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Information bulletin

Mongolia: Earthquakes

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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Date of disaster: 16 February 2019 (Arkhangai Province); 18 and 24 February 2019 (Selenge Province); 27 February 2019 (Tuv Province); 2 March 2019 (Gobi-Altai Province)	Point of contract: Munguntuya Sharavnyambuu, Disaster Management Programme Manager
Host National Society: Mongolian Red Cross Society	

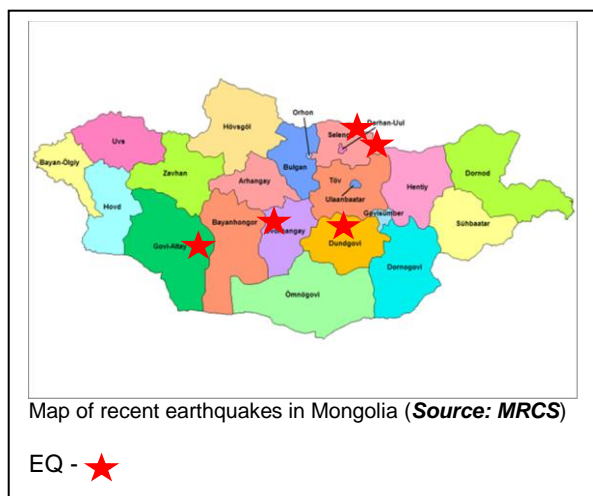
This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Mongolian Red Cross Society, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

The situation

Within a one-month period, Mongolia experienced five earthquakes in four different provinces of the country (see map below). The first one occurred on 16 February 2019 at 13:23hrs with a magnitude of 4.6 in Ulziit soum¹ of Arkhangai province. The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) received a phone call at 13:48 about the earthquake from Yamaat bagh², which is located southeast of Ulziit soum. The bagh is located 120 km from the province center, and areas known as Tsogt-Uul, Bor Tolgoi and the 'prosecutor building' experienced tremors. The epicenter of the earthquake was 28 km to the southeast of the soum center at a latitude of 47.88 and longitude of 102.79 in a wilderness area where no livestock or people present. The earthquake did not cause any damage and there were no casualties.

The second earthquake occurred on 18 February 2019 at 07:00 with a magnitude of 3.6 in Mandal soum of Selenge province. NEMA received the information from the National Institute of Astronomy and Geophysics at 08:00 on the same day. The epicenter was 40 km from the soum center and no casualties were reported.

The third earthquake occurred on 24 February 2019 at 23:50 with a magnitude of 3.73 in Khuder soum of Selenge province, approximately 60 km from the soum center. According to soum authorities, no casualties were reported as the earthquake epicenter occurred in a remote location.



The fourth earthquake occurred on 27 February 2019 at 22:45hrs with a magnitude of 4.06 in Zaamar soum of Tuv province according to the National Institute of Astronomy and Geophysics. According to the local emergency agency, no casualties were reported.

A pit mine located in Zaamar soum of Tuv province collapsed on 28 February 2019, causing injury to two people and four deaths of who were buried under the collapsed mining pit. According to NEMA, this event was not related to the earthquake; however, an investigation is underway.

The fifth earthquake with the magnitude of 3.8 occurred on 2 March 2019 at 03:46hrs in Tonkhil soum of Gobi-Altai province. The earthquake occurred in a remote area and no casualties were reported. Even though no casualties reported in all five

occurrences, NEMA is urging local authorities to encourage community members to take part in earthquake preparedness trainings and simulation exercises. All MRCS mid-level branches are providing earthquake trainings to

¹ Soum is local administrative unit after province.

² Bagh is a Mongolian term for the lowest administrative level of a province.

the public as part of the “Be Ready” training module with local emergency management agencies. Ideally, the MRCS mid-level branches are aiming to cover the population in their respective areas and targeting at least 30 per cent of the total population.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

MRCS’s Secretary General is a member of the “Standing Council of Earthquake Preparedness” and MRCS has been actively monitoring the situation. According to Regulation No. 67 of the Government, the fourth Wednesday of March is Earthquake Prevention Day and MRCS has instructed all of its mid-level branches to organize trainings for the general public and implement a public campaign to increase knowledge on earthquake preparedness for community members. A total of 30 mid-level branches will be organizing training to reach at least one organization in each of their respective areas, and public campaign volunteers will be reaching at least 3,000 people between 2 to 28 March 2019.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

NEMA has ordered local authorities to increase the number of trainings that are being provided to the general public. NEMA and Ulaanbaatar City Governor’s Office are planning to conduct a three-day simulation exercise on “Earthquake in Ulaanbaatar City” from 24 to 26 April 2019. This large-scale simulation exercise is being organized for the first time since the 1990’s. The purpose of the simulation exercise is to test city-level response plan and coordination of all organizations involved in response activities. MRCS is part of the organizing committee and all of the national disaster response team (NDRT) and district-level branch disaster response team (BDRT) members will be mobilized, as well as Movement partners, including coordination with the IFRC Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) in Beijing, the IFRC Regional Office for Asia Pacific in Kuala Lumpur, and the IFRC in Geneva.

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. 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.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.
