

2024 DZUD EARLY ACTION & RESPONSE PLAN

DEC 2023 –
MAY 2024

MONGOLIA

ISSUED
19 Feb 2024



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 \$14 - 20 million¹). Mongolia is particularly vulnerable to dzuds which have a detrimental impact on the herder's prosperity of life. Within the last 10 years, the country has experienced six 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 loss of livestock and subsequent impact on livelihoods, compounded with inflation on fuel and food prices, herders 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. The remaining northern and eastern parts of the country experienced dryness and drought this summer. Unfortunately, ongoing frequent heavy snowfall and extreme weather poses significant dzud risks to vulnerable communities which leads to rapid action both from the Government of Mongolia and Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in early action and response.

HCT members has been informed an occurrence of the potential dzud by the government organizations including State Emergency Commission, Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Light Industry (MOFALI), National Emergency Management Agency of Mongolia National Agency of Meteorology and Environment Monitoring (NAMEM) via HCT meetings since 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 joint cooperation



between the Government and HCT in overcoming dzud and mitigating the impact to herder households.

On 12 January 2024, the State Emergency Commission of Mongolia (SEC) and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) 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 Early Action and Response Plan for 2023/2024 complements the Government of 'Mongolia's Dzud Anticipatory Action and Response Plan. This plan aims to deliver immediate and life-saving assistance to 33,400 people out of the 150,500 people in need identified by the HCT through a coordinated approach. I am particularly concerned that of these, around 33,400 are women, men, girls and boys who needs urgent humanitarian support and ensure their continuity of access to critical services.

Although dzud occurrences are common in Mongolia, this year's severity is concerning. The livelihoods of vulnerable herder households and their socio-economic situation are under threat. The worst is yet to come, the peak of livestock mortality will occur from February to April.

The Government, with the support of the HCT, is continuously monitoring the evolving situation and providing much needed humanitarian support for the people to prevent a major catastrophe. In the long term, UN agencies will collectively address the issue by partnering with the Government of Mongolia, development partners, and humanitarian organizations

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.

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, reducing livestock numbers, and delivering crucial services directly to herder households.

Nevertheless, a stronger sense of solidarity is imperative 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 further deterioration of humanitarian needs in Mongolia.

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



TAPAN MISHRA

United Nations Resident Coordinator in Mongolia



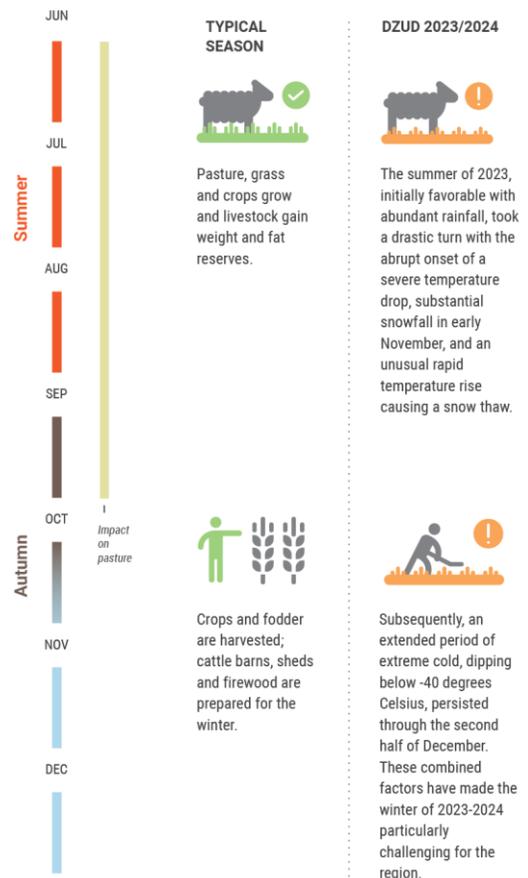
Situation Overview

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.

The icy dzud condition has not been observed since 2010, when Mongolia faced a severe dzud disaster. That year, the country experienced the loss of about 10.3 million heads of livestock, equivalent to approximately 25 per cent of the 'country's 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.

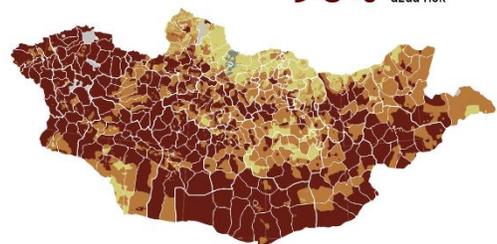
As of 20 December 2023, the Government of Mongolia reports that approximately 90 per cent of Mongolia's territory, including 21 provinces excluding Ulaanbaatar city, or 321 out of 339 soums (townships), are categorized as facing a high or extreme dzud risk. Moreover, 250 soums, excluding two districts of Ulaanbaatar city, covering 74 per cent of the nation, are already in dzud or near-dzud conditions. Within the dzud conditions, 47 soums in 14 provinces are under ice or icy conditions, while 135 soums in 17 provinces are under the white dzud conditions.

The alarming rapid temperature fluctuations and heavy snowfall in November 2023 served as a warning as winter conditions deteriorated. This early awareness enabled herders to proactively engage in commercial destocking while their livestock were still in good body condition.



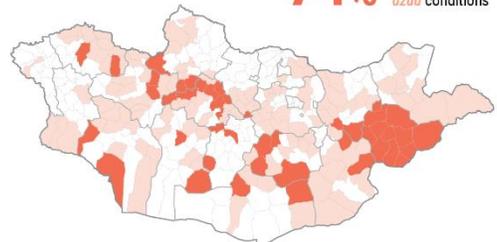
20 December 2023

90% high or extreme dzud risk



30 January 2024

74% in dzud or near dzud conditions



Plan Summary

150.5k
PEOPLE IN NEED

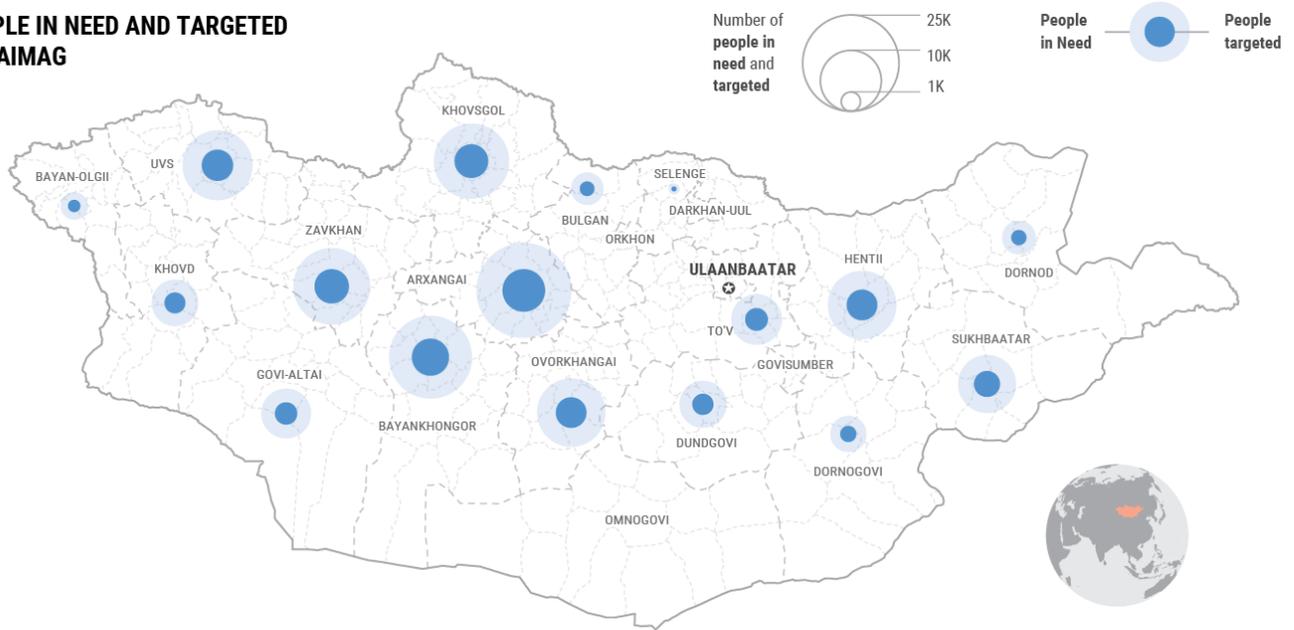
33.4k
PEOPLE TARGETED

\$6.3M
FUNDING REQUIRED

\$1.7M
FUNDING RECEIVED

\$4.6M
FUNDING GAP

PEOPLE IN NEED AND TARGETED PER AIMAG



SECTOR	PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	REQUIRED (IN US\$)	FUNDING RECEIVED	FUNDING GAP
Food Security & Agriculture	150.5K	33.4K	\$2.5M	\$1.2M	1.3M
Health	100K	32K	667K	320K	347K
Education	47.1K	10.5K	260K	20K	240K
Nutrition	100K	10.2K	386K	30K	356K
WASH	98.5K	20K	1.2M	45K	1.2M
Protection - Gender-based Violence	29.1K	8.6K	1.1M	120K	1M
Protection - Child Protection	100K	7K	120K	0K	120K
TOTAL	150.5K	33.4K	\$6.3M	\$1.7M	\$4.6M

Situation Monitoring

As dzud is a slow-onset disaster that can be predicted at an early stage, it allows 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 following hazard and incident conditions must be in place for at least 14 days⁴:
 - The weather temperature must be colder by 3°C or more than the multi-year average;
 - The snow density is higher than 0.25 g/cm³ in any given area.

- The average snow height is 25 cm or more in mountain or forest-steppe zones, or 22 cm or more in the steppe zone, or 12 cm or more in desert areas.

NAMEM diagnoses the first criteria via dzud conditions and near dzud conditions.

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.



1. 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 data 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 process⁵. 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)

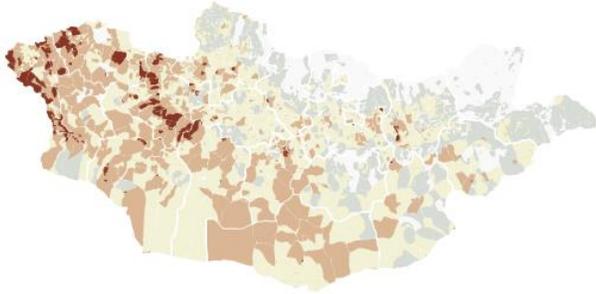
⁴ Annex No.2 of the Resolution No. 327, dated 31 October 2018 (Disaster Identification Criteria)

⁵ Technical Brief: Disaster Risk Finance and Anticipatory Action in Mongolia: Lessons from the 2022/23 Dzud, FAO Mongolia

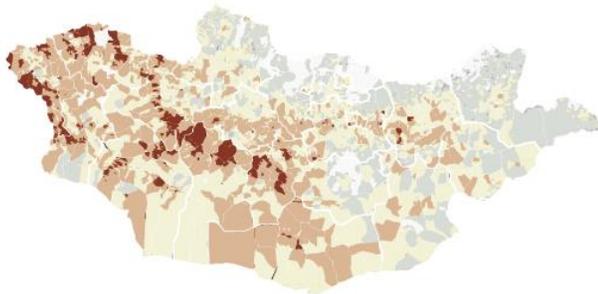
RISK MAPS

2022/2023

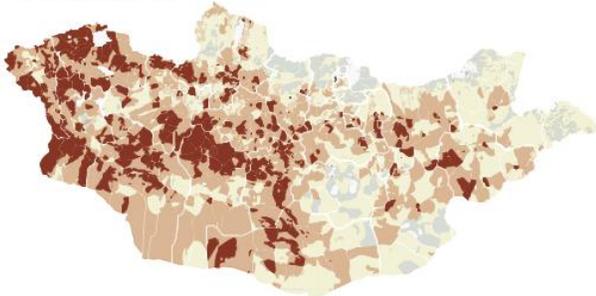
31 OCTOBER 2022



20 NOVEMBER 2022

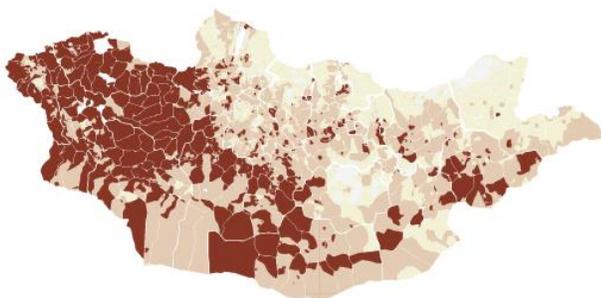


1 DECEMBER 2022



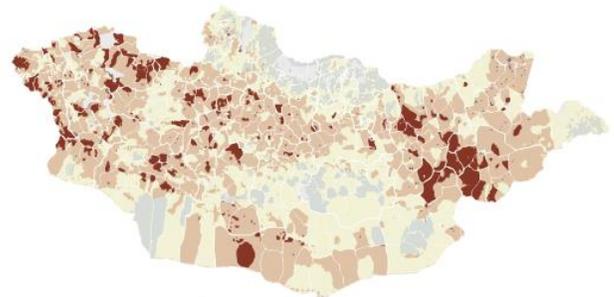
1 FEBRUARY 2023

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

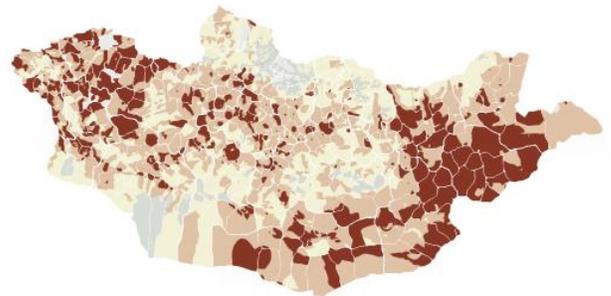


2023/2024

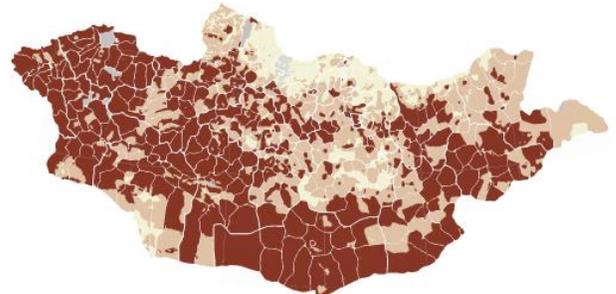
10 NOVEMBER 2023



30 NOVEMBER 2023



20 DECEMBER 2023



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

Source: NAMEM

2. Occurrence of dzud or near dzud conditions by soums, based on meteorological data

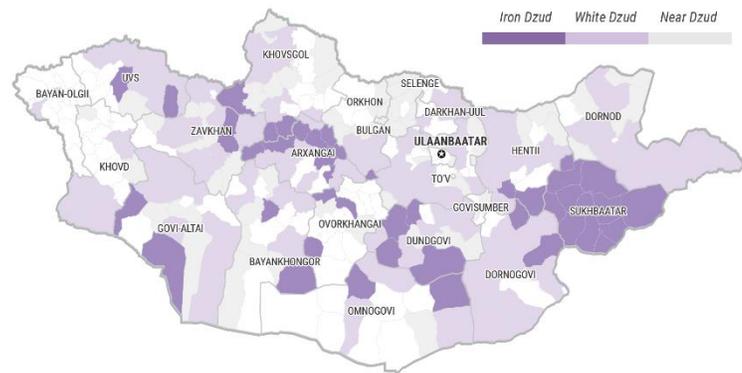
Dzud is classified as a "dzud condition" and a "near dzud condition" according to its intensity of snow density and the cold temperature within the area⁶.

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 25 cm 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/ ice⁷.

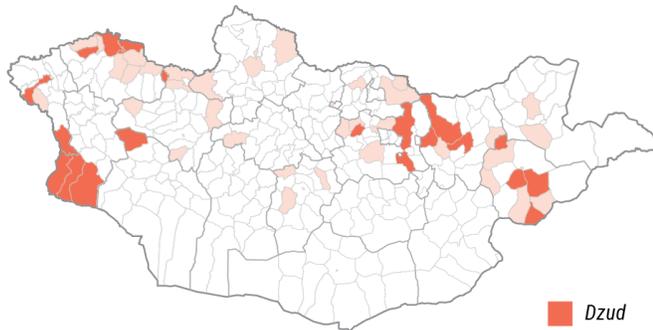
Near dzud conditions occur when snow density is between 0.20-0.24 g/cm³ in any area; average snow height is 16 cm or more in the mountain or forest-steppe zone, or 11 cm or more in the steppe zone, or 5 cm or more in the desert area. Near dzud condition has two classifications, including near white dzud condition and near black dzud condition⁸.

NAMEM plays a crucial role in publishing dzud and near dzud conditions for all stakeholders. If we compare the previous 'year's conditions with the current year, the situation is worse than the previous year's.

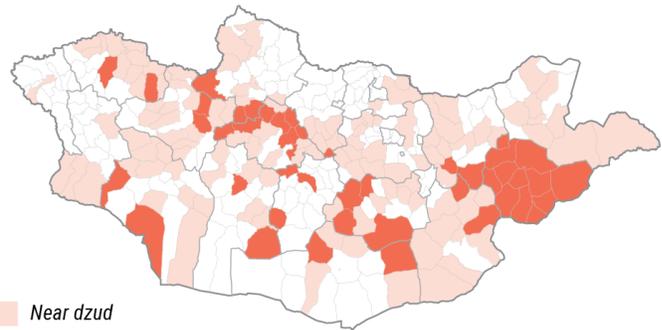
DZUD TYPES/STATUS BY SOUM (as of 30 Jan 2024)



31 January 2023



30 January 2024



■ Dzud ■ Near dzud

Source: Government resolution No.286 of 2015.

3. Livestock mortalities in the country

One of the critical determinants for declaring dzud as a nationwide disaster is the Government-set mortality rate, currently standing at two per cent or more⁹. Apart from that, if the mortality rate reaches five or six per cent,

depending upon location or more, then herders will qualify for the insurance to make up for their loss¹⁰. The Government of Mongolia has been monitoring a nationwide mortality rate on a weekly basis.

⁶ Annex 5 of The Government Resolution No.286, dated 7 July 2015.

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Ibid

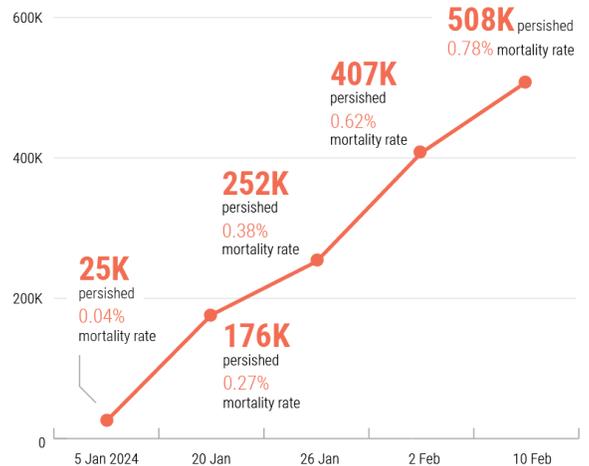
⁹ Annex 2 of the Government Resolution No. 327, dated 31st Oct 2018

¹⁰ The Cabinet Meeting No.473, dated 27th December 2023 (The indexed livestock insurance threshold for 2024-2026 has been newly established.)

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 the dzud situation across Mongolia is critical to tailor early action and 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 ANIMALS AND MORTALITY RATE



Source: Emergency Operation Center, National Emergency Management Agency.

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 joint cooperation between the Government and HCT in overcoming dzud and mitigating the negative impact to herder households. The Deputy Prime Minister expressed that herder households require basic foods, medical supplies, firewood, coal, and cash assistance.

The most urgent humanitarian needs as identified by sectors include cash, medical supplies for local

hospitals for people to access essential health care, first aid kits, psychological support, dignity kits, nutrition supplements, education materials for children, hygiene kits, animal care kits.

Herder households with livestock from 100 to 400 converted into sheep head units, lacking sufficient coping mechanisms, are identified as the most vulnerable to the impacts of severe winter conditions. The results of the 2021 Resilience Capacity Analysis of Mongolian Herder households, conducted by FAO, highlight 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 own livestock from 100 to 400 converted into sheep head units, residing in non-mining and non-cropping areas with limited access to basic services. Targeting considerations were made for households with lactating or pregnant women, single parents with three or more children under secondary school age, persons with disability, widowed elderly, and young herder households with limited social welfare benefits.



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). That is, 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 State Emergency Commission's multisector risk assessment task force, under the direction of the Deputy Prime Minister, surveyed nine provinces. These provinces 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 has 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 State Emergency Commission of Mongolia and formed Emergency Task Forces at the provincial and soums levels¹¹.

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 need¹².
- 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

¹¹ H.E. Amarsaikhan, Deputy Prime Minister's letter, dated 12th Jan 2024, to H.E. Tapan Mishra, UN Resident Coordinator Mongolia

¹² The Cabinet meeting dated 15th November 2023

Resolutions No. 449, dated 13 December 2023, and No. 479, dated 27 December 2023.

3. Livestock destocking: At the end of summer 2023, the Government of Mongolia counted approximately 87.1 million livestock¹³ and successfully decreased to 64.6 million livestock as of 31 December 2023. To decrease the number of livestock, the Government is taking 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 year¹⁴. Meat export to foreign markets is 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 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 six winter service vehicles and 213 tons of fuel to provincial governments to address resource inadequacy and provide public services.

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.



Photo by NEMA

¹³The Cabinet meeting, dated on 15th November 2023

¹⁴ Report from Emergency Operation Center

Strategic Objectives



S01

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



S02

Protect the livelihoods of vulnerable herder households and ensure the continuity of 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 February 2024, in line with Government response actions and will aim to address the current and emerging humanitarian needs of the vulnerable populations related to education, nutrition, WASH, food and agriculture, health and protection sectors. All activities will complement the Government-led response to dzud¹⁵.

The UN Coordinator's Office (RCO) has been coordinating early action and response activities in response to the dzud 2023/2024. United Nations agencies including UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO; and other International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) such as Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Mongolia, Mongolia Red Cross Society (MRCS), Save the Children and World Vision (WV) Mongolia are providing humanitarian support to affected areas.

The response will be needs-based and will prioritize vulnerable households, with livestock ranging from 100 to 400 converted into sheep head units, living in extreme and high-risk, non-mining and non-cropping areas. Consideration will be given to herder households with lactating or pregnant women, single parents with three or more children under secondary school age, disabled individuals, widowed elderly, and young herder households with limited social welfare benefits.

The preferred response modality is a combination of cash assistance and material 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.



¹⁵The 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. 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, UNICEF, UNFPA, MRCS and WV Mongolia 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) is planning to conduct damage and loss and socio-economic impact assessment of the dzud (estimated cost of 80,000 USD) to inform the next phase of supporting activities such as re-stocking and nutrition program for households who lost their animal entirely.

Gender

A comprehensive Dzud Early Action and 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.¹⁶ 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.¹⁷

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)¹⁸, potentially impacting their access to Government insurance schemes.

Therefore, the dzud early action and response plan 2023/2024 will ensure that the specific needs of women and girls are addressed across different sectors. Sex and age disaggregated data (SADD) is collected from sectors. The monitoring for continued analysis will address gender equality.



Photo by UNICEF Mongolia

¹⁶ FAO 2022. Resilience Capacity Analysis of Mongolian Herder Households.

¹⁷ FAO 2022.

¹⁸ ADB, 2022.

Multipurpose Cash Assistance

As a modality to meet a wide range of needs, multipurpose cash assistance 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 transfer with emergency inputs for people and livestock (food, feed, first aid kits, and technical training and extension services) modality, with the bulk of the cash distributions happening between December 2023 and April 2024.

The Cash Working Group has 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 \$192), 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 types of gasoline and fuel in local markets.

The CWG agreed that one-time assistance in the form of unconditional cash transfer (UCT) would be 660,000 MNT (equivalent to \$192) per one-time transfer, while for households identified to receive the *cash+* assistance, the total cost of remittances and inputs should be equal to 660,000 MNT (equivalent to \$192).

In the current plan, the sector responsible for distributing cash is the Food Security and Agriculture sector, through which a total of 10,000 vulnerable herder households will benefit from UCT and *cash+* assistance. The cash will be transferred directly to the bank account of the head of the beneficiary herder household.

In early January 2024, the CWG members agreed on common targeting criteria for all *cash+* interventions applicable to all cash-implementing actors. The beneficiary criteria target herder households with livestock ranging from 100 to 400 converted into a sheep head unit residing in non-mining and non-cropping areas

in extreme and very high-risk conditions. Considerations should be made for households with lactating or pregnant women, single parents with three or more children under secondary school age, disabled individuals, widowed elderly, and young herder households with limited social welfare benefits.

Cash Working Group (CWG)

The CWG in Mongolia was established in January 2023 to support the planning for the dzud early actions and response, comprised of national and international actors. The group adheres to the IASC model on cash coordination and is part of the coordination architecture in Mongolia, a sub-group of the ISCG and is co-led by the RCO and FAO. The CWG works with the Asia-Pacific Regional Cash Working Group and is supported through inter-agency surge cash coordination.

The CWG meeting has been held regularly to support the dzud early actions and response. All CWG members agreed on a coordinated approach for the current dzud, to avoid duplication or gaps. Targeting agencies also agreed to use the Emergency Operation Center's data as the primary source of beneficiary data.



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 Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry 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, with the involvement of actors such as the Mongolia Red Cross, World Vision, and Save the Children. 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. FAO has been collaborating with the Mongolian Red Cross Society to support this endeavor. However, despite these achievements, there are essential areas for further development of the AA approach in Mongolia (which will be further captured in the roadmap to be released by the end of 2023). 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 National Emergency Management Authority (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 64.6 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](#) will also track financial and in-kind contributions.

Coordination Structure

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has been receiving direct information from the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) affiliated with the State Emergency Commission. All information is channeled through one source via EOC to UN RCO. For Dzud Early Action and 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 grassroots level.

Humanitarian Coordination Structure

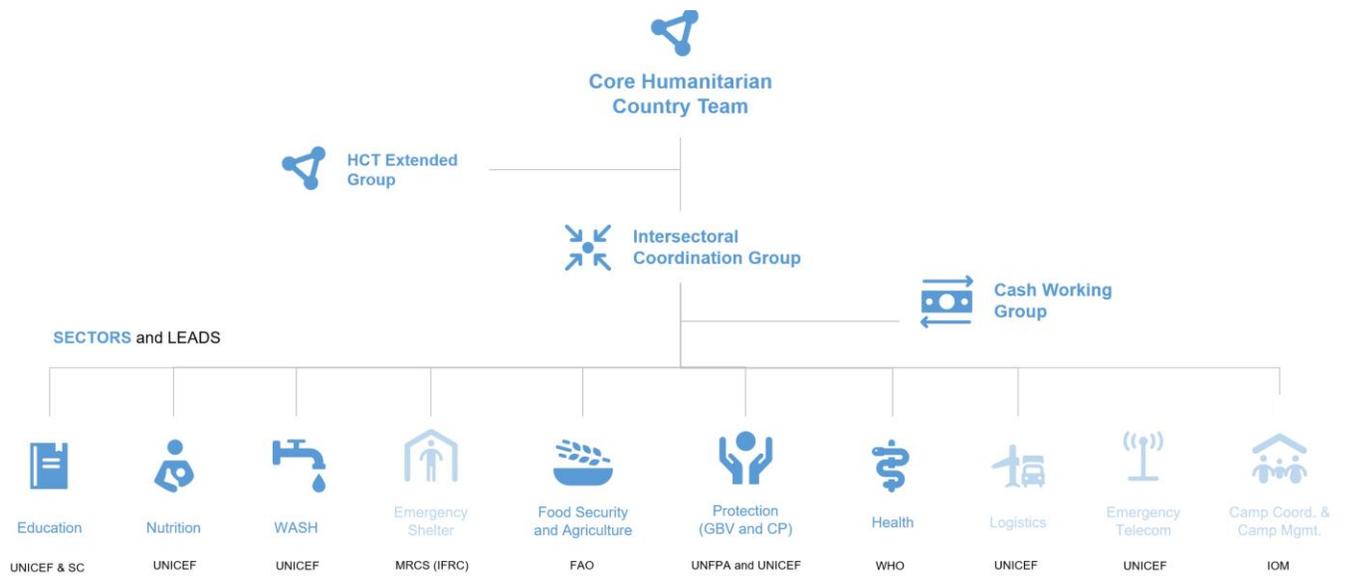


Figure 7. Source: HCT



Food Security and Agriculture

PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	TOTAL REQUIREMENT (US\$)	FUNDING RECEIVED	FUNDING GAP
150.5K	33.4K	\$2.5M	\$1.19M	\$1.31M

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 environmental 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. Consequently, these challenges not only impact economic stability but also threaten the social security of the country.

In 2010, Mongolia was struck by severe dzud events, 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. However, the summer of 2023 initially brought relief with favourable weather conditions. Yet, an abrupt change in the fall, marked by plummeting temperatures and heavy snowfall, posed significant challenges.

Recognizing the imminent harsh winter, herders took proactive measures throughout November and December 2023 by strategically reducing herd sizes through commercial destocking. This timely intervention reduced the national herd by 6.5 million livestock compared to the previous year. Consequently, according to the Livestock Census for 2023, Mongolia documented a total of 64.6 million heads of livestock, including 4.8 million horses, 5.4 million cattle, 473,900 camels, 29.4 million sheep, and 24.6 million goats. These animals are collectively owned by 248,000

households. Notably, approximately 77 per cent of these households, totalling 189,300, are herder households, entirely reliant on livestock as their primary source of income.

Given Mongolia's traditional practice of herder households preparing food for winter and spring consumption through early December animal slaughter, the impact of the ongoing dzud on food security is relatively limited. Additionally, the wide use of animal dry dung for fuel minimizes the risk of cold homes. However, the current challenge arises from the reliance on pasture and the diminishing stock of hay and concentrate fodder. These resources are typically reserved by herder households for supplementary and emergency feeding for a few days from December to April. They are allocated explicitly for 25 per cent of herds, including weak yearlings, pregnant animals and entire herds, in case of severe weather conditions such as blind snow and dust storms, occurring approximately three to four days a month during this period. This emergency stockpile is often limited, it is usually sufficient for only 30-45 days to select weakened animals and challenging days.

As pastures are inaccessible due to being completely covered by hard and deep snow and ice, this supply is rapidly depleting. The shortage will become acute from February to April, coinciding with the late stages of pregnancy and the birthing season of small ruminants and cows, thereby necessitating an increased demand for feed.

Moreover, prolonged housing of herds in warm shelters on inadequate bedding elevates the risk of infestations 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-quality animal feed rich in proteins, vitamins, and minerals, as well as treatment for exhausted animals and management of external parasites.

From January to April, traditional pastoral production enters a lean season characterized by the absence of cash-flow products available for sale. Despite the presence of food, animal feed, and veterinary medicine and services in the market, herders frequently face limited purchasing power due to cash shortages. Consequently, they often resort to negative coping mechanisms such as taking out loans from commercial banks to cover essential expenses. However, the high-interest rates associated with these loans exacerbate the financial burden on herders. Furthermore, vulnerable households with small herds often encounter difficulties in securing bank loans due to inadequate collateral, thus limiting their access to credit during this critical period.

A resilience capacity analysis conducted by the FAO in 2021 underscored the vulnerability of herder households, particularly those with marginalized status, to the impacts of natural disasters. It revealed that 20 per cent of herder households faced a high risk of losing their livelihoods due to a single event.

As of 30 January 2024, an assessment conducted by the NAMEM identified 166 soums spread across 18 provinces as being at extreme risk of dzud. In response, focused interventions of the sector will target the remaining 154 soums, excluding areas characterized by intensified cropping activities (such as Jargalant, Bornuur, and Zuunmod soums in Tuv aimag, and Bayangol, Khuder, and Sukhbaatar soums in Selenge aimag) as well as those with significant large-scale mining extraction activities (comprising 6 soums in Umnugovi aimag).

According to the data provided by the Emergency Operation Centre established under the State Emergency Commission to mitigate the adverse impact of dzud on livestock-based livelihoods, a total of 95,634 herder households reside in areas categorized as experiencing extreme and high risks of dzud. Of this figure, an estimated 45,188 herder households are identified as being in immediate need of assistance.

In response to this critical situation and drawing justification from resilience capacity analysis, interventions in the Food Security and Agriculture sector will prioritize targeting 9,040 vulnerable herder households, considering them as vulnerable segments of society. This includes households with disabled members, pregnant or lactating mothers, elderly individuals, young households (under 30 y.o.) with limited social welfare benefits, and single-parent households with two or more children under 14 years old.

Additionally, in the same areas, as estimated, 960 herder households have already suffered a loss exceeding 20 per cent of their original herd size (comprising horses, camels, cattle, sheep, and goats) from December 2023 to the present. Alongside the vulnerable herder households, these households are also in urgent need of humanitarian assistance to protect their remaining livestock assets.

Furthermore, a total of 10,000 herder households are targeted for assistance. This comprehensive approach aims to ensure support reaches those most in need, encompassing both vulnerable households and those directly affected by the loss of their livestock due to the dzud. Therefore, sector interventions will focus on aiding 10,000 dzud-affected vulnerable herder households in 154 soums of 17 aimags affected by current icy/iron and white dzud conditions.

Key Activities

The interventions will encompass both cash and cash plus in-kind support or services (complementary to the cash transfers), tailored to address the diverse needs of vulnerable herder households:

1. Unconditional Cash Transfers: Providing direct financial assistance of 660,000 MNT (equivalent to \$192) per household from 11 January 2024, aiding families in purchasing essentials and managing household expenses.
2. Cash+ interventions: Target households will be receiving cash plus one or more of the followings:
 - Animal Fodder Distribution: Offering subsidized or free animal fodder to ensure adequate nutrition for livestock during harsh winters. This helps reduce the risk of livestock losses and supports household income generation through healthy livestock.
 - Vitamin-Mineral Supplements: Distributing essential supplements to weakened animals to enhance their health and productivity, thereby safeguarding herder families' livelihoods.
 - Livelihood Support Programs: Providing training on locally available best practices to mitigate the impact of harsh winters with minimal livestock losses. These programs aim to equip herders with the skills and knowledge needed to sustain their livelihoods under challenging conditions.
 - Healthcare Services: Facilitating access to healthcare services, including medical consultations, vaccinations, and preventive care measures for both humans and livestock. This ensures the overall well-being of herder households and enhances their resilience to health-related challenges.
 - Education Support: Offering support for children's education, including school supplies, tuition fees, and access to educational resources. This promotes long-term human capital development within herder communities, contributing to sustainable livelihoods and resilience-building initiatives.

By combining cash transfers with complementary interventions, cash+ assistance programs aim to address the multifaceted challenges faced by vulnerable herder households. These initiatives promote sustainable livelihoods and enhance resilience within pastoral communities, mitigating the impact of harsh environmental conditions on both livestock and livelihoods.

	Activities	Time frame	Agencies	Target households	Target people	Funding required (US\$)	Funding Gap (US\$)
1	Unconditional cash transfer (UCT)	Jan-Mar	World Vision Mongolia, ADRA Mongolia, FAO	1,927	6,430	480,000	254,690
2	Cash + assistance (UCT combined with the provision of emergency inputs)	Feb-Apr	MRCS, Save the Children, UNDP, World Vision Mongolia	8,073	26,970	2,020,000	1,052,394
Total				10,000	33,400	2,500,000	1,307,084

Implementation strategy

- Adhere to LEGS standards for consistent and effective interventions.
- Focus on herder households with small ruminant-dominated herds and marginalized status.
- Deliver unconditional cash transfers promptly to address immediate financial needs.
- Monitor the local animal feed market to ensure continuous availability.
- Safeguard livelihoods of 10,000 vulnerable herder households across 154 soums.

By leveraging LEGS standards, these interventions aim to address immediate needs while promoting long-term resilience against climate-related challenges.

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PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	TOTAL REQUIREMENT (US\$)	FUNDING RECEIVED	FUNDING GAP
100K	32K	\$667K	\$320K	\$347K

Sector impact and need

As of 25 January 2024, 32000 people of over 6163 households are living in Dzud affected and 'otor' areas of 21 provinces. Among them, totally 3739 vulnerable people including 93 pregnant women, 1667 children under 5, 1010 elders, 268 people with disabilities and 701 people with chronic diseases¹⁹.

Due to extremely cold weather, heavy snow, and blizzards, people living in the countryside face challenges accessing health services and are vulnerable to injuries while looking after their livestock or when they are lost. Also, people travelling between provinces are at risk of hypothermia and frostbite due to harsh weather, heavy snow, and bad road conditions if the vehicle breaks down. When people are exposed to cold temperatures, the human body begins to lose heat faster than it's produced. Hypothermia is caused by prolonged exposure to freezing temperatures. With this condition, patients with hypothermia and frostbite urgently need health services from the nearest healthcare facility. Therefore, the rural health facilities including the soum health center, provincial general hospital, and regional diagnostic and treatment center need additional preparation and resources to ensure continuity of emergency services for herder households. In addition, herders face challenges in reaching public health services and medicines due to blocked roads 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.

Healthcare facilities require a supply of thermostats for the constant temperature to keep drip liquid and injection liquid warm on a regular basis, patient warming systems with warming devices, hospital warming blankets for hypothermia and frostbite treatment, essential medicines and supplies for rural health centres and general hospitals. Additionally, a first aid kit with essential supplies for fever treatment, pain alleviating, anti-hypertensives, anti-inflammatory, anti-diarrheal, frostbite, burns, dressing and bandage materials, vitamins, and thermometer for herder families. In addition, UNFPA Mongolia country office, together with the Ministry of Health, conducted the health sector readiness assessment for gender-based violence. The assessment findings have demonstrated the need to strengthen the health sector response.

Key Activities

- Support accessibility of emergency care and essential health care especially for hypothermia and frostbite at soum health centers and provincial general hospitals.
- Ensure continuity of medical services and treatment at soum health centers.
- Provide first aid kits with essential medicines for herder families
- Improve emergency care and rescue services at Soum and bagh level

¹⁹Ministry of Health

- Provide psychological support

Activity	Time frame	Agencies	Target households / local hospitals	Target people	Funding required (US\$)	Funding Gap (US\$)
1 Procurement of patient warming system with Patient Warming Hospital blanket and warming device	Jan-Feb	WHO	100 soum health center		56,769	-
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	-
3 Provide essential medicines and medical renewable equipment	Jan-Feb	WHO	10 provincial general hospitals/RDTC 10 soum health center	-	9,657	-
4 Provide first aid kits with basic medicines for herder family	Jan-Feb	WHO	3,000	10,800	76,912	-
5 Psychological first aid (PFA) training for children of the herders	Feb-Mar	SCJ	2,222	8,000	50,000	40,000
6 Psychosocial support service to the affected herders and their families	Feb-Apr	MRCS	4000	4,275	39,000	27,050
7 Train frontline health workers to provide essential MNCH services (IPC-I, cIMCI, EENC)	Feb-Apr	UNICEF	1,000 health workers	5,000	200,000	200,000
8 Provide emergency health kits, necessary medical equipment to health facilities	Feb-Apr	UNICEF	200 soum health centres	4,000	60,000	30,000
9 Capacity building of health sector to gender-based violence surveillance and clinical management of outrage	Feb-Dec	UNFPA	-	-	80,000	50,000
TOTAL				32,075	667,244	347,050

Implementation Strategy

The sector activities focus on the continuity of essential health services and emergency care for cold-related injuries at rural health centers and first aid kits for herder households, as needs identified by the Ministry of Health. The health sector implements its activities in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health. The target beneficiaries of the health sector will be people living in Dzud risk areas that have limited access to healthcare.

- The essential medicines and medical renewable equipment from WHO was prepared for the dzud response in 2023 and the distribution to dzud-affected provinces and soums started in January 2024 and will be finished by the middle of February 2024.
- Procurement of required equipment including thermostat and patient warming system, and first aid kits with basic medicines for herder family done by WHO and will be turned over to the Ministry of Health for further distribution by the middle of February.
- SCJ and MRCS will implement psychological support for herders and their children from February to April 2024.
- Capacity-building training for health care workers and emergency health kits, necessary medical equipment for health facilities is going to be implemented by UNICEF in building resilience for future shock.

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





Education

PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	TOTAL REQUIREMENT (US\$)	FUNDING RECEIVED	FUNDING GAP
47.1K	10.5K	\$260K	\$20K	\$240K

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 more severe 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 have also reported insufficient access to water and sanitation facilities, food insecurity, and energy access as important issues affecting students' well-being during climate-related disasters²⁰.

Currently, with roads blocked by snow, these children are finding it difficult, if not impossible, to reach their educational facilities. As of 31 January 2024, as per the General Authority for Education (GAE), the educational situation in 3 provinces is particularly challenging. This includes Sukhbaatar, Khentii (two soums), and Dornogovi (two soums). Due to this situation, schools in Sukhbaatar province resumed with hybrid learning modality from 29 January 2024.

Currently, schools or kindergartens are unable to conduct classroom training due to electrical or heating failures. However, there are reported issues of insufficient heating in one school in Bayan-Olgii, two in Uvs, one in Zavkhan, two in Khuvsgul, one in Ovorkhangai, and six in Dundgobi province.

Children unable to access education will require learning education packages, including early childhood development and educational supplies, from February to April. The educational facilities will also require improvements to their heating and electricity systems to be safe and conducive to learning.

Key Activities

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

	Activity	Time frame	Agencies	Target Households	Target People	Funding required (US\$)	Funding Gap (US\$)
1	Distribution of learning material (workbooks and audio devices) to Grade 1 and Grade 2 children who do not have access to online learning.	Feb - April	UNICEF	980	2,000	140,000	130,000
2	Provision of ECE kits for children aged 0-5 years who cannot commute to KG due to road blockage	April -May	UNICEF	500	500	70,000	70,000
3	Psychological First Aid training for children of the herders	March - May	Save the Children	3,000	8,000	50,000	40,000
TOTAL				4,480	10,500	260,000	240,000

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 0–5year-old children on the Otor migration, provision of radios with audio lessons for herder children in kindergartens and primary education, and improvement of heating and electricity systems in select schools, kindergartens, and dormitories

Sector Lead Contacts: UNICEF and SCJM

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Participating organizations: *UNICEF, SCJM*



Nutrition

PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	TOTAL REQUIREMENT (US\$)	FUNDING RECEIVED	FUNDING GAP
100K	10.2K	\$386K	\$30K	\$356K

Sector impact and needs

Herder households, especially children and pregnant and lactating women of herder households, 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, loss of livelihoods during harsh winter. Herders exhausted their food and cash reserves. Due to the summer drought in many areas, dairy and meat production was very 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 multiple war crisis contributes to increasing 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.

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 lower 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.
- Primary health 'workers' visit and counselling to the affected households on appropriate child feeding practices.

Activity	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	March – May	UNICEF	2,000	2,400	30,000	-
2 Vitamin D supplementation of children 2- 59 months of age	March – May	UNICEF	8,000	8,600	124,000	124,000
3 Multiple micronutrient supplementation of children 6-59 months of age	March – May	UNICEF	2,200	2,650	32,000	32,000
4 Multiple micronutrient supplementation of pregnant and lactating women	March – May	UNICEF	1,600	1,600	20,600	20,600
5 Screening and treatment of children with acute malnutrition	March – May	UNICEF	6,750	6,730	130,000	130,000
6 Support primary health 'workers' home visits and counselling to herder households on appropriate child feeding practices during dzud.	March – Jun	UNICEF	3,500	9,630	50,000	50,000
TOTAL			9,600	10,200	386,000	356,000

Implementation strategy

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

In coordination with local emergency management departments, local health 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 and the Public Health Institute, the nutrition sector will lead overall coordination at the national and local levels in the time framework of disaster response and recovery actions, including emergency supplies, monitoring, reporting, and information management.

Sector Lead Contact: UNICEF

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





Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

PEOPLE IN NEED

98.5K

PEOPLE TARGETED

20K

TOTAL REQUIREMENT (US\$)

\$1.23M

FUNDING RECEIVED

\$45K

FUNDING GAP

\$1.19M

Sector impact and needs

There is a high risk of isolation of herder 'household' children staying at the school's dormitories due to the blockage of heavy snow in the affected area. Operation and maintenance of WASH facilities in the schools' dormitories are limited, and essential hygiene supplies are interrupted due to the Dzud situation.

The current needs vary between households, with those well-prepared and going on the Otor movement within

their province being less vulnerable than those migrating to different provinces. Key informant interviews with local authorities and survey interviews with herders indicated that most of them need hygiene and dignity kits. Considering their remote location, herders on the Otor Movement go to the central area to collect all essential items at once until Spring.

Key Activities

- Procure and distribute essential drinking water supplies for herder family's children in 'schools' dormitories (water dispensers etc.)
- Procure and provision of essential hygiene supplies for herder family's children and children at the dormitories.

Activity	Time frame	Agencies	Target households	Target people	Funding required (US\$)	Funding Gap (US\$)
1 Procure and disseminate essential drinking water supplies for herder family's children staying 'schools' dormitories (water dispensers etc.)	Jan – April	UNICEF	1,200	5,000	450,000	450,000
2 Rehabilitate/construct sanitation facilities in 'schools' dormitories.	Jan – April	UNICEF	1,200	5,000	450,000	450,000
3 Procure and disseminate essential hygiene supplies for herder family's children staying 'schools' dormitories (hygiene kits etc.)	Jan – April	UNICEF	1,200	5,000	300,000	290,000
4 Disseminate pre-positioned essential hygiene supplies for herder family's children	Jan – April	MRCS/ UNICEF	555	2,220	-	-

5	Procure and disseminate essential dignity supplies for herder family	Jan – April	MRCS/ UNFPA	700	2,800	35,000	-
Total				4.855	20.020	1,235,000	1,190,000

Implementation strategy

In collaboration with NEMA, the WASH sector will target the needs of affected herder families who have limited access to essential WASH supplies due to road blockage

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

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Participating organizations: NEMA, LEMA, Local Government, Ministry of Education and Science, MRCS, UNFPA.





Protection

(Gender-Based Violence and Child Protection)

1. Gender-Based Violence

PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	TOTAL REQUIREMENT (US\$)	FUNDING RECEIVED	FUNDING GAP
29.1K	8.6K	\$1.12M	\$120K	\$1M

Sector impact and needs

In emergencies, the sexual and reproductive health needs of women and girls are often left behind, and they are not 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 study 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.

Activity	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, UNICEF	2,406	8,662	865,102	755,302

2	Capacity building of multi-disciplinary team members on prevention and response to GBV	Feb-May	UNFPA, CCCP	-	5 people from each team at 21 provinces and 9 districts of 9	100,000	100,000
3	Community awareness raising media and communication on GBV prevention and response.	Feb-Dec	UNFPA	-	3.5 mln people of Mongolia	150,000	150,000
4	Advocacy on inclusion of minimum services package (MISP) of SRH in the disaster risk reduction plan	Feb-Sep	UNFPA, UNICEF	-	The members of the National Disaster Preparedness Committee	10,000	-
Total				2,406	8,662	1,125,102	1,005,305

Implementation strategy

The proposed activities will be implemented in close collaboration and partnership with government agencies, such as the NEMA, local health system, UN sister agencies and the Mongolian Red Cross Society, using the



Photo by UNFPA Mongolia

strength and advantages of each partner. The NEMA is the main government agency in charge of coordinating, managing, and distributing foreign aid and

donor support. Thus, the distribution of dignity kits will be closely discussed and monitored by the Agency. The MRCS has a robust 'volunteers' system, which helps to identify the most vulnerable and affected people, including women and girls. Therefore, the data collected through the MRCS will help reach the target group. In addition, the MRCS's volunteers will assist with distributing the kits, disseminating knowledge and awareness-raising messages on preparedness and response to emergencies to the public.

Sector partners will have regular information sharing for coordination of providing support and assistance. The local health system will be used for identifying survivors of gender-based violence and/or potential victims of GBV and ensure timely activation and response of the local multi-disciplinary team. The staff of the health centres, 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.

2. Child Protection

PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	TOTAL REQUIREMENT (US\$)	FUNDING RECEIVED	FUNDING GAP
100K	7K	\$120K	0	\$120K

Sector impact and needs

Violence against children remains a persistent issue in Mongolia. While progress has been achieved on the legislative side, harmful social norms and practices still exist. One in every two children are subject to violence at home. One in ten (10.7 per cent) of women have experienced sexual abuse as a child. For over 40 per cent of women who suffered sexual violence in childhood, the perpetrator was one of the family members, including biological parents, stepfather/mother, stepbrother/sister, and siblings²¹.

The Global school-based student health survey (2023) revealed that 39 per cent of students (28.3 per cent boys and 49.1 per cent girls) seriously considered attempting suicide during the 12 months before the survey. There

was a significant increase in the number of reports to the Child Helpline 108 on violations of child rights and protection concerns, including sexual abuse. It received 102,656 reports, of which 59,010 calls were related to child protection concerns, and 9,763 cases required case management services. 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 not being able to access child protection services. In 2023, around 3,308 child survivors of violence were placed in temporary protection shelters receiving social work, health and justice 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 recreational kits for children.

	Activity	Time frame	Agencies	Target people	Funding required (US\$)	Funding Gap (US\$)
1	Support community-owned prevention and response initiatives	March -June	UNICEF, GADPFC	7,000	80,000	80,000
2	Capacity building of sub-national child protection rapid response teams in 21 provinces who are mandated to apply a multi-disciplinary approach in prevention and response during emergencies	March – Sep	UNICEF, MLSP, GADPFC	210 members of the rapid response teams	40,000	40,000
TOTAL				7,000	120,000	120,000

²¹ Breaking the silence for equality, UNFPA and NSO, 2018

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 MLSP and General Authority of Child and Family Development Protection

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Participating organizations: UNFPA, UNICEF, MLSP, GADPFC, CCCP



Photo by 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>

Registering and recognizing your contributions

We thank you in advance for your generosity in responding to this urgent request for support. OCHA manages the Financial Tracking Service (FTS), which records all reported humanitarian contributions (cash, in-kind, multilateral and bilateral) to emergencies. Its purpose is to give credit and visibility to donors for their generosity and to show the total amount of funding and expose gaps in humanitarian plans. Please report yours to FTS, either by email to fts@un.org or through the online contribution report form at: <https://fts.unocha.org>

2024 DZUD EARLY ACTION AND RESPONSE PLAN

MONGOLIA