Mongolia

KEY PRIORITIES RELATED TO DRM IN THE COUNTRY

Over the last decade, the Government of Mongolia has made important advances in building resilience to disasters. In response to the successive drought and dzud (severe winter weather) events of 1999-2002, the Government has adopted a national law on DRM and established a new agency responsible for disaster management. The dzud has triggered momentum for building resilience through the improvement of pasture and livestock management and risk preparedness. The Government also established an insurance program that offers affordable and cost-effective coverage to herders.

However, significant challenges remain. The dzud of 2009-2010 revealed shortcomings in the areas of preparedness, response and communication, both across sectors and with rural herder communities. The floods of 2009 also illustrated the need to integrate risk reduction measures with public infrastructure projects. Overall, Mongolia's disaster system is still largely reactive.

LOOKING AHEAD

GFDRR will support Mongolia in its efforts to move away from traditional disaster response and towards approaches of pre-disaster risk management and resilience-building. The focus will be on: (i) increasing institutional capacity for the application and implementation of the existing policy framework for DRM; (ii) improving coordination across government agencies and development partners involved in Mongolia's disaster risk management framework; (iii) building capacity for disaster risk identification and assessment; (iv) developing a framework for risk retention and risk transfer; (v) strengthening the regulatory framework; and (vi) building capacity for increasing the resilience of public infrastructure and facilities.

Background

CLIMATE CHANGE & DISASTER RISK PROFILE

Mongolia is vulnerable to a wide variety of natural hazards, including floods, droughts, earthquakes, storms and other extreme weather events. Between 1999-2002, Mongolia was hit by a series of dzuds (severe winter weather) which resulted in the loss of 11 million heads of livestock, almost 35% of the country's total livestock. These losses significantly impacted the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and stunted Mongolia's economic growth. In the 2010 dzud, nearly 22% (9.7 million) of the country's livestock died. In the future, Mongolia's National Action Program on Climate Change projects increased air temperature, increased precipitation and a reduction in water resources and arable land. Moreover, the melting of the permafrost, which covers more than 60% of the country, is expected to have adverse impacts on agriculture, water resource management and infrastructure.

Unplanned urban development further increases the country's vulnerability. About 60% of Ulaanbaatar's residents live in informal settlements that are not covered by the city's development planning or investments. These areas are often situated in flood pathways where protection infrastructure is inadequate. Mongolia has also experienced several earthquakes which pose a risk due to the aging infrastructure of Ulaanbaatar.

GFDRR ENGAGEMENT

Source of Funding	MDTF
Resources Awarded	US$966,000
Resources Disbursed	US$1,000
Number of projects	Ongoing: 1; Completed: 0

KEY INDICATORS

DRR Index[1]	WDI: 2.75/5 DRI Class: 3/7
Income Group	Lower Middle Income
Population	2.8 million
GDP	$8.761 billion
Poverty	39.2% (of population)
Urban Population	68% (of total population)

DRM/CCA IN POLICY PAPERS

(as assessed by the DRM specialist)

Mainstreaming:	Low	High
National Dvt		
UNDAF		
WB-CAS		
CCA Strategy		

NATIONAL PLATFORM

There is currently no national platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

National Law on Disaster Management (2003).

1. The World Development Indicators (WDI) Disaster Risk Reduction progress score is an average of self-assessment scores, ranging from 1 to 5, submitted by countries under Priority 1 of the Hyogo Framework National Progress Reports (1-5 scale; 5=best). The Disaster Risk Index (DRI) is a mortality-based index developed in order to enable comparisons of countries hit by different hazard types (7 classes; 7=high mortality).

GFDRR KEY PARTNERS

National Services	National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Ministry of Environment and Green Development, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Industry and Agriculture, Ministry of Construction and Urban Development, Ministry of Economic Development, Climate Change Coordination Office and Municipality of Ulaanbaatar
International Organizations	World Bank, UNDP, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Health Organization (WHO), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) , Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
Regional Organizations	ADB
NGOs/CSOs	World Vision, Save the Children, Mercy Corps, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)
GFDRR Donors	JICA

PROJECTS AWARDED BY GFDRR 2007-2014

Project	Description
Support to the Mongolia DRM Program US$966,000 | Start date: 2014 (Ongoing)	This initiative enhances Mongolia's capacity for infrastructure resilience, emergency preparedness and risk financing programs. It strengthens coordination capability of the National Emergency Management Agency, develops recommendations for downstream risk reduction programs in Ulaanbataar and select rural towns, and proposes options for disaster risk financing.

UNDP	The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) initiated its first DRM activities in Mongolia in 2002. Under various phases of the Strengthening the Disaster Mitigation and Management System Program, the UNDP has supported and continues to support, *inter alia*, capacity building of NEMA, awareness raising on the roles and responsibilities among key stakeholders and gender mainstreaming in disaster risk reduction measures.
ADB	The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved the US$2 million Dzud Disaster Response Project following a cold spell in 2010. The aim of this project was to remove animal carcasses and to deliver food, fuel and health and social services to affected herder households in remote areas. The project is now closed.
JICA	The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has launched a US$2 million project for strengthening the capacity of seismic disaster risk management in Ulaanbaatar in 2012. The aim of the project is to formulate an integrated risk map for Ulaanbaatar; revise the seismic disaster risk management plan; and prepare the draft construction guidelines that support seismic disaster risk management and resilient urban developent.
World Bank	Improving Disaster Risk Management in Mongolia Project: Improves the disaster preparedness of Ulaanbaatar and seeks to reduce the impact of dzud on rural livelihoods. The project consists of two parts: (i) urban risk management and preparedness in Ulaanbaatar; and (ii) managing climate risk in rural Mongolia, which looks at dzud preparedness. Index-based Livestock Insurance Project: Reduce the impact of livestock mortality for herders' livelihoods. Started in 2005, the project received additional financing in 2010 to increase the efforts to build up legal and institutional frameworks in order to ensure project stability. Sustainable Livelihoods Project: Secures and sustains livelihoods in communities throughout the country. One of the main components of the project focuses on pastoral risk management. Activities under this component aim to strengthen, *inter alia*, risk forecasting, preparedness and response planning. This includes the development and institutionalization of a livestock early warning system (LEWS) that delivers accurate weather and forage predictions, along with the strengthening of local capacity to prepare and plan for actions to be taken in response to these risk forecasts