



# TARGETING ZONOTIC DISEASES IN REMOTE MONGOLIA – A PARTNERSHIP OF GOVERNMENT, RED CROSS AND COMMUNITIES ENHANCES SURVEILLANCE AND ACTION.

Mongolia Red Cross Society

## Introduction

Mongolia has an elevated risk and burden of zoonotic diseases which pose a health threat to the population and can have catastrophic effects on families' livelihoods. Local Mongolia Red Cross Society volunteers, linked with farmers, can be trained to prevent, detect and report to veterinary officials for response.



## Context and aim

The programme set out to establish community-based surveillance (CBS) in partnership with the Government Centre for Zoonotic Diseases (NCZD) for greater public engagement in local surveillance and disease control.

## Methods

Mongolia Red Cross Society and NCZD signified their shared commitment to the initiative with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) developed at the outset.

Mongolia Red Cross and NCZD jointly developed program materials and trained 220 volunteers in Dornod, Kentii and Sukhbaatar provinces to prevent, detect and minimise plague, anthrax, rabies, brucellosis, bird flu, tick-borne diseases and foot and mouth disease. The Red Cross CBS uses digital systems with mobile phone SMS alerts, Kobo toolbox forms and Power BI for automated rapid data processing and dashboard visualisations.



## Results

Community volunteers are now capable of detecting outbreak diseases and sending simple SMS codes which notify Provincial zoonotic disease officers. They are raising awareness and mobilising communities for behaviour change.

As the Mongolia Red Cross CBS volunteers are trained in control of infectious diseases they have been invaluable supporting the Dzud response – an extreme weather event with sustained freezing temperatures below -47°C which claimed the lives of more than 1.2 million livestock in the three program locations. 180 volunteers have been mobilised for safe disposal of animal carcasses, surveillance, distribution of relief items and psychosocial support for more than 1200 households.

Since March 2024, volunteers have maintained 74% average weekly reporting demonstrating that they remain actively engaged in program activities in their communities.



**180**  
volunteers mobilised



**1200**  
households



**74%**  
average weekly reporting

## Innovative contribution to policy and practice:

- Communities are able to be at the centre of health security efforts and can extend the reach of Government surveillance and services when they are equipped and supported through partnerships with their Governments and humanitarian organisations.

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