

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Mongolia: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRMN002
GLIDE n° [FL-2009-000140-MNG](#)

Update n° 01
27 July 2009

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

Period covered by this update: 21 July to 27 July, 2009

Summary: CHF 240,000 (USD 224,073 or EUR 157,897) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 10,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO.

On 21 July, an MRCS and International Federation joint assessment took place in Khan-Uul district. It found that some 500 families were affected by the floods – many of which had moved in with nearby relatives and begun cleaning up their homes. As many of the affected have lost belongings to the flood, there is a great need for food, water supply, warm clothes and bedding. At the moment, MRCS is not planning to request an international appeal, but they will continue monitoring the situation as it develops.



This operation is expected to be implemented within 3 months, and will therefore be completed by 20 October 2009. In line with Federation reporting standards, the Final Report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation (20 January 2010).

MRCS relief supplies from six regional disaster preparedness centres strategically located across Mongolia provide affected families with warm clothes, quilt mattresses, boots and some food items. MRCS/International Federation

[<click here for the DREF budget; click here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

The torrential downpour and flooding in Mongolia on 17 July 2009 has caused more than 1,975 families to be affected, with 124 of them left homeless. In addition, three bridges and 10 power stations were damaged. The most affected areas of Ulaanbaator were Bayanzurkh and Khan-Uul districts. Particularly, in Bayanzurkh district, which is more populated by *ger* district residents, over 1,000 *gers* have been carried away by floods according to the local government. A greater tragedy took place in the outskirts when a *ger* collapsed on a family in the steppes of Bayanzurkh district, killing three children.



The government mobilized the army immediately to aid in the evacuation of 282 people over the weekend and provide emergency shelter to the homeless people and cover food supplies for 7 days for the people in need.

According to the health department, the flood hit areas are under great risk of disease outbreak, local health workers and Red Cross volunteers are conducting health and hygiene promotion and conducting a clean-up of the flooded areas.

Most of the flood-affected families have lost homes and belongings, in a nation where poverty remains widespread. MRCS/International Federation

The MRCS had described the flooding as the worst to hit the sparsely populated nation

since 1966. It is concerned about the next three months, because the affected people need more assistance before the harsh winter arrives.

In Mongolia, where poverty remains widespread, flooding severely impacts livelihoods. Women in general face a significantly higher incidence of income poverty than men across the country: in the capital city, in *aimags*, in *soums*, and in rural areas. Widespread income poverty is closely linked to unemployment and low earnings. The Labour Force Survey completed in 2004 indicate that the estimated unemployment rate was 14.2 per cent in 2003.

Features of poverty in Mongolia:

- Close to 900,000 Mongolians living in poverty lack the means to purchase enough food and live in dignity.
- Within the single parent-headed household, women-headed households comprise 15 per cent of the total households nationwide.
- Some 75 per cent of *ger* residents live below the poverty line and 39 per cent of them are affected by capability poverty.
- In 1998, for Ulaanbaatar city, the proportion of poor women (44 percent) was more than double the proportion of poor men (21 percent). In the *soums*, the proportion is 52 per cent of women against 28 percent of men.
- In 2002, the unemployment rate among women was 3.8 per cent – about 12 per cent higher than the national average and 22 per cent higher than the unemployment rate among men.
- Five out of nine poor people live in *soum* centres and rural areas.
- 24 to 34 per cent of households with 4 to 5 members fall in the poor category.
- More than 70 per cent of rural poor live in *gers*, 25 per cent in residence houses, and 3.6 per cent in apartment buildings.

Coordination and partnerships

The MRCS's disaster management department, in cooperation with the other MRCS programme departments, will have overall responsibility in implementing this proposed intervention and will provide

administrative and technical support to the provincial Red Cross branches for the activities. The National Society will maintain regular communications with the government, UN agencies and NGOs engaged in the responses activities. The MRCS, in partnership with the International Federation, will coordinate its activities with other key stakeholders in the country by attending regular coordination meetings organized by the government.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

On 21 July, an MRCS and International Federation joint assessment took place in Khan-Uul district. It found that some 500 families were affected by the floods – many of which had moved in with nearby relatives and begun cleaning up their homes. As many of the affected have lost belongings to the flood, there is a great need for food, warm clothes and bedding.

A joint assessment with the Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS)and the International Federation took place on 21 July 2009. The assessment team visited the most affected Khan-Uul district with a population of around 8,000 people. 500 families have been affected by the floods in Khan-Uul district, and some of them live in traditional nomadic homes made of cloth called “*ger*” or yurts. The most affected families have moved in with nearby relatives and started to clean up the mud in their houses. All the affected households have lost most of their belongings, including furniture and clothes. The government has promised to provide *gers* to those families that have lost their houses and provide a one-week food supply to the affected families. The people interviewed have expressed the need for food, water supply, warm clothes, bed and quilts.

MRCS has provided relief supplies from their six regional disaster preparedness centers located in the strategically cross Mongolia including warm clothes, quilt mattresses, boots and some food items to the most affected people. In addition, MRCS is distributing clean drinking water to the families in the affected areas and has mobilized more than 50 volunteers to support the communities to clean up the mud after the floods. MRCS is also conducting a health assessment, and preparing a hygiene promotion campaign.

The International Federation procurement delegate for the China Sichuan earthquake operation, supported closely by the Kuala Lumpur regional logistics unit, is being deployed short term to provide additional support to MRCS on the local procurement of relief items.

The most urgent needs identified during the preliminary assessment were:

- Temporary shelter for those 124 families who lost their homes.
- Food items for all 1,900 families affected by the floods.
- Non-food items such as clothes, boots and quilts to meet the basic needs.
- Health education and hygiene promotion campaign in the affected areas.
- Improve water and sanitation conditions in the affected areas.

Proposed DREF Operation: (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: To ensure that up to 1,900 families or 10,000 people in Bayanzurkh, Khan-Uul, Songinokhairkhan, Nalaikh districts of Ulaanbaatar city; Tseel *soum* of Gobi-Altai province; Dundgobi and Tov provinces; Umnudelger *soum* of Khentii *aimag* receive basic food and non-food items to meet the ongoing needs during the next three months.

❖ Activities planned (for food items):

- To identify and register 1,900 most vulnerable families affected by the floods.
- Engage community participation in planning and distribution of relief items.
- Mobilize 90 volunteers in assessment, distribution, and monitoring and evaluation.
- Procurement of food from local suppliers following International Federation standard procurement procedures.
- Transportation of items from supplier to the distribution point.
- Distribution of food items to the selected families.
- Develop a monitoring evaluation system for the continuous improvement of delivery system.

Food parcel composition

Quantity per family	Item
15 kg	Wheat flour
15 kg	Rice
2 kg	Cooking Oil
1 kg	Salt
1 box	Tea

Activities planned (for non-food items):

- To identify 1,900 most vulnerable families affected by the floods.
- Engage community participation in planning and distribution of relief items.
- Mobilize 90 volunteers in assessment, distribution, and monitoring and evaluation.
- Transportation of items from supplier to the distribution point.
- Distribution of food items to the selected families.
- Procurement of items not available in the disaster preparedness warehouse from local suppliers following International Federation standard procurement procedures.
- Develop a monitoring evaluation system for the continuous improvement of delivery system

Non-food parcel composition

Quantity per Family	Item
1	Warm clothes
1	Warm clothes for children
1	Boots
1	Children boots
1	Blankets
1	Mattress
2	Jerry cans
3	Soap
3	Hand towels

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Objective: to improve health and reduce the risk of water and sanitation related diseases for 1,900 families (10,000 people) in Bayanzurkh, Khan-Uul, Songinokhairkhan, Nalaikh districts of Ulaanbaatar city; Tseel *soum* of Gobi-altai province; Dundgobi and Tov provinces; Umnudelger *soum* oh Khentii *aimag* for three months, through safe access to safe water supplies and hygiene promotion activities in accordance with SPHERE standards.

Expected results: Access to safe water supplies among the targeted population has been established along with increased awareness about hygiene practices.

Activities planned:

- To identify 1,900 most vulnerable families affected by the floods.
- Engage community participation and mobilize volunteers in planning and conducting hygiene promotion activities.
- Assist in conducting clean-up of areas flooded with mud.
- Provide jerry cans for household-level water storage and education on their use to families identified in the assessment.
- Distribute hygiene items (soap, handtowels etc.) to address hygiene needs.

How we work

All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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 - Mr. Carl Naucler (head of regional office); email: carl.naucler@ifrc.org;
 - Mr. Qinghui Gu (regional disaster management coordinator); email: qinghui.gu@ifrc.org
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For pledges of funding: zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org

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BUDGET SUMMARY

MONGOLIA : FLOODS

MDRMN002

ORIGINAL

RELIEF NEEDS

Clothing & Textiles	145,768
Food	43,610
Other Supplies & Services	13,680
Total Relief Needs	203,058

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Transport & Vehicles Costs	5,790
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PERSONNEL

Regionally Deployed Staff	3,152
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GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	12,200
Office running costs	100
Communication Costs	100

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR (6.5% of total)	15,600
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Total Operational Needs	36,942
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Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)	240,000
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