



## Mongolia Office

DZUD

Humanitarian Situation Report  
No.4

Date: 30 April 2024

### Highlights

- Despite the warming temperature ahead, the dzud impact on the herder households persists, affecting livelihoods, and the mental health, wellbeing, nutritional and education needs of over 24,000 children. Over 4,957 herder households have completely lost their livestock, which was their sole source of income. The current main challenges for the provinces are (1) managing the carcasses of the dead livestock to prevent outbreak of infectious disease, (2) improving the health and welfare of the herders to recover, and (3) increased risk of flash floods across many communities.
- UNICEF Mongolia is providing immediate assistance of nutrition support, health kits, hygiene kits, learning materials and mental health and psychosocial support to over 14,000 children. To ensure health and social services remain accessible to herder households, UNICEF provided road clearing support to 78 soums of 11 provinces.
- To address the needs of most vulnerable affected households, UNICEF together with UN RCO, FAO and UNFPA successfully applied for Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Rapid Response (RR) allocation. However, as additional USD 1,600,000 out of the USD 3,924,000 is urgently required to address the immediate needs of 10,000 children and 2,500 households over the next few months.

### Situation in Numbers



**Over 188,300**  
people including  
80,215 children  
affected.



**24,000** children in  
urgent need of  
humanitarian  
assistance



**10,000 children  
and 2,500 families**  
prioritized for  
humanitarian  
assistance from  
April-July 2024.

### Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Between November 2023 and April 2024, Mongolia experienced the harshest dzud in the last fifty years, with severe blizzards and harsh weather conditions affecting over 188,300 people, including 80,215 children (40,830 girls and 39,385 boys). Twenty people, including two children, have lost their lives due to severe blizzard.

The dzud has mostly affected herder households, whose main/sole income source for livelihood is livestock. As of 25 April 2024, 4957 herder households had lost more than 70 per cent of their livestock and the country has lost 7.1 million livestock, amounting to 11.1 per cent of the total. Despite the temperature beginning to rise and the spring months ahead, dzud conditions persist and the loss of livestock is expected to continue in the coming months.

The affected herder households are struggling to keep their livestock by employing various coping strategies, including dietary restrictions, prolonged outdoor labor to tend to vulnerable livestock and reducing household expenditures as much as they could, such as skipping medical check-ups and reducing expenses on education, hygiene, and warm clothes for children. 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.

The field monitoring teams of UNICEF observed the significant toll dzud is taking on children's mental health, who are suffering not only from the aftermath of the mass death of their livestock, but also from dispirited and exhausted state of adults and reduced attention and care from their caretakers.

The Government of Mongolia is leading the response, but significant resource gaps persist in the relief and recovery efforts. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) is activated and working to collectively support the Government's response. The [Mongolia Dzud Response Plan](#), which was revised and relaunched on 25 March, identifies over 200,000 people in need, with 77,000 of the most vulnerable people targeted to receive in-kind and cash assistance.

**Immediate needs for April to June 2024** include (1) support to the provincial government in management of carcasses of dead livestock to prevent outbreak of infectious diseases, (2) provision of nutritional supplements, (3) providing mental health and psychosocial support, (4) increasing the mobilization of child protection workers, (5) and distribution of learning materials for school children. To address the immediate humanitarian needs, UNICEF together with UN RCO, FAO and UNFPA successfully applied for USD 1.55 million from CERF RR to address the needs of the 12,050 most affected people by prioritizing livelihood support for targeted herder households, with a focus on vulnerable populations.

The warming spring temperatures following the unusually high amount of precipitation in winter will create a significant risk of flashfloods from April to June 2024. In anticipation of the flashfloods, UNICEF Mongolia is focusing on pre-positioning relief items and increasing the capacity of emergency responders.

## UNICEF Response

### Health and Nutrition

Between 15 December 2023 to 25 April 2024, UNICEF Mongolia provided 138 Interagency Emergency Health Kits, containing basic medicines, medical devices, and supplies. Ready-to-use therapeutic food is being distributed to health departments in 17 provinces for the treatment of 400 children with acute malnutrition. High dose vitamin A and multiple micronutrient powders are being delivered to children in 9 provinces. The supported health centres have provided mobile health service to 141,873 people in high-risk areas, including 25,200 children aged 0-5 years, 7,100 pregnant women and 7,774 people with disability.

Volunteers and youth groups trained with support from UNICEF on Psychological first aid are being mobilized nationwide to support children in severely affected provinces. IEC materials for children and herders on mental well-being and coping during dzud have been developed and disseminated in collaboration with National Center for Mental Health and WHO.

### WASH

Between 15 December 2023 to 25 April 2024, UNICEF Mongolia distributed 1,455 hygiene kits to households with children and pregnant and lactating women who are on Otor Movement<sup>1</sup> in 14 provinces. To further enhance disease prevention, UNICEF is coordinating the WASH cluster agencies to disseminate hygiene promotion messaging through various channels and media, targeting the entire population.

In preparedness to flash floods which is predicted to occur post dzud, UNICEF Mongolia pre-positioned 1,000 family hygiene kits and trained 150 local responders on WASH in emergencies in collaboration with NEMA.

### Education

Portable digital audio devices pre-loaded with audio lessons have been delivered to 250 herder households with school-age children. Pre-positioned learning materials and school supplies have been distributed to 560 children in 6 provinces.

### Child Protection

To ensure the integration of minimum standards on child protection in emergencies and adoption of child protection multi-disciplinary approach in dzud response, UNICEF Mongolia is organizing "Child Protection in Emergencies" cascaded training for 320 local responders. To address and prevent gender-based violence, UNICEF Mongolia is providing refresher capacity building support for child protection rapid response teams and community groups.

### Social Protection

UNICEF is advocating with the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection and the State Emergency Commission to support affected households with non-conditional cash assistance intervention. The target vulnerable households are identified as households with less than 400 livestock who have children aged under five years, children living in dormitories in dzud risk areas, elderly citizens with underlying health conditions, and low-income households outside of the social protection system.

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<sup>1</sup> The Otor Movement is a nomadic practice of domestic herders migrating to seek pasture.

## Social Behaviour Change (SBC) and Accountability to Affected Population (AAP)

UNICEF Mongolia is engaging with Mongolian children's council, Teen parliament network and young volunteer groups to support locally led initiatives to promote well-being, safety, mental health and disaster risk reduction knowledge of school children and herder households. Advocacy contents regarding dzud impact on children's wellbeing and disruption to education and health system are being developed and disseminated through UNICEF Mongolia social media pages.

UNICEF is engaging with social media influencers and vloggers that are most followed among children to deliver psychosocial support and increase awareness on the severity of the situation among wider public, by conducting joint visits to dormitories, schools, and households of most severely affected soums.

## Cross-sector Support

To assess the dzud situation, UNICEF team led by the Representative conducted field mission in 12 severely affected provinces and held discussions with local authorities, responders, and school children to identify the needs and response gaps. The priority needs identified were the support for clearing of the roads and passes blocked by heavy snowfalls, hindering access to essential services such as health and education and disrupting supply chains. The burying and disinfection of the carcasses of dead livestock was also noted during field monitoring missions in early April 2024.

To assist the effort, UNICEF Mongolia provided cash for fuel support for effective response of local rescue teams of 78 soums of 11 provinces that are most severely affected. Around 3,500 joint response packages including hygiene, sanitation and education kits have been distributed to target groups identified in collaboration with Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

## Humanitarian Coordination and Partnership

The State Emergency Commission led by the Deputy Prime Minister is leading the Dzud response. UNICEF Mongolia is working in close coordination with Emergency Operations Center led by National Emergency Management Agency to timely and efficiently respond to dzud. UNICEF is also working closely with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, Ministry of Education and Science and Local emergency departments to collect required information, prioritize response activities and identify target groups. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) is activated and working closely to collectively respond. UNICEF is leading WASH, Nutrition, Education (co-led with Save the Children) and Protection (co-led with UNFPA) cluster partners to deliver coordinated and effectively managed response nationwide without duplication of efforts. UNICEF Mongolia has also started advocacy activities with private sector to generate funding for dzud response.

## Funding Requirements (March – June 2024)

To ensure a timely response, UNICEF Mongolia has allocated USD 278,000 and mobilized USD 25,000 through local donations, providing immediate assistance to over 14,000 children. At the end of April, USD 300,000 from Global Humanitarian Thematic Funds (UNICEF) and USD 500,000 from CERF were allocated to support the dzud response. To accelerate the support and meet the most critical and time-sensitive needs, Mongolia Country Office urgently needs USD 1,600,000 out of the total USD 3,924,000 planned response from late April till June 2024.

| Sector                        | Requirements (USD) | Funds available (USD) | Funding gap |       |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------|
|                               |                    |                       | USD         | %     |
| Health                        | 360,000            | 103,000               | 257,000     | 71.3% |
| Nutrition                     | 1,489,000          | 325,000               | 1,164,000   | 78.1% |
| WASH                          | 1,250,000          | 100,000               | 1,150,000   | 92.0% |
| Education                     | 370,000            | 200,000               | 150,000     | 40.5% |
| Child Protection              | 175,000            | 135,000               | 40,000      | 22.8% |
| SBC and AAP                   | 65,000             | 49,000                | 16,000      | 24.6% |
| Cross Sector and Coordination | 215,000            | 191,000               | 44,000      | 20.5% |
| Total                         | 3,924,000          | 1,103,000             | 2,821,000   | 71.9% |

## UNICEF Mongolia Communications:

- [UNICEF Mongolia - НҮБ-ын Хүүхдийн Сангийн баг зуданд ихээр... | Facebook](#)
- <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/FWiYConmLm2AFbkd/?mibextid=ox5AEW>
- <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/NgseiPTie81NvDw9/?mibextid=ox5AEW>
- <https://reliefweb.int/report/mongolia/mongolia-2024-dzud-early-action-response-plan-dec-2023-may-2024>
- <https://twitter.com/UNICEFRepMN/status/1745424933411500217>
- <https://www.unicef.org/mongolia/press-releases/unicef-urges-help-children-affected-severe-winter>
- <https://www.unicef.org/mongolia/node/2136>
- <https://www.unicef.org/mongolia/press-releases/unicef-urges-help-children-affected-severe-winter>
- <https://mongolia.un.org/en/215015-enhancing-social-protection-and-disaster-response-rural-mongolia>

## UNICEF Mongolia social media pages:

- **UNICEF Mongolia Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/unicefmongolia>
- **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/UNICEFRepMN>

**Next SitRep:** 31 May 2024

For further  
information,  
contact:

Evariste Kouassi Komlan  
Representative  
Mongolia Country Office  
Tel: +97699118274  
Email: [ekouassikomlan@unicef.org](mailto:ekouassikomlan@unicef.org)

Yan Mu  
Deputy Representative OIC –  
Programmes  
Mongolia Country Office  
Tel: +97699118544  
Email: [ymu@unicef.org](mailto:ymu@unicef.org)

Nomin Orgodol  
Humanitarian response consultant  
Mongolia Country Office  
Tel: +97699018531  
Email: [norgodol@unicef.org](mailto:norgodol@unicef.org)

## Annex A

### Summary of Programme Results

| Sector                                                                        |       | UNICEF and IPs Response |               |            | Sector Response |               |            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|---------------|------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|
| Indicator   Disaggregation                                                    |       | Target                  | Total results | Change ▲ ▼ | Target          | Total results | Change ▲ ▼ |
| HEALTH                                                                        |       |                         |               |            |                 |               |            |
| # of people accessing primary health care through UNICEF-supported facilities | Boys  | 10,000                  | 24,312        | ▲ 29,616   |                 |               |            |
|                                                                               | Girls | 10,000                  | 25,304        |            |                 |               |            |
|                                                                               | Men   | 22,000                  | 41,397        | ▲ 37,483   |                 |               |            |
|                                                                               | Women | 25,000                  | 43,086        |            |                 |               |            |
|                                                                               | PWDs  | 5,000                   | 7,774         | ▲ 2,274    |                 |               |            |
| NUTRITION                                                                     |       |                         |               |            |                 |               |            |
| # of children aged 6–59 months receiving micronutrient powders                | Boys  | 17,000                  | 8,923         |            | 17,000          | 8,923         |            |
|                                                                               | Girls | 17,700                  | 9,287         |            | 17,700          | 9,287         |            |
| # of pregnant and lactating women receiving micronutrient powders             | Women | 18,000                  | 0             |            | 18,000          | 0             |            |
|                                                                               | PWD   | 1,300                   | 0             |            | 1,300           | 0             |            |
| # of children aged 6–59 months receiving ready-to-use therapeutic food        | Boys  | 195                     | 195           |            | 195             | 195           |            |
|                                                                               | Girls | 205                     | 205           |            | 205             | 205           |            |
| # of children aged 6–59 months receiving Vitamin A supplement                 | Boys  | 17,000                  | 1,397         |            | 17,000          | 1,397         |            |
|                                                                               | Girls | 17,700                  | 1,820         |            | 17,700          | 1,820         |            |
| # of children aged 6–59 months receiving Vitamin D supplement                 | Boys  | 18,900                  | 1,650         |            | 18,900          | 1,650         |            |
|                                                                               | Girls | 19,700                  | 1,725         |            | 19,700          | 1,725         |            |

| Sector                                                                                                                              |       | UNICEF and IPs Response |                  |              | Sector Response |                  |              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|
| Indicator  <br>Disaggregation                                                                                                       |       | Target                  | Total<br>results | Change<br>▲▼ | Target          | Total<br>results | Change<br>▲▼ |
| # of children with acute malnutrition screened and treated                                                                          | Boys  | 13,720                  | 0                |              | 13,720          | 0                |              |
|                                                                                                                                     | Girls | 14,280                  | 0                |              | 14,280          | 0                |              |
| Support primary health workers' home visits and counselling to herder households on appropriate child feeding practices during dzud | Boys  | 18,900                  | 0                |              | 18,900          | 0                |              |
|                                                                                                                                     | Girls | 19,700                  | 0                |              | 19,700          | 0                |              |
| Support provision of nutritious and safe school meals for dormitory children in Dzud affected areas                                 | Boys  | 4,280                   | 0                |              | 4,280           | 0                |              |
|                                                                                                                                     | Girls | 4,470                   | 0                |              | 4,470           | 0                |              |
| WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROMOTION                                                                                             |       |                         |                  |              |                 |                  |              |
| # of children provided with essential drinking water supplies (water dispensers etc)                                                | Boys  | 2,450                   | 0                |              | 2,450           | 0                |              |
|                                                                                                                                     | Girls | 2,550                   | 0                |              | 2,550           | 0                |              |
| # of children provided with access to sanitation facilities in school dormitories rehabilitated/ constructed by UNICEF              | Boys  | 2,450                   | 0                |              | 2,450           | 0                |              |
|                                                                                                                                     | Girls | 2,550                   | 0                |              | 2,550           | 0                |              |
| # of herders and children provided with essential hygiene supplies (hygiene kits etc)                                               | Boys  | 2,750                   | 3,025            |              | 2,750           | 3,025            |              |
|                                                                                                                                     | Girls | 2,861                   | 3,732            |              | 2,861           | 3,732            |              |
|                                                                                                                                     | Men   | 1,910                   | 1,910            |              | 1,910           | 1,910            |              |
|                                                                                                                                     | Women | 1,979                   | 1,979            |              | 1,979           | 1,979            |              |
|                                                                                                                                     | PWDs  | 1,172                   | 1,172            |              | 1,172           | 1,172            |              |
| # of children provided with pre-positioned essential hygiene supplies                                                               | Boys  | 1,085                   | 1,085            |              | 1,085           | 1,085            |              |
|                                                                                                                                     | Girls | 1,135                   | 1,135            |              | 1,135           | 1,135            |              |
| CHILD PROTECTION                                                                                                                    |       |                         |                  |              |                 |                  |              |
| # of children and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support                                       | Boys  | 12,950                  | 1,240            |              | 16,550          | 4,800            |              |
|                                                                                                                                     | Girls | 13,420                  | 1,410            |              | 17,050          | 5,050            |              |
| # of women, girls, and boys accessing child protection, GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/ or response interventions              | Boys  | 22,150                  | 2,130            |              | 22,150          | 2,130            |              |
|                                                                                                                                     | Girls | 23,550                  | 2,350            |              | 23,550          | 2,350            |              |
| # of children provided with warm clothes and boots                                                                                  | Boys  | 0                       | 0                |              | 2,035           | 2,035            |              |
|                                                                                                                                     | Girls | 0                       | 0                |              | 2,115           | 2,115            |              |
| # of people reached through messaging on prevention and access to mental health services                                            | Boys  | 30,000                  | 27,000           |              | 30,000          | 27,000           |              |
|                                                                                                                                     | Girls | 30,000                  | 27,000           |              | 30,000          | 27,000           |              |
|                                                                                                                                     | Men   | 20,000                  | 15,500           |              | 20,000          | 15,500           |              |
|                                                                                                                                     | Women | 20,000                  | 16,200           |              | 20,000          | 16,200           |              |
|                                                                                                                                     | PWDs  | 5,000                   | 6,000            |              | 5,000           | 6,000            |              |
| EDUCATION                                                                                                                           |       |                         |                  |              |                 |                  |              |
| # of children accessing formal and non-formal education, including early learning                                                   | Boys  | 1,960                   | 125              |              | 1,960           | 125              |              |
|                                                                                                                                     | Girls | 2,040                   | 130              |              | 2,040           | 130              |              |
| # of children receiving individual learning materials                                                                               | Boys  | 490                     | 1120             |              | 490             | 1120             |              |
|                                                                                                                                     | Girls | 510                     | 1240             |              | 510             | 1240             |              |