

# 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: DROUGHT***

*10 September 2002*

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*This Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. Based on further updates and details from assessment reports, or should the situation deteriorate, the Federation may consider a request for further international support.*

### ***The Situation***

Approximately 70 per cent of Mongolia has been strained with a severe drought over the summer. Extreme heat, with record temperatures of up to 60 degrees Celsius at ground level, has affected hay and crop production and caused 100 serious forest fires. This is the third year of disastrous conditions, severely affecting herder communities. The drought has, as a rule, been a reliable warning sign for extreme winter conditions, called Dzud.<sup>1</sup>

The cumulative effects of three repeated droughts and two Dzuds, with several million dead animals, have resulted in a meat and fuel deficit, increased meat prices, loss of livelihood for thousands of herders, rapid rural depopulation and migration to province centres and Ulaanbaatar. All this threatens the Mongolian Government's efforts to implement the Programme to eradicate poverty and to overcome the difficulties in the transition to a market economy. The repeated calamities have also strained the Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS), which is attempting both to provide assistance to the victims of disasters and to increase the preparedness of the population for disasters.

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

The Mongolian Red Cross Society in cooperation with the Federation Delegation in Mongolia has been gathering information about the drought and its effects using the MRCS's network of branches. An initial fact-finding assessment of the drought situation in the central provinces was conducted by the Federation Field Delegate and the MRCS Information Officer in August 2002. The MRCS is monitoring the situation in close contact with the State Emergency Disaster Management authorities.

The MRCS and Federation are currently considering the implementation of a more in-depth assessment.

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

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<sup>1</sup> Mongolians refer to different kinds of Dzuds: "white-dzud", heavy winter snow prevents access to grazing because of the depth of snow, "iron-dzud", thawing and refreezing of autumn or spring snow forms a sheet of ice over the pasture, reducing access and "black-dzud" means that during the previous summer, lack of rain reduces the growth of summer grass.

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*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.*

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