

# ***MONGOLIA: STEPPE AND FOREST FIRES***

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## ***General situation***

The steppe and forest fires situation is stabilising due to the joint efforts of local governments and the State Emergency Commission, as well as some snow fall in the central region of the country on 5 May. As of today, 11 fires are burning out of control in the five aimags of Hentii, Tov, Bulgan, Huvsgul and Selenge and another 90 fires are partly under control. Most are now forest fires.

The death toll so far is 17 people and the number of injured at least 60. According to a preliminary assessment, direct damage caused by the fires is estimated at 375 million togrog (approximately USD 750,000) in Dornod aimag, 175 million togrog (USD 350,000) in Arhangai aimag, 60 million togrog (USD 120,000) in Huvsgul aimag and 47 million togrog (USD 94,000) in Uvs aimag. These figures do not include the ecological/environmental damage. Estimates for the other 9 aimags are expected later this week.

As of 2 May, according to the "Ardyn Erkh" newspaper, a total of 10.2 million togrog (USD 20,400) has been donated by public and private entities and individuals throughout the country.

## ***National Society operation***

The MRCS has so far provided emergency assistance to a total of 194 families in the seven aimags of Dornod (117 families), Hentii (43), Bulgan (8), Selenge (7), Uvs (7), Huvsgul (11) and Tov (1).

In Uvs, Huvsgul and Tov aimags, the Red Cross branches are procuring all relief goods locally. The Red Cross branch in Dornod aimag has procured some relief goods locally. After delay caused by procurement difficulties, the MRCS HQs will send a truck to Dornod tomorrow with goods purchased in Ulaanbaatar, plus items from its central warehouse.

The heads of the Red Cross branches in Selenge and Bulgan aimags came to Ulaanbaatar yesterday to pick up relief goods procured in the capital. They are procuring food, cooking utensils and sanitation goods locally in their aimags. A representative of Hentii aimag will carry out the same exercise tomorrow.

Regarding temporary shelters, the MRCS has bought 30 tents locally and distributed them to different aimags. As not enough tents are available in Ulaanbaatar, the MRCS is in the process of purchasing felt materials instead.

## ***Contributions***

The German Embassy's is channelling a donation of DM 30,000 through the MRCS, since it wishes to participate in relief for the affected families. Other contributions to the National Society include USD 5,000 from "Sunrise", a foreign company based in Ulaanbaatar, and USD 4,000 from a Ulaanbaatar based American company, "Forte Cashmire". The Canadian Red Cross Society has donated CAD 1,000.

## ***Delegation***

The Federation Delegation continues to support the MRCS in all aspects of the relief operation.

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