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Mongolia Office

FLOODS

Humanitarian Situation Report

No.1

Date: 7 July 2023

Highlights

- Between 3-4 July 2023, heavy rains and floods disrupted Ulaanbaatar city and the surrounding areas. A total precipitation of 28.4 mm - half the minimum annual rainfall - has occurred within 26 hours. In addition to the heavy rainfall, the Selbe river dam has collapsed increased the flooding situation in Ulaanbaatar.
- The government declared a "high alert" in Ulaanbaatar on Wednesday 5 July 2023. Hundreds of people have evacuated their homes as their basement apartments and streets flooded, taking refuge in schools, neighbouring apartments, and other public centers.
- In support of the government-led response, UNICEF has provided 10 heavy duty pumps and pipes, essential medicines and medical equipment, and has initiated hygiene promotion and psychosocial support activities with affected families.

Situation in Numbers

- ❖ **More than 100,000 people directly affected**
- ❖ **20,000 children estimated directly affected**

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Between 3-4 July 2023, heavy rains and floods disrupted Ulaanbaatar city and surrounding areas. A total precipitation of 28.4 mm - half the minimum annual rainfall - has occurred within 26 hours in central area of Mongolia including Ulaanbaatar city. Both the Selbe and Dund rivers running across Ulaanbaatar city are flooding, and the Selbe river dam has now collapsed due to the prolonged rainfall that experts qualify as the heaviest rain in last 50 years. Eighteen areas of Ulaanbaatar city are experiencing heavy flooding, and this is expected to worsen as the forecast if for continued rain through the rest of this week.

On Wednesday 5 July, the government declared a "high alert" in Ulaanbaatar, with an order for "necessary measures" be taken in response.

Hundreds of people have fled their homes as their basement apartments and city streets have been flooded, taking refuge in schools, neighbouring apartments, and other public centers. Electricity and water have been cut off for more than one thousand buildings due to safety concerns. More than 20 roads are reported damaged and closed by security services, making it challenging for children and families to reach places of safety and access their homes if needed. In Ger district of Ulaanbaatar, there are concerns that flooded pit latrines may increase the risk of contagious and water-borne diseases. According to National Center for Communicable Diseases (NCCD, June 2023) diarrheal disease has increased 2 folds compared to last at the same period due to increase rainfall and pre-existing condition of open pit latrines and poo hygiene practise.

UNICEF Response

UNICEF has been working in close coordination with the National Emergency Management Agency and other partners on the ground. UNICEF Mongolia Country Office has released USD 50,000 from its core resources to start supporting the response.

WASH

UNICEF Mongolia was able to provide assistance to the government in procuring 10 heavy duty pumps and 450 m of pipes to support the pumping efforts from the flooded apartments and roads. It is estimated that over 1000 families and children will benefit from this intervention.

UNICEF has also started hand hygiene messaging for diseases prevention through different channels and media, targeting the entire city population.

Health

UNICEF has provided 20 essential medicine and medical device kits (sufficient for 20,000 people for 3 months) to Ulaanbaatar city's Emergency Commission and to targeted Municipal Ambulance Service Centers and Family Health Care Centers in the affected areas.

Child Protection

UNICEF has started working with local partners to provide psychosocial support to affected families and children, and to provide information to families on the use of the Child Helpline 108 in case of abuse.

Social Protection

As of 6 July, the Mongolia Red Cross Society (MRCS) estimates that between 600-1500 families are in need of direct cash as assistance and UNICEF is in close contact with local authorities to fine tune the assessments.

Social Behaviour Change (SBC), Accountability to Affected Population (AAP)

The social media, UNICEF has provided updated information on the situation and the support being provided to the affected population. UNICEF is also working with the Municipality on hygiene messaging and behaviour change activities.



UNICEF has distributed water pumps to support dewatering flooded apartments and health kits to support essential healthcare to affected families. @UNICEFMongolia/2023

Humanitarian Coordination and Partnership

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) remains a close partner in the flooding response. UNICEF is also working closely with the Municipality Emergency Commission, the Health Commission and the Flood Management Crisis Unit.

UNICEF has a standby agreement with the MRCS that will be activated in the coming days for IEC, water and sanitation, disinfections of basement, schools and other public places. UNICEF has also reached out to private sector contacts to solicit donations for affected families.

UNICEF External Communications:

- <https://crisis24.garda.com/alerts/2023/07/mongolia-disruptions-due-to-flooding-ongoing-across-parts-of-ulaanbaatar-as-of-july-5>
- <https://www.manilatimes.net/2023/07/05/world/hundreds-flee-homes-after-flooding-in-mongolias-capital/1899261>

UNICEF Mongolia:

- **UNICEF Mongolia Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/unicefmongolia/>
- **Tweeter**
<https://twitter.com/UNICEFRepMN/status/1677159147824095232>
<https://twitter.com/UNICEFRepMN/status/1676907974265298944>

Next SitRep: 13 July 2023

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