

# OPERATION UPDATE

## Mongolia| Cold Wave Dzud

<b>Emergency appeal №: MDRMN020</b> <b>Emergency appeal launched: 15/03/2024</b> <b>Operational Strategy published: 04/04/2024</b>	<b>Glide №:</b> <b>CW-2023-000262-MNG</b>
<b>Operation update #1</b> <b>Date of issue: 26/04/2024</b>	<b>Timeframe covered by this update:</b> From 15/03/2024 to 10/04/2024
<b>Operation timeframe: 12 months</b> (15/03/2024 - 15/03/2025)	<b>Number of people being assisted: 36,000</b>
<b>Funding requirements (CHF):</b> the IFRC Emergency Appeal: CHF 4.5 million through Federation-wide: 5.2 million	<b>DREF amount initially allocated:</b> CHF 1,000,000

To date, this Emergency Appeal, which seeks CHF 4,500,000 secretariat ask, is 20.02per cent funded. Further funding contributions are needed to enable the Mongolian Red Cross Society, with the support of the IFRC, to continue with the response efforts of and provide humanitarian assistance and protection to people affected by Dzud.



Mongolia Red Cross Society (MRCS) staff as part of National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) was conducting Dzud Rapid Need Assessment. (Source: MRCS)

# A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

## Description of the crisis

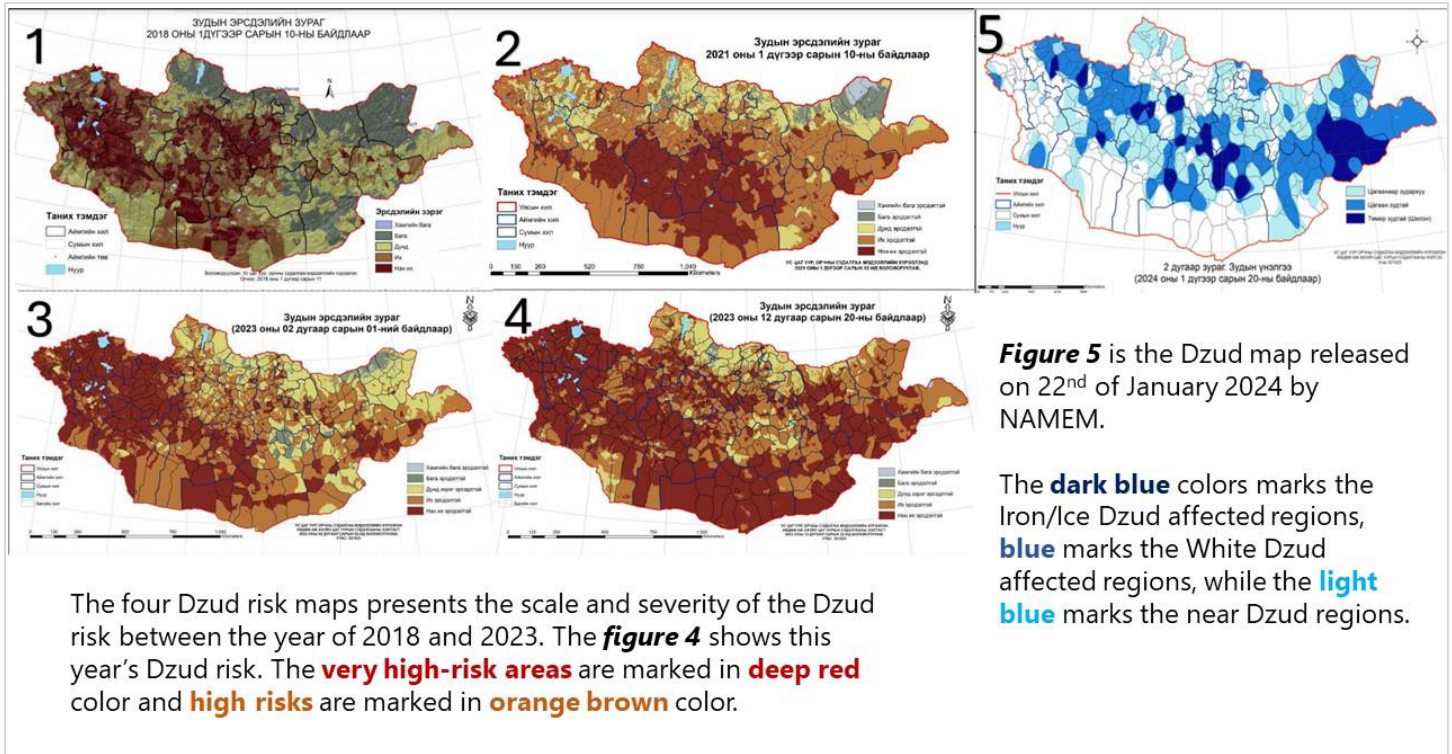


Figure 5 is the Dzud map released on 22<sup>nd</sup> of January 2024 by NAMEM.

The dark blue colors marks the Iron/Ice Dzud affected regions, blue marks the White Dzud affected regions, while the light blue marks the near Dzud regions.

The four Dzud risk maps presents the scale and severity of the Dzud risk between the year of 2018 and 2023. The figure 4 shows this year's Dzud risk. The very high-risk areas are marked in deep red color and high risks are marked in orange brown color.

Picture 1: Dzud risk maps and dzud assessment map as of 20 January 2024 (Source: National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring (NAMEM))

According to the dzud assessment by the 286<sup>th</sup> government resolution stated by the government authorities, as of 20 January 2024, 118 soums<sup>1</sup> of 18 provinces (Bayan-Ulgii, Uvs, Khovd, Govi-Altai, Zavkhan, Bayankhongor, Arkhangai, Uvurkhangai, Khuvsgul, Bulgan, Tuv, Selenge, Dornogovi, Dundgovi, Umnugovi, Dornod, Sukhbaatar, Khentii) provinces are in white dzud<sup>2</sup> situation meanwhile 87 soums of 16 provinces (Khovd, Govi-Altai, Zavkhan, Arkhangai, Bayankhongor, Uvurkhangai, Khuvsgul, Bulgan, Orkhon, Selenge, Tuv, Dundgovi, Umnugovi, Dornogovi, Khentii, Dornod) are in near white-dzud situation and 27 soums of 7 (Uvs, Govi-Altai, Arkhangai, Uvurkhangai, Sukhbaatar, Bulgan, Dundgovi) are in "iron" dzud<sup>3</sup> situation.

Approximately 27.4 per cent (246,302 households) of all the households (HH) in Mongolia (897,427 households) are pastoral nomads whose livelihoods solemnly depend on livestock production (2021, National Statistics Office). The unprecedented and extreme weather conditions have caused significant humanitarian impacts. So far, as of January 2024, 185,937 herder families have been affected, according to the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) which was activated to respond to the unfolding situation by the State Emergency Commission. Almost a third of the Mongolian population relies on grazing and livestock for their livelihoods. Typically, livestock face challenges grazing when the average snow thickness is 12 to 15 centimetres (cm) in the steppe, 8 to 10 cm in the mountains, and 5 to 6 cm in the

<sup>1</sup> The second smallest administrative unit in Mongolia, above bagh and below province.

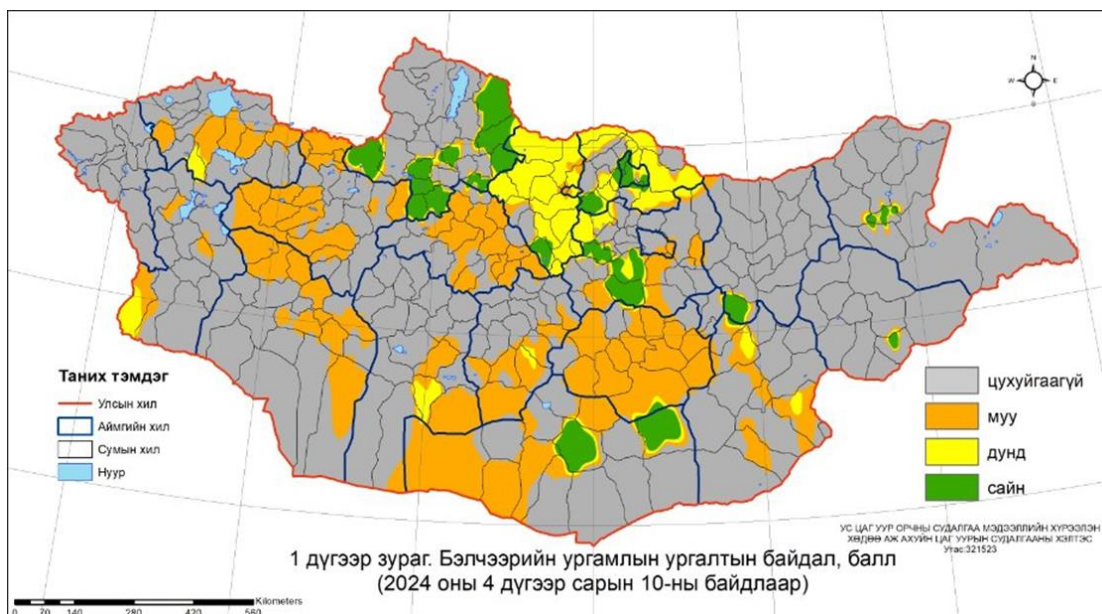
<sup>2</sup> White dzud is when snow density reaches 0.25 gr/cubic centimetre or more in any region and stays for 10 days or more and average monthly temperature is lower than annual average by 3 degree Celsius or more or (average quadratic curve is derived) and snow depth is more than 25 cm in high mountainous or forest steppe areas, more than 22 cm in steppe areas, more than 12 cm in dessert areas, 286<sup>th</sup> Government resolution, 2015.

<sup>3</sup> "iron" or "white" dzud is marked by a very deep snow cover preventing animals from accessing grass combined with a short thaw and subsequent hard freeze that locks up pastures in ice (iron dzud).

Gobi region. Additionally, a concurrent fuel shortage between early November and December 2023 has led to prolonged queues for fuel across the country. The ongoing fuel shortages have resulted in the delayed provision of government assistance to areas affected by snowstorms. On top of responding to the impacts of the Dzud, Mongolia has been experiencing an increase in the prices of consumer goods and inflations, with the national rate of inflation sitting at 8.6 per cent in January 2024, according to the Bank of Mongolia. Alongside the significant weather conditions, the herder community has been experiencing a rising cost of living and business with hay and fodder prices surging as a result of both inflation and availability due to the conditions. Considering historical data, livestock mortality rates are at their highest from February to April, with January having the highest risk for livestock malnourishment due to the conditions.

To respond to the unfolding situation, the EOC introduced a hay and fodder preservation plan for long-term stability, however, due to the severity of the Dzud, more support is required to assist the impacted population. The MRCS team has been working closely with the local authorities and relevant MRCS branches in the provinces to identify the at-risk communities in the areas and assess the damage and needs.

## DZUD IMPACTS



Picture 2: Vegetation Map, as of 10 April 2024, 70 per cent of vegetation has not started growing. Lack of vegetation in the pasture lands means herders still need hay and fodder for their livestock. (Source: NAMEM)

Based on the analysis of the information provided by primary-level data (monitoring visits, needs and damage assessment in the field, bulletin from the local Red Cross branches) and secondary data (information from the Humanitarian Country Team and relevant government authorities), MRCS was able to identify the primary needs of the herder households in the affected provinces. Livestock are significantly impacted by various weather phenomena, such as extremely low temperatures, reaching as low as -47 Celsius or -52.6 Fahrenheit in Zavkhan province.

Additionally, the snow depth and density play a crucial role, with Uvs province experiencing the highest snow depth of up to 37 cm, and 60 cm in the location where the snowstorm occurred, as of 22 January 2023, according to NAMEM. According to the MRCS survey, which was directly taken from the herders in the field, due to the deep snow, the herd is no longer able to graze on pasture and must stay sheltered and be fed with hay and fodder; otherwise the weak livestock, which have already been severely affected by the weather, will not last long, resulting in massive livestock losses.

Another characteristic of this Dzud is its high intensification by socioeconomic factors. Currently, the inflation rate in Mongolia stands at 8.6 per cent, as of December 2023, compared with 15.2 per cent nationwide in 2022 (*Source: Bank of Mongolia and World Bank, respectively*). Not only have staple food and commodity prices risen, but also the price of hay and fodder has increased from MNT 8,000 to 100,00 (USD 3 to 4) to MNT 13,000 to 18,000 (USD 4 to 6)<sup>4</sup> in some areas, reaching up to MNT 25,000 (USD 8.3). According to an assessment conducted by the MRCS with vendors and herder households, the increase in hay prices is explained by a sharp rise in the cost of fuel for harvesting and transportation. Although the demand for hay and concentrated feed<sup>5</sup> is higher than in previous years and even available in local markets, due to the high price, it is not affordable for cash-strapped herder households. With the forecast of a harsh winter, herders have de-stocked weak livestock. The government has also ordered private companies to work closely with herders to buy up livestock for export.

The road infrastructure in Mongolia is poorly developed, with only concrete roads connecting provincial centres, while soums are accessible through dirt roads that are easily covered with thick layers of snow or become blocked. For example, in Erdenetsagaan soum of Sukhbaatar province, the local authorities are creating a temporary road with big trucks for households living in remote areas, but these roads easily vanish after three to four hours of snow or shortly after a snowstorm. Especially, households on pastoral migration are at great risk of being isolated from accessing basic health or emergency services. However, with warmer temperatures recently, access conditions have improved, enabling herder families to visit soum centres for various tasks.

Another significant impact the Dzud has placed upon the herder community is psychosocial damage. All herder households interviewed by MRCS have experienced more stress and sleeplessness under the Dzud effect, worrying about their financial situation and the survival of their herd. There are often higher stress levels for the herder families who are separated from their school-age children because one parent stays near or with the children studying in school in the soum centre while the other parent must stay with the herd in the remote areas.

As of 31 March 2024, about 30 per cent of the entire country was still covered by snow, with thickness ranging from 10 to 32 centimetres (cm) in mountainous areas. Besides, snow depths could be as high as 1 to 9 cm in other regions, and up to 40 cm in stormy areas. Since the last update on Dzud's condition as of 31 March 2024, NAMEM has started producing pasture conditions or vegetation maps as there is no longer snow coverage in the country. The first pasture condition or vegetation map was published on 12 April 2024, indicating that 70 per cent of the country is experiencing no pasture or vegetation, and the remaining parts are in poor and medium levels of pasture condition.

Province	No. of perished animal	% of the first livestock of the year
Sukhbaatar	160,050	41.50%
Dornogovi	535,400	23.60%
Khentii	904,600	20.60%
Arkhangai	692,000	14.30%
Bulgan	423,000	11.70%
Tuv	535,400	10.90%
Dornod	284,200	9.00%
Dundgov	271,700	7.40%
Zavkhan	279,500	7.20%
Khuvsgul	291,000	5.10%

### Livestock mortality and animal carcasses management:

According to the EOC, a total of 4,481 HHs have lost more than 70 per cent of their total livestock. The restocking of livestock for those households requires MNT 35.8 billion or around CHF 960,700 to recover from the loss. As a result of mass livestock mortality, ongoing nationwide disinfecting and cleaning of animal carcasses are being carried out

4 The price of the hay and fodder increases by the distance from the city, the farther the consumer is located, the more cost is added to the price. Hay and fodder price are increased 60 to 70 per cent depending on the distance.

5 Concentrated feed means a combination of animal feed ingredients of which the nutrition content is higher than nutritional need of a livestock and that is intended to be mixed with other feed ingredients to create a complete feed.

by the government. Nationwide, a total of 1,098,450 carcasses have been disinfected by the EOC efforts, as of 12 April 2024.

### Flash flood Situation:

As of 12 April 2024, there has been no report on flash flood.

## Summary of response

MRCS has been monitoring the Dzud situation since the EOC under the State Emergency Commission was activated on 8 December 2023. Since December 2023, MRCS has mobilised to provide humanitarian aid and services to communities that have already been affected by the severe weather. Teams deployed to high and very high-risk areas to provide warm gloves, animal clothes and psychosocial support to affected and vulnerable households. MRCS has also been conducting vulnerability assessments to ensure that those most in need of humanitarian assistance can be identified and reached during the response. MRCS is also part of the EOC team at both national and local levels, coordinating with key organisations in preparation for the Dzud response.

MRCS National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) conducted rapid need assessments (RNA) between 11 and 16 December 2023 in Bayan-Ulgii, Khovd, Tuv, and Uvurkhangai provinces to assess the situation of the herder community, identifying damages and needs, and obtain more detailed information. MRCS was the only humanitarian organization to carry out data collection for rapid needs assessment. The initial intervention of MRCS following the RNA was in-kind distribution, i.e. distribution of food packages and warm cloth kits, supported by the Government of the People's Republic of China, Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) and MRCS own funds, to 1,000 HHs or around 3,600 targeted people in Tuv province.

UNFPA also provided MRCS dignity kits to be distributed to 700 HHs with pregnant and lactating women in Sukhbaatar, Umnugobi, Zavkhan, Uvs, Uvurkhangai, Bayankhongor, Govi-Altai, Bulgan, Dundgobi, Dornogobi, Khentii, Khuvsgul, Arkhangai provinces. Furthermore, Qatar Red Crescent supported the Ramadhan Project food Parcel to 400 HHs. These food parcels were distributed in Bayan-Ulgii, Khovd, Darkhan and Nalaikh.

The RNA also led to the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) application and allocation of CHF 499,480 providing multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA), animal care kit distribution and psychosocial support (PSS) services. The allocation was later increased to CHF 1 million after the launch of the Emergency Appeal (EA). The first tranche, CHF 275,555, was transferred to MRCS to distribute MPCA to 1,300 HHs or around 5,803 persons and animal care kits to 1,900 HH. Details of the MPCA distribution is as shown in **Table 2**.

Province	No. of HH	No. of family member
Arkhangai	100	468
Bayan Ulgii	50	272
Bayankhongor	100	457
Bulgan	100	459
Dornogovi	50	177
Govi Altai	200	812
Khentii Zassan	100	377
Khuvsgul	100	468
Orkhon	50	163
Selenge	100	419
Umnugovi	100	378
Uvs	150	657
Uvurkhangai	100	696
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>5,803</b>

Accountability mechanism was established by using hotline and other social networks, such as Facebook, to receive feedback, or complaints and register it for later following up process. The feedback was used to reflect the MRCS operation in their refreshing training.

Besides, MRCS has provided MHPSS through phone and in-person visit to targeted families by Branch staff and volunteers. This includes referring service to appropriate individuals and organizations. MHPSS key messages have been developed and disseminated on MRCS social networking, such as Facebook.

Furthermore, MRCS has conducted a rapid WASH needs assessment in dormitories of schools in two eastern provinces, Dornod and Sukhbaatar and its result have been used for further intervention. For example, MRCS is planning to organize WASH in emergencies training of trainers (ToT) training four times with the relevant government agencies, such as NEMA, starting from 25 April 2024, particularly focusing on urban flash floods in collaboration with UNICEF.

Capacity building for staff and volunteer of MRCS has been part of the Dzud response. A total of 35 Branch Disaster Response Team (BDRT) and 10 National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members from all mid-level Red cross branches have participated in a refreshing training covering various aspects of the Dzud response operation, such as distribution, MHPSS, CEA, PGI analysis, and monitoring and evaluation.

Donor	Province	No. of HH	No. of family member
<b>DFAT/ARC</b>	Bayankhongor	50	224
	Domod	100	407
	Dundgov	50	178
	Govi Altai	50	226
	Sukhbaatar	100	446
	TUV	100	369
	Umnugovi	50	201
	Zavkhan	100	451
	<b>Sub-total 1</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>2,502</b>
<b>KNRC</b>	Bayankhongor	100	446
	Dornod	100	337
	Govi Altai	100	416
	Khentii	100	389
	Khovd	100	465
	Sukhbaatar	100	429
	Uvs	100	446
	<b>Sub-total 2</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>2,928</b>
<b>USAID/BHA</b>	<b>Dornod</b>	150	655
	Sukhbaatar	200	976
	TUV	150	582
	Zavkhan Zassan	200	808
	<b>Sub-total 3</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>3,021</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>2,000</b>	<b>8,451</b>

In addition, MRCS received bi-lateral support from the Australian Red Cross (ARC)/Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of the Australian Government, the Republic of Korea National Red Cross (KNRC), and USAID to distribute

MPCA and animal care kits to a total of 2,000 targeted HHs or around 8,451 targeted people in 12 provinces as shown in **Table 3**. In total, MPCA and animal care kits were supported by 1) ARC for AUD 250,000 or around CHF 149,999; 2) KNRC for USD 11,323 or around CHF 10,350; and 3) USAID (BHA) for USD 200,000 or around CHF 182,770.

Thereafter, the EOC reported a rapid increase in livestock mortality from the second half of February 2024, with the official figure as of 14 March 2024, indicating over 4.7 million dead animals (compared to 612,000 dead animals on 21 February). This represents seven per cent of the national livestock, up from only nearly one per cent on 21 February. While the numbers are dramatically increasing, this situation was already twice as critical as last year's Dzud, and the government estimated that this year will be far more severe than the worst Dzud recorded in 2010. On 14 February, the Government of Mongolia passed a resolution declaring a heightened readiness level until 15 May due to the severe Dzud affecting the country nationwide.

This led to the launch of the EA to contribute to the overall target of 185,973 herder families directly or indirectly affected by the Dzud situation. MRCS is planning to assist 10,000 Dzud-affected herder families (about 36,000 people) among the most affected group of herders (consisting of 89,863 families with less than 400 animals). The [EA](#) and its Operational Strategy ([OS](#)) were approved by 15 March and 4 April respectively. This activated the IFRC Rapid Response Management System (RRMS) to deploy a Surge Team consisting of Operational Manager, PMER (Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting) Officer, and CEA Officer, who arrived and started working within the country in the first week of April. Furthermore, from the first transfer of fund of the initial IFRC-DREF application, the second tranche, as part of the launched EA, with an amount of CHF 420,000, was transferred to MRCS on 11 April for further distribution of MPCA to 1,700 HHs and animal care kits to 1,100 HHs. Furthermore, ECHO has signed an agreement with IFRC on the first week of April, contributing EUR 500,000 or CHF 488,915 and targeting 1,850 HHs or 6,660 people, through the provision of MPCA, animal care kits, and psychosocial support.

### **Updates on the provincial level emergency operation centre**

As of 12 April, the local emergency commission, local disaster response units, and emergency response units provided food aid to 9,016 herder families; health care services to 16,209 herders; 257,233 bales of hay to 86,266 herder families; and 63,063 tons of fodder to 107,357 herder HH initially with 50 per cent discount and later distributed for free of charge due to the financial hardship as well as the intensity of the situation communities were facing.

### **Needs analysis**

#### **Livelihoods:**

In assessing the provision of hay and fodder across different administrative levels during the challenging winter of 2023 to 2024, it becomes clear that while some provinces had reserved significant amounts of hay and fodder, the actual usage and remaining reserves by the end of February pointed to a critical gap in resources. For instance, out of 2,652 tons of hay reserved for winter across some provinces, only 5 per cent remained unused by 25 February. Similarly, all 189.2 tons of fodder reserved for winter were utilized by the end of February, highlighting the intense demand due to the harsh winter conditions. Despite these efforts, including the production of 1,075.9 tons of handmade fodder, with 19.5 per cent remaining unused, the early onset of winter in November 2023 forced herders to begin utilizing their reserves much sooner than anticipated, exacerbating the shortage.

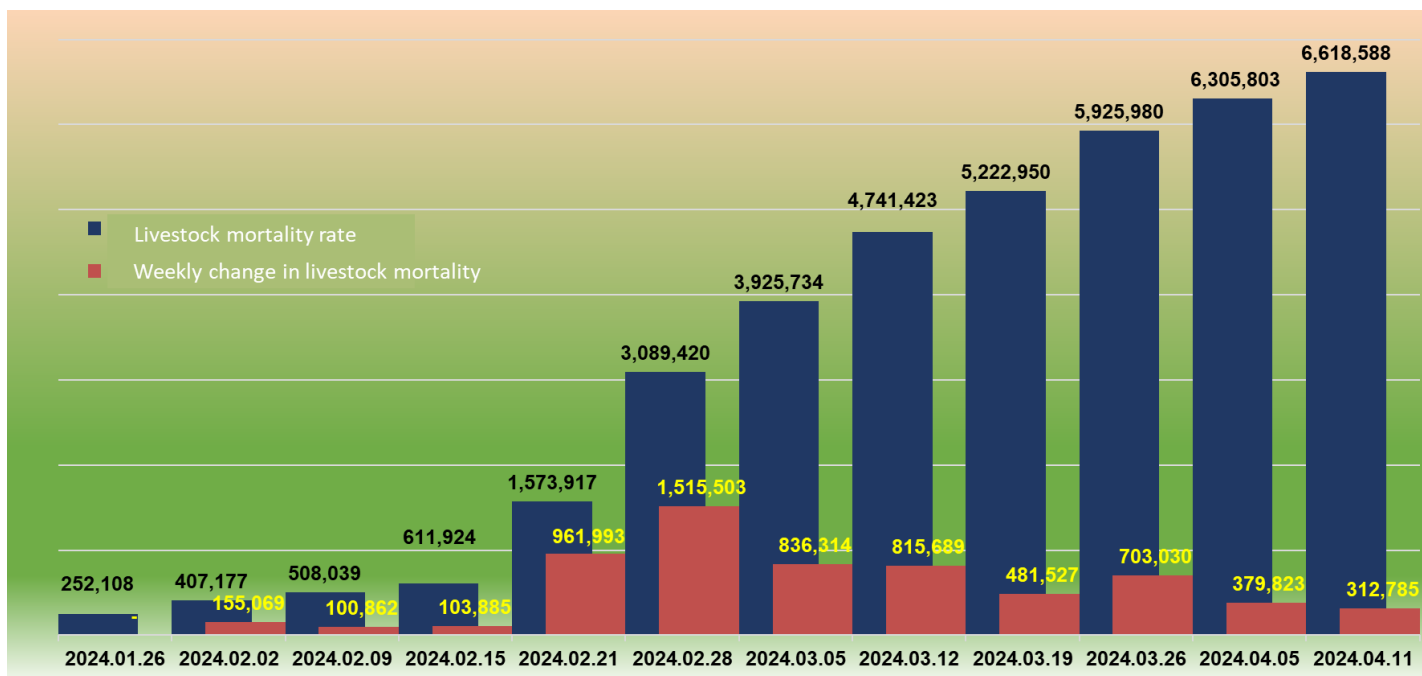
At the soum level, hay and fodder reserves have been fully distributed since January 2024. Based on MRCS assessment, household-level preparation was at 92 per cent, initiated during the August and September harvesting season. However, this preparation was inadequate due to the unexpected, heightened level of the severe winter, as herders were compelled to begin feeding their livestock in early November. The government distributed three bags of hay and fodder per family. The limited duration for which herders can sustain their livestock on these reserves, typically between 3 and 10 days, underscored the demand for additional mineral supplements to enhance livestock immunity until grazing becomes accessible.

Observations and information from field visits reveal significant gaps that need to be addressed to fully support these communities in navigating the aftermath of disasters and economic challenges. The government's provision of hay and fodder, along with efforts to clear roads for access, represents a critical initial step in addressing the immediate needs of herders. In addition, given that demand is high, hay and fodder are made available by suppliers, from one province or soum to others, at increased prices. However, further support is needed to complement the government's efforts to address the profound and diverse socioeconomic realities and impacts of affected households, and their varied capacities to withstand and recover from such disasters.

Moreover, there is a lack of comprehensive livelihood support tailored to the needs of those who have suffered significant livestock losses. This gap in support extends beyond immediate relief, pointing to the need for interventions that address the medium to long-term economic recovery and resilience-building of these communities. Without adequate support, the risk of prolonged socioeconomic instability for these herder families increases, potentially leading to deeper poverty and vulnerability.

The staple foods in Mongolia are meat, flour, oil, rice, and sugar, with very limited amounts of vegetables. In terms of protein, meat is the main source. Herders generally prepare meat before the winter in two forms, frozen and dried meat (50 per cent of each). This preserved meat could last until around July. Therefore, between the current stage and July, herders face relatively limited challenges in terms of meat resources. However, as their preserved meat continues to be depleted, herders with major livestock loss may face a reduced source of meat.

The current response also reveals a significant gap in the social insurance scheme's coverage for herder communities, with only 16.1 per cent of these communities being registered. The scheme's design, which extends coverage to entire soums rather than individual herders, presents a critical challenge as this approach fails to address the specific vulnerabilities of individual herders, who are often more directly and severely affected by adversities. To better protect and support herder communities, a more tailored insurance scheme that recognizes and adapts to the unique risks faced by individual herders is crucial. Adjusting the framework to offer coverage at the individual level would significantly enhance the scheme's effectiveness in mitigating the impacts of crises on these communities.



Livestock Mortality as of 11 April 2024 (Source: EOC)

In sum, 64.7 million livestock in Mongolia perished by the end of 2023. The livestock mortality rate has been as follows: 611,924 (0.9 per cent) by 15 February 2024; 4.7 million (7.3 per cent) by 14 March 2024; and 6.6 M (10.2 per cent) by 11 April 2024. At the beginning of April, the weekly mortality rate is decreasing. However, the lack of available

pastureland and its impact on herder’s livelihoods is still of concern. Please see earlier **Picture 2** for Vegetation Map, as of 10 April 2024, showing that 70 per cent of vegetation has not started growing. Lack of vegetation in the pasture lands means herders still need hay and fodder for their livestock.

**Public Health:**

Additionally, the gaps observed in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services further exacerbate the situation. Herder communities are faced not only with the physical loss of their livestock but also with the psychological and emotional stress that accompanies such loss, compounded by harsh living conditions and future uncertainties. Many herders who have lost all of their livestock often choose to move to the city, giving up herding life and resorting to other earning methods. There is a need for more capacity to address the mental shocks that the Dzud impacts have inflicted on herders.

At the provincial level, health services are mostly dedicated to medical care. Consequently, MHPSS services receive limited attention, mainly targeting children in dormitories, with no detailed approach for adult members of herder families. The absence of MHPSS support means that many individuals in these communities lack the necessary assistance to cope with these stresses healthily or constructively. As a result, there is an increased reliance on negative coping mechanisms, which can lead to further mental health issues and social problems within the community.

This is why, in addition to being an identified priority area of need for herders, MHPSS is a key component of the EA, highlighting the auxiliary role of the MRCS in addressing existing resource gaps at the field level. The National Health Cluster provides technical support to provincial hospitals, but the focus on MHPSS remains limited.

The need to dispose of more than five million animal carcasses is urgent, as yellow floods are expected with spring temperatures set to melt an exceptional amount of snow this year. The government has begun to safely bury animal carcasses through collection points along roads, with areas near rivers being prioritized to contain public health risks. The households on pastoral migration are the most exposed community but often ignored as most NGOs lack of grass-root network while MRCS could manage the intervention directly through its primary level branches on the site.

**Operational risk assessment**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
<p>1. snowstorms or other types of disasters such as floodings may occur during the operation, increasing the scale of response and recovery, there is a concern on the safety risks to NS staff and volunteers onsite.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase preparedness including relief items stocks</li> <li>• Ensure CP are updated</li> <li>• The IFRC security plans will apply to all IFRC staff throughout the operation. Area specific Security Risk Assessment will be conducted for any operational area should any IFRC personnel deploy there; risk mitigation measures will be identified and implemented.</li> <li>• All IFRC must, and RC/RC staff and volunteers are encouraged, to complete the IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses, i.e. Stay Safe 2.0 Global edition Level 1 to 3.</li> </ul>
<p>2. Access to the targeted communities due to hard-to-reach areas</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain existing collaboration with local authorities</li> </ul>

3. Overdue financial consolidation resulting to delayed cash transfer to implement operation	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan for scheduled financial monitoring visits to</li> </ul>
4. Finalisation of Framework Agreement for Financial Services Provider	Low	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous follow up to ensure process are followed through</li> </ul>
5. Data Management and Reporting including assessment report	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure PMER capacity building with MRCS</li> </ul>
6. Staff and Volunteers Safety	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MRCS and IFRC will provide training and equipment to staff and volunteers to help them stay safe. All MRCS staff and volunteers are encouraged, to complete the IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses, i.e. Stay Safe 2.0 Global edition Level 1-3.</li> </ul>

## B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

### Update on the strategy


The EA was launched on 15 March 2024, and the OS was finalised and published on 4 April 2024 and is available here: [Operational Strategy: Dzud Cold Wave, Mongolia 2024](#). More information on the operation can be found on the GO platform - [Mongolia](#).

To ensure that this emergency operation will lead to sustainable response, the OS tackles both emergency intervention, transition period and strengthening the capacity of MRCS. This includes distributing animal care kits in the Livelihoods sector; distributing multi-purpose cash; establishing a PSS centre at branch office level and providing PSS to affected population as part of the Health and Well-being sector; constructing WASH facilities and conduct hygiene promotion activities for the WASH sector; revisiting child safeguarding policy and sensitizing PGI in emergency for staff and volunteer working in the operation as part of PGI strategy; and, last but not least, establishing an accountability mechanism and mainstreaming CEA in every sector activity.

To have volunteer working on this operation insured by an insurance company, and brief on safety and security policy are initiatives of this EA, as part of strengthening capacity of MRCS. Having Surge capacity for help supporting CEA, PMER, and MPCA for MRCS is part of the plan to sustainably strengthen their capacity in these sectors.

## C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL REPORT

### STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

 <b>Livelihoods</b>	<b>Target</b>	Female > 18: <b>11,978</b>	Female < 18: <b>6,102</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	1,422	1,305
	<b>Target</b>	Male > 18: <b>10,990</b>	Male < 18: <b>6,930</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	1,401	1,335

**Objective:** *Mitigate livestock loss, assist vulnerable herder families in livelihood recovery, and enhance resilience to severe Dzud conditions.*

Indicator	Actual	Target
<i>Number of people reached with livelihood assistance</i>	5,803 (1,300 HH)	36,000
<i>Number of people provided with livelihood training</i>	N/A	140



*MRCS staff explaining about the hotline number to a targeted individual which could be used to contact about any issue relating to care kit distribution or MRCS services.  
(Photo: MRCS)*

MRCS's animal care kit distribution began on 2 March 2024 to targeted provinces. As of 12 April, MRCS has distributed animal care kits, including hoof ointment, mineral lick, eye ointment, fish oil, and vitamin supplement) to 3,300 HHs in total, with the support of the IFRC EA, USAID/BHA, ARC/DFAT, the Government of China, the Government of Korea, and domestic donation campaigns.

Of these, 1,300 HHs or 5,803 people (consisting of 1,422 female, 1,422 male, 1,305 girl, and 1,335 boys), were supported by IFRC EA. On the other hand, 2,000 HH, consisting of 2,060 female, 2,038 male, 1,849 girl, and 1,948 boys were supported by USAID/BHA, DFAT/ARC, and KNRC.

The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) is MNT 660,000. However, MRCS learned from previous MPCA post-distribution (PDM) findings that HHs appreciate having specific animal care items. Hence, MRCS has distributed an MPCA amounting MNT 550,000 and an animal care kit. Some HHs that received hay were provided MPCA amounting to MNT 485,000. Initial discussions with HHs have shown appreciation for the animal care kits and MPCA; a Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) is planned to be held in May and June 2024.

Besides, MRCS has distributed food parcels, warm blankets, warm clothes, and tarpaulins to 2,000 families with the support of RCSC, the Government of China, KNRC, Qatar Red Crescent Society, and the domestic donation campaign. In addition, MRCS has been providing dignity kits to 700 affected families with lactating and pregnant women with the support from UNFPA by 12 April 2024.

 <b>Multi-purpose Cash</b>	<b>Target</b>	Female > 18: <b>11,798</b>	Female < 18: <b>6,102</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	1,422	1,305
	<b>Target</b>	Male > 18: <b>10,990</b>	Male < 18: <b>6,930</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	1,401	1,335

**Objective:** *Address the immediate priority needs of small herders through MPCA, provided to the most-at-risk herder families to meet their food and other immediate basic needs, including for their livestock (see above).*

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>Number of people (and households) that received cash for basic needs after being identified and processed for transfers</i>	5,803 (1,300 HH)	21,100 (5,862 HH)

MRCS's MPCA distribution began on 2 March 2024 to targeted provinces. As of 12 April, MRCS has distributed MPCA, including animal care kit, and provided PSS services, to 3,300 HHs in total, with support of the IFRC EA, USAID/BHA, ARC/DFAT, the Government of China, the Government of Korea, and the domestic donation campaigns. Of these, 1,300 HHs or 5,803 people (consisting of 1,422 female, 1,401 male, 1,305 girl, and 1,335 boys), were supported by IFRC EA.


Meanwhile, 2,000 HHs, consisting of 2,060 female, 2,038 male, 1,849 girl, and 1,948 boys have been supported by USAID/BHA, DFAT/ARC, and KNRC. Each HH has received MNT 485,000 to MNT 550,000 or around CHF 128 to CHF 145 through the MRCS Financial Service Provider (FSP) in their bank account. MRCS signed a framework agreement with Khan Bank as their FSP for two years on 27 February 2024.

Due to availability of funding, additional timing was required to set up the shared operational system between MRCS and the FSP. MRCS is seeking options to set up the appropriate operational mechanisms to transfer cash at the headquarter level in collaboration with the FSP.

 <b>Health &amp; Care</b> <i>(Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health / Medical Services)</i>	<b>Target</b>	Female > 18: <b>11,978</b>	Female < 18: <b>6,102</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	N/A	N/A
	<b>Target</b>	Male > 18: <b>10,990</b>	Male < 18: <b>6,930</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	N/A	N/A

**Objective:** *Health risks of the targeted herder communities are reduced, and their health and well-being are improved.*

	Indicator	Actual	Target
Key indicators:	Number of people reached through MHPSS services	10,854	36,000
	Number of MHPSS stations established at branches	N/A	21
<p>MRCS has been directly and indirectly providing MHPSS and key messages to 10,854 individuals since 13 March 2024 through phone calls, in-person visits, and social media to the targeted families and affected locations. Branch staff and volunteers have provided MHPSS services mainly by talking and listening to the affected individuals as well as referring them to appropriate services provided by either individuals or organizations nationwide, in total of 21 provinces.</p> <p>MHPSS key messages have been developed together with the National Center for Mental Health and shared with local branches, as well as disseminated on the MRCS Facebook page, targeting the affected locations starting from 9 April 2024. Four separate MHPSS key messages are planned to be promoted weekly on the Facebook page and two have been posted as of 11 April 2024. The additional key messages are being developed with the National Center for Mental Health.</p> <p>Refreshing training was organised between 12 and 15 March at the MRCS training centre, covering training topics covers such as the overall Dzud response operation, distribution, MHPSS, CEA, PGI analysis, and monitoring and evaluation. A total of 35 Branch Disaster Response Team (BDRT) and 10 National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members from all mid-level Red Cross branches participated in the training.</p>			

 <b>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</b>	Target	Female > 18: <b>11,978</b>	Female < 18: <b>6,102</b>
	Actual	0	0
	Target	Male > 18: <b>10,990</b>	Male < 18: <b>6,930</b>
	Actual	0	0

**Objective:** *The main risks of WASH-borne diseases during the spring are mitigated and environmental health is improved at collective animal shelters.*

	Indicator	Actual	Target
Key indicators:	Number of people reached through WASH assistance	0	36,000
	Number of toilets constructed	0	30
	Number of people reached by hygiene promotion activities in the response period	0	36,000
	Number of handwashing stations constructed	0	30

Thus far, MRCS has conducted a rapid WASH needs assessment in dormitories of schools in two eastern provinces, Dornod and Sukhbaatar, through Branch volunteers as of 28 March 2024. The

findings highlighted that most dormitory buildings had limited access to sanitary facilities, such as lack or no shower or bath facility, unclean or lack of washing machines. For instance, there was only one shower and one washing machine utilised for 73 children. Some soum dormitories had no washing machines at all. Thus, students wash their clothes by hand.

Most dormitories had pit latrines but some soums had only one sanitation facility for 92 students. In Dornod province, male and female toilets were not separated in many dormitories, which was not always observed in practice and should be properly addressed. In addition, dormitories lacked male urinals in most of soums dormitories in Dornod. Toilets of soum dormitories were previously located outside but have now been located inside. Male children have not learned to use men’s urinals leading to unsanitary issues like splashing outside of the urinal. This shows that personal hygiene training and how to maintain sanitation facilities are in need. It has also been highlighted that boys’ hygiene corners needs to be established.

Moreover, the main water supplies were transported from other places since there was not sufficient water available to wash up. As a result, children were only able to wash some part of their bodies in a big bucket. It was also challenging to get haircuts in the dormitory. The needs of hygiene items have been highlighted, in which hand soap, wet wipes, hair gel, toothpaste, toothbrush, towel, toilet paper, detergent, razor, shaving foam, body deodorant, foot deodorant, nail clipper, and air freshener, are requested. It was reported that parents are unable to fulfil their children’ personal hygiene kits though such needs are essential to children aged between 6 to 17 years old in the dormitories.

Furthermore, MRCS is planning to organize WASH in emergencies training of trainers (ToT) training four times for the relevant government agencies, such as NEMA, particularly focusing on urban flash floods as part of a programme funded by UNICEF. The training aims to prepare 150 trainers on WASH in emergencies, along with pre-positioning emergency WASH items in 20 locations in the flood-prone areas in the Capital, as part of preparedness for the urban flash flooding. The training will focus on increasing awareness and skills of participants on identification of areas with high-flood risks, preparedness measures, hygiene promotion, among other topics.

 <b>Protection, Gender and Inclusion</b>	<b>Target</b>	Female > 18: <b>11,978</b>	Female < 18: <b>6,102</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	28	N/A
	<b>Target</b>	Male > 18: <b>10,990</b>	Male < 18: <b>6,930</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	17	N/A

**Objective:** *PGI is integrated into the needs analysis, including details of the most affected groups and consideration of specific groups in the selection criteria.*

	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Target</b>
<b>Key indicators:</b>	<i>Number of RCRC staff and volunteers briefed and signing policies, including orientation for staff and volunteers on PGI, Code of Conduct, with an emphasis on PSEA and Child Safeguarding before deployments to field</i>	45	1,000

PGI in Emergencies training for MRCS staff and volunteers have conducted as part of the refreshing training to mainstream PGI in other sector activities to 35 BDRT and 10 NDRT members or a total of 45 staff and volunteers between 12 and 15 March 2024 at the MRCS training centre. PGI in Emergency is also being used to set criteria and supporting mechanisms to ensure inclusion and participation of the identified vulnerable groups in the MRCS Dzud intervention, including CEA and cash assistance. Besides, it is planned to review the existing child safeguarding risk analysis to strengthening child protection capacity of MRCS.



Participants discussing and analysing PGI gaps in the PGI Training of Training (Photo: MRCS)



### Community Engagement and Accountability

<b>Target</b>	Female > 18: <b>11,978</b>	Female < 18: <b>6,102</b>
<b>Actual</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>Target</b>	Male > 18: <b>10,990</b>	Male < 18: 6,930
<b>Actual</b>	N/A	N/A

#### Objective:

Targeted communities are consulted and able to share their views about the assistance received or planned, and programmes and operations are planned and adapted accordingly.

#### Key indicators:

Indicator	Actual	Target
Methods established to communicate with communities about what is happening in the operation, including selection criteria if these are being used	Ongoing	Yes
Number of staff/volunteers involved in emergency operations oriented in CEA	45	1,000

As part of the OS, a CEA surge officer has been deployed to support the response and to strengthen the CEA capacity based on lessons learned from the ongoing CEA activities by MRCS. A good example of this is the activation of the MRCS hotline that community members can use to share feedback. MRCS is utilizing KoBo toolbox to capture the feedback received through the hotline, as well as the feedback received in person by local branch staff and volunteers. Instructions on how to register feedback were shared with the local branches during the refresher training. Since 2 March 2024, a total of 194 feedback submissions have been received. Fifty-two per cent was made through a phone call to the hotline; 46 per cent was shared in person and the remaining two per cent came through

Facebook. The feedback was equally provided by men (43 per cent) and women (44 per cent) with the age between 18 and 79 years old.

## Enabling approaches



### National Society Strengthening

<b>Objective:</b>	<i>Support the MRCS with the implementation of pre-existing capacity strengthening efforts as outlined in the MRCS strategy.</i>		
<b>Key indicators:</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Target</b>
	<i>Number of volunteers insured throughout the operation</i>	N/A	1,000
	<i>Number of volunteers trained or briefed on safety and security for the operations</i>	45	1,000

MRCS has started the process to ensure that all staff and volunteers are insured and briefed on safety and security before participating in the operation. The expected total number of volunteers involved will be 1,000 volunteers, according to available budget. The list of these 1,000 volunteers is currently being collected for volunteer insurance. As of 15 March 2024, a total of 45 staff and volunteers have been briefed on safety and security during the refresher training on 12 to 15 March 2024.



### Secretariat Services

<b>Objective:</b>	<i>Strengthening coordination within both the IFRC membership and within the Movement to bring technical and operational complementarity and enhance cooperation with external partners</i>		
<b>Key indicators:</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Target</b>
	<i>Number of surge staff deployed for the operation</i>	3	4
	<i>Number of IFRC monitoring and support missions</i>	3	4
	<i>Percentage of financial reports respecting IFRC procedures</i>	100%	100%
	<i>Department provides constant support to the National Society's logistics unit for replenishment and other procurements</i>	Yes	Yes
	<i>Number of evaluations conducted for this operation</i>	Planned	1 (Final Evaluation)

At the time of the reporting, there are three surge members in total in country. The profiles are Operations Manager, CEA Officer and PMER Officer. Surge alert for CVA profile is currently in progress of recruitment.

The Head of Delegation of CCD East Asia paid a visit and was part of MRCS Rapid Need assessment team in Dornod and Sukhbaatar (eastern provinces). Since the start of Surge deployment, the Operation Manager conducted field visits two times in Tuv province.

## **D. FUNDING**

The Emergency Appeal currently has a funding coverage of 20 per cent out of the total secretariat funding request. This percentage excludes the IFRC DREF amount, which has already been approved for the operation and stands at CHF 1 million.

## Contact information

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

### At the Mongolian Red Cross Society:

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### At the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation in Beijing:

- Olga Dzhumaeva, Head of Delegation; email: [olga.dzhumaeva@ifrc.org](mailto:olga.dzhumaeva@ifrc.org)
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### At the IFRC Asia-Pacific Regional Office in Kuala Lumpur:

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### At IFRC Geneva:

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### For IFRC Resource Mobilisation and Pledges support:

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### For In-Kind Donations and Mobilisation table support:

- Nuraiza Khairuddin, Manager – Regional Logistics Unit; email: [nuraiza.khairuddin@ifrc.org](mailto:nuraiza.khairuddin@ifrc.org)

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

- Mursidi Unir, PMER in Emergencies Coordinator, email: [mursidi.unir@ifrc.org](mailto:mursidi.unir@ifrc.org)

### Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Previous Appeals and updates](#)

## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief, the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable, to **Principles of Humanitarian Action** and **IFRC policies and procedures**. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.