

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## **MONGOLIA SNOWFALLS**

18 January 2002

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*This Information Bulletin is for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.*

### ***The Situation***

The western and southern provinces (aimags) of Bayan Olgii, Khovd, Us, Zavkhan, Gobi Altai, Bayankhongor and Uverkhangai are suffering the affects of heavy snowfalls with temperatures plunging to well below -25°C. The same areas were still recovering from a severe drought in the summer.

High numbers of livestock, the sole livelihood of the majority of nomadic herders, have been lost. Bayanhongor is the worst affected aimag and as many as 650,000 animals have already perished, almost 50% of the area's animals. Overall, more than 1.5 million animals have probably died. The situation is likely to worsen as surviving animals weaken and starve because of a lack of feed and fodder.

The Mongolian Government is taking the disaster seriously and assistance is being given to the stricken area via the delivery of hay, fodder and food.

Representatives from the Mongolian Red Crescent Society and the International Federation will leave for an assessment mission to Uverkhangai, Bayanhongor and GobiAltai provinces tomorrow.

A number of other agencies, including representatives from the US Embassy, USAID, Save the Children, UNICEF and UNDP are undertaking field trips to the affected areas

A joint agency meeting to discuss assessment findings is scheduled for 25 January.

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

After the assessment of affected provinces, the Red Cross will meet with other relief agencies and government departments to discuss findings and interventions.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

*For further details please contact :*

- *The Mongolia Red Cross Society in ULAAN BAATAR ; Phone 97611321578; Fax 97611320934; email [redcross@magicnet.mn](mailto:redcross@magicnet.mn)*

- Aurelia Balpe, Phone 41 22 7304352; Fax 41 22 733 0395; email [balpe@ifrc.org](mailto:balpe@ifrc.org)

*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.*

Peter Rees-Gildea  
Head, a.i.  
Relationship Management Department

Hiroshi Higashiura  
Head  
Asia & Pacific