

OPERATIONS UPDATE



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

24 July 2002

This Ops Update is intended for reporting on emergency appeals.

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 178 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

Appeal No. 07/01: Launched on 14 February 2001 for CHF 2,864,472 (USD 1.98m/EUR 1.97m) for 12 months for 35,000 Beneficiaries (7,022 families). The operation has been extended through 31 October. The extended operation proposes to assist an additional 24,200 beneficiaries (4,400 families).

Operations Update No. 8; Period covered: February- June 2002; Last Update: No. 7 February 2002; Next Update No. 9 expected August 2002.

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 122.9%

Related Appeals: 01.39/2002; Mongolia

Summary: The programme has been extended, after consultation with donors, to utilise unspent funding to assist nomadic herding families affected by a third dzud event (severe conditions with heavy snow) during the 2001-2002 winter. Another severe winter has devastated the western and south western provinces of Mongolia, causing high loss of livestock, further threatening the livelihood of many families who faced similar difficulties during 2000-01 winter. The programme is to be extended until 31 October 2002, to bring timely relief to the most seriously affected.

In view of the Operation's extension, an interim financial report is being made available as part of this Operations Update and is attached as an annex.

Operational Developments w

The long, cold and stormy winter of 2001-02, with over twenty recorded snowfalls, drastically affected the western and south-western aimags (provinces) of Mongolia. All soums (districts) of GobiAltai and Bayanhongor were affected by the heavy snowfalls and ensuing dzud conditions, and areas of Uvs, BayanOlgii, Khovd and Uverkhangai also suffered similar conditions. Two ferocious storms in March and April, with gale force winds, dust, snow and high wind chill, added to the difficulties, eventually leading to ten human deaths.

Due to continuing drought in the summer of 2001, there was little grass growth in much of the stricken area mentioned above, preventing the harvesting of hay for winter animal feed, and giving rise to a high number of families migrating with their livestock to other areas in search of better grazing. Thus areas where there was grass were overused. This poor preparation, slow and inadequate response by the authorities and the harsh

winter conditions which hampered assistance resulted in the loss of 1.8 million head of livestock in the six aimag.

According to aimag and soum officials in the region, the large animals (cows, yaks, horses and camels) have fared the worst, and there was a high number lost. Visits to a number of herder families confirmed this, most of them having only one or two remaining from their original herds. One family group visited, typical of many others, began the winter with 1,200 animals and now have only 32 remaining, mainly sheep and goats. They stated that they did not have enough to support themselves and did not know what they were going to do.

The winter also decimated the breeding stock in the area, greatly reducing the numbers of new born animals in the affected aimags. In Bayankhongor, 9 out of 21 soums, have recorded no new born animals. With this, there is now a shortage of lactating animals that provide milk and butter fat, an essential part of the herders’ food source for spring and summer, and dairy products to be stored for later consumption.

The herders rely completely on their animals for their livelihood. Animals are the main source of food (meat and dairy products), fibre and hides are used for clothing and shelter, and dung is used for fuel. Animals also provide transportation and are used as income or barter.

According to Mongolia Red Cross Society (MRCS) figures, this disaster has resulted in 30,041 families (approximately 165,260 people), either completely losing their animals or not having enough livestock to support themselves.

This ongoing disaster, combined with the difficulties of the two previous years (drought and dzud) has had severe affects on the morale and physical condition of many of the herding people. They are exhausted, despondent or psychologically affected, resulting in a number of suicides. Those who have less than 50 animals are unsure of what they are going to do, and face an uncertain future.

As with the two previous dzuds in 1999-2000 and 2002-2001 winters, a movement of families to the soum and aimag centres and to Ulaan Baatar, is now being witnessed. In Bayankhongor, 204 “displaced” families were recorded in February and another 2,000 is expected over the next few months. This movement is happening in the other affected aimags, but at this stage it is hard to give accurate statistics.

These displaced families face a very difficult life. High unemployment in the centres, lack of skills to integrate into an urban lifestyle and difficulty in receiving social welfare benefits (many cannot afford to pay the registration fees of 50,000 tugriks per adult or 28,000 tg. per child) are factors.

The MRCS Branch Secretary and aimag Governor in Bayankhongor, both report that numbers are approaching their offices seeking assistance and food.

Progress on Original Plan of Action

The Mongolia Snowfalls Appeal 07/01 was initiated to support herding families affected by the 2000-01 winter, targeting 7,022 families with food aid, and 15,000 families with first aid kits and radio and battery distributions. The food aid and first aid kits have been distributed, as reported in Operations Update No.7, dated 1 February 2002.

Radio distributions were postponed due to difficulties in selection of the most appropriate model, and the time involved in procurement. This has now been overcome and the MRCS and Federation have to date received 5,440 radios (of 15,000 total) and distributions have begun in six of the targeted aimags (Zavkhan, Uverkhangai, Tuv, GobiAltai, GobiSumber and Sukhbaatar).

Distribution of radios as of 25 June :

Aimag	No. of Families	No. of Radios
Zavkhan	320	320
Uverkhangai	250	250
GobiAltai	1'800	1'800

GobiSumber	200	200
Sukhbaatar	800	800
Tuv	1'690	1'690
TOTALS	5'060	5'060

Further delivery of radios is expected and it is planned to continue the distributions in the near future.

A purchase order for 138,080 Samsung LR6 batteries has been placed by the Federation's Logistics Department in Geneva with the manufacturer in Korea, with a delivery date of no later than 15 July.

As a result of ongoing delivery of radios and the awaited delivery of batteries, the operation has taken more time than planned, but is expected to be completed by October 2002.

Extension Activities

The harsh 2001-02 winter resulted in more families requiring assistance, and it was decided to utilise unspent funding from the Mongolia Snowfalls 2001 Appeal, with the approval of the donors, to target the most vulnerable. This has been entitled the Relief Operation Extension.

The Appeal coverage was 125.5%, leaving a considerable amount of funds unspent (CHF 703,000).

Coordination w

The MRCS and the Federation were informed of the conditions and difficulties being faced in the West and South-western regions early in 2002, and visited Uverkhangai and Bayankhongor aimags in late January early February, on an assessment field trip. The serious nature of the situation and its likelihood to deteriorate was confirmed, and predictions and observations indicated that there was worse to come.

Meetings were held with the State Emergency Commission, UNDP, UNICEF, JCS, World Vision and other organisations to ensure a good flow of information. The Programme Coordinator met with WFP, who had been alerted about the situation.

It was announced by the Mongolian Government that they would not be seeking international assistance, and would attempt to assist the area from their own resources.

JCS reported that they were seeking CHF 225,000 from the Swiss Government to provide food aid to GobiAltai and Bayankhongor. In GobiAltai, JCS will distribute to 2,570 families in 16 soums, with rations that will last a month. In Bayankhongor, their implementing partner was to be World Vision who are to target 740 families in six soums with a five monthly ration package. These distributions were planned for April and May.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action w

The MRCS indicated that they wished to provide relief to the six worst affected aimags, targeting 4,400 families who lost all their livestock. The National Society was keen to raise a third emergency appeal, but it was decided to utilise unspent funding from the Mongolia Snowfalls 2001 Appeal, which amounted to CHF 703,000. All donors have been contacted about this extension and have given their approval to go ahead.

With this amount, the MRCS proposed to assist 4,400 families (24,200 people) with 150 kgs. of wheat flour, 5 ltr. of cooking oil, 2 kgs of black tea, 1 pair of leather boots and a set of clothing per family. The food rations are a three monthly package, intended to supplement the herders dwindling stocks of dried meat and dairy products, and assist in preparations for the coming winter by preserving the households' limited assets. The boots and clothes will replace those worn out during the winter.

Short term logistics, field and information delegates were recruited by the Federation. The Federation logistics delegate arrived in Mongolia on 17 May, and tendering for supply of commodities is continuing. The field delegate arrived on 29 May and is currently involved in the distribution planning process with the MRCS, and monitoring radio distributions.

It is hoped to begin the MRCS distributions for the Relief Operation Extension in early August, and to complete the operation by the end of October.

As this operation begins, the Vulnerability Capacity Assessment, implemented by the MRCS in two rural and one industrial area, and two urban districts of Ulaan Baatar, begins the analysis phase. This process will continue, and lead to the revision of MRCS programmes, and the drawing up of the 2003 Appeal for development. It is believed that this will further identify the needs of vulnerable groups (including “displaced” herders), and give direction as to how these groups can be best assisted, following up on the benefits of the relief operation.

Mongolian Red Cross Society w

The MRCS became aware of the developing situation in January, and informed the Federation of their concerns. This was followed by an assessment field trip to two of the affected aimags by a combined MRCS / Federation team, and to another aimag by the MRCS Secretary General. Ongoing monitoring of the situation continued and meetings were held with other agencies to exchange information and to coordinate efforts. The MRCS provided some initial relief through their own limited supplies, and continued visits to affected herder families to give morale and psycho-social support.

Objectives, activities and results w

The MRCS and Federation continue to work towards the completion of the original objectives set forth in the Mongolia Snowfalls Appeal 07/01, with the distributions of the radios and batteries, which is planned to be finished by October.

Meanwhile, the Relief Operation Extension, utilising unspent funding is underway. The extended operation is focusing on the following activities.

Relief distribution of food and basic non-food items w

It is proposed that unspent funding be utilised in assisting herder families affected in the six aimags of the west and south western area of Mongolia. With CHF 703,000 available, it will be possible to assist 4,400 families (24,200 people (average family size = 5.5 persons)) with a relief package of 150 kgs of wheat flour, 51 kgs of cooking oil, 2 kgs of block tea, a set of winter clothing (pants and jacket), and 1 pair of winter boots, per family.

A distribution plan has been drawn up by the MRCS, with proposed starting dates of implementation (see below).

Distribution Plan:

Aimag	No. of Soums	No. of families	Proposed starting dates
GobiAltai	18	2'065	12 August
Bayankhongor	20	1'054	19 August
BayanOlgii	7	385	26 August
Uvs	8	351	Yet to be decided
Khovd	7	385	26 August
Uverkhangai	5	160	2 September
TOTAL	65	4'400	

The extended operation is now in the procurement and distribution planning stages. The Federation logistics delegate is assisting the MRCS with the procurement of commodities and the hire of transportation, and a field delegate is working with the MRCS on the planning of distributions and in the monitoring and reporting stages. In both cases, the Federation delegates are working in close cooperation with MRCS staff.

The Relief Operation Extension will be conducted in the same manner as the two previous operations for the 1999-2000 and 2000-01 dzuds, using the experience of the MRCS and their close contacts with local authorities at aimag and soum level. Beneficiaries will be selected from among the most vulnerable of the affected population, and will include families that have lost all or most of their animals, and therefore lost their

livelihood. Many of these families will have been forced to leave the grasslands, and will have moved to the aimag and soum centres.

Beneficiary lists are being drawn up by the MRCS personnel in collaboration with local authority staff of the six aimags, and notification of distributions will be posted in due course by notices, radio broadcasts and word of mouth.

Objective 1: To provide wheat flour, cooking oil and tea to 4,400 families (24,200 men, women and children) for three months as a supplement to dwindling food reserves.

The distribution of this food is essential in supporting the selected families through a difficult time when stocks of dried meat will run out, and dairy products in the area will be few. It will also assist families in preparations for the next winter.

Objective 2: To provide a set of winter clothes and a pair of boots to the head of the household, which can be a man or a woman.

During the past winter, these items were worn out by the labours of the herders in trying to manage their livestock. By providing these items, the small assets of a herding family can be used on other essentials.

Objective 3: During the monitoring stage, beneficiaries will be interviewed by the Federation's field delegate to produce information which will assist the programme planning of the MRCS.

It is recognised that one of the biggest challenges facing Mongolia is the growing number of herding families forced to leave the grasslands due to drought and dzud, and moving to the urban centres. For the National Society, the question still to be fully answered, is how to continue assistance to this group, within the core programmes.

Objective 4: To provide psycho-social support.

The visiting of MRCS members and local authority staff, combined with the distribution of commodities is seen as having deeper affects, and will help some depressed families deal with the loss of their animals and livelihood. At soum level the MRCS will continue visits to vulnerable families.

National Society Capacity Building w

A number of logistical resources have been budgeted for at the request of the MRCS. This is in the form of :

- 3 Computers
- 3 Printers
- 6 Cameras
- 3 Video cameras
- 1 LSD projector
- 2 Satellite phones
- 2 GPS
- 1 Gaz 4WD van

This equipment will support the development of communications and information dissemination at Branch level and provide another 4WD vehicle essential for personnel transport in difficult terrain where the population is sparsely distributed or remote.

The two satellite telephones and two GPS have been requested as essential safety items, which could save MRCS staff lives, particularly during the harsh winters when travel can be very difficult and risky.

The Federation delegates are working closely with their MRCS counterparts, who are well experienced in relief matters, but will be benefiting from involvement in the logistics process which is closely following Federation procedures.

Federation Delegation w

As mentioned above, the Federation recruited three delegates to assist with this operation. Their contracts are 3-4 months which should see the completion of the Mongolia Snowfalls 2001 Appeal, with the distribution of

the radios and batteries, and the Relief Operation Extension implemented. The overall management is the responsibility of a longer term Programme Coordinator.

Conditions in Ulaan Baatar are very acceptable with good quality accommodation and plentiful food. Conditions are challenging in the field, with long distances and rough roads to be travelled. Winters are severe and require special preparations and care when travelling outside the city.

Advocacy/Public Information w

Within the budget for the Relief Operation Extension, as for the earlier relief operation, funding is being allocated for advocacy and information dissemination. The MRCS will broadcast on radio and television, information relating to the relief operation, to inform beneficiaries of coming distributions and the public of their actions, increasing the reputation and visibility of the National Society.

It is expected that articles will be produced by the Federation's information delegate and MRCS Programme Manager for Information and Dissemination, for local and international circulation. Video footage of distributions is planned to be distributed.

- **Outstanding needs**

There are no outstanding needs.

For further details please contact: Aurelia Balpe, Phone : 41 22 730 43 52, Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: 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.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's website.

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

John Horekens
Director
External Relations Division

Simon Missiri
Head
Asia and Pacific Department

Mongolia: Snowfalls						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. AP07/2001						PLEDGES RECEIVED
						16.07.2002
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2'864'472		TOTAL COVERAGE 122.9%
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		250'000	AUD	216'275	26.02.2001	WHEAT FLOUR
AUSTRIAN - GOVT		72'673	EUR	110'412	09.05.01	
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID		245'098	GBP	590'686	13.03.01	RELIEF GOODS & OPERATIONAL NEED
CANADIAN - RC		20'000	CAD	21'650	20.02.01	
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA		108'900	CAD	122'676	17.04.2001	NOT TO BE USED FOR PURCHASE AND /OR TRANSPORT OF ANY FOOD ITEMS
DANISH - RC		231'250	DKK	47'638	20.02.01	
ECHO (01001)		328'133	EUR	500'250	17.04.01	FOOD, FIRST AID, RADIOS, VEHICLES
FINNISH - GOVT		84'094	EUR	129'370	07.03.01	
GERMAN - GOVT/RC		561'798	DEM	423'090	22.02.01	850 MT WHEAT FLOUR, INCL TRANSPORT
GERMAN - GOVT/RC		264'045	DEM	198'852	22.02.01	10'000 FIRST AID KITS, INCL TRANSPORT
JAPANESE - RC				143'000	01.03.01	
KOREA, REPUBLIC - RC				20'000	20.03.01	
LIECHTENSTEIN - RC				50'000	30.03.01	
NETHERLANDS - RC		112'360	NLG	77'224	07.03.01	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		700'000	NOK	130'964	09.04.01	
OPEC		100'000	USD	162'800	02.04.01	PROCUREMENT OF RELIEF ITEMS
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		1'000'000	SEK	173'700	20.02.01	RELIEF (60%) AND OPERATIONAL NEEDS
SWISS - GOVT				250'000	14.02.01	WHEAT FLOUR, RADIOS
SWISS - PRIVATE DONOR				1'250	07.03.01	
SWISS - PRIVATE DONOR (CHAINE DU BONHEUR)				26'240	19.09.2001	
PRIVATE DONORS ON LINE				2'430	10.04.01	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				3'398'507	CHF	118.6%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Japan	Delegate(s)			40'082		
Australia	Delegate(s)			35'482		AB
New Zealand	Delegate(s)			47'474		AB
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				123'038	CHF	4.3%

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

Interim report	X
Annual report	
Final report	

Appeal No & title: 07/2001 Mongolia snowfalls

Period: years 2001 & 2002 (30/06) - Interim report

Project(s): PMN505

Currency: CHF

I - CONSOLIDATED RESPONSE TO APPEAL

FUNDING	CASH		KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL INCOME
	Contributions		Goods/Services	Personnel	
Appeal budget	2,864,472				
less Cash brought forward					
TOTAL ASSISTANCE SOUGHT	2,864,472				
<u>Contributions from Donors</u>					
Australian Government (DGAU)	226,218				226,218
Austrian Govt.via Austrian Red Cross (DGNAT)	111,553				111,553
Canadian Govt. Red Cross Aid Trust (DGNCA01)	127,467				127,467
Canadian Red Cross (DNCA)	21,625				21,625
Danish Red Cross (DNDK)	47,059				47,059
DFID - British Government (DFID)	603,064				603,064
Miscellaneous	-67				-67
ECHO/MNG/210/2001/01001 (DEMN02)	500,250				500,250
Finnish Govt.via Finnish Red Cross (DGNFI)	128,916				128,916
German Govt.via German Red Cross # 1 (DGND)	275,654				275,654
German Govt.via German Red Cross # 2 (DGND)	125,852				125,852
Japanese Red Cross (DNJP)	143,000				143,000
Netherlands Red Cross (DNNL)	69,383				69,383
Norwegian Govt.via Norwegian Red Cro (DGNN)	120,015				120,015
Norwegian Red Cross (DNNO)	13,335				13,335
Private Donors-online donations (DPOLD)	2,430				2,430
Republic of Korea Red Cross (DNKR)	20,000				20,000
Swedish Govt.via Swedish Red Cross (DGNSE)	83,500				83,500
Swedish Red Cross (DNSE)	83,500				83,500
Swiss Government (DGCH)	250,000				250,000
Switzerland - Private Donors (DPCH)	27,670				27,670
Japan				40082	40,082
Australia				35482	35,482
New Zealand				47474	47,474
TOTAL	2,980,425			123,038	3,103,463

II - Balance of funds

Opening balance	
CASH INCOME Rcv'd	2,980,425
CASH EXPENDITURE	-2,248,448

CASH BALANCE	731,977

Appeal No & title: 07/2001 Mongolia snowfalls

Period: years 2001 & 2002 (30/06) - Interim report

Project(s): PMN505

Currency: CHF

III - Breakdown of expenditures

Description	CASH Expenditures	KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL Expenditures
		Goods/services	Personnel	
<u>SUPPLIES</u>				
Food/Seeds	740,505			740,505
Medical & First Aid	256,684			256,684
Other relief supplies	115,440			115,440
Sub-Total	1,112,628			1,112,628
<u>CAPITAL EXPENSES</u>				
Vehicles	114,297			114,297
Computers & Telecom equip.	27,369			27,369
Other capital expenditures	10,150			10,150
Sub-Total	151,816			151,816
<u>TRANSPORT & STORAGE</u>	329,890			329,890
Sub-Total	329,890			329,890
<u>PERSONNEL</u>				
Personnel (delegates)	101,003		123,038	224,041
Personnel (local staff)	100,917			100,917
Sub-Total	201,920		123,038	324,958
<u>GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION</u>				
Assessment/Monitoring/experts	31,345			31,345
Travel & related expenses	26,424			26,424
Information expenses	34,107			34,107
Administrative expenses	116,905			116,905
External workshops & Seminars				
Sub-Total	208,782			208,782
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>				
Programme management	140,287			140,287
Technical services	42,002			42,002
Professional services	46,594			46,594
Sub-Total	228,883			228,883
Operational provisions	14,529			14,529
Transfers to National Societies				
TOTAL	2,248,448		123,038	2,371,486