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Mercy Corps Mongolia

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Prefix

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Acronyms

AWI	Advanced Weather Information Service
CGFM	Credit Guarantee Fund of Mongolia
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency
LEGS	Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards
LEWS	Livestock Early Warning System
LTS2	Leveraging Tradition and Science in Disaster Risk Reduction
LTT4R	Leveraging Technology and Tradition for Resilience
MOFALI	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MVEA	Mongolian Veterinary Epidemiologists Association
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency of Mongolia
RCP	Resilient Communities Program
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
ToT	Training of Trainers

Introduction

Our Mission

Mercy Corps' global mission is to empower people to survive through crisis, build better lives and transform their communities for good. In more than 40 countries, Mercy Corps partners to put bold solutions into action, helping people triumph over adversity and grow stronger from within.

In Mongolia, we do right by that mission by helping communities to become resilient in the face of a rapidly changing environment. Through the development of public-private dialogue and strong collaborative partnerships, we start conversations that lead to the stimulation of inclusive and sustainable growth, good governance and environmental stewardship.

Project Portfolio

In 2017, Mercy Corps contributed to the development of Mongolia in such areas as disaster risk management, environmental stewardship and economic development. Our portfolio is as follows.

Table 1: Mercy Corps Mongolia 2017 Project Portfolio

Project	Donor	Project Period	Aimags
Miscellaneous relief	FAO	March 2017	4
LTS2 (Leveraging Science and Tradition in Disaster Risk Reduction in Mongolia 2) project	USAID/OFDA	May 2016 – June 2017	16
LTT4R (Leveraging Technology and Tradition for Resilience in Rural Mongolia)	EU/ECHO	September 2017 – December 2018	4
RCP (Resilient Communities Program)	Mercy Corps	April 2017 – December 2019	8

Implementation Areas

Mercy Corps Mongolia operates in 11 *aimags* and has a headquarter in Ulaanbaatar. See below for a region by region breakdown. In 2017, Mercy Corps closed offices in six *aimags*: Gobi-Sumber, Dundgobi, Umnugobi, Bayankhongor, Gobi-Altai, and Dornod. We also added two field offices: one in Bulgan, and the other in Selenge.

Bayan-Ulgii • Uvs • Khovd • Khuvsgul • Zavkhan • Arkhangai • Uvurkhangai • Selenge • Bulgan • Sukhbaatar • Hentii • Ulaanbaatar

Key Achievements

2017 was a big year for Mercy Corps Mongolia. We delivered disaster relief packages for *dzud*-affected households all over the country; launched our flagship economic development program, Resilient Communities (RCP); secured funding for a second program, Leveraging Tradition and Technology For Resilience (LTT4R) that builds on the program impact achieved by Leveraging Tradition and Science in Disaster Risk Reduction 2 (LTS2); signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), agreeing to integrate Mercy Corps' Advanced Weather Information System into the national framework for disaster risk management.

See below for a more detailed list of achievements disaggregated by program.



FORGING NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Country Director Rames Singh shakes hands with Prime Minister U. Enkhtevshin at his office in Ulaanbaatar

Beneficiaries

Table 2: Number of beneficiaries by project

Projects	No. of beneficiaries
Miscellaneous relief	4,692
LTS2	75,708
RCP	7,968
Total	88,368

88,368 benefited from Mercy Corps sponsored training workshops and materials, information services, restoration projects, market linkages and technical equipment in 2017. Among that number were:

1. Emergency management personnel and other government stakeholders who improved their understanding of disaster risk management and were provided access to on-demand weather forecasts and pasture information.
2. Veterinarians—some from private veterinary units and others from laboratories—who learned the fundamentals of necropsy, how to diagnose, treat, and prevent transboundary diseases like brucellosis and foot and mouth disease, and were supplied with laboratory equipment and portable corrals for their units.

3. Herders and herder cooperatives who were trained in seed selection, planting, irrigation and other advanced agricultural practices.
4. Rural entrepreneurs who were taught how to clean and process sheep intestines for export and equipped with the financing and the market linkages to start their own small businesses.
5. Herders who received informational materials on disaster risk management, attended workshops about livestock management, and received access to weather forecasts and pasture information through our Advanced Weather Information Service.
6. Rural communities who benefitted from the ground wells, hay storage facilities, portable fences, and other infrastructure projects implemented to improve livelihoods and build resilience in the face of shocks and stresses.
7. Government personnel and provincial decision makers who were trained in strategy development at the provincial level.
8. The herder cooperative whose capacity continues to be strengthened by a Mercy Corps contracted consulting firm.

Program Highlights

- On April 4, 2017, we officially launched the RCP at an event in Ulaanbaatar, marking the first day of a three-year program. Over 100 people attended, including herders, diplomats and government personnel.
- Provided 31 tons of fodder seeds to farmers and feed producers in 7 target *aimags*—which yielded 319 tons of oats, wheat, barley, and sunflower this fall, worth as much as USD 65,000—to promote advanced practices in fodder production; increase the supply of and demand for supplementary hay and build the resilience of livestock producers against natural disaster.
- Signed a MoU with XAC Bank in support of more inclusive access to green finance and financial literacy training among rural entrepreneurs working in the livestock sector.
- Trained 172 field veterinarians in diagnostics, vaccination and transboundary diseases to improve methods of disease prevention, diagnosis, treatment and control, increase the quality and quantity of meat products, and reopen Mongolian meat markets to export opportunities.
- Drafted a 2025 strategy paper for *Khushaat soum*, detailing steps that government personnel can take to strengthen the livestock sector through the practice of animal husbandry. Once passed by the local parliament, the document will have the opportunity to secure government funding to implement the activities it recommends.
- Designed and conducted a baseline survey in 21 *soums* and 8 target *aimags* of Mongolia to find out how herder households prepare for natural disasters, what shocks and stresses they experience, and what resilience capacities they do and do not have based on different variables. The survey was completed on December 18. The results, which will be made available this spring, will help us measure program impact moving forward.
- Signed an MoU with the Credit Guarantee Fund of Mongolia (CGFM), agreeing to provide loan guarantee services to rural businesses lacking in collateral.

- Facilitated a technical training workshop that taught 25 veterinarians from 8 *aimags* how to prevent, identify, treat, and control the spread of foot and mouth disease (FMD)—a big step towards reversing import bans from high-value international markets; stimulating growth in the livestock sector and establishing stronger, healthier, and more productive cattle, sheep and goat populations.
- Collaborated with the National Emergency Management Agency and the Prime Minister’s Office to improve the current SMS system by receiving special permission from the relevant government authority, CITA (the Communication Information and Technology Agency of Mongolia), which will provide users with:
 - A dedicated service number that can receive SMS messages from any of the four mobile operators in Mongolia at any time;
 - More reliable system functionality;
 - Expedited requests and delivery processes; and
 - Unlimited SMS delivery
- Mercy Corps and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) held a joint conference to share the success of its USAID/OFDA funded flagship program, Leveraging Tradition and Science in Disaster Risk Reduction 2 (LTS2) with stakeholders from all over the country.

Resilient Communities Program

Program Overview

Grant Period

April 2017 – December 2019

Program Sites

Arkhangai, Bulgan, Khentii, Khuvsgul, Selenge, Sukhbaatar, Uvurkhangai, and Zavkhan

Mission

To facilitate the creation of sustainable, multi-sectoral patterns of inclusive economic growth and building a competitive livestock economy resilient enough to withstand the shocks and stresses endemic to Mongolia.

Objectives

1. Build alternative economic hubs in support of livestock markets that are as adaptive as they are competitive;
2. Design robust livestock production models, which take into consideration Mongolia's changing cultural, economic, legislative, and ecological conditions;
3. Promote innovative financing and financial management practices to support a competitive livestock industry and
4. Increase economic participation of rural youths within the livestock production sector.

Executive Summary

Now that herders and herder communities are facing the cumulative effect of socio-political, economic and ecological shocks and stresses that undermine the potential for inclusive and sustainable growth, there is reason to believe that the sector that has supported Mongolia for so many years, is also the key to strengthening the resilience of its herder communities.

Instead of distributing critical inputs to herders at zero cost, Mercy Corps Mongolia's flagship economic development program, The Resilient Communities Program (RCP) is creating market incentives for herders and entrepreneurs to invest in critical inputs without financial assistance; instead of providing financial support for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), we are making financial products more accessible for herders and entrepreneurs and instead of simply changing the lives of herding communities, we are changing the market systems that help them prosper. Such is the strategy behind the market systems approach to development, which creates incentives to improve system performance, productivity, and economic returns for vulnerable populations.

As the project's implementing agency, Mercy Corps is responsible for building the model for economic growth block by block by facilitating the creation of sustainable, multi-sectoral patterns of inclusive economic growth and supporting a competitive livestock economy strong enough to withstand the various shocks and stresses endemic to Mongolia.

In the forage production, animal husbandry, veterinary services, green finance, emergency planning, meat markets and rangeland management sectors, the RCP has already broken ground on several market interventions. Although it will take considerable time to make an impact, the market interventions that we have launched over the course of the past two quarters—interventions strengthening value chain governance; improving market system performance and building deeper, stronger relationships between market actors—will work to raise incomes; reduce poverty; and build economic resilience in rural communities along the livestock value chain.

Activities

Opened training center for breeders.

On September 22, 2017, Mercy Corps launched a training center in Khushaat, not far from the Khushaat Bayalag breeding cooperative. Here, breeding specialists from all over the country will teach an audience of breeders, herders and agricultural graduates the various advanced breeding practices carried out by much of the developing world.

The launch event, which took place at the Khushaat Cultural Center, was broadcasted on television news to draw as big of an audience as possible.



A pen of Kazakh Whitehead beef cattle in Khushaat soum, of Selenge aimag.

Although the breeding pilot is small in scale, it has great potential for growth. Once open for business, the model breeding-unit will present a unique learning opportunity for breeding cooperatives in other parts of the country to adapt and replicate as they see fit. The training center, on the other hand, will facilitate the technical development of other professionals working in the livestock sector, which in turn, will expand the use of breeding practices that help livestock become strong, healthy, and productive.

Conducted baseline survey, provincial livestock sector.

In August 2017, Mercy Corps entered a joint partnership with breeding cooperative Khushaatin Bayalag and consulting firm Khugnu Meej to develop a 100-head nucleus herd of high-performing beef cattle, to improve the overall quality, prolificacy and market value of Kazakh Whitehead beef cattle in Khushaat *soum*. To truly effect change within the livestock sector however, Mercy Corps and its partners should have a greater understanding of the geographical and socio-economic conditions endemic to the region. The baseline survey conducted in July 2017 was designed to provide ample information regarding the age, weight, health and productive capacity of beef cattle in Khushaat *soum*, the technical capacity of local cooperatives, the carrying capacity of local pastures; the availability of feed and water supply; and the demography of beef cattle herders (disaggregated by age, sex and herd size).

The baseline survey comprised two parts: a questionnaire and a disease sampling. To implement the former, Mercy Corps and Khugnu Meej wrote three sets of questionnaires: one for herders, another for cooperative members and managers, and yet another for *soum* government personnel. A sum total of 84 people—45 herders who bred Kazakh Whitehead beef cattle, 18 members of Khushaatin Bayalag, and 21 officials from the public sector—completed the survey.

Survey results were presented in October 2017 at a round table in Ulaanbaatar. In attendance were representatives from Mercy Corps, Khushaatin Bayalag, and the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry (MOFALI) including the Director of Livestock Policy Choi-Ish.

Submitted strategy paper on breeding to *soum* parliament.

The results from the baseline survey inspired our team to develop a strategy paper for local government personnel designed to address the concerns regarding the institutional capacity of the various agencies detailed in the baseline report. The paper, created in consultation with Khugnu Meej, makes the argument for advanced husbandry practices that, if implemented in Khushaatin Bayalag and other such cooperatives, have the potential to increase the supply of and demand for premium grade cattle; strengthen the capacity of cooperatives; create a legislative environment conducive to economic growth and make advanced animal husbandry an economically viable practice for herders in Khushaat by the year 2025.

In January 2018, the strategy paper made it onto the parliamentary floor. If written into law, the ideas it represents will be supported with government funds, giving credibility to RCP, and putting animal husbandry back on the radar of the local government and the community it serves far beyond the lifetime of our project.

Facilitated workshops for field veterinarians.

July and August 2017 marked the RCP's first foray into the veterinary sector. In collaboration with four of the country's leading experts in veterinary health, Mercy Corps facilitated eight one and a half-day training workshops—one per target *aimags*. The curriculum covered such pressing topics as necropsy, vaccinations, and transboundary diseases. Our workshops drew an audience of 172 field veterinarian-- 52% of whom were women and 46% of whom were under the age of 35.

A post-workshop assessment found that participants came out knowing 10% more about animal health than they did coming in, and 45% expressed interest in attending an additional workshop with more emphasis

placed on surgery, laboratory testing, and diagnostics, which veterinarians find more relevant to day-to-day operations.

Conducted FMD-training workshop.

Mercy Corps facilitated a capacity-building workshop for provincial veterinarians. The workshop took place on October 26 in Ulaanbaatar. Under the guidance of six trainers from the MVEA, the 25 participants were taught how to identify an infected animal; how to stage the infection and how to trace it back to a single source.

Coming out of the workshop, participants felt better prepared to prevent the next outbreak before it happens. Some even expressed interest in sharing what they learned with colleagues back home, in rural *aimags* across the country.

Educating veterinarians about FMD will do more than contain the disease. It will improve livestock productivity, open up the country to high value and international markets, improve the livelihoods of thousands of livestock producers, and build economic resilience among the thousands of market actors within reach of the livestock sector.

Launched a print campaign for veterinarians.

As impactful as our training workshops were, they only reached a small fraction of the veterinary sector. For those who were not in attendance, Mercy Corps produced 15,000 informational pamphlets; 500 informational videos; and 500 copies of the book *Animal Endemic Diseases*, which have since been distributed to private and public veterinary units across the country.

Mercy Corps' expectation is that the above materials will altogether improve the capacity of private veterinary units to provide high-quality service to herders and herder cooperatives and stimulate demand for those services moving forward.

Trained provincial government in strategic development.

Not long after Mercy Corps conducted a veterinary training in Sukhbaatar, officials from the *aimag* agricultural department came to us with a request: to help strengthen the capacity of *aimag* lawmakers to draft a comprehensive mid-term strategy to expand the veterinary sector.

Mercy Corps recruited two leading veterinarians—each with an illustrious career in local and national government—to facilitate a one-day strategy making workshop on September 10th. Together, they taught an audience of 23 field veterinarians and government officials how to define strategic objectives; conduct a situational analysis, and work as a team. They also provided ample online resources for those with limited strategic experience, including similar strategies drafted and later implemented in the west.

If approved, the resulting strategy—which seeks to increase access to quality veterinary care—will help the *aimag* agricultural department effect immediate change in the livestock sector without going through the national parliament, where such legislation is often tabled. It is Mercy Corps' hope that other *aimags* will follow Sukhbaatar's lead and take the expansion of veterinary services into their own hands.

Launched suite of brochures on veterinary diseases.

In November 2017, Mercy Corps developed a suite of eight informational brochures on animal health. Compiled by a team of veterinary consultants, seven out of the eight brochures walk the reader through the fundamentals of identifying, preventing and controlling infectious diseases including blackleg, brucellosis, and foot-and-mouth disease. The eighth is on food safety and sanitation, and teaches herders how to keep drug residue out of livestock products.

Mercy Corps has since distributed more than 15,000 brochures to veterinary units all over the country. According to local veterinarians, they were well received in all 11 *aimags* we targeted. Some units have even requested additional copies.

Secured equipment for veterinarians.

In November 2017, Mercy Corps procured the following equipment:

- 1 incinerator for Khuvsgul's provincial veterinary laboratory
- 1 refrigerator for each of Khuvsgul's 21 PVUs
- 55 portable corrals for private veterinary units in Sukhbaatar and Zavkhan.

In less than three months, the equipment we procured has already transformed the way that breeding and veterinary units and laboratories control and prevent the spread of infectious disease. Raw animal materials that were once buried on laboratory grounds can now be disposed of safely and efficiently in the incinerator; vaccines that were once kept in room-temperature conditions are now stored in refrigerators that preserve their capacity to prevent illness, enabling veterinarians to treat their four-legged patients with vaccines of the highest quality; herds that once took days to vaccinate are now shepherded into portable corrals, where veterinarians have already treated 673,400 livestock in less than 14 days in contrast with the 20 days it once took. If you consider that most PVUs conduct mass vaccinations three times a year, the corrals have the potential to save as much as MNT 5.4 million a year in time, fuel, and human resources.

More than 45,000 herders and 5 million livestock benefited from a more effective veterinary sector in the form of stronger, healthier, and more productive livestock. To share that impact with the rest of the country, Mercy Corps has started work on a cost-benefit analysis of veterinary equipment the likes of which Mercy Corps distributed, the results of which will go a long way towards building a case for the MOFALI to invest in the nation's veterinarians.

Distributed critical inputs to feed producers.

In April 2017, Mercy Corps set out to drive increased demand for supplementary feed: first, by infusing seven *aimags* with 31 tons of high-quality inputs like oats, barley, alfalfa, wheat, and sunflower seed.

In three of those *aimags*—Khentii, Huvsgul, and Zavkhan—Mercy Corps also trained those who served to benefit most—i.e., herder cooperatives and small-to-medium-sized farms—in advanced planting practices. Under the guidance of Mercy Corps contracted agronomists, participants learned how to plant, irrigate, and harvest the inputs we provided.

By September, beneficiary cooperatives harvested 319 tons of hay, primarily high-quality oat hay worth as much as MNT 160,000,000, or USD 65,000. This was later distributed to *soum* and *aimag*-level stores, sold

to herders at market price, and kept for individual consumption. This winter, a total of 500 herders and feed producers will have benefitted from Mercy Corps distributed inputs in the form of healthier livestock, more bountiful harvests, and higher profit margins.

Moving forward, Mercy Corps will continue to provide technical support to small and medium-sized feed producers interested in expanding operations, tapping new markets, and building a more sustainable model for feed and forage production. Once herders catch onto the value that investing in supplementary hay and feed can provide for their livestock and livelihoods alike, they too will benefit from healthier livestock that are strong enough to withstand the coldest of winters and productive enough to sell to high-value markets.

Connected rural entrepreneurs to export markets

Mercy Corps partnered with EECC, a sausage-casing exporter with processing facilities in Ulaanbaatar, to launch a business development program across Bulgan, Khentii, Khuvsgul, Sukhbaatar, Uvurkhangai, and Zavkhan. According to a MoU signed on May 22, 2017, its chief objective is to introduce new export opportunities to small and medium-sized entrepreneurs working in the livestock sector.

The project was inaugurated on October 9, at launch event in Ulaanbaatar. The opening ceremony, which took place at EECC headquarters in Ulaanbaatar, was attended by aspiring entrepreneurs who have been selected to participate in a 45-day technical training program at an EECC processing facility. There they would learn the fundamentals of food production, food safety, business management, and sales and marketing. Eight entrepreneurs have graduated to date.

With financial assistance provided by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the first eight graduates—and those to come-- will move on to establish mobile cleaning units in six different *aimags*. Each unit will be tasked with supplying clean and export-compliant sheep intestines to EECC, which uses them in its premium sausage casings.

The resulting supply network will do more than connect suppliers to international markets; it will also drive demand for what many consider to be a low-value product; support the lives of 6000 sheep-intestine producing herder families and serve as a model for market actors all over the country.

Conducted baseline survey.

The final baseline survey, which was conducted in 21 *soums* and 8 *aimags*, comprised 852 households randomly selected from a population of 106,000 households. Out of those surveyed, 450 households were more likely to benefit from program activities and 400 were less likely to benefit.

The survey included questions on income sources, animal husbandry, household expenditures, emergency and climate information, social cohesion and community organization and eleven other topics of interest. Its length necessitated that we conduct the survey, not on paper, but on the Organizational Network Analysis (ONA) survey platform, a mobile app that could be accessed via smart phone. The field facilitators and enumerators trained to conduct the survey completed the task by December 18.

The results, which will be made available this spring, will help us measure program impact moving forward.

Signed agreement with Credit Guarantee Fund of Mongolia.

On January 13, 2017, Mercy Corps signed a MoU with the Credit Guarantee Fund of Mongolia (CGFM). Mercy Corps and the CGFM will work together to provide loan guarantee services to rural businesses lacking loan collateral. Under the MoU, Mercy Corps will promote CGFM's services, organize trainings to strengthen the capacity of meat value chain actors, help to develop credit guarantee products and facilitate linkages between herders and meat processors with the CGFM. In return, CGFM will work closely with commercial banks to offer loan guarantee and other financial products and services to herders and herder communities.

Signed agreement with MOFALI.

Mercy Corps and the MOFALI signed an MoU agreeing to cooperate on the implementation of the RCP through the development of competitive meat export opportunities in Mongolia. Under this MoU, Mercy Corps and MOFALI will work together to provide technical support and assistance to actors along the meat value chain, develop economic hubs, facilitate market linkages, strengthen the capacity of herders, veterinary and breeding units, and meat processors.

Leveraging Tradition and Science in Disaster Risk Reduction in Mongolia 2

Program Overview

Donor organization

USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)

Grant Period

June 2015 – June 2018

Program Sites

Arkhangai, Bayan-Ulgii, Bayanhongor, Dornogobi, Dundgobi, Gobi-Altai, Khentii, Khovd, Khuvsgul, Selenge, Sukhbaatar, Umnugobi, Uvs, Uvurkhangai, Zavkhan

Mission

To reduce the risk of *dzud* to herder communities and rural economies in Mongolia through on-demand weather information and increased local planning and risk reduction capacity; and to mitigate the negative effects of the 2015-16 *dzud* by supporting local communities to plan and implement livestock related recovery activities that support long-term sustainability of extensive herding systems.

Objectives

1. Complete construction of a national SMS platform for weather and pasture information delivered directly to herders;
2. Increase *aimag* and *soum*-level capacity to provide training on emergency planning, preparation and mitigation to segmented audiences within the local community;
3. Introduce local communities to sustainable mitigation activities based on the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) to address current year *dzud* effects on individual households and communities;

Activities

Executive Summary

Mercy Corps began supporting the use of weather and pasture data in production planning through the Gobi Forage Project, resulting in the introduction of the Livestock Early Warning System (LEWS), in 2007. The LEWS system continues to receive international development support from the World Bank. A number of government agencies in Mongolia are now tasked with creating and distributing information on weather risk and weather forecasts, they have limited financial capital and human sources with which to do so. In this context, information and knowledge products are being produced, but they are not reaching local communities, herder households, local administrators, and first responders who can utilize such necessary information.

From June 2013 to September 2014, the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) supported Mercy Corps' efforts to address this communication breakdown through training and information delivery systems. The *Leveraging Tradition and Science in Disaster Risk Reduction in Mongolia* (LTS) project evaluated existing DRR and disaster management systems, connected local communities to weather information, trained local administrative units in emergency management planning, and tested an SMS information platform that enabled herding communities to access, interpret, and apply weather forecast information to their management practices.

The LTS project theorized that there was strong demand for information and for management tools that could improve planning, mitigation, and management of risks of extreme weather events like *dzuds*, or severe winters in which thousands of livestock are lost due to cold and starvation. This demand was later validated through effective program implementation. Working closely with local partners and key national emergency management actors, LTS introduced planning tools that are simple to implement; provided increased understanding of available weather information; and identified opportunities for significant improvement in *dzud* preparation and response through simple management tools and improved information flows. LTS demonstrated that herders are eager to access more information and better tools to support improved *dzud* preparation and risk mitigation.

Mercy Corps is implementing the LTS2 project in collaboration NEMA and the Livestock Early Warning System of MOFALI

The Advanced Weather Information Service (AWI)

Signed MoU with NEMA.

In May 2017, Mercy Corps signed a MoU with NEMA, agreeing to cooperate on the implementation of Leveraging Tradition and Science in Disaster Risk Reduction in Mongolia 2 (LTS2), a project funded by USAID/OFDA. Under the MoU, both parties have worked together to build local capacity for emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction.

When the LTS2 concludes, in 2018, Mercy Corps will transfer the management and maintenance of its Advanced Weather Information System (AWI) to NEMA to ensure secure and sustainable operations moving

forward. In the meantime, Mercy Corps and NEMA will jointly conduct capacity-building sessions in accordance to the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS). Local authorities and emergency commissions as well as emergency management personnel will all be in attendance. Each partner will also support the development and review of *soum* and *aimag*-level disaster preparedness plans.

Negotiated the creation of public service number for AWI.

This year, Mercy Corps worked alongside government partners like the National Emergency Management Agency of Mongolia and the Communications and Information Technology Authority, and private sector partners like Mobicom, Skytel, G-mobile, and Unitel, to improve the impact and sustainability of AWI. Negotiations culminated in a MoU signed in October 2017. The MoU endorsed the creation of a public access number (130-105) through which users can send and receive as many messages instantly, for the low cost of 50 MNT per transaction. It removed the cap on the volume of messages that can be sent from one phone number to another; and made it possible for Mercy Corps, this year, and NEMA, moving forward, to operate the platform without keeping a cell phone.

Conducted impact survey to evaluate impact of AWI on rural households.

In January 2017, Mercy Corps conducted a rapid-impact survey to evaluate the impact that AWI technology has made on herders and herder communities. 260 users from across the country were randomly selected to participate.

Overall, 94% of respondents were happy with AWI and 90% were satisfied with the level of accuracy that its forecasts provided—so happy, in fact, that many also expressed interest in receiving information on market prices, financial services, rangeland carrying capacity, as well as weekly, biweekly and triweekly weather information moving forward.

It was also discovered that AWI is popular both inside the and outside herder communities it was designed to benefit. Emergency personnel, for instance, consult the technology to determine if and when to evacuate a community in the event of inclement weather; doctors consult AWI when mapping out field visits and veterinarians consult it whilst treating patients in remote areas.

Expanded coverage through LTT4R project.

In September 2017, Mercy Corps hired an outside consultant to connect 38 additional *soums* to AWI. Once a blast test was completed in October 2017, four *aimags*— Arkhangai, Uvurkhangai, Sukhbaatar and Dornod *aimags*—enjoyed universal access to the system.

Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS)

Conducted survey on impact of capacity-building.

In September 2017, Mercy Corps conducted an impact assessment of the Livestock Emergency Management and Guidelines (LEGS) workshops that Mercy Corps has conducted across the country since 2016. A total of 388 people from 126 target *soums* were selected to participate, including three people from

each *soum* and one person from the emergency management department from ten *aimags*. Out of those surveyed, 186 (48%) people were from *soum* Governor's offices, 81 (21%) were from the veterinary and animal husbandry service units, 19 (5%) were specialists from emergency management units, and 102 (26%) were from local communities. Most of the survey participants were members of their respective *soum*-level emergency committees.

The objective of the rapid-impact survey was to determine whether our workshops had measurably improved local levels of emergency preparedness, and whether or not the resulting *soum*-level disaster plans were influential enough to minimize the loss of life in the event of a *dzud*.

According to responses to the survey, 353 (91%) respondents felt more prepared to respond to extreme weather events compared to previous years; 148 (38%) respondents felt confident that the improved *soum* disaster plan contributed to last winter's low livestock mortality rate. Moreover, 169 (43.5%) of 388 respondents went on to participate in the improvement of their respective *soum* disaster plans; 124 (39.1%) provided LEGS trainings to their *soums*; 112 (28.9%) shared information about LEGS to their colleagues during *soum* and *bagh*-level meetings and 44 (11.4%) respondents went on to distribute AWI leaflets and teach their communities how to receive weather and pasture information through AWI.



A herder in Bulgan aimag consults Mercy Corps' Dzud Lessons Book whilst tending to his livestock.

The 6th edition of the *Dzud Lessons Book* was printed.

Demand Mercy Corps' *Dzud Lessons Book* has continued to grow in 2017. To date, 80,000 copies have been distributed to rural communities all 209 target *soums* and 17 target *aimags*—and supplies are running low. Personnel from all across the country have requested additional copies, prompting Mercy Corps to print a 6th edition of the book, this time with a foreword written by U. Enkhtuvshin, the Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia. The new edition was first printed in December 2017 and will be distributed in the new year.

LEGS training curriculum approved by LEGS Global Committee.

In September 2017, Mercy Corps Program Manager B. Enkhtuya traveled to South Africa, where she was trained and certified to facilitate training of trainers (ToT) LEGS workshops in Mongolia, using the LEGS training curriculum Mercy Corps had developed in 2016—also certified by LEGS Global Committee this year. Our training curriculum, through which Mercy Corps has trained 1116 people this year, is an

adaptation of the international curriculum that takes into consideration local conditions and includes supplementary topics on disaster risk management, disaster plan development, and Mercy Corps' own AWI technology.

Funded the implementation of 10 resilience-building projects.

In April and May 2017, Mercy Corps gave local communities the opportunity to apply for one of 10 sub-grants (MNT 50 million each) designed to help herders protect their livestock and their livelihoods in the face of natural disasters.

By September 2017 Mercy Corps was responsible for:

- The restoration of 16 old ground wells
- The construction of 5 new ground wells
- The construction of 4 dipping baths
- The provision of 20 portable corrals
- The provision of 29 wooden fences
- The provision of 14 kinds of specialty veterinary equipment
- The provision of 5 ice breakers
- The restoration of 2 hay storage facilities

To date, Mercy Corps funded sub-grants have benefitted the lives of 22,000 people and 1.2 million livestock in rural Mongolia.

Number of individuals benefitting from the sub-grants

<i>Aimag</i> name)	Sub-grant name	# population			# livestock
		total	female	male	
Khovd	Repaired and constructed well	728	330	398	96,950
Arhangai	Repaired and constructed well	172	85	87	11,000
Zavhan	Repaired and constructed well	136	72	64	35,870
Uvs	Portable fence for vet service	4,063	2,139	1,924	411,565
Uvurhangai	Portable fence for vet service	16,329	8,185	8,144	649,658

Hentii	Portable fence for livestock caring	109	50	.59	4,585
Arhangai	Dipping bath	175	93	82	24,000.
	TOTAL	21,712	10,954	10,758	1,233,628

Organized a LTS2 Stakeholders' Conference.

On Wednesday, December 20, 2017, in Ulaanbaatar, Mercy Corps Mongolia and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) held a joint conference to share the success of its USAID/OFDA funded flagship program, Leveraging Tradition and Science in Disaster Risk Reduction- 2 (LTS2) with stakeholders from all over the country.

The conference was an for institutional donors, implementing partners, and beneficiaries alike to learn more about the size and scope of the impact LTS2 has had on rural communities in Mongolia. On the agenda were live demonstrations, video case studies and brief remarks by leaders in disaster risk management including Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia U. Enkhuvshin, Head of NEMA Major-General T. Badral, Mercy Corps Country Director Ramesh Singh, Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., U.S. Embassy in Mongolia Mr. Manuel P. Micaller, USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor Ben Hemingway

It also strengthened Mercy Corps' partnership with NEMA, which agreed in a MoU signed in 2017 to incorporate several components of LTS2 into its framework for disaster response within the next calendar year. The stakeholders conference, held on the grounds of the agency's national headquarters, marks the first of many public-facing events relating to LTS2 that NEMA will take the lead on moving forward

Miscellaneous Disaster Relief

Activity overview

Donor organization

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Grant Period

March 2017

Program Sites

Bayankhongor, Bayan-Ulgii, Khovd, and Uvs

Activities

Delivered relief packages to disaster-affected herders.

In March 2017, Mercy Corps worked with FAO to distribute “Livestock emergency packages” to 9 *soums* of Bayankhongor, Bayan-Ulgii, Khovd and Uvs *aimags* in March 2017. Mercy Corps collaborated with local authorities to plan and organize distribution to the hands of the most vulnerable 1084 herder households and 2 core flock that are affected by Dzud disaster. The emergency package included a balanced feed (protein-carbohydrate rich pelleted concentrate, natural mineral salt block vitamin-macro-micro supplement and milk replacer for new born animals) and a first aid kit for animals (2 types of ointments and pour-on to combat external parasites).

CONTACT

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About Mercy Corps

Mercy Corps is a leading global organization powered by the belief that a better world is possible. In disaster, in hardship, in more than 40 countries around the world, we partner to put bold solutions into action — helping people triumph over adversity and build stronger communities from within. Now, and for the future.



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