



Mongolia

Anticipating the 2020 dzud



Overview

Dzuds are extreme winters characterised by freezing temperatures, heavy snow and ground so frozen that animals cannot reach pasture. These conditions are commonly preceded by a dry summer with equally scant grazing. Livestock struggles to build up the stores of fat they need for winter. The poorest herders cannot afford extra fodder to ensure the survival of their livestock and livelihood. In early 2020, forecasts of a *dzud* triggered the release of funding to protect vulnerable herders.



Partners

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Timeline

2020



early January

Early warning

Annual *dzud* risk map from Mongolia's National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring shows 50 percent of herders at very high risk of a severe winter season. Impact-based forecasting confirmed the trigger, allowing FAO and MRCS to act early to reduce the impacts of *dzud* on vulnerable herders, ahead of the peak in April.



mid-January

Automatic funding

- ▶ **USD 126 000**
FAO Early Action Fund
- ▶ **CHF 211 000**
IFRC ex-ante funding

February

Anticipatory action

- ▶ **cash transfers**
MNT 240 000–275 000
- ▶ **animal care kits**
- ▶ FAO targeted **450** families in **4** provinces
- ▶ MRCS targeted **1 000** families in **8** provinces

Why anticipate disasters?

- ✓ Anticipatory action saves livelihoods and money.
- ✓ Acting on forecasts offers an opportunity to reduce disaster impacts.
- ✓ Partners can help more people more effectively and quicker.
- ✓ Saved time can be spent reaching the most vulnerable.

Why collaborate?

FAO and MRCS/IFRC aligned triggers, funding times and anticipatory actions. This collaboration:

- ✓ avoided duplication
- ✓ effectively increased the reach of early actions
- ✓ had a larger impact on the most vulnerable
- ✓ changed mindsets from reaction to anticipation by advocating with one voice
- ✓ ensured timely delivery of inputs through coordinated transport and distribution costs



Return on investment

USD 1 → USD 7

For every USD 1 spent on anticipatory action can have up to USD 7 in avoided losses and added benefits

Read more: www.fao.org/3/ca2181en/CA2181EN.pdf

Contact

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