

# ***MONGOLIA: STEPPE AND FOREST FIRES***

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## ***Latest events***

In an official statement this morning in Ulaanbaatar, the government of Mongolia appealed for external assistance to help it fight the steppe and forest fires that are raging out of control in the north of the country. Most of the items requested are fire fighting equipment and supplies for firefighters, but 1,000 first aid kits and 60 ger tents, traditional housing for nomads, are also needed.

The Federation's resident Representative in Mongolia, Nobuko Yamagishi, told the Secretariat that embassies in the Mongolian capital may cover the cost of the ger tents. The Secretariat is looking into the possibilities of procuring the first aid kits with support of National Societies in the region due to logistical reasons.

The government stated that although hundreds of families are believed to have lost their homes and belongings in the fires, exact figures on the numbers affected are not yet available. Needs assessments are under way and being carried out in co-operation with the local authorities and local Red Cross branches.

For details on the areas affected by the fires and Mongolian Red Cross relief efforts to date, please see yesterday's Information Bulletin.

Further information will be issued when specific details about relief needs become available.

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