial management.

- MRCS Headquarters updated its organizational organogram and expanded the **resource mobilization team** into the Department of Partnership and Resource Development. The IFRC introduced the financial sustainability monitoring dashboard and indirect cost recovery to the new Head of Resource Mobilization of MRCS and supported their Resource Mobilization Department to create the job description of Corporate Fundraiser.
- With the facilitation of CCD EA, MRCS applied to join the **Joint Proposal on Supporting Resource Mobilization Development** and was selected as one of the four countries that will receive intensive and dedicated support on the four pillars: 1. enhancing National Society support mechanisms through Peer-to-Peer exchange, pools of experts and mentoring, 2. private source fundraising, 3. Red Cross and Red Crescent social enterprises and 4. finance development.
- MRCS was continuously encouraged to engage in the **Financial Development Competency Network (FDCN)**, which is a Community of Practice launched by IFRC for National Societies to support one another, share best practices, co-design new approaches, and find innovative solutions to common challenges. In April, about ten participants from MRCS, together with 116 people from **the Red Cross Society of China**, Chinese Disaster Preparedness and Response

Centre, and IFRC connected online for the Brainstorm on Finance Systems: Experiences-sharing with Chinese and Mongolian Red Cross, an event organized by FDCN. The event increased the interest of MRCS in financial development work, provided a platform and opportunity for MRCS to exchange experiences with other National Societies, and enabled IFRC to understand more about National Society finance development, provide better guidance, and build a global finance community for sharing of experience and expertise.

- MRCS organized the **National Partnership meeting** in August 2023. Approximately CHF 200,000 was raised from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Embassy of Germany in Mongolia to support the ongoing flood response to assist 700 households.
- **IFRC's risk management approach** was applied to help MRCS strengthen its financial capacity. The risk-based modality in working financially with National Societies, adopts clear risk mitigation measures, which are informed by a systematic process of capacity review and risk assessment. From 27 November to 1 December, the Finance Manager of CCD EA went to Mongolia with the team of Finance Development of APRO to conduct the **financial Capacity Review and Risk Assessment** for MRCS. The findings of the review helped MRCS identify weaknesses and risks in finance and procurement, which provided direction for its improvement in the coming years. It is recognized that the findings from the review are instrumental in developing a finance development plan for MRCS and preparing for MRCS's stakeholder meeting and planning for 2024. The review results also contributes to the pillar of finance development under the Joint Proposal on Supporting Resource Mobilization Development.

**Volunteering development** was continued. MRCS updated the National Society Volunteering Policy. The revision categorized volunteering activities and improved the environment of the volunteer management cycle. Currently, MRCS focuses on developing Rules of Procedure based on the updated volunteering policy. The National Forum under the name of "Volunteer Power" has been organized for International Volunteer Day. The Forum was attended by 150 volunteer representatives from 8 organizations to exchange experiences.

Following the decision to embark on a **unified approach for planning** in line with the Agenda for Renewal, the MRCS produced a unified country plan for 2024, with support from CCD EA. Guidance, tools, and templates were provided to the National Society, and consultations were held at both management and working levels with the IFRC secretariat and Partner National Societies to discuss the situations and priorities in 2024 and beyond. The plan is centered on MRCS's priorities and needs and the support from IFRC membership. The federation-wide unified planning approach ensured that the international support to MRCS provided by the IFRC network is fully coordinated and aligned with the priorities, needs, and capacities of the host National Society, both for emergencies and longer-term support.

## Humanitarian diplomacy

MRCS organized a variety of **nationwide events** to promote the humanitarian values of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and raise awareness for International Red Cross and Red Crescent Day and Mongolian Humanitarian Day. The ninety-eighth "Blood Donation Day" was organized collaboratively by the Water Channel Management Department, the National Blood Transfusion Research Center, and the Bayanzurkh District Red Cross branch. The event attracted new blood donors

and supported the blood bank and raised awareness among the staff from the water channel management department about the benefits and importance of blood donations. Approximately 100 individuals were engaged. The "From the Heart" community event raised awareness about the values of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement while showcasing the main programmes of MRCS through activities like first aid demonstrations and virtual reality simulations on disaster preparedness. The event directly reached 30,500 people and the content showing a working day of the MRCS, "From the Heart" story, and humanitarian aid information was delivered to the public through televisions, social media, websites, and newspapers.

MRCS representative was supported to attend the **IFRC Global Communications Forum 2023** with around 200 participants from National Societies, ICRC, and IFRC secretariates. There were sessions and discussions around the topic "How to seize opportunities, build trust, and navigate risks and challenges". During the event, the representatives from the MRCS and RCSC and the Deputy Head of CCD EA had in-depth discussions about building a brand and growing supporters. The sharing and exchange of expertise and experience at the event were helpful for National Societies to develop their communication capacity and enhance the understanding of members of the IFRC network.

The MRCS was supported with **communications and public advocacy resources** to increase their impact, public trust, and understanding of their role and activities. The key messages, progress of activities, and emergency responses of the MRCS such as the Youth Camp, disaster situations, and Observance Day were disseminated to stakeholders in East Asia through the 2024 East Asia Calendar, Twitter content, WeChat and Weibo articles produced by CCD EA.

## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

MRCS was engaged in the digital transformation of the IFRC network.

- MRCS has the focal point in charge of the submission of data into the [Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System \(FDRS\)](#). The National Society has been collecting data from all levels according to FDRS indicators and consolidating and submitting the data to the system since 2018.
- The IFRC allocated funding of CHF 21,090 from the **Capacity Building Fund** to MRCS for building digital video conferencing systems.
- MRCS was supported to get insights into cutting-edge technology to be applied to enhance their accountability. Funded and facilitated by the IFRC, the PMER lead of MRCS attended the **AI PMER workshop** in Geneva in November. The two-day workshop was organized by IFRC, and aimed to build a shared understanding of how AI can be leveraged in PMER, demystifying the complexity around AI, and fostering cross-functional collaboration. The MRCS representative, together with participants from five different National Societies, two regional offices, and the Secretariat got insights into AI's potential to streamline PMER processes, improve data quality and analysis, enhance predictive capabilities, and transform reporting. The workshop also included practical exploratory learning; participants demonstrated how they use generative AI in different parts of their work, from report analysis to statistical analysis, and made recommendations to improve workflows and the quality of delivery.