

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

11 June, 2003

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. 02/03; launched on 17 January, 2003 for CHF 3,906,000 (USD 2.85 million or EUR 2.67 million) for 10 months for 115,000 beneficiaries; budget decreased to CHF 3,147,000.

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: CHF 300,000

Beneficiaries: 115,000 people or 23,000 families revised to 96,565 people or 19,313 families.

Operations Update No. 2; Period covered: 14 March - 30 April 2003; Last Update: 13 March, 2003; next Update no. 3 expected: 31 July 2003

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 80%

Related Appeals: 2003 Annual Appeal for Mongolia (no. 01.68/2003)

Outstanding needs: CHF 883,365

Operational Developments.

Launched in January 2003 following an assessment of the crisis in November 2002, the overall aim of this emergency appeal is to contribute to the *dzud* survival and recovery of the most affected populations in 17 *aimags*¹ through the provision of wheat flour, children's warm clothes, and adult boots. The original planning figure of 115,000 beneficiaries has been revised to 96,565 people (or 19,313 families) following a detailed assessment exercise in the urban *ger* districts of Ulaanbaatar. This sought to identify the number of beneficiaries who can be 'positively verified' according to the criteria for support (see Table 1) as being ³unregistered urban poor.

In addition to contributing to immediate relief needs, this operation also focuses on building the capacity of the Mongolia Red Cross Society (MRCS) to reduce longer term vulnerability through revitalizing Red Cross local branches (primary organizations) in 17 *soums*⁴ and three aimags.

¹ An *aimag* is the largest administrative region equivalent to a province.

² Positive verification of each beneficiary family is required. The national society view that 2,400 is a number of families that can be managed under this section of the program.

³ Unregistered refers to an administrative status of transient herders who arrive in Ulaanbaatar, but are unable to acquire state support since they are registered elsewhere, and the cost of re-registration is beyond their financial means.

⁴ A *soum* is the second largest administrative region equivalent to a county.

Table 1:

Criteria for Support
Extended families with more than eight members.
Families with more than four children under 16 years of age.
Families with members who are home bound or bed ridden.
Families with members who may have physical challenges.

As the result of launching the appeal in January, the first round of distributions by the MRCS and the Federation started promptly, and were considerably earlier than in previous years. However, thereafter the funding was slow to crystallise causing undue delays in the procurement process. In turn these delays led to a series of complicated issues surrounding the availability of wheat flour on the market, and the extent to which we could meet the Appeals commitment to supply warm clothes and top boots.

However, now that the funding has crystallised, we are in a better position to implement the program as originally designed, although the Delegation has had to implement a '*Limited International Re-Tender*'⁵ for wheat flour. Consequently, the second and third phases of the operation will now only be implemented in the second half of this year. Where possible, the delivery of all three commodities will be coordinated .

While the programme has so far been only partially implemented, the Mongolian Delegation remains confident that the distribution of the remaining *tranches* of relief goods will still have a positive impact on beneficiary families. In general, the socio-economic benefits will be the same as though distributions had been carried out in the worst of winter conditions. However, it is likely that the delivery of warm clothes and top boots would have made a significant difference in allowing children to attend school, and herders to cope with snow and ice when tending their livestock. On a positive note however, these delays have enabled the MRCS to reaffirm distribution arrangements in the *soums* and *aimags*, and the trucking of goods to designated locations, will be considerably easier now the snow and ice has abated.

The medium term weather synopsis is encouraging. Spring precipitation has begun at a time that is considered usual for Mongolia, and is perhaps indicative of the return of seasonal norms and the much needed summer rain. In retrospect, it is also considered by some national observers that the winter, while destructive to livelihoods, and undoubtedly miserable for many herders in reduced circumstances, was not as extreme as first heralded.

As referred to in the previous Operations Update, (13 March 2003) delays in funding to crystallize called for a review of the operational plan. In full agreement with the national society, this was divided into three phases based on '**geographical locations**'. This was considered the most sensible if not cautious way to proceed. The worst affected areas were given first priority, and these will be followed by the less affected areas of Mongolia in due course. Now that the funding deficit has been considerably reduced, it is planned for all the '**geographical objectives**' set out in the Appeal Document to be addressed.

- **Phase 1** Completed in January, this phase involved the procurement and local level distribution of 1000 MT of wheat flour to *soums* within THREE *aimags* directly to the north of Ulaanbaatar, and two smaller urban communities within the same region. These included the nominated *soums* within the *aimags* of Bulgan, Selenge, and Khovsgul, and the urban *aimags* of Darkhan Uul and Orkhon.
- **Phase 2** Funding for this phase will cover the procurement and distribution of 620 MT of wheat flour to *soums* within TWO *aimags* of Arkhangai and Ovorhangay to the south of Ulaanbaatar giving 2,065 beneficiaries 300kg of wheat flour followed by a further procurement and distribution of 360 MT to nine *ger* districts of Ulaanbaatar giving 2,400 beneficiaries 150kg of wheat flour.

Furthermore, Phase 2 will cover the procurement and micro-distribution of 5,015 sets and pairs of warm clothes and top boots to active herder families in rural locations within the five *aimags* referred to above namely; Bulgan, Selenge, Khovsgul, Arkhangai and Ovorhangay.

Finally, the costs of distribution of in-kind donations of 'new' and 'good-as-new' clothes to 2,400 urban poor families in Ulaanbaatar, and 383 urban poor families in urban *soums* in the *Aimags* of Bulgan,

⁵ A Limited International Re-Tender is one that invites nominated national and international bids. This will be the second tender implemented for wheat flour.

Selenge, Khovsgul, Arkhangai and Ovorhangay, and the Urban aimags of Darkhan Uul will be covered by this phase.

- **Phase 3:** Funding for this phase will be divided between Red Cross traditional donors and ECHO. The former will cover the procurement and micro-distribution of 6,150 sets of warm clothes and 10,150 pairs of top boots, while ECHO will cover the procurement and micro-distribution of 4,000 sets of warm clothes and 3,454 MT of wheat flour. Combined, this will service 11,515 beneficiary families in the TWELVE remaining aimags of the seventeen aimags originally targeted. Third Phase funding will also cover the costs of distribution of ‘new’ and ‘good-as-new’ clothes received as in kind donations to 1,365 Urban Poor families in urban *soums* in the TWELVE remaining aimags of the seventeen aimags originally targeted.

Cash and in kind contributions totalling CHF 2,263, 635 have been received representing 58 percent coverage of the Appeal. The Federation has submitted a proposal totalling CHF 1,050,000 to ECHO which has been accepted, and is now waiting to receive the signed contract. This will increase the overall coverage of the Appeal to 85 percent.

Objectives, activities and results

Distribution of relief items

<i>Objective 1: To ensure a minimum calorific intake for the most vulnerable men, women and children for a period of six months by providing a supplementary ration of 300 kg of wheat flour per family unit. This represents the equivalent of a daily ration of approximately 1200K Cal/ person / day (approximately half a days ration by Sphere Project Standards).</i>	
Verifiable indicators	Progress Against Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80% of beneficiaries interviewed confirm that the wheat flour covered at least 70% of their household deficit, and contributed to their <i>Dzud</i> survival and recovery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One thousand MT of grade two wheat flour was procured in January. The grain was imported from the Russian Federation by a Mongolian importer. Russia is the traditional source of wheat grain. A total of 3,333 households in the <i>aimags</i> of Bulgan, Selenge and Khuvsgul received 300 kg of wheat flour. • The MRCS and the Federation new strategy for monitoring will use a concise but comprehensive questionnaire that seeks not only to obtain data from beneficiaries on the use and effect of the relief items received, but also information of relevance for longer term programming (<i>see section on Monitoring for further details</i>).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systems are in place which enable (food) stock levels, movements and distributions to be monitored. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A logistics assessment has been completed. The logistics delegate, in conjunction with the national society, has established agreed procedures according to Federation standards for the procurement and delivery of foodstuffs. This covers negotiation with traders and/or suppliers, inspection, laboratory testing, and the eventual transportation of the goods to primary (<i>aimag</i>) and final distribution points at <i>soum</i> level. • Owing to the Mongolian terrain and the very extensive distances involved, the MRCS HQ staff and Federation delegates have been monitoring distributions so far on a limited and selective basis. There are also vehicular constraints, given the Delegation has only one owned, and one hired vehicle at its disposal. • Field monitoring during Phase 1 was undertaken in the northern <i>soums</i>, some 550 or more kilometres from the capital city of Ulaanbaatar. Much of this travel was off tarmac roads, relying solely on snow tracks leading across the <i>tal</i> (open steppe) that can totally disappear within a short space of time owing to snow drift. A number of trucks became stuck in drifts and unable to proceed with distribution and had to return to <i>aimag</i> town centres for safety. To ensure safety of all relief personnel, adhering to local expertise, knowledge of the terrain and weather patterns has been of paramount importance.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mongolian spring thaw will be well advanced by June, when <i>Phase 2</i> and <i>3</i> distributions will take place. Once the snow and ice has melted, it will not be necessary to send two vehicles in tandem on every visit to the field. Subject to capacities, this will allow two teams to monitor independently of one another, greatly enhancing the ability to acquire the necessary data from beneficiaries using the new questionnaire mentioned above within the time frame of the programme.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commodity selected for distribution includes consideration of local acceptability and preparation of nutritional composition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wheat flour procured has and will meet both local and Federation nutritional standards. Careful consideration has been given to establishing quality control by taking representative samples from each batch of wheat flour loaded for transport. Samples taken from <i>Phase 1</i> procurement were analysed in laboratories in Beijing against <i>three</i> analytical indicators. Wheat flour for subsequent phases will be assessed by laboratories in Ulaanbaatar which will allow for <i>eleven</i> analytical indicators. Saving valuable time, the latter will ensure the wheat flour is the grade that has been paid for, and that it is has a '<i>fit for human consumption</i>' certificate.
<p>Objective 2: To establish a food for work programme in three target Aimags that improves the availability of food to vulnerable households and creates a long lasting and productive community assets.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of households registered under a 'Food for Work' programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MRCS and the Federation are still considering options for this 'Food for Work' component. A number of ideas have been reviewed together with other agencies. However, those who are already involved in this activity stress a process of methodical and detailed planning prior to any implementation. This takes time, and management capacities should be tested prior to startup. This component will probably be implemented within the <i>ger</i> districts of Ulaanbaatar or the <i>aimag</i> urban districts nominated by the MRCS where it can be overseen by coordinators. One option that is being considered is a 'Food for Training' concept that targets active herders, who attend lectures on Best Practice Herding given by the Ministry of Agriculture, in exchange for food and/or clothes and boots.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of 'Food for Work' committees formed and active. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RC representatives within the nine ⁶<i>ger</i> districts of Ulaanbaatar have been tasked with producing proposals for 'Food for Work' that will have an impact on the community as a whole.
<p>Objective 3: To maintain or increase the school attendance of 19,313 (previously 23,000) very vulnerable children in the worst effected areas through the provision of warm jackets and trousers.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of beneficiaries interviewed confirm that jackets and trousers are appropriate to climatic conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The size of clothes and the number of beneficiaries to be favoured under this scheme have been identified and the tender procedure starts in May. It is estimated that 15,165 sets of winter clothing suitable for children and young adults in herder families will be procured once final information regarding sizes have been received from <i>aimag</i> and <i>soum</i> branches of the National Society. This process is now well under way Clothes received in kind from the Danish, Hong-Kong and South Korean Red Cross will be distributed to 4,148 families residing in the Ger Districts of Ulaanbaatar and nominated urban districts in the aimags.

⁶ Ger districts of Ulaanbaatar are those that lie in the outer suburbs where largely destitute former herders have migrated.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School attendance in five sample schools is maintained or increased following relief distributions in the <i>Soums</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be assessed after distributions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of beneficiaries interviewed confirm that the children’s clothing provided ‘liberated’ household resources to obtain other priority items. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be assessed after distributions
<p>Objective 4: To provide adult boots for 15,165 (previously 23,000) herder households in order to enable herding to continue when horses have died and/or when household economies have prevented the purchase of adequate footwear.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of beneficiaries interviewed confirm that boots were appropriate to climatic conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The process for gathering data regarding the size of top boots has commenced. This process is now well under way Boots will only be offered to those who are herding. It is estimated that these beneficiaries will number 15,165 adults.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of beneficiaries interviewed confirm that boots assisted the family to continue herding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be assessed after distributions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is found that 80% of beneficiaries interviewed confirm that boots provided ‘liberated’ household resources to obtain other priority items. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be assessed after distributions.

Advocacy.

<p>Objective 1: To lobby other agencies to develop a co-ordinated strategy for more sustainable responses to long term vulnerabilities.</p>	
<p>Verifiable Indicators</p>	<p>Progress Against Indicators</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Red Cross (RC) is no longer perceived as the only relief response mechanism in Mongolia, and is recognised by other agencies as an important player in reducing long term vulnerability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An interagency co-ordination meeting initiated by the MRCS in February was well attended. Those present at the meeting included representatives from the UN, the Diplomatic Corps, local NGOs, and international NGOs. The aim of the meeting was to share information on the current disaster situation, and to discuss possible co-operation initiatives including shared monitoring and evaluation for future interventions. Given the MRCS strengths in having a national structure to call upon in times of emergency, they are keen to be part of a team of agencies who can react at very short notice by deploying to the field for ‘cohesive’ assessment and reaction purposes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MRCS signs memorandum of understanding with NGO(s) and/or UN establishment <i>modus operandi</i> for coordinated responses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress in this area will depend on a broader initiative being taken to group together relevant and interested agencies. This will allow the RC to be but one organisation within a committee of NGOs and INGOs (see also section on Coordination below).

Media/Public Information Plan.

<p>Objective 1. To bring to the attention of the donors the ongoing situation in Mongolia. Both in urban and rural areas, and the need for long term solutions to plight of herders and ex-herders; obtain and maintain visibility of the Red Cross response to the disaster.</p>	
<p>Verifiable Indicators</p>	<p>Progress Against Indicators</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of press releases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Press release was distributed on 20 January to accompany the launch of the appeal. Second release was issued on 14 February and distributed to all international and, local media in Beijing and diplomatic missions in Ulaanbaatar and Beijing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A video news release distributed for the appeal launch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A video news release distributed for the appeal launch was sent to TV broadcasters to highlight the situation in Mongolia.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A news release distributed to television broadcasters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Video involving a stand up interview, which was conducted during a field visit to Bulgan <i>aimag</i> was distributed on 23 January.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The regional information delegate provides at least three web stories on the Mongolian operation for use by the Federation and the National Society over the duration of the operation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A narrative following the visit to Bulgan by the regional information delegate in January, was posted on the IFRC web-site, and information regarding Phase 1 distributions was provided to the media department in Geneva for publication in the <i>Federation News</i>. Further <i>exposés</i> are planned for future stages of the emergency operation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An article in the Red Cross Red Crescent magazine is published. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An article has been published in the most recent issue of Red Cross Red Crescent magazine.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least five media interviews conducted following the Appeal launch for TV radio and print on the situation and Red Cross response. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews were conducted with CNN Asia, RFI, Fox News, Reuters TV, APTN, World Radio Geneva and background information was shared with the Chicago Tribune newspaper, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation., The Globe and The Mail newspapers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broadcasts on the local country radio station, have included the reading of beneficiary names. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broadcasts on the local country radio station, have included the reading of beneficiary names. These will continue during the micro-distribution of Phase 2 and Phase 3.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beneficiary names have been posted at county centers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beneficiary names were posted at <i>soum</i> level micro distribution points during Phase 1 of the operation. Following distribution, original listings were sent to the MRCS HQ in Ulaanbaatar for auditing purposes. This practice will continue during subsequent phases.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local county Red Cross operatives or the head of <i>bagh</i> (smallest level of local administration) are involved in identification of beneficiaries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Word of mouth amongst herder families. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The programme is widely talked about, as indicated by the number of people who come to the <i>soum</i> centers on the days of distribution, and the publication of distribution lists.
<p>Objective 2. To improve the information capacity of the Mongolian Red Cross.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mongolian Red Cross Society have established a web-site by conclusion of the <i>dzud</i> Emergency operation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No progress during this reporting period. The regional information delegate will take up this issue during a visit scheduled for early June.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provision of at least two stories and information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NS periodically provides the regional information delegate

materials by the MRCS
information officer.

with a synopsis of events that are noteworthy for publicizing the
dzud Emergency intervention.

Capacity of the National Society.

Objective 1. To revitalise Red Cross local branches (primary organisation) in 17 Soums and 3 Aimags involved in the distribution of emergency relief items. (Ten months)	
Verifiable Indicators	Progress Against Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Cross primary organisation leaders in the 17 targeted <i>soums</i> and 3 <i>aimags</i> report better retention of volunteers, and at least a 20% increase in the number of volunteers in their organisation, as the result of the capacity building support provided through the relief operation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It still remains unclear which soums and which aimags will be specifically targeted for branch revitalisation. The MRCS are currently deliberating where this initiative would be best implemented, and in what manner it should manifested. Branches that are involved in the organisation of dedicated beneficiary lists, receipt of relief commodities and their eventual distribution, are already enhancing their capacities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers in 3 aimags and 17 primary organisations are trained in relief and other Red Cross activities over the duration of the relief operation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No progress during this reporting period.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 10 of the target Red Cross primary organisations are planning or implementing longer term vulnerability reduction activities by the end of the <i>dzud</i> relief operation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No progress during this reporting period.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An appeal plan of action summary is available in the Mongolian language and distributed to 20 <i>soums</i> and <i>aimag</i> branches targeted under this capacity building initiative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed.
Objective 2. To strengthen the capacities of two humanitarian centres in Ulaanbaatar to deliver outreach services to the urban poor.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the conclusion of the relief operation, each of the humanitarian centres will have increased the number of families involved in the outreach programme by 25%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No progress during this reporting period.

<p>Objective 3. To build up the logistics capacity of the MRCS through training workshops and on the job training for MRCS staff in Federation logistics procedures.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The logistics delegate facilitates at least four workshops on procurement, warehousing, and transportation, and in Federation logistics procedures and standards during the operation at MRCS HQ and <i>aimag</i> level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A combined five day Logistics and Relief workshop is scheduled for the end of June. The MRCS are currently preparing their input using the time available to instruct RC participants on issues surrounding the NS core activities in addition to general organisational procedures at <i>aimag</i> and <i>soum</i> level of the RC. Three days of this workshop will be dedicated to the logistical disciplines described under the Verifiable Indicators. It should be stressed that while it was hoped to conduct four workshops, financial constraints do not allow for this. However, should funding permit, one additional workshop will be conducted.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the conclusion to the operation a clear allocation of logistical responsibilities within the MRCS headquarters organigram will have been established. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No progress during this reporting period.
<p>Objective 4. To build the capacity of the MRCS Aimag branches through the provision of 10 desk top computers.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each of the 10 branches of the MRCS receives training in the use of computers by the end of the operation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The procurement procedure for these items has started, and the MRCS are currently deliberating on which of their branches will be favoured under this scheme.

Monitoring and Evaluation.

<p>Objective 1. To improve MRCS Headquarters and Mongolian Federation Delegation’s systems for establishing baseline data collection, monitoring, reporting and evaluation (10 months).</p>	
<p>Verifiable Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Appeal action plan is available in the Mongolian language, and distributed to all target Red Cross <i>aimag</i> and <i>soum</i> branches. 	<p>Progress Against Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Aimag, soum</i> and <i>bagh</i> levels of local administration have all been briefed about the MRCS/Federation operation. The plan of action has also been made available in the Mongolian language. Any further information and/or amendments to the ‘action plan’ will be disseminated to all relevant parties throughout the rest of the programme.
<p>There exists a ‘baseline’ of information amongst beneficiary groups against which the impact of assistance can be measured.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Federation and the national society are preparing a monitoring questionnaire that will collect information on the ‘broader’ conditions prevailing within the target populations (urban poor and herder families). This will seek not only to obtain data from beneficiaries on the use and effect of the relief items received, but also information of relevance for longer term programming (<i>see section on Monitoring for further details</i>). The contents of this questionnaire are currently being developed in collaboration with the MOH and health authorities, as well as selected international NGOs such as Save the Children and World Vision. This exercise is regarded as an important and unusual opportunity to gather a range of up-to-date socioeconomic data from amongst the widely dispersed herding communities. The findings will be shared with relevant organizations and it is hoped will provide the basis for future programmes to address the most critical needs that emerge.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There exists ‘baseline’ information on volunteers and activities in primary organizations targeted against which the impact of capacity building support can be measured. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No progress during this reporting period.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The existence of ‘beneficiary self monitoring’ via the publication of selection criteria, assistance contents, beneficiary lists and grievance systems in public places. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructions on the establishment of selection committees at <i>soum</i> level were prepared and sent to all 17 aimags by the MRCS headquarters. Within this selection process there is an appeal mechanism in place whereby individuals or their families may appeal regarding the decision of the Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Federation field delegate deployed has previous field experience in monitoring and evaluation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owing to funding constraints, the provision of a dedicated Federation field delegate has not been realised. However, the main tasks envisaged for the field delegate are being carried out between the national society staff, the relief co-ordinator and the logistics co-ordinator.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Society in cooperation with the Federation’s field delegate monitors at least 85 families or 1% of beneficiaries in their homes between late February and late June. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring visits carried out so far to <i>Soums</i> have shown that the National Society has disseminated relevant information to <i>Soum</i> level administrative bodies, and through them to beneficiaries residing in the <i>baghs</i>. • Established procedures appeared both fair and transparent. Distribution Commissions established at <i>soum</i> level included the involvement of; vice-governors., local parliamentary speakers., (who traditionally double as Red Cross representatives) doctors, governors or the representatives of the <i>baghs</i>, poverty mitigation project officers and social workers. The input from the latter, enable the Commissions to be fully conversant with activities of other agencies, and is invaluable in avoiding duplication relief distributions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation updates provide information against ‘verifiable indicators’ outlined in the appeal document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first Operational Update was published on 13 March. This provided information against <i>verifiable indicators</i> outlined in the appeal document. • This, and subsequent Updates will follow the same procedure while retaining all relevant information from those previously published. This methodology will give a complete over view of the programme by the time that it has been completed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ‘Evaluation’ will be undertaken to measure the efficiency, effectiveness and the impact of the operation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No progress during this reporting period.

Capacity of the Federation.

Objective 1. To mobilise the appropriate human, in kind and financial resources to provide efficient and effective support to the National Society (10 Months)	
Verifiable Indicators	Progress Against Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The East Asia Delegation started the operation through the mobilization of its regional disaster management delegate based in Beijing, and the logistics delegate based in DPRK. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The regional disaster management delegate, and the DPRK logistics delegate spent three weeks in Mongolia and worked with the MRCS to develop the Emergency Appeal document, and start preliminary preparations for the operation. The Head of Regional Delegation spent one week in Mongolia to support the start of the operation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A relief co-ordinator, logistics and field delegates are identified and mobilised for a period of at least six months by the end of January 2003. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The regional disaster management delegate and DPRK logistics delegate were replaced with dedicated Mongolia logistics and relief delegates on February 1. It had been hoped that they would have been joined by a field delegate. Due to funding constraints, this mobilization has been canceled. It is envisaged that the responsibilities of the field delegate can be divided successfully between national society staff and the incumbent delegates.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Emergency Appeal serves to re-engage sister societies in longer term programming for Mongolia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several national societies have expressed an interest in supporting Mongolia's development programming. The Norwegian RC included a component for supporting the DP Programme in their emergency proposal to their Government. The Norwegian Government has since contributed to the <i>dzud</i> emergency, as well as donating 91,802 CHF towards the DP Annual Appeal. The Netherlands RC has developed a new proposal to support MRCS branch development. The Finnish, Australian and Japanese Red Cross will continue to support development programming in 2003. The British and Danish Red Cross have also expressed interest in supporting development programmes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout the operation, Federation Delegates supporting the <i>dzud</i> relief operation are actively supporting the MRCS in developing long term strategies for addressing local vulnerabilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long term strategies are being developed. These will be reported on in a future Operational Update when NS policy is clarified.

Co-ordination and GOM/UN Response

The last Operational Update referred to an inter-agency co-ordination meeting initiated by the MRCS on 27 February 2003. Although there have not been any subsequent meetings, this initial meeting was regarded as a welcome success. However, it is the general view of the MRCS, and a number of agencies that interagency meetings should not be a regular forum for discussion that forms no part in any bilateral activity as agencies are working in different areas of the country with varying agendas, such meetings are not thought to be sufficiently constructive. One-off discussions with individual agencies are thought to be a better medium for opinions to be exchanged and the Federation will continue to arrange informal meetings in this manner. Meetings to date, held independently by the Federation or jointly with the national society include World Vision, Save the Children, Adra, JCS International, and individual consultants attached to government ministries such as the Integrated Crop and Livestock Production office of TACIS of the European Union and national NGO called 'Great Protection' under the Government body civil defence and supported by UNDP.

The Federation, together with the MRCS have started to map government and agency interventions in addressing various hazards and humanitarian issues within Mongolia. The primary objective being to identify where there are complimentary or duplicated services.

More general coordination meetings are held monthly at the UNDP Office in Ulaanbaatar involving donors, members of the Diplomatic Corps and the Federation. The agenda of these meetings varies from month to month, and covers a range of topics associated with the nation's development of a market economy. It periodically addresses purely humanitarian issues, and it is to these meetings that the MRCS, INGOs and NGOs are invited. The UNDP forum enables the Delegation to keep abreast of broader economic interventions financed by structures other than INGOs and their traditional backers, namely the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank.

The government of Mongolia is for ever mindful of lessons learnt from a succession of *dzud*. Together with the UNDP, a variety of interventions have been made to address some of the hardships sustained by categories of both rural and urban communities. These consist of both short and long term strategies.

Short term measures have included joint Ministry of Food and Agriculture and disaster management and mitigation interventions in worst effected *soums*. This has included the support of dedicated human resources to support herder communities who are in dire straits, and the supply of fuel for all terrain transport of commodities to affected areas. Prevention measures have included the intensification of winter *ger* groupings, thus enabling support with fodder when needs arise and the availability of long term financial loans for preparing winter fodder. They also include the improvement of the water supply to selected pasture to ensure the growth of quality grass for the production of hay, and the identification of locations for wintering large numbers of families and their livestock predetermined by national and local government. Long term measures include changes in legislation to incorporate the need for disaster management and mitigation, while reforming the law on civil protection and civil defense.

To support the need for sound communications, the UNDP have opened a web-site to highlight the needs of the herder communities. Long term strategies include the encouragement of agrarians to transfer from animal to crop husbandry, to see that communities are coordinated in times of severe weather, and where possible, to develop equitable recovery strategies for those who fail in their capacity as herders on the Steppe.

The ⁷WFP made a short visit to Mongolia in late April to appraise the current situation. Following the visit, a report was written which high lighted a number of issues that are pertinent to the Federations current intervention in Mongolia. It should be firmly understood that this unofficial visit was to gain an updated view of the food situation in Mongolia. Subject to a number of conditions being satisfied, an 'operational mission to Mongolia' may be deployed at some time hence. This will look into technical assistance, food aid programmeing, combined with government/donor/partner support, and the designing of an appropriate intervention.

For further details please contact:

- *The Mongolian Red Cross Society in Ulaanbaatar; Phone 976-11-312684; Fax: 976-11-323334; email redcross@magnet.mn*
- *Udaya Regmi, Head of Delegation, Phone; Fax; email aurelia.balpe@ifrc.org*
- *Aurelia Balpe, Regional Officer, Phone 41 22 730 4352; Fax 41 22 733 0395; email aurelia.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

⁷ WFP - Report following visit to Mongolia by Program Advisor in April 2003

access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

			ANNEX 1
<u>REVISED BUDGET SUMMARY</u>	APPEAL No. 02/2003		
Mongolia snowfalls			
TYPE	ORIGINAL	REVISED	DIFFERENCE
RELIEF NEEDS	IN CHF		
Clothing & textiles	1'380'000	1'032'000	-348'000
Wheatflour	1'152'000	1'116'000	-36'000
Food for work	40'000		-40'000
Utensils & tools	60'000		-60'000
Other supplies		20'000	20'000
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	2'632'000	2'168'000	-464'000
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>			
Computers	26'000	26'000	
Other branch equipment		50'000	50'000
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>			
Programme support (6.5% of total)	254'000	205'000	-49'000
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>			
Transport and storage	550'000	446'000	-104'000
Vehicle costs	68'000		-68'000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>			
Expatriate staff	252'000	116'000	-136'000
National staff	50'000	50'000	
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>			
Travel & related expenses	6'000		-6'000
Information expenses	5'000	10'000	5'000
Administrative & general expenses	63'000	65'000	2'000
Workshops: logistics & relief		11'000	11'000
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	1'274'000	979'000	-295'000
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	3'906'000	3'147'000	-759'000

Mongolia snowfalls						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 02/2003		PLEDGES RECEIVED				11.06.2003
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				3'147'000		71.9%
AUSTRALIAN - RC		26'439	AUD	20'815	20.01.2003	
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		100'000	AUD	82'150	27.03.03	
AUSTRIAN - RC		50'000	EUR	73'363	05.02.2003	
BRITISH - RC		5'313	GBP	11'836	05.12.2002	
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID		98'039	GBP	210'588	07.03.03	
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA		198'000	CAD	187'011	02.05.03	
DANISH - RC		231'250	DKK	45'325	22.01.2003	
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		150'000	EUR	226'650	17.03.03	
GERMAN - RC		5'313	GBP	11'836	05.12.2002	
GERMAN - RC		35'000	EUR	51'643	11.04.03	
ICELANDIC - RC		11'000'000	ISK	191'884	02.04.03	RELIEF DISTRIBUTION, CLOTHES FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN, RC LOCAL BRANCHES
JAPANESE - RE		142'500	USD	198'146	24.01.2003	
KOREAN REP. - RC				28'888	02.04.03	PROGRAMME SUPPORT
LIBYAN - RC				5'000	30.01.2003	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		2'000'000	NOK	395'000	21.02.03	
SWEDISH - GOVT		200'000	SEK	31'800	23.01.2003	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'771'935	CHF	56.3%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
KOREAN REP. - RC				444'000	02.04.03	40000 PCES GARMENTS & TRANSPORT
SWEDISH - GOVT/RC		300'000	SEK	47'700	23.01.2003	LOGISTICS DELEGATE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				491'700	CHF	15.6%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	