

2024 DZUD RESPONSE PLAN

DEC 2023 –
JUN 2024

MONGOLIA

ISSUED
25 March 2024



Photo: WV Mongolia

Foreword by the Resident Coordinator

Mongolia continues to experience the adverse effects of climate change, which poses significant risks for local communities. The country has experienced a 2.46°C degree increase in average air temperatures over the past 80 years, making it one of the countries most affected by climate change. The severity and frequency of natural disasters has doubled, and annual damage costs are estimated to be approximately 50-70 billion MNT (equivalent to USD\$14 - 20 million¹). Mongolia is particularly vulnerable to Dzuds, the severe cold weather phenomena, which have a disastrous impact on the herder's livelihoods, and with it access to basic needs such as food, health, and education. In the last 10 years alone, the country has experienced six different Dzuds².

A dzud is a slow-onset disaster, resulting in gradual livestock mortality over time due to a prolonged combination of malnutrition and cold stress. Due to the loss of livestock and subsequent impact on livelihoods, compounded with inflation on fuel and food prices, herders are forced to migrate to urban areas, often falling into a cycle of poverty and socio-economic deprivation.

In the summer of 2023, around 60 per cent of the country, particularly the central and eastern regions, experienced favorable summer conditions and stable amount of hay and fodder growth, while the remaining northern and eastern parts experienced dry conditions and drought. Unfortunately, ongoing frequent heavy snowfall and extreme weather pose significant Dzud risks to vulnerable communities which led to rapid interventions both from the Government of Mongolia and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in early action and response.

HCT members were first informed of a potential dzud by government organizations including the State Emergency Commission of Mongolia (SEC), the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Light Industry (MOFALI), the National Emergency Management Agency of Mongolia National Agency of Meteorology and Environment



Monitoring (NAMEM) in a HCT meeting in December 2023. On 12 January 2024, the UN Resident Coordinator received a letter from H.E. Amarsaikhan S., the Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia, requesting cooperation between the Government and the HCT in overcoming dzud and mitigating the impact on herder households.

Immediately, the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) in collaboration with SEC and NEMA convened a joint meeting involving ambassadors, development partners, and members of the HCT to foster a shared understanding of the current Dzud situation and the Government's response efforts.

The Dzud Response Plan for 2023/2024 complements the Government of 'Mongolia's Dzud Response Plan. This plan aims to deliver immediate and life-saving assistance to 76,000 people out of the 200,000 people in need identified by the HCT through a coordinated approach.

Although Dzud occurrences are common in Mongolia, this year's severity is a serious concern. The livelihoods of vulnerable herder households and their socio-economic situation are under threat. More than 5.2

¹ Converted by UN rate, 1 USD equivalent to 3403.75 MNT as of 1 Feb 2024.

² The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) provided support in the years of 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2020/21, and 2022/23, with a focus on dzud response and Anticipatory Action (AA). Notably, two Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) - funded dzud response joint programs and four

agency-specific Anticipatory Actions (AA) interventions, supported by their respective donors.

million heads of livestock are reported to have perished already in this Dzud. This is about 8.1 per cent of the total livestock in the country. The worst is yet to come, the peak of livestock mortality is expected at the end of April. The Government, with the support of the HCT, is continuously monitoring and responding to the evolving situation and providing much needed humanitarian support to affected people to reduce the negative impact of the Dzud for herder households. In the long term, UN agencies will collectively address the issue by partnering with the Government of Mongolia, development partners, and humanitarian organizations on shifting from a life-saving response to one of resilience under the humanitarian–development nexus.

The HCT expresses deep gratitude for the collaborative efforts of the international community in Mongolia, which significantly alleviated the hardships faced by affected communities. We commend the Government's proactive measures to ensure timely action to mitigate

the impact of dzud, such as providing discounted hay and fodder to high-risk provinces, destocking and delivering crucial services directly to herder households.

Nevertheless, a stronger sense of solidarity is urgently needed to help herders strengthen their resilience against the prevailing challenges. Despite their diligent preparedness actions, herders require our unwavering support to mitigate risks. Thus, I earnestly appeal for international assistance and the mobilization of additional resources to prevent a further deterioration in the humanitarian situation in Mongolia.

In unison with the entire humanitarian community, I implore your generous and expeditious support for the people of Mongolia at the earliest possible juncture.



TAPAN MISHRA

United Nations Resident Coordinator in Mongoli



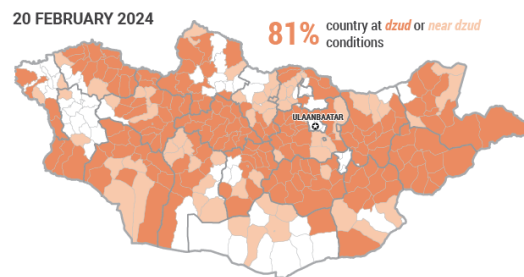
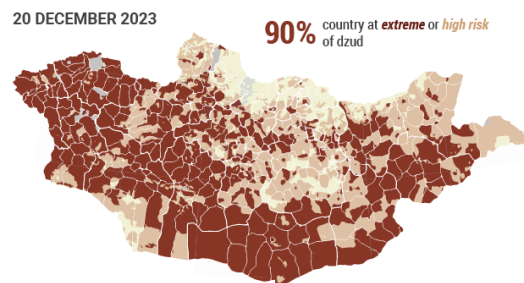
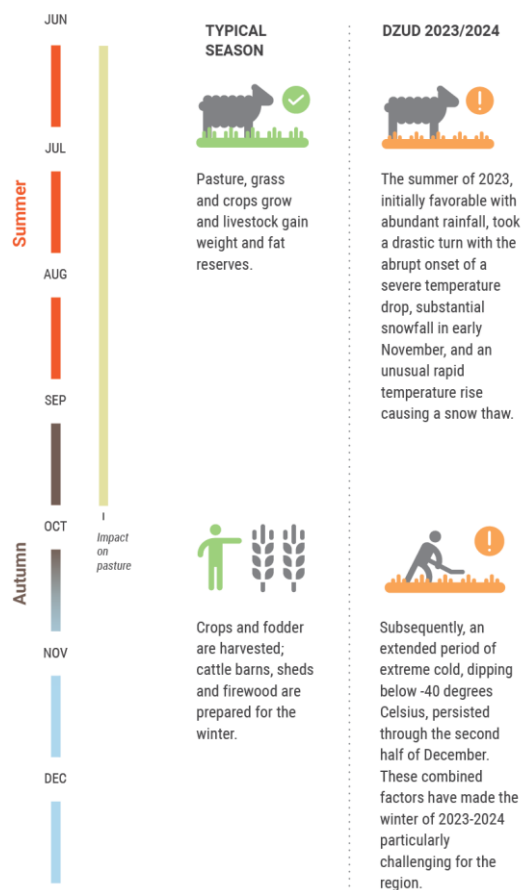
Girl in livestock shelter in Arkhangai province (Photo: RCO)

Situation Overview

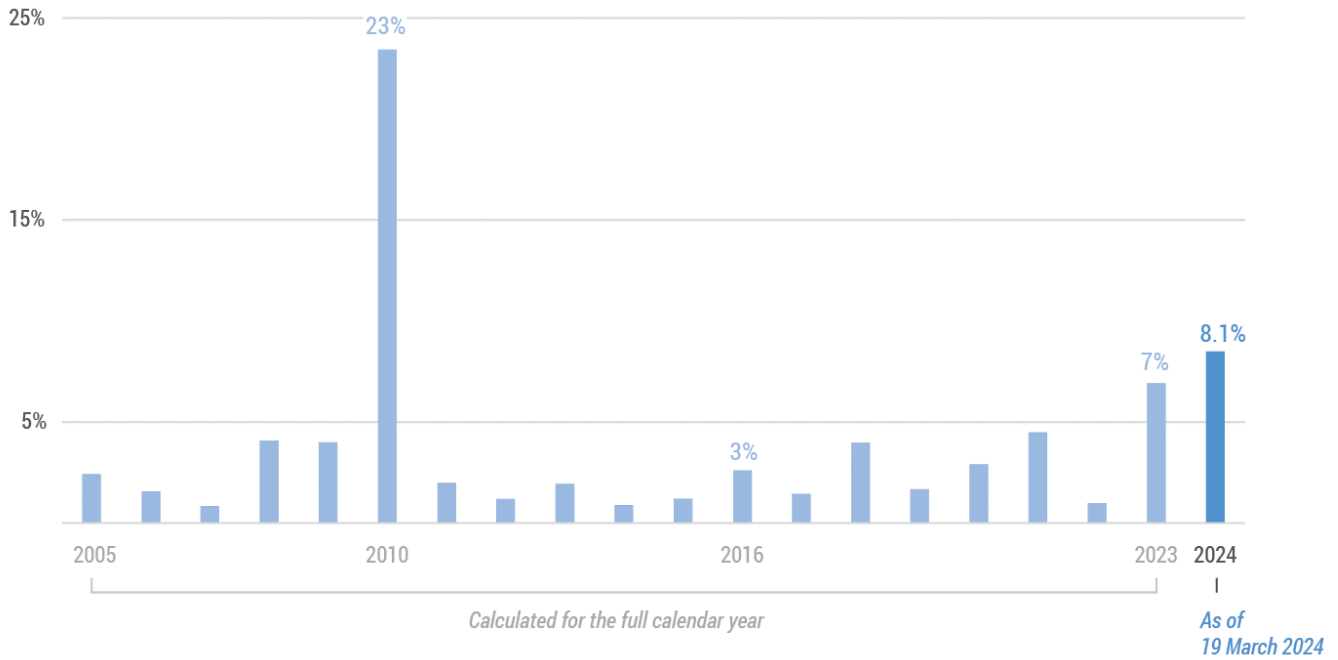
Mongolia is increasingly grappling with the impacts of climate change, manifested in discernible shifts in weather patterns that underscore the escalation of this global phenomenon. The cyclical nature of the country's four distinct seasons has been significantly disrupted, particularly since 2015, leading to a rise in recurrent summer droughts and subsequent harsh winters. This poses an escalating threat to livestock-based livelihoods, the cornerstone of rural Mongolian life, creating a pressing need for humanitarian assistance to protect vulnerable herder households with limited coping strategies. Though the summer of 2023 was initially favorable with abundant rainfall, the months that followed saw the abrupt onset of a severe temperature drop, substantial snowfall in early November, and an unusually rapid temperature rise causing a snow thaw. Subsequently, an extended period of extreme cold, dipping below -40°C, persisted through the second half of December. These combined factors have made winter 2023-2024 particularly challenging for the region. As a result, herder communities in the country are now grappling with an exceptionally harsh winter characterized by icy conditions that completely obstruct livestock access to pastures. These icy dzud conditions have not been observed since 2010, when Mongolia faced a severe dzud disaster, resulting in the loss of about 10.3 million heads of livestock, equivalent to approximately 23 per cent of the country's total livestock population. The catastrophe impacted 769,000 people, constituting 28 per cent of Mongolia's total population. According to the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, 220,000 herding households were affected, with 44,000 households losing their entire herds, and 164,000 losing more than half.

As of 20 December 2023, the Government of Mongolia reported that approximately 90 per cent of Mongolia's territory, including 21 provinces excluding Ulaanbaatar city, or 321 out of 339 soums (townships), was categorized as facing a high or extreme dzud risk. As of 20 February 2024, 266 soums, of 21 provinces excluding two districts of Ulaanbaatar city, covering 81 per cent of the nation, were in dzud or near-dzud conditions. Within the dzud condition, 58 soums of 13 provinces are under iron dzud condition, while 139 soums of 17 provinces are under white dzud condition, directly affecting 119,600 herder households. In addition, some 31,740 herder households are living in soums experiencing near-dzud condition.

The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry (MOFALI) has been monitoring the livestock mortality rate since the beginning of the year. As of 19 March 2024, the livestock mortality rates reached 8.1 per cent (out of the total number of 64.7 million livestock). While the numbers are increasing fast, this situation is already twice as critical as last year's dzud, and the Government estimates that this year will be far more severe than the worst dzud recorded in 2010. Livestock is the only source for many herder households' livelihoods and as of 11 March 2024, 2,257 herder households had lost more than 70 per cent of their livestock.



PERISHED LIVESTOCK AND MORTALITY RATE



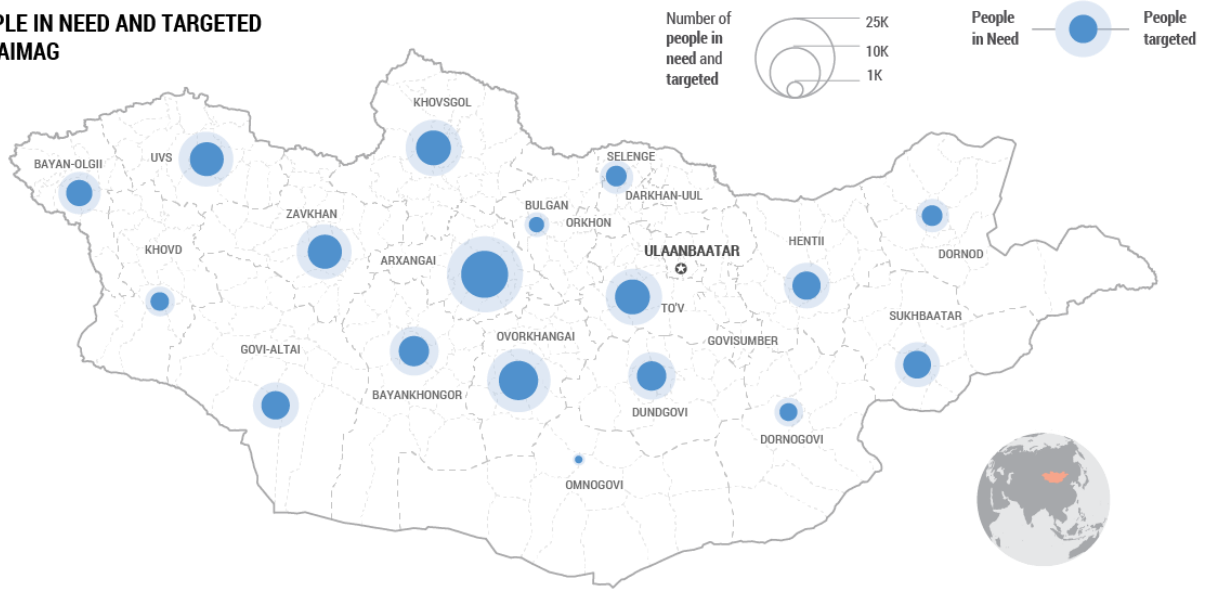
Source: National Statistics office of Mongolia and MOFALI

The HCT has been cooperating with SEC since December 2023 and provided humanitarian support to over 43,000 affected people to reduce the negative impact of the dzud. Unfortunately, dzud conditions have drastically deteriorated affecting more herder households, leading to a growing need for humanitarian assistance. On 14 February 2024, the Government of Mongolia passed a resolution declaring a heightened readiness level until 15 May due to the severe dzud affecting the country nationwide (priority support and involvement in crisis management, at all Governmental levels). Given the gravity of the situation and the increasing financial needs on the ground, the HCT developed this Dzud Response Plan 2024. The response plan is a continuation of the Dzud Early Action and Response Plan 2024 issued on 19 February 2024.

Plan Summary

200K PEOPLE IN NEED **76.7K** PEOPLE TARGETED **\$13.7M** FUNDING REQUIRED **\$4.0M** FUNDING RECEIVED **\$9.7M** FUNDING GAP

PEOPLE IN NEED AND TARGETED PER AIMAG



SECTOR	PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	REQUIRED (US\$)	FUNDING RECEIVED	FUNDING GAP
Food Security & Agriculture	130K	76.7K	\$7.9M	\$2.6M	\$5.3M
Health	200K	76K	1.4M	665K	758K
Education	47.1K	26K	433K	63.2K	370K
Nutrition	100K	66K	1.5M	100K	1.4M
WASH	98.5K	21.7K	1.3M	84.4K	1.2M
Protection - Gender-based Violence	48.2K	12.6K	870K	278K	592K
Protection - Child Protection	24K	11.2K	216K	20K	196K
Sector not specified				150.0K	
TOTAL	200K	76.7K	\$13.7M	\$4.0M	\$9.7M

Source: HCT's sectors

Situation Monitoring

As dzud is a slow-onset disaster that can be predicted at an early stage, allowing the Government, national and international actors, and communities to mitigate the risk and take anticipatory action. The National Agency of Meteorology and Environment Monitoring (NAMEM) plays a crucial role in this regard, providing essential early warning through the dzud risk map to all stakeholders involved.

In addition, when officially determining the dzud as a disaster, 50 per cent of the following criteria must be met at the nationwide level³:

1. The Dzud condition has to be in place for more than 14 days;
2. The affected population must be above 50 or more people;
3. The livestock mortality rate needs to reach two per cent or more at the nationwide level;
4. The scope of the scale should cover at least one third of the country;
5. The percentage of the actual damage needs to amount to two per cent or more of local government funds.



Herder Baldandorj'd livestock shelter in Sergelen soum, Tuv Province in February 2024 (Photo: RCO Mongolia)

Dzud Risk Map

The Dzud Risk Map is crucial in providing a snapshot into the season and weather conditions. These maps are created using a combination of remote sensing and ground observation data. Various parameters, including snow cover, drought index, summer condition, anomalous precipitation and temperature, snow depth, air temperature forecast, and precipitation forecast, pasture productivity, livestock numbers and pasture carrying capacity are considered in the process⁴. When

comparing the Dzud Risk maps from the previous year with the current year, it becomes evident that the current situation is significantly worse than previous years.

The comparison of the dzud maps from previous year with current year:

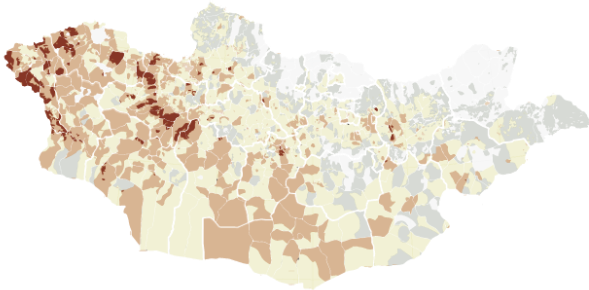
³ Annex No.1 of the Resolution No.327, dated 31 October 2018 (Disaster Identification Criteria)

⁴ Technical Brief: Disaster Risk Finance and Anticipatory Action in Mongolia: Lessons from the 2022/23 Dzud, FAO Mongolia

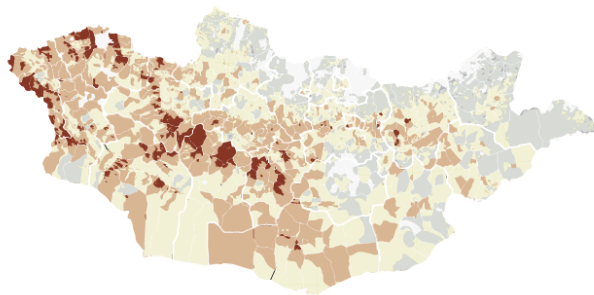
RISK MAPS

2022/2023

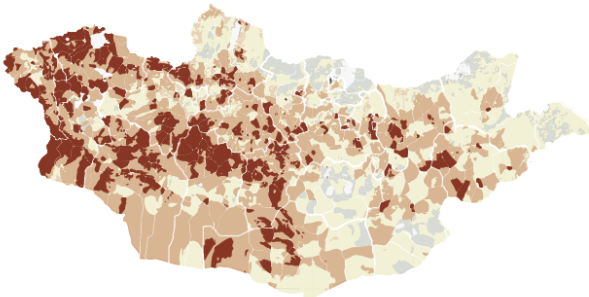
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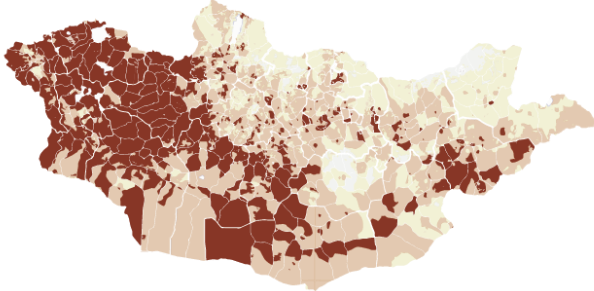
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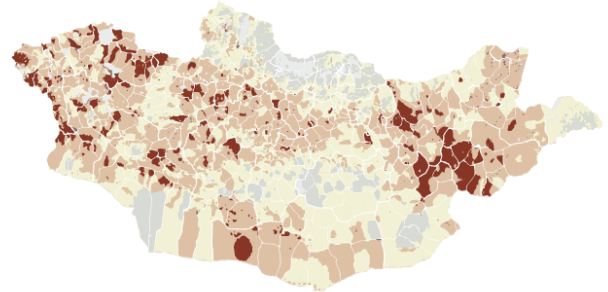
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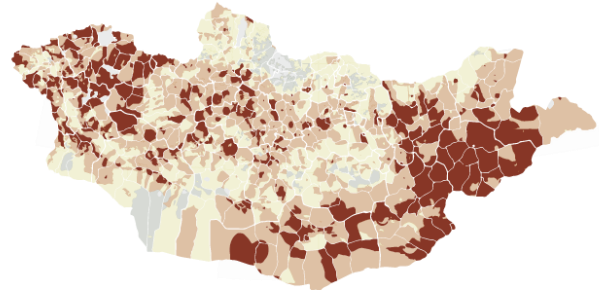
70% country are at **extreme and high** risk of dzud

2023/2024

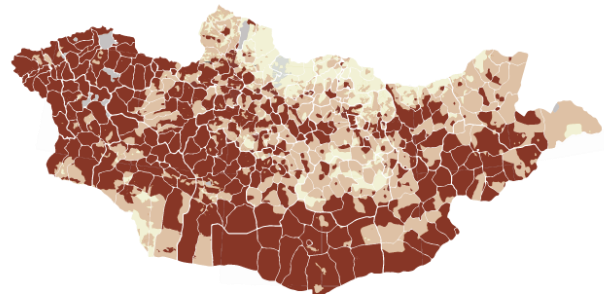
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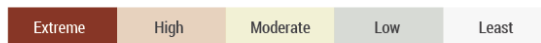
30 NOVEMBER 2023



20 DECEMBER 2023



90% country are at **extreme and high** risk of dzud



Source: NAMEM

Occurrence of dzud or near dzud conditions

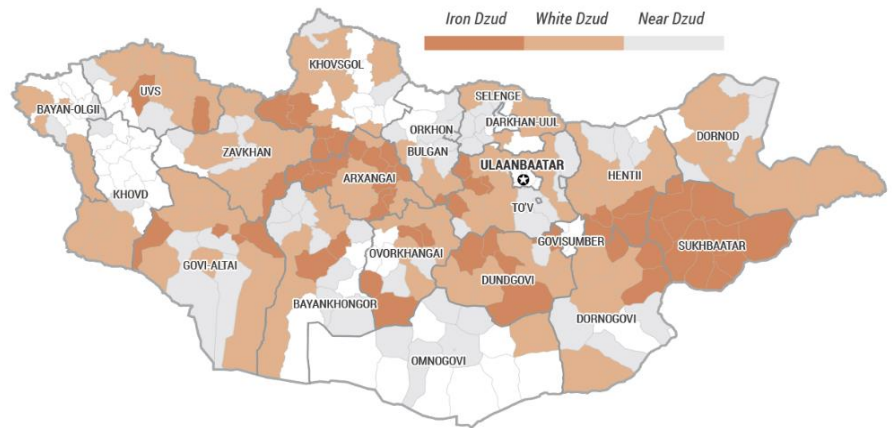
Dzud is classified as a "dzud condition" and a "near dzud condition" according to its intensity of snow density and the cold temperature within the area⁵.

Dzud condition occurs when snow density is higher than 0.25 g/cm³ in any area; weather temperature is 3°C or colder than multi-year average; average snow height is 25cm or more in mountain or forest-steppe zone, or 22 cm or more in the steppe zone, or 12 cm or more in the desert area. Within the dzud condition, it is classified into different categories of dzud, including white, black, and iron/ ice⁶.

Near dzud conditions occur when snow density is between 0.20-0.24 g/cm³ in any area; average snow height is 16 cm or more in the mountain or forest-steppe zone, or 11 cm or more in the steppe zone, or 5 cm or more in the desert area. Near dzud condition has two classifications, including near white dzud condition and near black dzud condition⁷.

As of 20 February 2024, 266 soums, of 21 provinces excluding two districts of Ulaanbaatar city, covering 81 per cent of the nation, are already in dzuds or near-dzuds conditions. Within the dzud condition, 58 soums of 13 provinces are under ice or icy conditions, while 139 soums of 17 provinces are under the white dzud conditions, directly affecting 119,598 herder households.

DZUD TYPES/STATUS BY SOUM (as of 20 February 2024)



Source: NAMEM

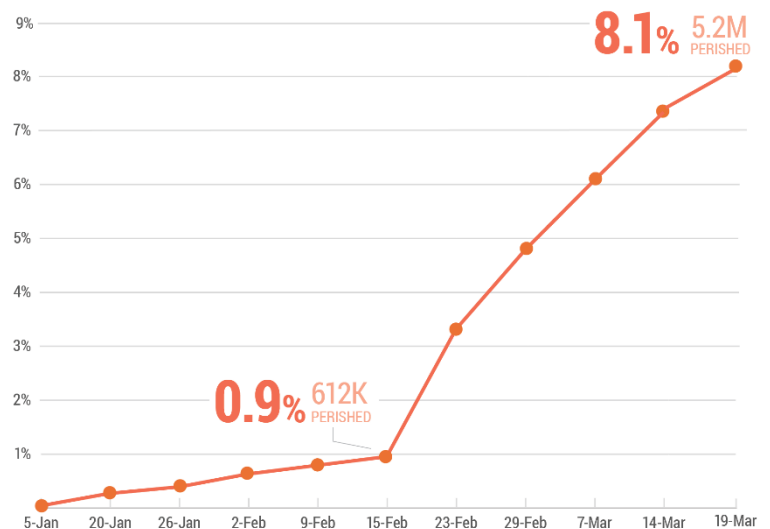
Livestock mortalities in the country

One of the critical determinants for declaring dzud as a nationwide disaster is the Government-set mortality rate of two per cent, which as of 18 March, stood at 8.1 per cent. The Government of Mongolia has been monitoring a nationwide mortality rate on a weekly basis.

The onset of and recovery from dzud conditions vary across different geographic locations within the country. Therefore, early action and response activities cannot be uniformly applied to all provinces.

Due to the dynamic nature of dzud conditions, close monitoring of the dzud situation across Mongolia is critical to tailor response efforts in a timely and effective manner. The HCT, through the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), will monitor the situation bi-weekly and tailor the response based on changes in temperature and the evolving situation.

PERISHED LIVESTOCK AND MORTALITY RATE



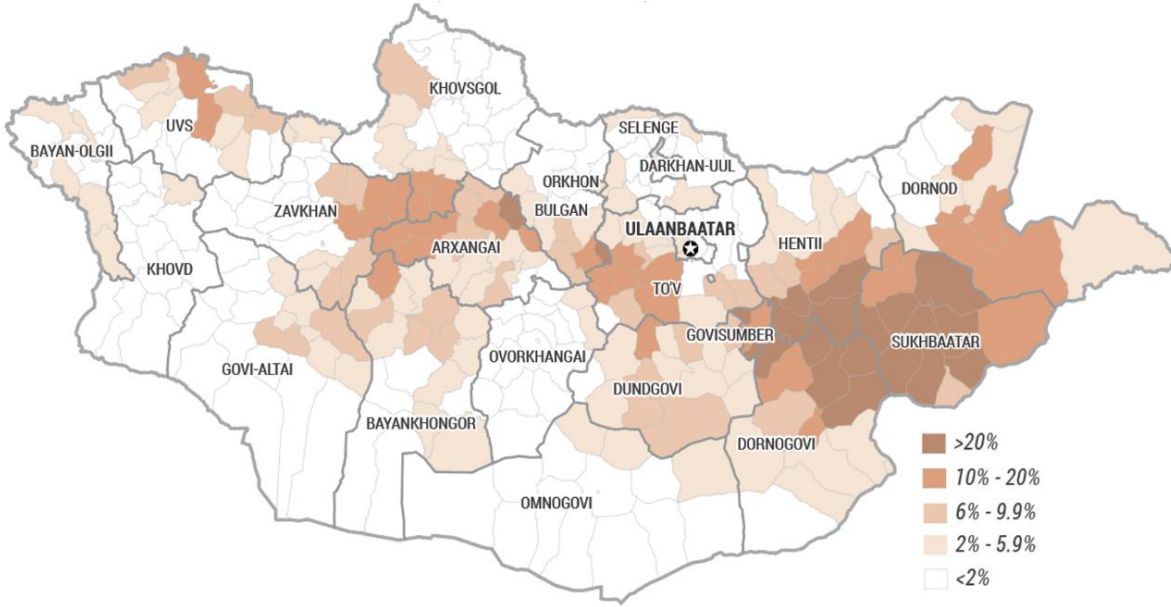
Source: MOFALI

⁵ Annex 5 of The Government Resolution No.286, dated 7 July 2015.

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid

LIVESTOCK PERISHED BY SOUM (as of 19 March 2024)



Source: MOFALI



Livestock carcasses in Arkhangai province in 2024 (photo: MRCS)

Most urgent humanitarian needs

On 12 January 2024, the UN Resident Coordinator received a letter from H.E. Amarsaikhan S., the Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia, requesting cooperation between the Government and the HCT in overcoming dzud and mitigating the humanitarian impact to herder households. The Deputy Prime Minister expressed that herder households require basic needs such as food, medical supplies, cooking and heating fuel, and cash assistance.

The most urgent humanitarian needs identified by sectors include multi-purpose cash, medical supplies for local hospitals for people to access essential health care, first aid kits, psychological support, food supplies and warm clothes for children in dormitories, dignity kits, nutrition supplements, educational materials for children, hygiene, hay and fodder, vitamins, mineral feed additives, vaccines, veterinary care kits for livestock.

The results of the 2021 Resilience Capacity Analysis of Mongolian Herder households, conducted by FAO, found that 20 per cent of these households are particularly susceptible to the effects of dzud events. This underscores the imperative to direct humanitarian assistance to these vulnerable households.

Vulnerable herder households are mainly those who are residing in the area where livestock mortality rate reached above 3.5 per cent as of now and owns up to 400 livestock, converted into sheep head unit. Targeting considerations were made for households with lactating or pregnant women, single headed households with three or more children under secondary school age, persons with disability, widowed elderly, and young herder households with limited social welfare benefits.



Government of Mongolia is delivering humanitarian support to affected population in Sukhbaatar province in January 2024 (Photo: State Emergency Commission)

Government response efforts

In a country characterized by a distinctive livestock production system reliant on open pastures and a brief summer season lasting three to four months for pasture growth, it is customary to ensure winter preparations from the autumn months (August-October). Herders stockpile hay and fodder to sustain their herds throughout the long lean season (December – May) until the next vegetation season. Consequently, each July, the Government issues a resolution outlining preparations for the upcoming winter season and

provides directives to provincial and district administrations. As a standard Government procedure, Government Resolution No. 279, issued on 19 July 2023, initiated winter preparedness efforts for the 2023-2024 period at the provincial and soum levels, aimed at proactive measures against dzud occurrences. To verify winter preparedness according to the Government resolution, during the final week of October 2023, the SEC's multisector risk assessment task force, under the direction of the Deputy Prime Minister, surveyed nine

provinces that experienced a notably poor summer season compared to others. The assessment identified a high-risk possibility in five of these provinces.

Based on the results of the risk assessment, the Government decided to provide funds for the provision of medical ambulances, additional fodder stockpiling, sheep and goat pox vaccination, herd winter migration regulation, and fuel support from the Government's reserve fund to the above provinces. However, in November 2023, heavy snow and an intense snowstorm covered the entire area, and until the last half of December, it warmed up four times, and the entire territory of 166 sums of 18 provinces was covered with snow and ice. To mitigate the impact of extreme winter on herder households, the Government of Mongolia undertook the following measures:

1. Coordination:

- Established the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) on 8 December 2023, mandated by the SEC and formed Emergency Task Forces at the provincial and soums levels⁸.

2. Preparation of Hay and Fodder:

- Pursuant to Resolution No. 279, dated 19 July 2023, the required amount of fodder for establishing safe reserves was determined and communicated to the capital city, provinces, soums, and districts. A total of 20.2 thousand tons of hay and 8.0 thousand tons of fodder have been prepared, accounting for 78.8 per cent of the total need⁹.
- Temporarily prohibited hay and fodder exports for domestic usage until the end of 2024.
- Distributed provision of 9,182 tons of fodder at a 50 per cent discounted price, valued at 4.3 billion MNT (equivalent to \$1.2 million), under Resolutions No. 449, dated 13 December 2023, and No. 479, dated 27 December 2023.
- Distributed provision of 5180 tons of fodder and 850 of hay under Resolution No.63, dated 14 February 2024.

3. Livestock destocking:

At the end of summer 2023, the Government of Mongolia counted approximately 87.1 million livestock¹⁰

and successfully decreased to 64.6 million livestock as of 31 December 2023. To decrease the number of livestock, the Government took the following measures:

- Exported 80.4 thousand tons of meat and meat products to foreign markets at the end of 2023, a fivefold increase compared to the previous year¹¹. More meat exports to foreign markets are underway, and numbers are increasing.
- Introduced a loan mechanism of up to 100 billion MNT (equivalent to \$29 million) for meat processing enterprises, funded by commercial banks, to facilitate the purchase of meat from herders.

4. Provision of food, medical supplies and public services:

- Implementing measures to regulate Otor or transhumance migration during periods of inadequate grazing land availability.
- Clearing the heavy snow from roads to ensure access to essential public services and needs such as healthcare, education, and food for herder households residing in remote areas.
- Allocated 128 winter service vehicles (22 vehicles under Resolution No.63, dated 14 February 2024) and 213 tons of fuel to provincial governments to address resource inadequacy and provide public services.
- 1,162 tons of flour and 584 tons of rice were provided to herder households in the affected areas.
- 900 medical kits were distributed to herder households.

On 14 February 2024, the Government passed a resolution declaring a heightened readiness level until 15 May (priority support and involvement in crisis management, at all governmental levels) due to the severe dzud affecting the country.

With 140,000 herders with loans compromising a total of 1.3 trillion MNT (equivalent to \$38 million), on 20 February, the Government postponed loan payments for a period of six months. The Government also provided humanitarian support worth 51.1 billion MNT (equivalent to \$15.1 million) for herder households living in affected areas. These efforts underscore the Government's commitment to pre-emptively address and mitigate the impact of dzud, ensuring the welfare and resilience of Mongolia's rural communities.

⁸ H.E. Amarsaikhan, Deputy Prime Minister's letter, dated 12th Jan 2024, to H.E. Tapan Mishra, UN Resident Coordinator Mongolia

⁹ The Cabinet meeting dated 15th November 2023

¹⁰ The Cabinet meeting, dated on 15th November 2023

¹¹ Report from Emergency Operation Center

Strategic Objectives



S01

Provide immediate humanitarian assistance and protection to those in most urgent need.



S02

Protect the livelihoods of vulnerable herder households and ensure continued access to critical services.



S03

Address and advocate for the specific needs of groups of people, based on gender, age, disability, displacement, or other vulnerability criteria so that they are protected against violence and have equal access to humanitarian aid without discrimination.

Response Strategy

The response plan will take stock of the impact and needs from the early action period from December 2023, in line with Government response actions and will aim to address the current and emerging humanitarian needs of vulnerable populations related to education, nutrition, WASH, food and agriculture, health and protection sectors. All activities will complement the Government-led response to the dzud¹².

The UN Coordinator's Office (RCO) has been coordinating early action and response activities in response to the dzud 2023/2024. Humanitarian partners, in coordination with Government-line ministries, are providing humanitarian support to affected areas.

The response will be needs-based and will prioritize vulnerable herder households, residing in the area where

livestock mortality rate reached above 3.5 per cent as of now and owns up to 400 livestock, converted into sheep head unit. Targeting considerations were made for households with lactating or pregnant women, single headed households with three or more children under secondary school age, persons with disability, widowed elderly, and young herder households with limited social welfare benefits.

The preferred response modality is a combination of cash assistance and in-kind or service support, also referred to as cash+. Based on specific needs, context and feasibility, humanitarian partners will customize their assistance packages, in consultation with affected people.



Distributing life-saving livestock bran to herder community in Sukhbaatar province (Photo: World Vision Mongolia)

¹²The Government Early Action and Response Plan 2023/2024.

Operational constraints and challenges

The humanitarian response efforts face several constraints and challenges, including real-time data collection from Government, limited supply of fuel in the country vis-à-vis high transportation costs. Humanitarian partners are aware of coordination needs, and actively adhere to all decisions made in the HCT, ISCG and CWG comparing to 2023, however there is limited sector-level coordination among members. These challenges pose significant obstacles to the delivery of humanitarian assistance for people in need.

Accountability to Affected People (AAP)

The response efforts will regularly gather information from those affected to better understand and address their changing needs and priorities. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) organized the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) training for members of the HCT, Emergency Operation Center, herders, and local government officials. During the training, HCT members drafted key inputs for dzud early action and response plan 2023/2024 based on real experiences from herder households.

Moreover, humanitarian partners conducted field missions and found that herder households in dzud extreme and high-risk conditions have low stock of animal feed, shortages of money with most herder households having a loan to pay, mobility constraints due to heavy snow cover and difficulties accessing health services and basic public services. There is ongoing work on feedback mechanisms from herders to humanitarian partners in early action and response activities.

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is planning to conduct damage and loss and socio-economic impact assessment of the dzud to inform the next phase of supporting activities such as re-stocking and nutrition program for households who lost their animal entirely.

Gender

The Dzud Response Plan 2023/2024 will consider gender dynamics and socio-economic status, ensuring the inclusion of gender-sensitive measures to address

vulnerabilities and promote resilience among women and men alike.

Capacity Analysis of Mongolian Herder Households conducted by FAO in 2022 found that single – parent headed households were 24.7 per cent and female-headed single- parent herder households were 8.6 per cent, and households with a disabled family member were 10.62 per cent.¹³ In addition, male-headed households are more resilient than female-headed households. While overall, female-headed households have better access to essential services, they have significantly fewer agricultural tools, non-productive durables, numbers of livestock as well as sources of income compared to male-headed households. They also face more difficulties in getting loans or finding family supports if needed and have lower levels of education.¹⁴

Despite legal provisions declaring equal rights to inheritance and property, disparities exist in women's access to assets in Mongolia. Of particular concern in the dzud response, men are twice as likely documented as livestock owners than women (33 per cent men versus 18 per cent women)¹⁵, potentially impacting their access to Government insurance schemes.

Therefore, the Dzud Response Plan 2023/2024 will ensure that the specific needs of women and girls are addressed across different sectors using Sex and Age Disaggregated Data (SADD) collected from sectors. The monitoring for continued analysis will address gender equality.

Multipurpose Cash Assistance

As a modality to meet a wide range of needs, multipurpose cash assistance (MPC) is increasingly used by agencies, international organizations, and Government for both early action and response timelines in Mongolia with the intent to mitigate the impact of the dzud event. Considering the short timeframe and impact mitigation focus of the plan, most humanitarian assistance will be delivered either cash or *cash+* intervention which combines cash transfers with in-kind assistance for people and livestock (food, feed, first aid kits, and technical training and extension services), with the bulk of the cash distributions happening between December 2023 and April 2024.

¹³ FAO 2022. Resilience Capacity Analysis of Mongolian Herder Households.

¹⁴ FAO 2022.

¹⁵ ADB, 2022.

The Cash Working Group (CWG) agreed that the transfer of value for humanitarian assistance to vulnerable households will remain consistent during both early action and response periods. This assistance is equivalent to the Government-declared minimum wage, currently standing at 660,000 MNT (equivalent to \$195), for all international organizations involved. The objective of adopting a cash or *cash+* intervention is to enhance the livelihoods and enable vulnerable herder households affected by dzud to meet their immediate needs, despite rising prices, and still access food/feed, medicines/veterinary drugs and fuel in local markets.

The CWG agreed that two tranches of unconditional cash transfer are required based on increasing humanitarian needs, and the harmonized transfer value (TV) should be 660.000 MNT (equivalent to \$195) per transfer. For households selected to receive the cash+ assistance instead of the full TV, the total cost remittances and inputs should be equal to 660.000 MNT (equivalent to \$195).

Members of the CWG have agreed on a harmonised approach to Post-Distribution Monitoring consisting of 13 common indicators for outputs and outcomes which are used by all organizations implementing cash transfers.

In the current plan, the sector responsible for distributing cash is the Food Security and Agriculture sector, through which a total of 19,800 vulnerable herder households will benefit from MPC or *cash+* assistance. The cash will be transferred directly to the bank account of the head of the beneficiary herder household.

Humanitarian-Development Nexus

Mongolia is one of the pioneering countries of the anticipatory action approach, offering critical lessons learned that have helped shape the concept today. However, more is needed to strengthen systems and coordination at the national and sub-national levels. The work on Anticipatory Action (AA) has been led by two key government agencies: the Mongolia National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring (NAMEM), which is producing an annual 'dzud' (harsh winter) risk map to provide a snapshot into the season and the MOFALI who has been a proactive partner on the ground to deliver assistance to herders. This has been instrumental in triggering AA intervention four times

since 2017. The 2022/23 dzud event AA in Mongolia has gained significant momentum, receiving strong endorsement from the Government. This commitment is evident in their recent release of state fodder and hay reserves in response to a dzud risk warning, complemented by FAO's provision of livestock packages and cash assistance.

Consequently, vulnerable herder households gained access to crucial resources to ensure the well-being and survival of their livestock before and during the harsh winter season. Such advancements have created an environment where the Deputy Prime Minister expressed a personal interest in expanding AA and developing a roadmap for its expansion over the next five years. However, despite these achievements, there are essential areas for further development of the AA approach in Mongolia). Currently, there is a lack of coordination among partners regarding the timing and implementation of anticipatory actions, leading to confusion about its core principles. A more systematic approach, including the development of operating procedures for Government involvement in anticipatory action was recommended. This approach can shape support requests for herders and the allocation of internal Public Management Funds. It is worth mentioning that a National DRF Strategy is currently under development, which will provide the overarching framework for coordination and cost-effective use of DRF instruments in a risk-layered fashion, with the NEMA and the Ministry of Finance leading the development process.

The Government of Mongolia has demonstrated commendable efforts in managing the livestock population, achieving a reduction from 87.1 million to 64.7 million through strategic commercial destocking, including meat exportation and the implementation of a loan mechanism for slaughterhouses. Despite these achievements, balancing livestock numbers with available pasture capacity remains a pressing concern. Continued efforts and innovative solutions are necessary to address this imbalance and ensure sustainable agricultural practices in Mongolia. The humanitarian-development nexus plays a crucial role in addressing sustainable agricultural practices. The response activities considered a linkage with the unmet development needs of the affected communities to build their resilience for future shocks.

Monitoring Framework

Regular updates on dzud early action and response activities are available on a dedicated [5W dashboard](#) which covers the sectoral overview and operational presence of humanitarian partners. The HCT, through the ISCG, will monitor the situation using the 5W dashboard and common post-distribution monitoring report. This will help to identify achievements and setbacks in the collective response and inform HCT decision-making and corrective actions. The [Financial Tracking Service \(FTS\)](#) will also track financial and in-kind contributions.

Coordination Structure

The HCT has been receiving direct information from the EOC affiliated with the SEC. All information is channeled through one source via EOC to UN RCO. For the Dzud Response Plan 2023/2024, the ISCG and CWG have been meeting on a regular basis. The Education, Nutrition,

WASH, Food and Agriculture, Protection (GBV and Child protection) and Health sectors are working at the grassroot level.

Humanitarian Coordination Structure



Source: HCT

Food Security and Agriculture

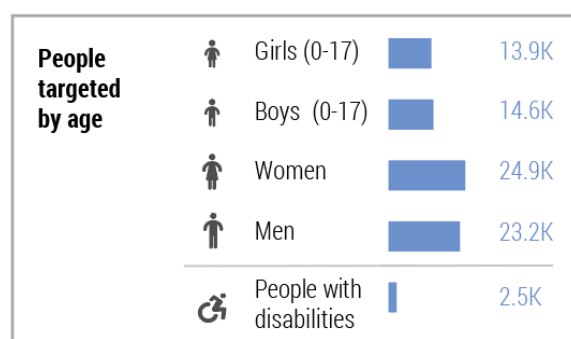
PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	TOTAL REQUIREMENT (US\$)	FUNDING RECEIVED	FUNDING GAP
130K	76.7K	\$7.9M	\$2.6M	\$5.3M

Sector impact and needs

Mongolia's pastoral livestock production system is a second pillar of the nation's economy, providing livelihoods for over 80 per cent of the rural population. However, its heavy reliance on natural resources for year-round grazing on pastures and its close connection to weather conditions render it exceptionally vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. This vulnerability exposes herder communities to heightened risks of suffering frequent and severe losses from natural disasters, particularly dzuds. The dzud is a unique phenomenon occurring in Mongolia's traditional livestock production system, with significant social and economic consequences. It results in substantial livestock losses, leading to thousands of herder households losing their livelihoods and increasing their vulnerability.

In 2010, Mongolia was struck by severe dzud, resulting in the loss of 25 per cent of the national livestock population. These devastating events left thousands of herder households without a means of sustaining their livelihoods. Since then, Mongolia has grappled with exacerbated weather patterns, characterized by dry summers followed by harsh winters. Despite a promising start in the summer of 2023, abrupt changes in the fall, marked by plummeting temperatures and heavy snowfall, posed significant challenges.

By early November 2023, Mongolia experienced heavy snowfall and blizzards affecting 60 per cent of the country's landscape. Herders took proactive steps in November and December 2023, strategically reducing herd sizes through commercial destocking. As of 2023, Mongolia documented a total of 64.7 million heads of livestock and 185 thousand herder households. Out



of it, 77 per cent of households rely entirely on livestock as their primary income source.

The dzud risk map released on December 20, 2023, warned of extremely high and high dzud risks across Mongolia, covering 321 soums of 21 aimags and peri-urban 6 districts of Ulaanbaatar. By mid-March 2024, over 80% of the total area was blanketed in thick snow, leading to significant livestock losses totaling 5.2 million heads. Livestock mortality exceeded the dzud threshold of 5% in 106 soums of 18 aimags and surpassed 3.5% in 38 soums, with an anticipation of reaching the disaster threshold in the coming months due to prolonged malnutrition.

The worsening winter conditions, and the high rate of livestock mortality have deeply impacted herder communities, necessitating urgent support. Despite challenges such as increased prices for hay and fodder, the market has shown resilience. With the melting snow in spring, access to pastures will improve, lowering hay and fodder prices. However, there is still a need for nutrient-rich feed for animals suffering from prolonged malnutrition and depleting food reserves in herder households.

During the lean season from January to April, herder households face cash-flow shortages, limiting their

purchasing power for essential items. They often resort to loans, but high-interest rates and collateral requirements pose challenges, particularly for vulnerable households with small herds.

Additionally, the loss of goats, the primary income source for many households, has deepened livelihood risks and vulnerability.

According to the State Emergency Commission, as of 16 March, 1.6 million goats have perished, resulting in an economic loss of 400 tons of cashmere, equivalent to MNT 50 billion (equivalent to \$15 million), based on last year's market price. Furthermore, due to goats' higher sensitivity to cold compared to other livestock species, all pregnant goats in the severe dzud-affected regions experienced a 100 per cent miscarriage rate, increasing the risk of further herd replacement.

Sheep, crucial for the food security of herder households, experienced an annual mortality rate of 6.6 per cent, equivalent to 2.1 million sheep in 2023. However, in the first 2.5 months of 2024, 8.3 per cent or 2.4 million sheep have already perished, indicating a worsening situation for the food security of herder households.

Additionally, the loss of camels, considered the most resistant to dzud, reached 2,100 head. 243,000 horses and 416,000 cattle perished in the first 2.5 months of 2024, which is equal to the total annual loss for the entire year of 2023.

As pastures are inaccessible due to being completely covered by hard and deep snow and ice, this supply is rapidly depleting. The acute shortage from February to April, coincides with the late stages of pregnancy and the birthing season of small ruminants, cows and mares, thereby necessitating an increased demand for feed. The lack of sufficient milk for mother animals that have been undernourished for a long time also makes it difficult for newborns to survive.

Moreover, prolonged housing of herds in warm shelters on inadequate bedding elevates the risk of external parasites such as scabies. Additionally, animals grazing in snow-covered pastures often resort to digging through the ice, leading to abrasions and injuries on their extremities and mouths. These wounds result in pain, rapid weight loss, compromised immunity, and an increased risk

of mortality. Consequently, there is an urgent need for high-energy, good-quality animal feed rich in nutrients such as proteins, carbohydrates, vitamins, and minerals), as well as treatment for exhausted animals and management of external parasites.

The ongoing dzud disaster, coupled with outbreaks of Capri poxvirus disease affecting sheep and goats, poses a significant risk to herder households and the broader community. The return of herder households from emergency grazing reserves for transhumance migration increases the risk of disease spread. Urgent immunization campaigns are underway, but financial challenges remain.

Since January 1, 2024, 46 outbreaks of Capri poxvirus disease have been reported, affecting 9,089 small ruminants from 308 households in 30 soums of 7 provinces. Currently, 24 outbreaks with 4,285 animals from 155 households are under strict quarantine, while 5 outbreaks are under a reduced quarantine regime, and 9 outbreaks have been completely lifted. The depletion of vaccines in the national reserve necessitates urgent action. An immunization campaign with 6.9 million doses must be completed by April 2024, with 0.4 million doses distributed locally. Assistance has been secured from foreign producers for 2.5 million doses, but a shortfall of 3.0 million doses remains, requiring additional funding.

Adding to these challenges, the spring weather forecast predicts the continuation of deep and dense snow cover with cold temperatures. Additionally, many seasonal risks persist, including catastrophic spring snow and dust storms, blizzards, flash floods from heavy snowmelt, steppe wildfires, and the presence of millions of dead livestock carcasses. These factors further compound the challenges faced by these households.

The Government has implemented measures to address the crisis, including funds for purchasing and distributing fodder, providing essential food assistance, facilitating livestock and meat sales, and clearing roads for access to affected households. Additionally, efforts are being made to postpone loan repayments for herders and extend the spring break for rural schools.

Despite these efforts, additional support is needed to mitigate the impact of the dzud and Capri poxvirus disease on herder communities.

International humanitarian aid has been requested, and assistance is critical to providing relief to affected households and preventing further losses.

Referring to the resilience capacity analysis of Mongolian herder households conducted by the FAO in 2021, which revealed that 20% of herder households faced a high risk of losing their livelihoods due to a single event, an estimated 130,000 people in 36,111 households are in need of assistance. The Food Security and Agriculture

sectoral target aims to reach 76,680 people in 21300 vulnerable households.

These households are considered vulnerable due to various factors, including the presence of disabled members, pregnant or lactating mothers, elderly individuals, single-parent-headed households with two or more children under 17 years old, and young households (under 35 years old) with limited social welfare benefits.



FAO field mission in Tsagaankhairkhan, Zavkhan province, they encountered a herder digging through heavy snow to locate pasture for his livestock

Key activities

Sectoral interventions to address the immediate needs of dzud-affected vulnerable households while promoting their resilience and social protection include:

- Multi-purpose unconditional cash transfer (UCT) to provide financial support for basic needs.
- Cash+ intervention combining cash transfers with complementary in-kind food packages, health and hygiene kits, animal fodder, and vitamin and mineral supplements for weakened animals, aiming to enhance their health and productivity, thereby safeguarding herder families' livelihoods.
- In-kind aid of food packages (consisted of flour, noodles, rice, millet, sugar, oil, tea etc.) for affected population, animal fodder, and vitamin and mineral supplements for livestock to ensure their well-being.
- Service delivery, including fuel support to enable the transportation of food and animal feed to affected soums and communities, ensuring access to essential resources.

Provision of Capri poxvirus vaccine to prevent the spread of the disease among livestock, safeguarding their health and livelihoods.

- Post Disaster Needs Assessment, including socio-economic impact assessment, damage and loss assessment, capacity and vulnerability assessment.

These interventions will be delivered in conjunction with interventions from the Nutrition, WASH, Health, Education and Protection (GBV) sectors.

Activities	Time frame	Agencies	Target households	Target people	Funding required (US\$)	Funding Gap (US\$)
1 Unconditional cash transfer (UCT)	Jan-May	World Vision Mongolia, ADRA Mongolia, FAO, UNICEF, Save the Children, People in Need	5,500	19,800	2,376,000	1,767,528
2 Cash plus (cash+ food, feed, first aid animal care kit)	Feb-May	MRCS, Save the Children, UNDP, World Vision Mongolia, ADRA Mongolia	8,300	29,880	3,585,600	2,339,200
3 In-kind aid including a provision of food package for affected population and animal feed etc.	Mar-June	MRCS, World Vision Mongolia, Good Neighbors	7,500	27,000	1,620,000	948,872
4 Provision of capripoxvirus vaccine	Apr	FAO			230,000	230,000
5 Post disaster needs assessment (DNA)	June	FAO, UNDP			100,000	20,000
TOTAL			21,300	76,680	7,911,600	5,305,600

Implementation strategy

- Adhere to Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) for consistent and effective interventions.
- Focus on vulnerable herder households with small ruminant-dominated herds.
- Deliver unconditional cash transfers promptly to address immediate financial needs.
- Monitor the local animal feed market to ensure continuous availability.
- Safeguard the livelihoods of 21,300 vulnerable herder households across dzud-affected areas with a livestock mortality rate over 3.5%.
- Exclude areas characterized by intensified cropping and livestock farming systems (Selenge, Tuv, Ulaanbaatar, Darkhan, and Orkhon), as well as those with significant large-scale mining extraction activities (Umnugovi aimag).

By leveraging LEGS, these interventions aim to address immediate needs of humanitarian crisis-affected herder households while promoting long-term resilience of livestock-based livelihoods against climate-related challenges.

Sector contacts: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

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Participating organizations: *UNICEF, UNDP, Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS), World Vision Mongolia (WVM), Save the Children (SC), ADRA Mongolia, Good Neighbors, and other member agencies of the sector.*



Distributing livestock fodder in Sukhbaatar province in 2024. (Photo: WVM Mongolia)



PEOPLE IN NEED

200K

PEOPLE TARGETED

76K

TOTAL REQUIREMENT (US\$)

1.4M

FUNDING RECEIVED

665K

FUNDING GAP

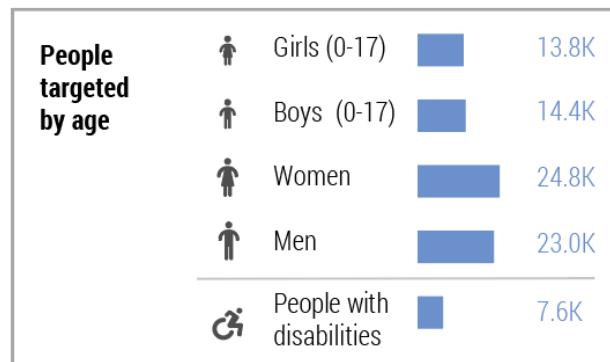
758K

Sector impact and needs

About 30 per cent of the population are herders who are living in the countryside/rural areas. The health of all herders has been affected to some extent due to the dzud conditions that persisted throughout the winter.

Due to extremely cold weather, heavy snow, and blizzards, people living in rural areas face challenges accessing health services and are vulnerable to injuries while looking after their livestock. Herders travelling between provinces are at risk of hypothermia and frostbite due to harsh weather, heavy snow, and bad road conditions. When people are exposed to cold temperatures, the human body begins to lose heat faster than it's produced, leading to hypothermia caused by prolonged exposure in freezing temperatures. Patients with hypothermia and frostbite urgently require health services from the nearest healthcare facilities. As such, rural health facilities including soum-level health centers, provincial general hospitals, and regional diagnostic and treatment centers need additional preparation and resources to ensure continuity of emergency services for herder households. In addition, herders face access challenges in reaching public health services \ due to blocked roads caused by heavy snowfall and harsh winter conditions.

Due to the above-mentioned situation, the Ministry of Health identified needed support for provincial, soum level health centres and herder families living in the affected area, The Ministry of Health approached humanitarian supports from WHO as a health sector lead. With this request, WHO has been communicating and coordinating with health sector members to support government actions. Based on this situation, essential medicines (Interagency Emergency Health Kit: Basic and supplementary modules with medicines and renewables) and medical supplies including thermostat and patient warming system have been provided to the provincial and soum health centers, and 3000 first aid kit with essential medicines for fever reducing, pain alleviating, Anti-hypertensives, Anti-Inflammatory, Anti-diarrheal, frostbite, burns, and dressing and bandage



materials, and vitamins, and thermometer for herder families especially in the dzud-affected 'otor' areas as identified by the Ministry of Health.

As of March 2024, a total of 470,655 herders are wintering in 21 provinces and 17,932 herders are in "otor" areas. There are 199,689 vulnerable people including 7915 pregnant women, 66,709 children under 5, 60,090 elders, 20,591 people with disabilities and 44,384 people with chronic diseases among those herders. Those group of people who are in above vulnerable group is "people in need" for health sector. And herders who faced iron and white dzud and lost 20-40 per cent (20,325 people from 6,372 herder households) and more than 40 per cent (17,051 people from 5,176 herder households) of their livestock were the most affected by dzud.

The Ministry of Health is monitoring health condition of herder families through sub-national level health care facilities. As of 20 March 2024, 76,329 people are in need of health service in 21 provinces as identified by health sector official data. Therefore, the health sector will target those people who identified as people need health service by health care workers.

Although the weather is getting warmer, key health services must be maintained even as the winter transitions into the spring season and the occurrence of the dzud might subside in the coming weeks. Rural healthcare facilities, which serve vulnerable



Shipment of Emergency medicines and renewables from Manila, Philippines were shipped by WHO Western Pacific Regional Office are arrived in Mongolia and ready to distribute to all provinces by the Ministry of Health and Mongolia Country Office in February 2024 (Photo: WHO Mongolia)

communities, need reinforced infrastructure to be accessible in spite of harsh weather and stay open for the herders' families. Health facilities would need reliable heating and power, use of telemedicine for remote consultations, and better logistical supply chains to assure the availability of essential medicines and supplies.

To prepare and respond, healthcare staff must be trained and prepared well in dzud-specific case management and other cold-related conditions as well as mental health and psychosocial support services. Constant exposure to cold weather throughout the winter, loss of livestock, and long periods of time away from their families pose a high risk to the herders' physical and mental health. Therefore, the needs and challenges in the health sector are likely to increase in the post-dzud period. The health sector's dzud response must include counseling, stress management, and community assistance to treat psychological effects for those affected by loss of livestock, and/or displacement.

Preparation for dzud-related flooding due to thawing and melting of ice is crucial. This includes pre-

positioning emergency medical supplies, establishing mobile health teams to deploy in flood-affected areas, and launching public health campaigns to educate communities about flood-related health risks and hygiene.

UNFPA Mongolia country office together with the Ministry of Health also conducted the health sector readiness assessment to gender-based violence. The assessment findings have demonstrated the need to strengthen the health sector response. The provision of sexual and reproductive health services often neglected during the emergence, and there is a strong need to include midwives in the home visit for active searching of pregnant women to bring them into pre-delivery facilities at the local health centers in due time.

After snow melts, the risk of zoonotic and other infectious diseases can emerge during the removing, burial and handling of livestock carcasses. Improved surveillance and prompt reaction are needed to prevent infectious disease epidemics. Health facilities should have diagnostic tools and vaccines to control and prevent influenza, pneumonia, and waterborne illness epidemics owing to post-dzud water and sanitation

issues. Health officials, community leaders, and international partners must work together to address these complex health issues. To advise herders and rural populations about how to seek healthcare during dzud occurrences and reduce health hazards, community engagement and communication must be strengthened.

The provision of sexual and reproductive health services often neglected during the emergence, and there is a

strong need to include midwives in the home visit for active searching of pregnant women to bring them into pre-delivery facilities at the local health centers in due time. In addition, Mental health and Psychosocial Support Minimum Service Package should be introduced into the sustainable health service delivery during the emergency.

Key Activities

- Support access to emergency and essential healthcare at provincial and soum health centers
- Provide first aid kits with basic medicines to affected herder households.
- Improve emergency care and rescue services at soum and bagh level
- Psychological support for affected herders and children
- Ensure inclusion of SRH services in the sustainable health service delivery
- Provide information on basic psychological support skills to frontliners.
- Prevention of potential outbreaks due to livestock carcasses or possible flooding
- Flood preparation and response.

Activities	Time frame	Agencies	Target households/ health centers	Target people	Funding required (US\$)	Funding Gap (US\$)
Essential health services						
1 Procurement of patient warming system with Patient Warming Hospital blanket and warming device	Jan-Feb	WHO	100 soum health center		56,769	0
2 Procurement of thermostat for constant temperature to keep drip liquid and injection liquid warm regularly	Jan-Feb	WHO	100 soum health center		94,906	0
3 Provide essential medicines and medical renewable equipment	Jan-Mar	WHO	21 provinces' general hospitals and soum health centers		42,066	0
4 Provide first aid kits with basic medicines for herder family	Jan-Apr	WHO	3000	3,000	76,912	0
5 Mobile health care bag for bagh feldshers	Jan-Jun	WHO	1250 bagh feldsher		251,323	0
6 Operational support provinces for health services and contingency for procurement	Jan-Jun	WHO	21 provinces		334,850	320,000

Activities	Time frame	Agencies	Target households/ health centers	Target people	Funding required (US\$)	Funding Gap (US\$)
of Emergency Medical Supplies						
7 Train frontline health workers to provide essential MNCH services (IPC-I, cIMCI, EENC)	Feb-Jun	UNICEF	21 provinces	5,000	200,000	200,000
8 Provide emergency health kits, necessary medical equipment to health facilities	Feb-Jun	UNICEF	14 provinces	200	60,000	17,000
Mental and psychosocial support						
9 Operational cost for provision of mental health and psychosocial support by NCMH team in dzud-affected areas in Mar-Apr 2024	Mar-Apr	WHO UNICEF			60,000	44,010
10 Provide information on basic psychological support skills to frontliners	Mar-June	UNFPA, National Center for Mental Health			10,000	10,000
11 Psychological first aid (PFA) training for children of the herders	Feb-Mar	SCJ		8,000	50,000	40,000
12 Psychosocial support service to the affected herders and their families	Feb-Apr	MRCS	10000	10,000	39,000	27,050
Prevention and response of potential outbreaks due to animal carcasses or flood						
13 Support for Disposal of animal carcasses	Mar-Jun	WHO FAO MRCS			50,000	50,000
14 Supplies for flood affected people (Water purification tablets and Jerrycans for drinking water)	Mar-Jun	WHO			17,000	0
Gender based violence						
15 Capacity building of health sector to gender-based violence surveillance and clinical management of rape and intimate partner violence	Feb-Jun	UNFPA			80,000	50,000
TOTAL				76,000	1,422,826	758,060

Implementation strategy

The sector activities focus on the continuity of essential health services, emergency care for cold-related injuries in rural areas, well-being of herder households as well as those needs identified by the MoH, with whom the health sector works in close collaboration with.

The target beneficiaries of the health sector will be people living in dzud affected areas that had and have limited access to medical and mental healthcare during and after the dzud. People who are living in areas with flood risk and their health care facilities will also be identified as a target group.

- Essential medicines and medical renewable equipment from WHO were prepared for dzud response in 2023 and shipped with WHO Regional Office support and the distribution to all dzud-affected provinces and some soums was conducted in January to March 2024 under MoH guidance.
- Procurement of required equipment including thermostat and patient warming system, and first aid kits with basic medicines for herder family was turned over by WHO to the MoH. Distribution of medical equipment and supplies to 100 soums was done in coordination with the MoH and the National Center for Zoonotic Diseases of Mongolia (NCZD). The deployment of these in dzud-affected locations is intended to maintain crucial health services.
- Psychological support for herders and their children is being implemented by MoH, NCMH with support health sector partners from February to April 2024.
- Capacity building training for health care workers and emergency health kits, necessary medical equipment to health facilities will be implemented based on needs assessments from February to April 2024.
- Health care workers will need to be trained and equipped in anticipation of the flooding that commonly follows dzud conditions due to rapid melting. These medical workers can address health issues related to risks due to flood water including waterborne infections, treating flood injuries, and providing clean water and sanitation.

Sector contacts: World Health Organization (WHO)

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Participating organizations: WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, MRCS, and SCJ, FAO



Joint field visit of the Ministry of Health and WHO Representative Office to health centers in Tuv province to turn over bagh feldsher's bag with required medical equipment for the field and required emergency medicines in February 2024 (Photo: WHO)

Education

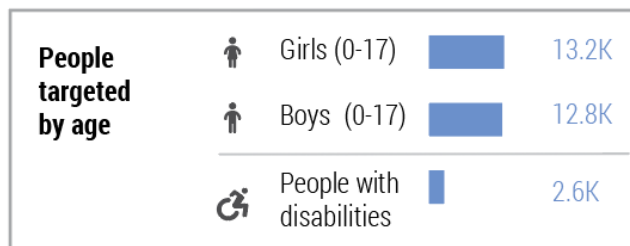
PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	TOTAL REQUIREMENT (US\$)	FUNDING RECEIVED	FUNDING GAP
47.1K	26K	\$433K	\$63K	\$370K

Sector impacts and needs

Climate trends, including more extreme winter conditions (leading to more severe dzuds and greater use of coal, which in turn leads to air pollution), heavier summer precipitation (leading to flash floods), and more extreme summers (leading to both more severe droughts and dzuds), all have a significant impact on Mongolia's education sector.

The main impacts include reduced access to education – especially in the harsh, cold winters when roads are impassable or too dangerous and after flash floods when roads are destroyed – as well as missing school or dropping out of school due to health complications, particularly in winter. These trends result in lower attendance rates and potentially impact learning outcomes. Livelihood concerns are also widespread with herding families being particularly dependent on favorable weather conditions to make a living and obtain sufficient income to send children to school. In addition to these concerns, schools also report insufficient access to water and sanitation facilities, food insecurity, and energy access as important issues affecting students' well-being during climate-related disasters.¹⁶

Between January and late February 2024, it was challenging for children to commute to school in several areas due to road blockages caused by heavy snowfall. In Sukhbataar province, hybrid learning modality was used to address the challenge. In Bayan-Ulgii, Uvs, Zavkhan, Khuvsgul, Uvurkhangai and Dundgobi provinces, some schools or kindergartens



had challenges to conduct classroom training due to electrical or heating failures.

According to the request from the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES), dated 26 February 2024, there are 9,913 dormitory children and 1,346 preschoolers in Bayan-Olgii, Zavkhan, Uvs, and Khovd provinces, 9,838 dormitory children and 822 preschoolers in Arkhangai, Bayankhongor, Bulgan, and Khovsgol provinces, 923 children and 11 preschoolers in Umnugobi province, 2,846 children and 1,135 preschoolers in Sukhbaatar and Khentii provinces, in total 22,920 children in dormitories and 3,314 preschool children are in critical need to cope with dzud. Nutritious food, warm clothes, snow boots, hygiene products were identified as the urgent needs of the preschool children and those in dormitories.

Children unable to access education require learning education packages, including early childhood development and educational supplies, from February to the end of May.

¹⁶ The Impact of Climate Change on Education in Mongolia, UNICEF, 2019

Key activities

- Provision of learning materials supplies and early childhood education (ECE) and kits for children with limited access to school and online learning.
- Psychological First Aid training for children of herders.

Activities	Time frame	Agencies	Target Households	Target People	Funding required(US\$)	Funding Gap (US\$)
1 Distribution of learning materials (workbooks and audio devices) to Grade 1 and Grade 2 children who do not have access to online learning	Feb - Apr	UNICEF	2,000	4,000	140,000	130,000
2 Provision of ECE kits for children aged 0-5 years who cannot commute to kindergarden due to inaccessible roads	Apr - May	UNICEF	1,000	1,000	140,000	140,000
3 Psychological First Aid training for children of the herders	Mar - May	Save the Children, UNICEF	6,000	20,500	130,000	100,000
4 Provision of learning tools to children of herder households	Mar - Apr	Good Neighbors	500	500	23,200	-
TOTAL			9,500	26,000	433,200	370,000

Implementation strategy

In collaboration with MoES, the education sector will target children of affected herder families with limited access to education facilities and children living in dormitories in dzud risk areas. The measures to support the education of children of herder families during the harsh winter period will include the provision of learning packages for those who do not have road access and

are on the Otor migration, distribution of ECD kits for 0–5 year-old children on the Otor migration, provision of radios with audio lessons for herder children in kindergartens and primary education. Psychological First Aid (PFA) training and interventions will be conducted at school dormitories to support children to cope with negative impacts of dzud.

Sector contacts: UNICEF and SCJM

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Participating organizations: UNICEF, SCJM, Good neighbors

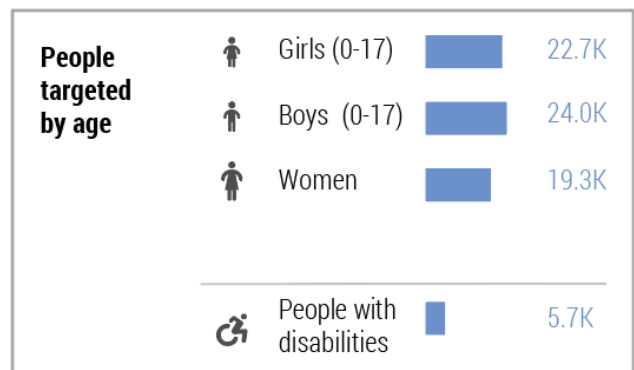
Nutrition

PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	TOTAL REQUIREMENT (US\$)	FUNDING RECEIVED	FUNDING GAP
100K	66K	\$1.5K	\$100K	\$1.4M

Sector impact and needs

Historically, undernutrition has been linked to catastrophic dzud events, such as the dzud of 2009/2010 which led to 10.3 million livestock deaths, which subsequently led to children from herder households showing slowed growth.¹⁷ The death of livestock leads to severe food shortages in spring, which can affect adults, but especially children by: 1) causing lowered immunity (from increased food and micronutrient deficiencies), increasing the risk of infectious diseases; and 2) increasing the risk of malnutrition.¹⁸

Herder households, especially children and pregnant and lactating women, face serious challenges to access nutritious food due to limited accessibility and availability of food in the local markets, rising food inflation, loss of livestock, and the loss of livelihoods during harsh winter. Due to the summer drought in many areas, dairy and meat production was low in 2023, which did not allow them to have sufficient food stocks for winter. In addition, soaring food inflation (approximately 20-30 per cent) after the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine increased the vulnerability of households to afford nutritious food. The already poor nutritional status of children and women in rural herder households puts them at greater risk of malnutrition during the dzud given the lack of available food, as well as inadequate essential micronutrients.



Herder families' school age children who live in school dorms during the academic year, face serious challenges to access nutritious food. They used to receive food and cash support from parents. However, food and cash support to children from parents decreased for several months due to dzud. Currently, school dorms provide only 35 per cent of recommended dietary intake.

Children and women in herder households in areas with heavy snow falls are cut-off from accessing health care to such an extent that the nutritional status of boys, girls and women is at a high risk of deterioration in the coming months. Extreme cold increases the risk of child illnesses related to acute respiratory infections, pneumonia and other infectious diseases (measles and chickenpox), as 'children's immune systems are low due to undernutrition, which increases the risk of child illnesses and deaths.

Key activities

- Micronutrient supplementation of children under 5 years of age and pregnant and lactating women: High dose Vitamin A and D supplementation; multiple micronutrient supplementation.
- Screening and treatment of children with acute malnutrition.

¹⁷ Groppo, V. and Kraehnert, K. (2016) 'Extreme Weather Events and Child Height: Evidence from Mongolia', World Development, 86, pp. 59–78

- Primary healthworker visits and counselling to the affected households to promote best child feeding practices
- Support provision of nutritious and safe school meals for dormitory children in dzud affected areas.

	Activities	Time frame	Agencies	Target households	Target people	Funding required (US\$)	Funding Gap (US\$)
1	High-dose Vitamin A supplementation of children 6-59 months of age	Apr – June	UNICEF	57,582	34,700	30,000	-
2	Vitamin D supplementation of children 2- 59 months of age	Apr – June	UNICEF	57,582	38,600	340,000	340,000
3	Multiple micronutrient supplementation of children 6-59 months of age	Apr – June	UNICEF	57,582	34,700	90,000	90,000
4	Multiple micronutrient supplementation of pregnant and lactating women	Apr – June	UNICEF	57,582	19,300	60,000	60,000
5	Screening and treatment of children with acute malnutrition	Apr – June	UNICEF	57,582	28,000	130,000	60,000
6	Support primary healthworker home visits and counselling to herder households to promote best child feeding practices during dzud.	Apr – June	UNICEF	57,582	38,600	50,000	50,000
7	Support provision of nutritious and safe school meals for dormitory children in Dzud affected areas	Apr – June	UNICEF, SCJM	57,582	8,750	800,000	800,000
TOTAL				57,582	66,00	1,500,000	1,400,000

Implementation strategy

Primary health facilities in dzud affected areas will provide life-saving nutritional assistance to children under five years of age, pregnant and lactating women and dormitory children in affected areas. Primary health workers will closely monitor the adequate consumption of micronutrient supplements, provide nutritional counselling, conduct screening and treatment of children with wasting through outreach bi-weekly and monthly home visits.

In coordination with local emergency management departments, local health and education departments

will monitor the nutrition situation in target areas to track malnutrition rates and monitor the implementation of nutrition assistance.

In partnership with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Science and the Public Health Institute, the nutrition sector will lead overall coordination at the national and local levels in the timeframe of the disaster response and recovery actions, including emergency supplies, monitoring, reporting, and information management.

Sector contacts: UNICEF

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Participating organizations: *Ministry of Health, National Center for Public Health, Province health centers, Save the Children*



Zuunbayan-Ulaan soum, Uvurkhangai province, January 2024 (Photo: MRCS)

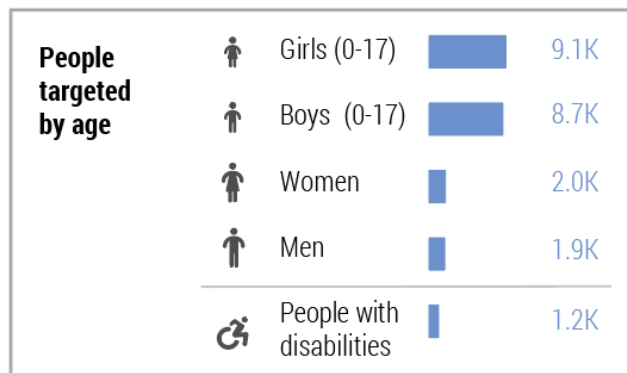
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	TOTAL REQUIREMENT (US\$)	FUNDING RECEIVED	FUNDING GAP
98.5K	21.7K	\$1.3M	\$84.4K	\$1.2M

Sector impact and needs

There is a high risk of isolation for children of herder households in school dormitories due to inaccessible roads in affected areas. Operation and maintenance of WASH facilities in the school dormitories are limited, and delivery of essential hygiene supplies were interrupted due to the dzud and subsequent impact on roads.

Current needs vary between households, with those well-prepared and in the Otor movement within their province being less vulnerable than those migrating to different provinces. Key informant interviews with local authorities and interviews with herders indicate that most are in need of hygiene kits. Considering their remote location, herders on the Otor movement travel to central areas to collect essential items at once until spring.



Key activities

- Procurement and distribution of essential drinking water supplies for children of herder families in school dormitories (water dispensers etc).
- Procure and provision of essential hygiene supplies for children of herder families in school dormitories.

Activity	Time frame	Agencies	Target households	Target people	Funding required (US\$)	Funding Gap (US\$)
1 Procurement and distribution of essential drinking water supplies for children of herder families in school dormitories (water dispensers etc)	Jan – May	UNICEF	1,200	5,000	450,000	450,000
2 Rehabilitation/construction of sanitation facilities in school dormitories	Jan – May	UNICEF	1,200	5,000	450,000	450,000
3 Procurement and distribution of essential hygiene supplies for herder families and children in school dormitories (hygiene kits etc.)	Jan – May	UNICEF	1,400	6,000	360,000	320,000

Activity	Time frame	Agencies	Target households	Target people	Funding required (US\$)	Funding Gap (US\$)
4 Procurement and distribution of essential hygiene supplies for herder families	Mar - May	WV Mongolia	1,000	3,500	44,391	-
5 Distribute pre-positioned essential hygiene supplies for children of herder families	Jan – April	UNICEF	555	2,220	-	-
TOTAL			5,055	21,720	1,304,391	1,220,000

Implementation strategy

In collaboration with NEMA and the MoES, the WASH sector will target the needs of affected herder families who have limited access to essential WASH supplies due to inaccessible roads and children staying at school

dormitories. The participating organizations will adopt a unified approach to procure and distribute the essential relief supplies.

Sector contacts: UNICEF

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Participating organizations: NEMA, LEMA, Local Government, Ministry of Education and Science, MRCS, World Vision Mongolia.



Vulnerable households received hygiene kits in March 2024 in Bayan-Ulgii province (Photo:UNICEF Mongolia)



Protection

(Gender-Based Violence and Child Protection)

Gender-Based Violence

PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	TOTAL REQUIREMENT (US\$)	FUNDING RECEIVED	FUNDING GAP
48.2K	12.6K	\$870K	\$278K	\$592K

Sector impact and needs

In emergencies, the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) needs of women and girls are often left behind, preventing them from being able to receive essential health services, such as the provision of contraception, pre-natal care, safe delivery, and counselling. Cases of domestic violence, including gender-based violence, tend to increase during emergencies. A national Gender-based violence prevalence study, conducted by the National Statistics Office in 2017 revealed that around one in three women (35 per cent) during the last year or in their current relationship, and more than half (59.7 per cent) of all Mongolian women during their lifetime were subjected to physical, sexual, psychological, and economic



violence. Therefore, the disaster risk reduction plan should include the provision of SRH services to women of reproductive age, the supply of personal hygiene and menstrual products to women and girls, community awareness messages on GBV prevention and response, and capacity-building activities for multi-disciplinary team members.

Key activities

- Protection of dignity of women and girls affected by dzud.
- Strengthening national response to emergencies.
- Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to women and girls affected by emergency.
- Equip the local emergency management team with basic psychosocial support skills.

Activities	Time frame	Agencies	Target Households	Target people	Funding required (US\$)	Funding Gap (US\$)
1 Procurement and distribution of dignity kits for women and girls	Feb – May	UNFPA, WV Mongolia, Good neighbors	3,587	12,554	602,594	334,594

Activities	Time frame	Agencies	Target Households	Target people	Funding required (US\$)	Funding Gap (US\$)
2 Capacity building of multi-disciplinary team members on prevention and response to GBV	Feb - May	UNFPA, MOLSP, CCCP	-	5 people from each team at 21 provinces and 9 districts	100,000	100,000
3 Development of information materials on basic psychosocial support skills to frontliners, including the members of the emergency management team	Mar - June	UNFPA, National Mental Health Center	-	400	2,400	2,400
4 Community awareness raising media and communication on GBV prevention and response.	Feb - Dec	UNFPA	-	3.5 million people of Mongolia	150,000	150,000
5 Advocacy on inclusion of minimum initial services package (MISP) of SRH in the disaster risk reduction plan	Feb - Sep	UNFPA, UNICEF		The members of the National Disaster Preparedness Committee, Ministry of Health	10,000	-
6 Awareness raising on PSEA	Mar - June	UNFPA, RCO		3.5 million people of Mongolia	5,000	5,000
TOTAL			3,587	12,554	869,994	591,994

Implementation strategy

The proposed activities will be implemented in close collaboration and partnership with government agencies, such as the NEMA, local health system, UN agencies, local and international NGOs, and the Mongolian Red Cross Society, using the strengths of each partner. HCT members are also closely working with NEMA to ensure a centralized and organized approach to aid distribution.

Furthermore, the MRCS has a robust volunteer system, which helps to identify the most vulnerable and affected people, including women and girls. In this regard, the data collected through the MRCS is helping to reach the

target group. The MRCS is mobilized to distribute the kits and disseminate knowledge and awareness-raising messages on preparedness and response to emergencies to the public.

To ensure sectoral coordination in the provision of assistance, sector partners will meet regularly to share information and report on the 5W. The local health system will be used for identifying survivors of GBV and/or potential victims of GBV and ensure timely activation and response of the local multi-disciplinary team. The health center staff, along with other members

of the multi-disciplinary team, will be equipped with knowledge and skills to advocate for the inclusion of minimum essential services package on sexual and reproductive health into the disaster preparedness plan.

Working closely with the local emergency management team will assist greatly in identifying the needs of adolescents girls, who live in school dormitories for dignity kits and MHPSS.

Awareness raising on protection from sexual violence and abuse needs to be taken into account, and organized among all donors, service providers and emergency team members.

The women and girls affected by dzud, particularly, the girls, living in school dormitories will be provided with the phone units that will help them to get connected with the families as part of the MHPSS.



Dignity kit items. (Photo: UNFPA Mongolia)

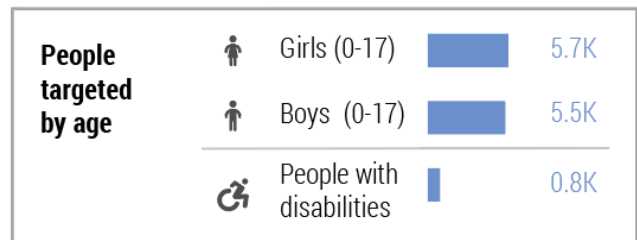
Child Protection

PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	TOTAL REQUIREMENT (US\$)	FUNDING RECEIVED	FUNDING GAP
24K	11.2K	\$216K	\$20K	\$196K

Sector impact and needs

Dzuds affect the vulnerability of children, increasing the chances of family separation related to internal migration, use of child labour, depression, alcohol use and domestic violence by parents/caregivers, while decreasing the care and supervision of children.

The global school-based student health survey (2023) revealed that children with specific needs and vulnerabilities, such as children with disabilities, ethnic minority children, children of herder families, children of migrant families, as well as children living independently,



remain excluded from the scope of the existing child protection system and are not able to access child protection services.

Key activities

- Support community-based initiatives and provide capacity building of child protection rapid response teams to apply a multi-disciplinary approach in prevention and response during emergencies.
- Provision of warm clothes and boots for children.

Activities	Time frame	Agencies	Target people	Funding required (US\$)	Funding Gap (US\$)
1 Support outreach services of child protection multi-disciplinary teams in high-risk areas	Mar - June	UNICEF, GADPFC	7,000	80,000	80,000
2 Capacity building of subnational child protection rapid response teams in 21 provinces to apply a multi-disciplinary approach in prevention and response during emergencies	Mar - June	UNICEF, MLSP, GADPFC	210 members of the rapid response teams	40,000	40,000
3 Provision of warm clothes, and boots to vulnerable children in affected communities	Nov - May	WV Mongolia	1,150	41,000	21,000
4 Provision of warm clothes, and boots to vulnerable children in dormitories	Mar - June	SCJ, UNICEF	3,000	55,000	55,000
TOTAL			11,150	216,000	196,000

Implementation strategy

The child protection sub-sector will mainly support children through community owned initiatives and implement capacity building activities of national child protection rapid response teams in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection and General Authority of Child and Family Development Protection. Warm clothes, boots and items will be provided to vulnerable children staying in severely affected areas.

Sector contacts: UNICEF, UNFPA

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Participating organizations: UNFPA, UNICEF, MLSP, GADPFC, CCCP, World Vision Mongolia, SCJP



Boy in Tuv province, using audio learning book to continue his education during dzud (Photo: UNICEF Mongolia)

Annex

Acronyms and abbreviations

AAP	Accountability to Affected People
CWG	Cash working group
ECD	Early Childhood Education
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GIS	Geographic Information System
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
ISCG	Inter-sector Coordination Group
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psycho-social Support
MOCUD	Ministry of Construction and Urban Development
MODIS	Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer
MOES	Ministry of Education and Science
MOFALI	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOLSP	Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
MNT	Mongolian tugriks
MRCS	Mongolia Red Cross Society
NAMEM	National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OSSC	One Stop Service Centre
PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
SADD	Sex and Age Disaggregated Data
SCI	Save the Children International
SEC	State Emergency Commission of Mongolia
SCJM	Save the Children Japan, Mongolia
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization
SEC	State Emergency Commission of Mongolia
WV MONGOLIA	World Vision Mongolia
EOC	Emergency Operation Center

Four Ways to Support the Plan

Donating through the Plan

Financial contributions to reputable aid agencies are one of the most valuable and effective forms of response in humanitarian emergencies. Public and private sector donors are invited to contribute cash directly to aid organizations participating in the Early Action and Response Plan framework. To get the latest updates and donate directly to organizations participating in the response, please visit: <https://fts.unocha.org>

By donating in-kind resources and services

The UN Secretary-General encourages the private sector to align response efforts with the United Nations in order to ensure coherent priorities and to minimize gaps and duplication. To make an in-kind donation of goods or services visit www.business.un.org. Contributions must comply with the Guidelines on Cooperation between the UN and the Business Sector. The United Nations enters into pro-bono agreements with companies planning to provide direct assets or services during emergencies. Contact ocha-ers-ps@un.org to discuss the ways in which your company might partner with the UN. Individuals can donate online via the United Nations Foundation: <https://unfoundation.org>

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