



Herder families in Zavkhan province

Appeal: MDRMN020	Country: Mongolia	Hazard: Cold Wave	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Orange	Event Onset: Slow	DREF Allocation: CHF 499,480	
Glide Number: CW-2023-000262-MNG	People Affected: 882,018 people	People Targeted: 6,840 people	
Operation Start Date: 2024-02-02	Operation Timeframe: 3 months	Operation End Date: 31-05-2024	DREF Published: 02-02-2024

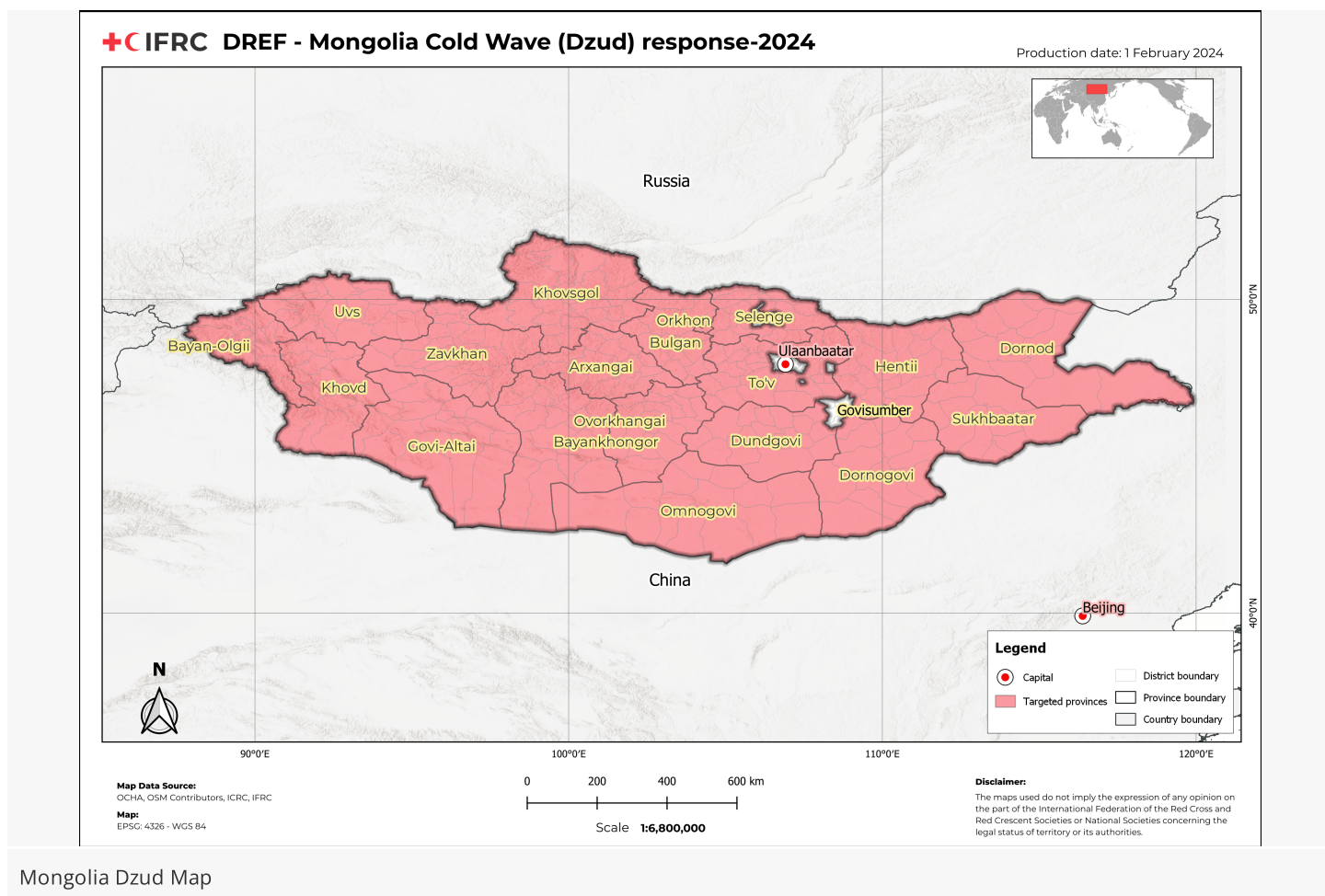
Targeted Areas:

Arhangai, Bayanhongor, Bayan-Ölgii, Bulgan, Dornod, Dornogovi, Dundgovi, Govi-Altai, Khentii, Khovd, Khövsgöl, Ömnögovi, Orkhon, Övörkhangai, Selenge, Sükhbaatar, Töv, Ulaanbaatar, Uvs, Zavkhan

Description of the Event

Date when the trigger was met

2024-01-22



What happened, where and when?

According to the Government of Mongolia, 'Dzud,' known as a cold wave, refers to a condition in which livestock are in dire need of pasture and water due to severe cold weather in winter and spring seasons, resulting in starvation and significant mortality.

Below are different types of Dzud:

(1) 'White Dzud' is defined when:

- snow density in pastures reaches or exceeds 0.25 g/cm³ in any region,
- the ten-day and monthly average air temperature (varies between regions, e.g., -26C is the multiyear average in a few parts of the southeast, -14C to -24C in the south and central parts, and -30C in the northwest parts of the country) is below -3.0 Celsius.
- the average snow thickness exceeds 25 cm in mountainous areas, 22 cm in the steppe areas, and 12 cm in the Gobi areas.

(2) 'Near White Dzud' refers to a condition with:

- pasture snow density of 0.20-0.24 g/cm³ in any region,
- average snow thickness exceeding 16 cm in high mountainous areas, 11 cm in steppe areas, and 5 cm in the Gobi areas. It is lower than 'White Dzud' but still poses significant pasture issues.

(3) 'Black Dzud' occurs when:

- there is no snow in winter,
- the ten-day and monthly air temperature is below 3.0 Celsius or below the multi-year average,
- there is a lack of water and fodder in an area that experienced a drought in summer.



(4)'Iron or Ice Dzud' refers to a condition where:

- livestock cannot graze due to ice cover on the surface, or
- the density of the snow exceeds 0.35 g/cm³.

At each early stage of winter, the National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring (NAMEM) releases Dzud Risk Maps for the entire country. For the 2023/2024 winter, the first Dzud Risk Map was released on 12 November 2023. It was followed by 2 updated Dzud Risk Maps produced on 30 November and 20 December 2023. They show that the percentage of Extreme and High Dzud Risk areas rose from 54 per cent in November to 80 per cent in December 2023. As the Dzud situation worsened, NAMEM stopped producing Dzud Risk Maps and instead produced a Dzud Assessment Map reflecting the current Dzud status in the country, published on 22 January 2024. This shift from a Dzud Risk Map to a Dzud Map highlights that Dzud is no longer a risk but is happening now.

According to the Dzud Map, 90 per cent of the country is affected by White and Ice/Iron Dzud types. It also shows that, except for the Gobi Desert area in the South where no pasture is possible, all of the country is affected, implying hard challenges for nomadic moves for the herders.

Several key factors have contributed to the escalation of Dzud this winter to an exceptional level:

- (1) Starting from 3 November 2023, Mongolia has been hit by several major snowstorms with wind speeds reaching 16-43 m/s.
- (2) National precipitation/snow volume exceeded the multi-year average by 60 per cent in December.
- (3) Temperatures reached as low as -47 Celsius degree in the north and western regions in Jan 2024.
- (4) 90 per cent of the country is covered by snow, with a depth of up to 37 cm in the western region and 60 cm in areas of the snowstorm as of January 2024.
- (5) Snow density reached up to 0.47 g/cm³ in Iron/Ice Dzud-affected areas as of January 2024.
- (6) The weather in December fluctuated, with periods of cold and higher precipitation followed by warmer, drier intervals. This led to snow melting and refreezing, contributing to the Iron/Ice Dzud situation.
- (7) Mongolia encompasses over 1.5 million square kilometers, with nearly 78 per cent designated as pastureland. However, climate change has led to the degradation of approximately 76.9 per cent of the pastureland over the past decades (source: Ministry of Environment and Tourism, 2023), making pastured-dependent herder communities increasingly susceptible to natural phenomena and challenging pasture management. This year, 31 per cent of the pasture capacity was exceeded by 1-3 times, 6.7 per cent was 3 - 5 times exceeded, and 13.8 per cent was exceeded multiple times.

The unprecedented and extreme weather conditions have caused significant humanitarian impacts, affecting 245,005 families across the country so far.

As a result of Dzud, the number of livestock losses has increased from 49,000 in Nov 2023 to 284,242 as of 26 January 2024. Many herders had to resort to the Otor Movement as their main coping mechanism. The Otor Movement is a nomadic practice of domestic herders migrating to seek pasture. It occurs throughout the country, but this year it affects many more families, including those who were not prepared for it. Starting from early November 2023, 18,859 herder families (67,892 people) are currently on the Otor Movement. As of January 2024, out of all the families on the Otor Movement, 7,570 families moved to the state-protected area (the government is using its last pasture resort where settlement is prohibited because there are endangered plants and animals under State protection from extinction), 2,322 moved to other provinces, 4,303 families have been moving within their province, 2,907 are to the border, 1,047 are to the provincial border (in and out between 2 provinces), and only 710 families are in soum borders.

The Otor movement is beneficial for livestock to access pasture; however, it requires tremendous efforts from herder families to frequently move from one place to another, forcing them to live in roughly built shelters, such as without a floor or in a truck, isolating them from basic services and staying connected with their families when left behind. Therefore, it is the winter coping mechanism for herder communities that has been used in the past decade. However, the intensity of the situation is impacting those on the Otor Movement more than in previous years, and the number of people on the Otor Movement is higher than in the previous year.

In addition, several other factors have been contributing to humanitarian impacts for herder households this year:

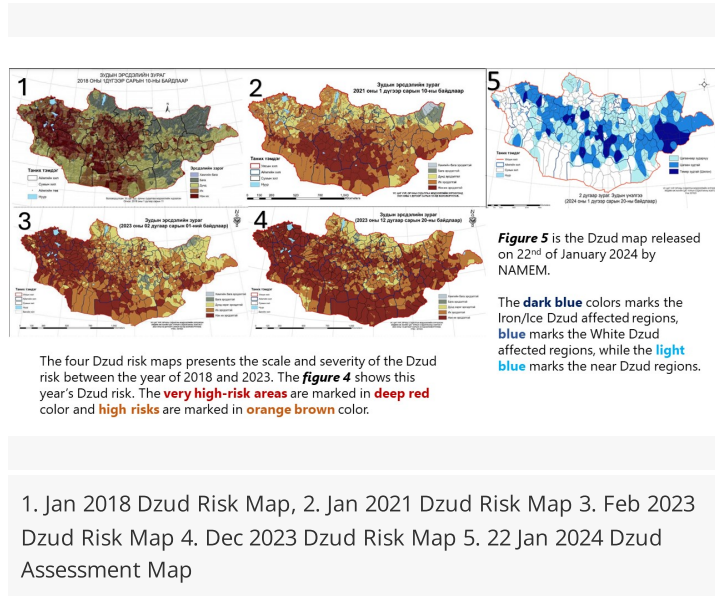
- (1) A concurrent fuel shortage between early November and December 2023 across the country hindered the herders from transportation for hay and fodder supply, which did not happen in the previous years.
- (2) As of December 2023, a high 8.6 per cent inflation in Mongolia, with a 14.4 per cent increase in prices for food products, soft drinks, and mineral water, a 5.5 per cent increase in housing services, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels, and a 7.6 per cent increase in medicines and medical services. It has particularly reduced the buying power of herder households, as their main asset is livestock.
- (3) The cost of hay and fodder has been surging as a result of both inflation and availability, as well as fuel price increases. For instance, a sack of hay rose from MNT 5,000 in September 2023 to MNT 18,000 in January 2024 (360 per cent inflation), and a bag of fodder from MNT 8,000 to MNT 32,000 (400 per cent inflation). Herder families' cash income depends on the season and the severity of the weather conditions. Based on NSO data 2021, the national average annual income of the Herder family is CHF 4,000 and below CHF 1,000 for



subsistence-level herders. Hence, herding incomes vary based on the number and types of livestock. The humanitarian impact is severe on those subsistence-level herding with 100-400 livestock, while more than 1,000 livestock would be where low-level commercial herding starts. The main cash income for herders comes from meat (August-December) and cashmere (Spring), with cashmere being the most profitable. Although the animals will be sold for cash, herders can still match their expenses to the number of animals they must sell. For example, they may need to sell 10 to 20 small (sheep or goat) livestock each year to send their children to school or university. Animals can be used as collateral for loans or as wedding gifts, and the salaries of assistant herders if they afford them. No research assessment has been conducted on the average income and expenses of herder families since the MRCS cash feasibility study in 2019.

(4) According to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and Light Industry (MOFALI), prices of hay and fodder are anticipated to increase again by 50 per cent in April and May 2024, increasing the financial burden of the herder households.

For those who have already lost a significant part of their livestock and for those who are unexpectedly on the Otor Movement, this is already a humanitarian crisis with a shortage of cash and being not prepared to be on the Otor Movement (need for additional expenditures for the entire family and the livestock).



Scope and Scale

As per the assessment conducted by NAMEM, 90 per cent of the country is currently experiencing (White and Iron/Ice) Dzuds by 20 January 2024. The majority of the provinces (covering 86 per cent of the country) are experiencing White Dzud across the country: it affects 118 soums, i.e., 36 per cent of all soums in the country (A soum is an administrative unit at the provincial level); 33 per cent of the provinces are experiencing Iron/Ice Dzud, affecting 27 soums, i.e., 8 per cent of all the soums. Moreover, 76 per cent of the country is in Near White Dzud condition, affecting 87 soums, i.e., 26 per cent of all soums, plus 1 remote district in the Capital city.

The latest mortality rate (as of 26 January 2024) since November 2023 now stands at 284,242 heads, which is about 0.5 per cent of the total livestock in the country. One of the government criteria for characterizing a Dzud disaster is 2 per cent or more of the annual average mortality rate. At present, according to the EOC assessment, the mortality rate in 19 soums of 8 provinces has exceeded 2 per cent, ranging from 2.19 per cent to 14.76 per cent, as of 26 January 2024. The mortality rate usually climbs sharply in February and March of each year, which will be mostly exacerbated this year as an exponential curb. Therefore, MOFALI projected that the mortality rate for this year should increase by at least two-fold compared to the multi-year average (that even includes the critical 2009-2010 Dzud).

Approximately 27 per cent (252,802 households) of all households in Mongolia (941,547 in total) are pastoral nomads, whose livelihoods are solely dependent on livestock production (according to the 2024 Emergency Operation Center of the State Emergency Commission, Mongolia). As of 26 January 2024, there are 245,005 families or 882,018 people (97 per cent) residing in the affected locations. According to the Humanitarian Country Team, herder households with less than 400 livestock are considered to be more vulnerable to Dzud consequences, bringing humanitarian needs to them and posing severe challenges to recover from such disasters.

As of January 2024, 89,920 herder families (35.5 per cent of total herder households) - or 323,712 people - own less than 400 livestock. Among these households, 1,589 pregnant women, 10,600 lactating mothers, 15,151 elderly individuals (above 60 years old), 5,633 disabled people, 7,391 single-headed families, and 1,322 young herders under the age of 35 (without any social security support) are currently wintering in Dzud-affected areas. Compared with 13,000 households (or 21,803 people) going on the Otor Movement in the winter of 2022/2023, 18,859 herder families - or 67,892 people - are on the Otor movement for this winter by January, indicating the intensity of this winter, including families with 98 pregnant women, 1,188 children (under 5 years old), 580 elderly individuals, 220 disabled people, and



589 people with chronic diseases. This winter, compared to last year (which was already under a hard Dzud condition - Refer to DREF MDRM017), about 6,000 additional herder households have been affected so far by the humanitarian impacts of the Dzud.

The aforementioned groups of herder households are being affected by the Dzud to a greater extent due to the following factors:

(1) Existing low livelihood resilience: Herders with less than 400 livestock are often unable to recover from the impacts of a severe Dzud, as they do not have enough resources to rebuild their livestock after suffering a major livestock loss. Some have already lost up to almost 15% of their livestock according to Government data. Furthermore, they have a short period to recover before the next winter season will affect them again. With the livestock mortality rate anticipated to continue to climb (exponential curb), already doubling the past multi-year (13 years) average, their livestock, as their main livelihood means, are on the way to a greater amount of loss, which will bring upon the herder families not only great economic loss but also psychological trauma and eventually lead to the loss of livelihood, poverty, and migration to the urban area to search for employment if external support is not provided.

(2) Acknowledged ongoing loss of cash: The main income of the herders is generated in March and April with the preparation of wool and cashmere raw materials, to be available on the market in May. The income generated in May is fully utilized, even with additional loans for school preparation for their children and hay and fodder reservation for the next winter, from the period of August to November. The main season of earning income depends on the spring survival of livestock. Herder communities mostly lack cash on hand during the winter period, making it difficult for them to maintain their livestock (via procurement of hay and fodder) and meet basic needs. In particular, herders resort to otor movement, they are under excessive labor in extremely cold temperatures, reducing their meals, demanding transportation and fuel, and needing coal for cooking and heating their homes, which are all undermined by the lack of cash.

(3) Constrained access to basic services: Most of the herders live far away from the city/soum centers and each other living in very scattered areas. This is especially the case for the 18,859 families who are on the Otor Movement this year. Combined with the difficult road conditions caused by the snowstorms, access to basic services that are mostly available in the city/soum centers poses great challenges to the herder families, especially for members with the vulnerabilities mentioned above. Going into the mountains and remote areas for the Otor Movement also means the herders may lack communication means with the outside. These factors have also made it difficult for the government, Red Cross, and other stakeholders to reach and assist them.

(4) Family separation: For herders going on the Otor Movement, family members usually have to separate, with the elderly and children staying behind. This "forced" separation may contribute to the sense of loneliness and isolation in both the families going on the Otor Movement and the ones left behind.

Mass mortality of livestock is the foundation for increased social vulnerability based on historical data. According to the UN August 2011 CERF report, Mongolia experienced a severe Dzud situation in the 2009-10 winter, severely impacting 19 provinces, over 200,000 herder families or 800,000 people, including 280,000 children, causing 9.7 million livestock loss until June 2010, requiring more than USD 32 million in humanitarian assistance. As Dzud is a slow-onset disaster, the humanitarian appeal was launched on May 12, 2010, until the community lost everything. Major needs were cash, psychosocial support, medicine, fuel, veterinary support, and food. One of the major impacts was on rural education facilities where herders' children stay in dormitories. As a result, 8,576 herder families completely lost their livelihood, and 32,756 families lost 50 per cent of their livelihood, resulting in the poverty level being increased by 50 per cent in rural areas, and migration to the Capital city increased by 40 per cent.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. National Statistics Office	https://1212.mn/mn
2. Annual Report of the Use of CERF Grants Mongolia	https://cerf.un.org/sites/default/files/resources/MONGOLIA%20NARRATIVE%20REPORT%202010%20FINAL%20%20August%202011.pdf
3. National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring (NAMEM)	https://www.namem.gov.mn/
4. Emergency Operation Center Headquarters under the State Emergency Commission	https://nema.gov.mn/post/151635
5. Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Light Industry	https://www.mofa.gov.mn/home



Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	Yes
Did it affect the same population group?	Yes
Did the National Society respond?	Yes
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	Yes
If yes, please specify which operation	MDRMN007-2018 (response), MDRMN017OU-2022 (reponse)

If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent:

Dzud is considered a recurrent disaster in Mongolia. However, due to climate change patterns, Dzud occurrences have become more frequent and with higher intensity, intensifying existing vulnerabilities for herders.

The current Dzud (winter 2023/2024) is characterized by its exceptional intensity. Based on the Government's assessment, this is the most extreme one in at least the past 10 years (there were no Dzud Risk Maps in the past for extended comparison), showing that 90% of the country currently experiences various types of Dzud. This is not an imminent crisis that requires anticipatory actions, but an actual disaster with urgent needs for emergency response.

The current Dzud has started to impact the herder communities, threatening their livelihood capacity (livestock) to a significant level of concern, forcing them to go on the Otor Movement, disrupting their access to basic services needs (food, fuel, electricity, communication, coal, and winter clothes, etc.), affecting physical and mental health, as well as deteriorating access to basic health services.

Data analysis and projections from the Government indicate that in early 2024 Quarter 1, the livestock mortality rate is expected to at least double compared to the average figures from the past 13 years (including the devastating Dzud in 2011). According to compiled data for years, the impact of Dzud reaches its peak from March to May. On-going and continuing humanitarian impacts to herder households will grow exponentially if no significant emergency actions are undertaken. Therefore, covering the current existing humanitarian needs (caused by livestock loss and deprived access to basic goods/services for family members) also mitigates further exacerbated humanitarian impacts, which are anticipated to worsen drastically for the herders without external assistance.

Lessons learned:

Based on systematic lessons learned developed by MRCS and IFRC for each DREF project in the country, as well as continuous learning from MRCS, here are the key learning points from previous similar operations:

(1) MRCS developed an Early Action Protocol (EAP) for Dzud in 2018, which was triggered twice in 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. Early actions proved to be effective in reducing Dzud impacts on herders. The EAP for Dzud expired in 2021. MRCS has been in the process of updating the Dzud EAP with the support of IFRC and other partners to ensure that funding mechanisms are in place to prepare for increasingly frequent and severe Dzud. It is critical to reactivate the Dzud EAP, with the adapted trigger to be operational to support anticipatory actions of such seasonal slow-onset phenomena. The trigger revision will require national-level efforts led by the government with the updated scientific research from the relevant government agencies. Hence, the process is taking a longer timeframe to complete than planned. MRCS is planning to update the EAP in 2024 with technical support from IFRC, PNS, and other partners.

(2) From MDRMN017, MRCS identified the need to increase the cash transfer value (MNT 370,000 per household) that MRCS had been using since 2019. This is due to the increased inflation rate and the household minimum survival amount. Being now too low for the current economic market, the previous cash value has been hindering the effectiveness and benefits created by cash assistance. Based on aligned discussions among the Cash Working Group in Mongolia, MRCS has decided to increase its cash assistance value to MNT 550,000 per household.

(3) One persistent and time-consuming issue identified in the past ifrc-DREFs is to ensure consistency of collected data for target populations by MRCS and data registered by the financial service provider (FSP) for effective cash transfer. To address this challenge, MRCS is planning to learn from the experiences of other Humanitarian Country Team members in data verification and will apply new and effective processes accordingly.



(4) Dzud has been intensifying in terms of frequency and impacts due to climate change, an increase in livestock numbers, and subsequent overgrazing. In order to reduce the vulnerability of the herder population, long-term sustainable solutions are needed on top of emergency assistance. Since 2015, MRCS has been implementing various programs to mitigate the risks associated with Dzud, including winter shelter provisions, alternative livelihood support, and herders' training (on disaster awareness raising, income generation, winter coping skills, etc.). The mitigation efforts were made based on the MRCS Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) in 2014. MRCS conducted the VCA update in 2023. MRCS efforts on climate change are being initiated to link it with the VCA findings for effective mitigation based on the changes in the past decade. The VCA report will be shared this year to inform future climate change adaptation and resilience-building activities.

Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

2023-12-08

National Society Readiness

The Emergency Working Group (EWG) headquarters were established under the State Emergency Commission at NEMA on November 8, 2023, to monitor and assess the deteriorating and alarming winter conditions. Due to the escalating situation, the EWG was extended and activated as the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the NEMA headquarters on December 8. MRCS has been actively participating in both the EWG and EOC since their inception at all levels.

Subsequently, the National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) and the Branch Disaster Response Teams (BDRT) were alerted, conducting assessments jointly and independently.

As of January, MRCS BDRT has provided PSS to 28 households in the affected region and distributed warm animal clothes, gloves, and bags for baby livestock to 82 households in Bayan-Ulgii and Dornod provinces. Furthermore, UNFPA is donating 700 dignity kits. The Korean Red Cross is donating 1,000 warm blankets to MRCS to cover the specific needs of women and girls in the Dzud-affected areas.

In addition to that, MRCS organized a Stakeholders Meeting hosted at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 25 January 2024, to raise funds for an additional 2,000 herder households in need on top of requesting the IFRC-DREF response. MRCS invited relevant international organizations, ambassadors, major private entities, as well as banks, and is currently coordinating with stakeholders with the potential to contribute to MRCS's Dzud response efforts this year.

MRCS regularly conducts cash and voucher (CVA) training every year for BDRT members. CVA is one of the major modalities used by the National Society since 2016. The most recent operation was conducted in the previous year's Urban Flood response operation (Refer to MDRMN019 final report). MRCS has initiated the selection process of Financial Service Providers and other suppliers by announcing an open tender in adherence to the IFRC policy and regulations nationwide for this operation.

MRCS has skilled PSS trainers at the national level and has been providing PSS or Psychosocial first aid since the 2016-17 Emergency Appeal operations (Refer to MDRMN006). The most recent operation for PSS intervention was conducted in a previous summer flash flood (Refer to MDRMN019 final report). MRCS has the Protection Gender and Inclusion Policy and Child Protection Policy that applies to all programs and complies with all staff, volunteers, and participating partners.

MRCS is currently planning to update and reactivate its Early Action Protocol for Dzud with the support from IFRC, PNS, and other partners.

Assessment

The MRCS National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT) conducted rapid assessments from 11-16 December 2023 in Bayan-Ulgii, Khovd, Tuv, and Uvurkhangai provinces to assess the situation of the herder community, identify damages and needs, and obtain more detailed information. The teams found that the herders most exposed and vulnerable



are those on the Otor movement, particularly those with additional socio-economic vulnerabilities, such as disability and single-parent households isolated from basic services. This also includes herders herding without animal shelters and those on the Otor Movement to other provinces, renting others' places in different provinces.

The NDRT highlighted the use of a new coping mechanism, where some herder households are divided to go on the Otor Movement separately. The current needs vary between households, with those well-prepared and going on the Otor movement within their province being less vulnerable than those migrating to different provinces. Key informant interviews with local authorities and survey interviews with herders indicated that most of them mainly need cash, followed by fuel, coal, warm clothes, hygiene or dignity kits, hay and fodder, and medicines. Considering their remote location, herders on the Otor Movement go to the central area to collect all essential items at once until Spring.

NDRTs investigated that if the snowfall impact were not greater, the number of herder communities on the Otor Movement would not have increased. Hay and fodder preparation was 92 per cent at the household level, while it was 78 per cent at the administration level, which has been distributed as mentioned. According to the interviews conducted with the herder community, herders have a moderate amount of hay and fodder which, however, could only last approximately another 2-3 weeks depending on the weather condition. Furthermore, herders visited by NDRTs stated that they lacked cash on hand as usual.

The NDRT was deployed to Dornogovi province between 15-18 January 2024, for Dzud assessment. They found that the herders have already utilized 70-80 per cent of their hay and fodder stocks since mid-December 2023. NDRT witnessed that the livestock hoofs and mouths were wounded from the digging of the graze covered by a compacted surface. Herder households are traumatized by the situation, showing distress and mental health discomforts. The initial plan was to visit 10 herder households on the Otor movement in the affected area; however, due to the road conditions, it was only able to visit 5 households, highlighting the constraints of access and reaching the affected people.

As of January, the market assessment revealed that fuel, coal, medicines, food, water, hay, fodder, hygiene items, as well as other essential items, are available at the local market without a significant price change since mid-December 2023. Since Mongolia imports additional fodder from neighboring countries, fodder is in high demand in winter, reaching MNT 25,000 (from 8,000 MNT, 300 per cent increase), and for hay reaching MNT 12,000 (from 5,000 MNT, 250 per cent increase) from September to November 2023. Hay and fodder prices increased from 8,000 MNT to 13,000-18,000 MNT last year depending on the region, but are available in the market. Hay and fodder export has been temporarily prohibited by the government due to the high demand and winter situation.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	MRCS requested support from IFRC, with fully supportive feedback from the East Asia Delegation. The IFRC East Asia Country Cluster Delegation (Beijing) and the Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) have maintained close communication with MRCS to monitor the evolution of Dzud risks since the onset of the first heavy snowstorm on 2 November 2023. The engagement has involved the exchange of information regarding risk maps and providing technical support to MRCS in the process of applying for the IFRC-DREF. Field reports were published on 10 November 2023, and 17 January 2024. Various discussions for the most suitable option also occurred between the IFRC East Asia Delegation and APRO, based on the consideration of the specific humanitarian impacts created by such a slow-onset disaster but of exceptional intensity.
Participating National Societies	Korean Red Cross is donating approximately 1,000 pieces of warm blankets and 500



ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

ICRC is not present in the country.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<p>Government has requested international assistance</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>National authorities</p>	<p>NAMEM has released a total of three Dzud risk maps on November 10, November 30, and December 20, 2023, and subsequently 2 dzud maps on 10 and 20 January 2024.</p> <p>Following the initial heavy snowstorms and snowfall in winter 2023/2024, the Mongolia State Emergency Commission (SEC) issued an order on 8 November 2023, to establish an Emergency Working Group (EWG) headquartered at NEMA. The EWG, comprising relevant government agencies and MRCS, facilitated the activation of the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) on 8 December 2023, under the SEC at NEMA. This initiative is led by the Deputy Chief of NEMA and co-led by the Deputy Prime Minister of Food, Agriculture, and Light Industry (MOFALI). After its activation, EOC has undertaken the following series of actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Promptly issued early warnings and delivered sector-specific assistance and services to the affected provinces. (2) Conducted coordinated needs assessments in the Dzud-affected locations. (3) Maximized available resources, tracked incidents, and addressed potential risks such as road accessibility and communication challenges. (4) Disseminated guidelines and tips for herders to cope with cold waves or snowstorms through various channels, including social media, in-person visits, and TV broadcasts. (5) Initiated the signing of contracts with herder households, outlining their responsibilities after receiving early warnings about natural hazards. The contracts specify the rights and responsibilities of herders, as well as those of soum and bagh leaders. According to the contract terms, herders are accountable for the well-being of vulnerable family members, avoiding herding during harsh winter conditions and hazardous occurrences, implementing early warnings and recommendations, refraining from sending children to herding, ensuring appropriate winter preparedness, and focusing on livestock well-being, including timely vaccination and disinfection. Herders are encouraged to mobilize resources during the Dzud risk period, such as participating in the meat market to generate cash. (6) MOFALI implemented preventative measures to mitigate the impact of Dzud, organizing winter food events in 9 locations near the city to support herders' income. (7) Main roads blocked by snow due to snowstorms and snowfall have been cleaned and opened 482 times throughout the country since early December, with agencies responsible for these actions. (8) The Ministry of Health and local medical services are on the track of herder communities on Otor movement to provide timely medical services, and the medical supply is supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) in Mongolia with their existing resources, and more resources will be required as stated by EOC. (9) Installed WHAT3WORD application for 160,395 herders to track their locations. (10) Provided 30 tons of fuel to the affected provinces. (11) Provided 50 gers, 100 food parcels, 50 personal protective equipment, and 20 tons of fuel to the Local Emergency Commission in Khentii province readiness. (12) Allocate 100 billion MNT for measures to bring livestock and meat into economic circulation. (13) In response to the increasing Otor movement, the SEC issued an order to establish an "Otor movement operation center" on 28 December 2023, in 4 provinces to track and



manage the movement to provide basic medical services to the vulnerable herders, including pregnant women, elderly, people with chronic diseases, and lactating mothers, as well as transporting fuel and coal for herders on Otor movement.

In addition, the government of Mongolia allocated 2,211,386,054 MNT (581,944 CHF) to purchase 5.3 million tons of fodder at a 50 per cent lower price (12,000 MNT per bag) than the market price (25,000 MNT per bag). The fodder is being distributed to the affected locations equally.

UN or other actors

The first Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meeting for the emerging Dzud situation was held on 14 December 2023. During the meeting, Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) were accepted by NEMA in compliance to assist people with managing and protecting their livestock well-being during humanitarian crises.

Following the first HCT meeting, an Inter-sector coordination group meeting took place on 21 December 2023, to discuss further plans. Furthermore, the Cash Working Group meeting took place on 22 December 2023, at the UN House and the Preparedness and Resilience Coordinator in IFRC CCD Beijing participated on behalf of the MRCS. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss updating and setting up a common cash transfer value.

A LEGS training was organized between 8-11 January 2024 involving HCT member organizations and EOC member agencies hosted by FAO. The training report has been produced and shared with all participants. During the training, HCT and CWG agreed to have common selection criteria that align with the MRCS current selection criteria for targeting, and the common cash transfer value of 660,000MNT per household based on the minimum wage of the country to avoid creating complications among the community.

In addition, the UNOCHA-5W template was shared and published online on 5 January 2024.

World Vision (WV) in Mongolia has disbursed multi-purpose cash assistance of 376,420MNT (95CHF) to 150 households in 4 affected soums of Zavkhan and Bayankhongor provinces by the end of December, which was before the decision made on 10 January 2024 by HCT and EOC member organizations on the cash transfer value of 660,000 MNT (CHF174). Other humanitarian organizations are in the planning process as well.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The EOC, established by the government, includes representatives from various entities such as the Ministry of Road and Transport Development (MRTD), the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Health, The General Authority for Border Protection, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Defense, National Police Agency, General Authority for Veterinary Services, NAMEM, Mineral Resources and Petroleum Authority, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Mining and Heavy Industry, Ministry of Digital Development and Communications, National Statistics Office, and MRCS. EOC members are mandated to coordinate with their local branches within their sectors. The EOC's primary objectives are to monitor and assess the situation, exchange information, and develop a joint early action plan for effective coordination at all levels.

MRCS is a part of the Emergency Operation Center under the State Emergency Commission and takes part in its daily activities and integrated response plan. Local Red Cross Branches are also part of local EOC at the provincial level. HCT is sourcing data from EOC and regularly updating the plan to the EOC headquarters. The Humanitarian Country Team is active and shares regular updates with the member organizations.



Needs (Gaps) Identified



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Herders' livelihood is intricately tied to their livestock production, and those with fewer than 400 livestock are particularly impacted by the Dzud due to the low recovery rate of their herds. By 31 December 2023, livestock mortality reached 59,463, which quickly increased to 176,151 on 22 January 2024, then reaching 284,242 four days later (on 26 January), indicating the increased risk within such a short period, according to reports from the EOC.

As indicated earlier in the Scope and Scale section, there are critical areas (19 soums of 8 provinces) with up to about a 15 per cent average livestock mortality already confirmed. As this is an average, there are herder households with much more than a 10-15 per cent loss of livestock due to malnourishment, bringing critical loss in terms of livelihoods and associated basic needs for their family.

The MRCS field rapid assessment, implemented on 11-16 December 2023, underscores the crucial role of fodder in ensuring livestock survival during harsh winters. Consequently, in support of the herder community over the country, the government actively undertakes massive efforts and related measures to import and stock fodder, to sell to herders at a 50 per cent reduced price. Nevertheless, the needs are nationwide and huge. There is an anticipated and continued rise in the demand for hay and fodder in the affected areas. Moreover, the growing existing deteriorated situation and the projections of exponential curb in terms of livestock fatalities reinforce the anticipated growing humanitarian needs for the coming 2 to 3 months. This analysis is shared by the Government and the International Community.

According to the NDRT assessment on 15-18 January 2024, hoof and mouth wounds on the livestock from the attempt to remove the compacted snow (icy surface) were visible. Also, herders stated that they have already utilized 70-80 per cent of their reserved hay and fodder for this winter, while it was at a moderate level during the mid-December visit. It shows that the utilization is higher and the restocking is lower at this stage, implying the needs will be further heightened.

Effectively preventing livestock mortality, livestock supplements and treatment products are integral components of the Livestock Care Kit, a response option utilized by MRCS for six years. The kit is designed to shield livestock from damage and the impacts of severe winter conditions. For instance, when livestock attempts to remove snow to access grass, a common practice that often damages hooves and mouth, the kit includes hoof ointment and fish oil to aid in the healing process and prevent the deterioration of wounds. It also comprises vitamin supplements and mineral lick to support the digestive system of livestock, which may be in shock and dysfunctional due to malnourishment, even when provided with hay or fodder. Based on the surveys conducted last year, the effectiveness of the animal care kit was highly satisfying to all respondents, indicating that the kit supports the livestock that nearly perished.

Herder households in rural areas report a scarcity of these essential livestock supplements, and no organizations are planning to provide these essential items. Most soum centers lack such supplies, necessitating herders to travel to provincial centers for purchase. This proves challenging due to difficult road conditions and the associated transportation costs. With its current capacity, MRCS will be able to distribute the animal care kits to the affected regions, mobilizing its Branch staff and volunteers.



Multi purpose cash grants

Following the assessment conducted by NDRT between 11-16 December 2023, both interviews and survey respondents identified multi-purpose cash as the most preferred intervention modality to address their diverse needs. As highlighted in the assessment findings, herders often face a shortage of readily available cash due to their seasonal income. This modality was much-appreciated support from the last Dzud Response last winter (MDRMN017). Additionally, during the HCT meeting discussions and in alignment with the EOC assessment findings, a consensus was reached among most members that multi-purpose cash is one of the most effective modalities for intervention.

A majority of herder households participating in the assessment expressed that through multi-purpose cash grants, they could address their specific immediate needs such as hay, fodder, fuel, coal, medicine, warm clothing, hygiene kits, or dignity kits, and rent. To safeguard their livestock, crucial for their livelihoods, herders are allocating more resources to hay and fodder, resulting in a reduction of spending on necessities.

Herder households on the Otor Movement are isolated from their homes; with such a situation, apart from the hay and fodder needs, it has been identified that they need coal to heat the house/gers or cook, fuel for transportation since it is a movement, medicines for those with chronic diseases, hygiene items while isolated from the central area. The EOC reported that there are 6,583 households (23,698 people) who lack food and dignity kits for women and girls, especially for those in the Otor Movement due to the lack of cash.





Health

The severity of this year's winter exacerbates the pressure on herders, instilling fear of losing their primary source of livelihood. Therefore, herder families went on Otor movement (a coping mechanism) to protect their livelihood. However, the coping mechanism is favorable to the livestock, while it is harmful to the herder families described below:

(1) Herder households, particularly children residing in dormitories, are likely to experience heightened stress levels. Currently, around 18,859 herder households are on Otor movement, separated from their children. These children can only occasionally communicate with their families regardless of the need to connect with their parents.

(2) PSS needs are not strongly being addressed by any other organizations or government agencies yet, based on the information available by 28 January 2024. Therefore, the PSS needs are the biggest gap that has been identified by the MRCS. Mongolian people, especially herders, often conceal their emotions rather than express them openly, heightening the risk of deep-seated trauma without the necessary psychosocial support.

(3) The Ministry of Education and Science has implemented a policy to assign a psychologist and a social worker for every 1000 children. However, only 300 individuals have received training so far. The pressing need for psychosocial support is underscored by the absence of psychologists at the soum level, particularly for the herder community.

(4) HCT member organizations regularly exchange information along with the EOC. The Power BI dashboard is published. (Refer to link below). Currently, HCT members are targeting Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), Health, and Education sectors led by UNICEF, Save the Children, and WHO. While World Vision and FAO are active in livelihood sectors. Sectors are coordinated under HCT; however, sector planning and information have not been shared or exchanged yet because the funding for the HCT members is yet to be confirmed.

Link:

[https://app.powerbi.com/view?](https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjojODIxNzExMzYtNWNjZi00NzUzLTk5MzktZDM2ZTRkOGRkZDIlIiwidCI6IjBmOWUzNWRiLTU0NGYtNGY2MC1iZGNjLTViYTQxNmU2ZGM3MCIsImMiOjh9)

[r=eyJrIjojODIxNzExMzYtNWNjZi00NzUzLTk5MzktZDM2ZTRkOGRkZDIlIiwidCI6IjBmOWUzNWRiLTU0NGYtNGY2MC1iZGNjLTViYTQxNmU2ZGM3MCIsImMiOjh9](https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjojODIxNzExMzYtNWNjZi00NzUzLTk5MzktZDM2ZTRkOGRkZDIlIiwidCI6IjBmOWUzNWRiLTU0NGYtNGY2MC1iZGNjLTViYTQxNmU2ZGM3MCIsImMiOjh9)



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

As mentioned, there are 98 pregnant women, 1,188 children under the age of 5, 220 disabled people, and 589 people with chronic diseases on the Otor movement. Their specific needs, including dignity kits, hygiene items, medicine, food and nutrition, warm shelter, communication for immediate access to basic services, psychosocial support, and hay and fodder supply to stop the frequent movement from causing further harm, need to be addressed.

The government established the Otor Operation Center in 6 soums of 4 provinces, including the eastern provinces and one of the northern provinces, to ensure timely medical services, provide coal and fuel for warm shelter, offer transportation, and set up police stations nearby to protect against any violence. Hay and fodder are also provided to support their livelihood. However, the government has no specific targeting criteria for the provision of assistance, which equally applies to all families regardless of their vulnerability level.

Additionally, other organizations are planning to respond to affected herder communities with less than 400 livestock in general, while MRCS is more concerned with the specific needs of those on Otor movement.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Community engagement and accountability as a cross-cutting approach is required in the design, implementation and monitoring of dzud response activities. The herders to be targeted by the operation should be provided with channels to communicate their feedbacks to the National Society, in regards to the assistance they receives. In particular, the fact that the herders live far from the soum centers and from each other enhances the need for timely and effective communication with them either via mobile phone and other means.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

Carrying out detailed assessments is limited due to the direct access to the affected people, with long distances between herder households, the Otor Movement, road conditions, and snow coverage in the entire country.



Whether for the EOC or the MRCS, challenging access factors and limited human resources at the administration levels in rural areas bring limitations for timely assessment feedback and findings.

Additionally, the data collection system of the Government of Mongolia has some efficiency issues, not being fully integrated, requiring manual data inputs by EOC members. As a result, disaggregated data collected and analyzed by EOC is a mixed combination of households and individuals' figures, bringing some confusion in terms of gaps coverage analysis.

On top of that, the situation has been deteriorating so fast over the previous weeks, with an exponential growth of the livestock mortality curve, hence related humanitarian impacts. All stakeholders in Mongolia agree that in the coming days and weeks, the overall humanitarian situation will be even much worse.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The DREF operation aims to minimize the impacts of the ongoing Dzud on an estimated 6,840 people, from 1,900 vulnerable herder households, who are affected by the Dzud/cold wave.

Operation strategy rationale

MRCS has been responding to the Dzud since November 2023, utilizing its existing resources. Due to the situation, MRCS needs to scale up the operation. MRCS is planning to assist 4,000 affected households, seeking 50 per cent of the funding through the IFRC-DREF response, and 50 per cent through other resources.

A convergence of factors, including occasional heavy snowstorms, prolonged heavy snowfall, poor pasture conditions, fuel shortages, and El Nino, has placed herders in targeted regions at a very high risk, particularly those engaged in Otor movement. These herders lack necessities such as hay, fodder, medicines, warm clothes, and fuel, especially with the anticipated continuation of El Nino and snowstorms. As mentioned, the peak of the impact of Dzud occurs from March through May; this operation response is for three months. To minimize the impact, MRCS is planning to assist 4,000 of the most vulnerable herder households, or approximately 14,400 (21 per cent of the total estimated people in need) people with MRCS selection criteria, while considering the remaining groups will be covered by the government and HCT members. With the IFRC-DREF response allocation, MRCS will be able to assist 1,900 vulnerable herder families, while the remaining 50 per cent will be addressed by domestic fundraising efforts. Duplication of efforts will be avoided through the EOC and HCT coordination mechanisms by exchanging information and sharing necessary data.

The severe winter conditions could lead to widespread livestock mortality and jeopardize many livelihoods. The current elevated market prices for hay and fodder exacerbate the challenges faced by these herders. The planned main interventions outlined below aim to support affected herders in minimizing the impact of the harsh winter on their households:

(1) Multi-purpose cash:

According to the identified needs, herders in high-risk areas stated that they have various needs and lack cash on hand to purchase their essential needs. Distributing cash will enable herder households to address various immediate needs, including the purchase of hay and fodder, medicines, warm clothes, fuel, coal, hygiene or dignity kits, renting a winter place while on Otor movement, and communication costs. Consequently, MRCS and HCT have concluded that multi-purpose cash is the preferred modality to assist vulnerable herder households in Dzud or near Dzud-affected areas.

Furthermore, as outlined in the UN and other agency action sections, HCT member organizations deliberated on establishing a common transfer value to be uniformly employed. The HCT members reached a consensus on implementing multi-purpose cash (MPCA) to safeguard livestock-based livelihood. The proposed amount set at 600,000 MNT, equivalent to the minimum wage, is commenced on 12 January 2024, aligning with the Government's decision, SPHERE, and LEGS standards (livestock emergency guidance and standards, which clarifies the amount of nutrition needed per livestock) on food security and livestock. It was also agreed at the HCT meeting that if only cash is provided the amount will be 660,000 MNT.

The HCT member can provide less than 660,000 MNT in cash if they will also support food/non-food items such as animal care kits. Therefore, MRCS is planning to implement a cash amount of 550,000 MNT or CHF 145 complemented by an animal care kit (anticipated unit price around 212,000 MNT per kit excluding the packaging and transportation), the total value of which (762,000MNT) is above 660,000 MNT.

The minimum wage of 660,000 MNT is calculated based on changes in the survival minimum expenditure, average salary ratio, and



inflation rate. Based on the consultation with the HCT and the government considering the result of the post-distribution monitoring (PDM), the amount should support the affected families' current needs. According to the PDM, results, the families that received MPC, mostly spent on hay and fodder, food, medicines, and fuel.

The MPCA will be directly transferred to the target people's bank account through the FSP. Since June 2023, MRCS has been in the process of developing a framework agreement with the financial service provider(s) to facilitate the process of cash transfer. Currently, MRCS is at the stage of finalizing the Scope of work. The FSP FA will be done soonest at the end of Feb and the latest by mid-March. Therefore, MRCS will prepare an exceptional approval for the cash transfer as there is a high probability of the FA not being able to be ready before the cash distribution. The potential FSP for transferring the cash will likely be the Khan Bank, which MRCS has been partnering with in previous emergency operations. The cash will be transferred to the targeted households in a one-off manner and via their bank account.

(2) Livelihood:

The assessment revealed that livestock is the only asset or income resource of the herder community which is in Dzud condition. Preventing the loss of livelihood and malnourishment of the livestock, MRCS will support the target herders by providing animal care kits as a plus. According to the joint research conducted by the MRCS and FAO after the 2020 Dzud on the effectiveness of the assistance with cash and animal care kits helped the target people to avoid or reduce negative impacts of Dzud compared to households who received MPC and animal care kits and families who did not receive any assistance.

The proposed animal care kits are addressed by the EOC, HCT, and the NDRT field assessment since the compact surface or ice Dzud has started causing livestock wounds, and malnourishment indicating the urgency of providing animal care kit support in addition to the MPC. Besides the LEGS standard, there is a winter preparation guideline in Mongolia, herders are recommended to store supplementary food for animals for 90-120 days. In addition, there is a livestock supplement preparation standard for Mongolian grazing livestock which calculates 200 grams of additional nutrition required per day per animal. Despite this guideline and standard, herders with low income and livelihoods are not able to prepare such an amount because it is too expensive for them. Therefore, MRCS is planning to provide animal care kits for the weakest livestock to protect herders' livelihood. The food security and agriculture sector are active and being led by FAO to support the HCT members and provide regular updates.

(3) Psychosocial support (MHPSS):

Based on MRCS assessments and in coordination with the EOC and other humanitarian organizations, MRCS will dedicate its efforts to health on Mental health and Psychosocial Support, utilizing the wide community-based volunteer network and trained MHPSS staff to reach herder households. The MHPSS activities will support the herder communities in coping with the mental distress brought on by the Dzud impact. Additionally, children in dormitories or separated from their parents during Otor movement need PSS since it has been identified as one of the biggest gaps for local authorities and other organizations, will be able to fulfill their needs through MRCS PSS services, preventing further distress. The health sector is active and being led by WHO to support health services and provide regular updates.

The combination of these interventions planned based on the assessment findings is to minimize the broader impact of descending vulnerable herders into poverty and potential migration to urban areas. In the meantime, MRCS will continue its efforts to revise the EAP for Dzud with the support of IFRC and partners to ensure enhanced preparedness for Dzud.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

The main criteria for MRCS are local herder families with fewer than 400 livestock and families forced to go on Otor movement in the Dzud or near Dzud-affected areas (Dzud Assessment Map).

Under this main selection criteria, MRCS will apply additional selection criteria based on the vulnerability of herder households:

- Herder households who lost a significant amount of their total livestock, focusing on priority on the most affected soums (5-15 per cent average mortality rate). As this is an average, some herder households have lost even more.
- Single-headed households with 3 or more children under the age of 16;
- Households with disabilities;
- Households with lactating or pregnant women;
- Senior households (above the age of 60);
- Households with 5 or more children under the age of 16.

According to EOC data, there are 93,053 herder families with 100-400 livestock, and 89,920 households (36 per cent of the total affected



households) of them are residing in the Dzud-affected or near Dzud regions. From which, 8,475 in Arkhangai, 7,818 in Bayankhongor, 6,576 in Bayan-Ulgii, 2,347 in Bulgan, 2,313 in Dornod, 2,143 in Dornogovi, 3,755 in Dundgovi, 3,689 in Govi-Altai, 4,473 in Khentii, 4,362 in Khovd, 7,758 in Khuvsgul, 3,120 in Umnugovi, 622 in Orkhon, 8,515 in Uvurkhangai, 3,431 in Selenge, 2,874 in Sukhbaatar, 6,525 in Tuv, 5,269 in Uvs, 5,293 in Zavkhan provinces, and 406 in Baganuur District.

Geographical locations include Dornod, Sukhbaatar, Umnugovi, Tuv, Zavkhan, Uvs, Uvurkhangai, Bayankhongor, Govi-Altai, Bulgan, Dundgovi, Dornogovi, Selenge, Khentii, Khuvsgul, Orkhon, Arkhangai, Bayan-Ulgii provinces, and Bagakhangai district; however, final locations will be chosen after discussion with local authorities and HCT members to avoid duplication of efforts and implement appropriate action.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

MRCS will use its two-staged eligibility criteria for the selection of the affected population based on the findings. The main criteria for MRCS are local herder families who have fewer than 400 livestock and families who are forced to go on Otor movement in the Dzud or near Dzud-affected areas (Dzud Assessment Map). The main criteria will help to determine the vulnerable herders who are impacted by Dzud.

According to a vulnerability analysis conducted by MRCS in 2019 and HCT analysis in 2023, herders with fewer than 400 livestock are often unable to recover from the impact of severe Dzud, as they do not have enough resources to rebuild their livestock after they suffer a major livestock loss. Given the short period to recover before the next winter season, there is a high risk of being affected by the next severe winter condition. While herders with more than 400 livestock are considered to have a higher probability of recovering from Dzud damage, as there is more possibility they will have livestock left after the Dzud impact. In addition, herders with fewer than 100 livestock are considered to be semi-herders, having additional financial resources and residing in the soum centers. Through the criteria, MRCS will be able to support the most vulnerable herder families who are experiencing 5-15% loss of their livelihood from the Dzud impact.

Based on the MRCS assessment and previous experience, herder families on Otor movement to cope with the winter are identified as the most impactful to the herder community's well-being. However, HCT member organizations are focusing on affected herders with fewer than 400 livestock, while MRCS is more concerned with the herders in Otor movement, particularly with the sub-criteria to identify the most vulnerable and most impacted. To support herders who are experiencing the Dzud condition to protect their livelihoods and are in vulnerable humanitarian conditions, herders on Otor movement and their families are additionally considered in this year's situation.

With these criteria, the targeting is more accurate and makes the program more efficient and effective. The assistance could be allocated based on the official request from the county governor and the primary-level branch verification.

Sub-criteria enable us to target the most vulnerable to ensure protection, gender, and inclusion, and the most impacted herder families who lost a certain part of their livelihood as follows:

- Herder households who lost a significant amount of their total livestock, focusing in priority on the most affected soums (5-15 per cent average mortality rate)
- Single-headed households with 3 or more children under the age of 16;
- Households with disabilities;
- Households with lactating or pregnant women;
- Senior households (above the age of 60);
- Households with 5 or more children under the age of 16.

Total Targeted Population

Women	2,417	Rural	100%
Girls (under 18)	1,137	Urban	-
Men	2,172	People with disabilities (estimated)	3.7%
Boys (under 18)	1,114		
Total targeted population	6,840		



Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
<p>The parliamentary election in Mongolia scheduled for June 2024 introduces the possibility that pre-election campaigns could impact the process of selecting target people and locations for ongoing humanitarian operations. Additionally, there is a concern that these campaigns may manipulate humanitarian assistance, potentially falsely claiming to deliver specific aid to gain favor or support from the targeted herders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To mitigate the risk, MRCS will verify the target people's data through its local branch and volunteers. The selection of the target people and location will be conducted in collaboration with the Primary and Mid-Level Red Cross Branches, relevant local authorities, and the Local emergency management agency. - Foster understanding of the criteria for aid distribution and encourage reporting of any irregularities with the planned CEA activities.
<p>Due to the accumulation of heavy and dense snow on the ground, coupled with unpredictable weather patterns, the onset of warmer-than-usual Spring temperatures poses a heightened risk of after-snow melting floods known as 'yellow flooding'. This phenomenon is likely to occur in late March or early April.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EOC is aware of the situation and will ensure timely early warnings to the communities located in high-risk areas. - Capital Emergency Management Agency has updated the urban flood preparedness and response plan by the end of December 2023 and EOC has started taking mitigation measures in the high-risk areas from January 2024.
<p>The security framework of the IFRC is not fully applied in the operation.</p>	<p>The National Society's security framework will apply throughout the operation to their staff and volunteers. In case of the need for deployment of personnel under IFRC security's responsibility, including surge support and integrated PNS, the existing IFRC country security framework will apply. All IFRC must, and RC/RC staff and volunteers are encouraged, to complete the IFRC Stay Safe 2.0 e-learning courses.</p>
<p>The transportation of the items could be delayed due to the snow and storm as more precipitation is anticipated in the coming months.</p>	<p>MRCS is engaging with NEMA and local emergency management authorities as part of EOC operations to pre-agree on the utilization of their vehicles in anticipation of transportation challenges occurring at the time of the implementation period.</p>
<p>Occasional snowstorms may occur during the operation, increasing the scale and timeframe of the operation, including the risk to NS staff and volunteers onsite.</p>	<p>In case of disruptions to the operation due to snowstorms, e.g. access issues, NEMA will assist MRCS by clearing the road and providing access to the targeted areas to deliver assistance. As part of EOC, MRCS is able to receive timely updates to take preventative measures, including issuing early warnings to the branches and volunteers. Meanwhile, staff and volunteers will be insured by the IFRC volunteer insurance system and the intensives will be provided by the MRCS system.</p>
<p>The FSP framework agreement could not be completed before the cash distribution starts, and the timeframe for getting exception approval takes longer than expected.</p>	<p>Considering that the framework agreement is most likely not able to be completed before the cash distribution start date (within February), MRCS will apply for exceptional approval for its current FSP to avoid any delays. As MRCS has applied for 2 exception approvals for cash transfers via FSP in 2023, MRCS has experience in the process of exceptional approval and could accelerate the process based on this.</p>

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

During the operation, MRCS staff and volunteers who are traveling to remote areas to deliver aid or services may face some safety and security issues due to the heavy snow and sudden snowstorms. To mitigate the potential risk, the MRCS security framework will apply throughout the operation. Staff and volunteers will be insured by the IFRC volunteer insurance system and the intensives will be provided by the MRCS system.



Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

Planned Intervention



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 126,763

Targeted Persons: 6,840

Indicators

Title	Target
# of households provided with livestock care kits	1,900

Priority Actions

1. Establish a Procurement Committee at the MRCS headquarters.
2. Prepare tender documents for animal care kits. The kit includes fish oil, mineral block, hoof care ointment, eye ointment, and vitamin supplements.
3. Publish an open tender in the newspaper, MRCS website, and social media.
4. Conduct the Selection Process of the Supplier.
5. Sign a contract with the selected supplier.
6. Delivery of Livestock Care Kits from the supplier
7. Distribution of Livestock Care Kits to the branches
8. Conduct post distribution monitoring



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 302,115

Targeted Persons: 6,840

Indicators

Title	Target
# of households provided with cash assistance	1,900

Priority Actions

1. Selection of FSP through open tender and signing a framework agreement
2. Provision of multi-purpose cash assistance to 1,900 households
3. Provision of certificate of aid for the target population includes key messages from EOC
4. Conduct regular ground travels to the affected areas for monitoring, and on-site support by both MRCS and IFRC.



Health

Budget: CHF 3,195

Targeted Persons: 6,840



Indicators

Title	Target
# of households who received PSS services	1,900

Priority Actions

1. Provision of the PSS through in-person visits or mobile phone to the targeted herder communities whose children are in the dormitory in partnership with Save the Children.
2. Provide key messages in collaboration with the National Authority of Mental Health
3. Conduct monitoring visits to the target locations.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 0

Targeted Persons: 1

Indicators

Title	Target
# of child safeguarding risk analysis conducted	1

Priority Actions

1. Review child safeguarding risk analysis for child-friendly, safe, and integrated operation implementation will be included in the refresher training.
2. Set criteria and needed supporting mechanisms to ensure inclusion and participation of the identified vulnerable groups in the program, including CEA and cash assistance.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Budget: CHF 0

Targeted Persons: 6,840

Indicators

Title	Target
# of people who received key messages on Climate smart agriculture and positive coping mechanisms	6,840

Priority Actions

1. Update and print key messages on Climate-smart agriculture and positive coping mechanisms from the EOC.
2. Disseminate key messages on Climate-smart agriculture and positive coping mechanisms from the EOC to the affected people using available channels.





Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 4,484

Targeted Persons: 6,840

Indicators

Title	Target
# of people reached with CEA activities	6,840

Priority Actions

1. Conduct Communications activities (hotline number, etc) for community feedback which will be analyzed by utilizing the Kobo tool.
2. Conduct visibility activities (certificates, banners, and media promotion)
3. Establish feedback desks at the distribution point and the Red Cross Branches coordinated by branch staff and volunteers by utilizing the Kobo tool.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 10,370

Targeted Persons: 2

Indicators

Title	Target
# of monitoring visits conducted	1

Priority Actions

1. IFRC will join MRCS in the final monitoring visit to the affected areas including on-site and post monitoring.
2. IFRC will provide MRCS with technical support in updating the Dzud EAP for reactivation (due to urgent response priorities, this will be engaged in the Month #3 of the DREF Operation).



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 52,553

Targeted Persons: 45

Indicators

Title	Target
# of lessons learnt workshop conducted	1

Priority Actions

1. Provision of administration support for the operation (e.g cost for stationery, office equipment, and maintenance)
2. Conduct refresher training for volunteers to ensure an effective response. A total of 45 members of BDRT are expected to engage in the operation for management at the local level such as distribution, community engagement, accountability, protection gender inclusion,



child safeguarding, MHPSS, monitoring, and evaluation.

3. Organize lessons learned workshop to identify the challenges and successes of the operation and produce lessons learnt workshop report.

4. Update the Dzud EAP, for reactivation (due to urgent response priorities, this will be engaged in Month #3 of the DREF Operation).

About Support Services

How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

Refresher training for volunteers will be provided to ensure effective response. A total of 25 NDRT members and 300 volunteers are expected to engage in the operation for management at the local level such as distribution, community engagement, accountability, monitoring, and evaluation.

If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

MRCS will conduct the following procurements during this operation:

- An open tender will be published to select the potential Financial Service Provider to sign the Framework Agreement. The DREF budget will cover the bank transfer fees and service fees. Transport and distribution costs will be included in this DREF budget. According to the market assessment, all provinces have available and functioning markets which made it feasible for conditional cash assistance.

- A procurement of Livestock care kit tender will be published by MRCS and MRCS procurement working group will select the supplier. The transport and distribution costs are included in this DREF.

How will this operation be monitored?

MRCS planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER) team members will monitor the implementation of the IFRC-DREF operation in the field with support from NDRT members, with the participation of IFRC. An internal review by MRCS of the IFRC-DREF operation will be carried out by the end of the operation. At least, two teams will be deployed to monitor the operation implementation in the Dzud-affected provinces.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

With support from the regional communications unit in Kuala Lumpur, the IFRC CCD communications delegate will support the production of news stories to be published on the IFRC website. Participating National Societies will be provided with information on the response through Newswire and information bulletins. MRCS hotline number for the complaints and feedback is active and MRCS staff are taking an active role at the EOC headquarters as well as at the provincial levels, and the HCT meeting.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRMN020 - Mongolian Red Cross Society Cold wave 2024 - Mongolia

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	440,761
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	126,763
Multi-purpose Cash	302,115
Health	3,195
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	4,204
Community Engagement and Accountability	4,484
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	58,719
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	10,370
National Society Strengthening	48,349
TOTAL BUDGET	499,480

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

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

National Society contact:

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IFRC Appeal Manager: Olga Dzhumaeva, Head of Delegation, olga.dzhumaeva@ifrc.org

IFRC Project Manager: Yvan Grayel, Preparedness & Resilience Coordinator, East Asia Delegation, yvan.grayel@ifrc.org, +8613911924583

IFRC focal point for the emergency: Nusrat Hassan, Operation Coordinator East Asia, Nusrat.HASSAN@ifrc.org

[Click here for the reference](#)

