



MONGOLIA: DZUD

ALERT 145 FEBRUARY 18 - APRIL 4, 2017

ACTIVATION TIME



66 hours

FUNDS SPENT



200,000

PEOPLE REACHED



5,953

PLANNED REACH



4,390

ESTIMATED # OF AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS



157,000

SUMMARY

CRISIS SUMMARY



Men unloading animal feed packages ©Save the Children

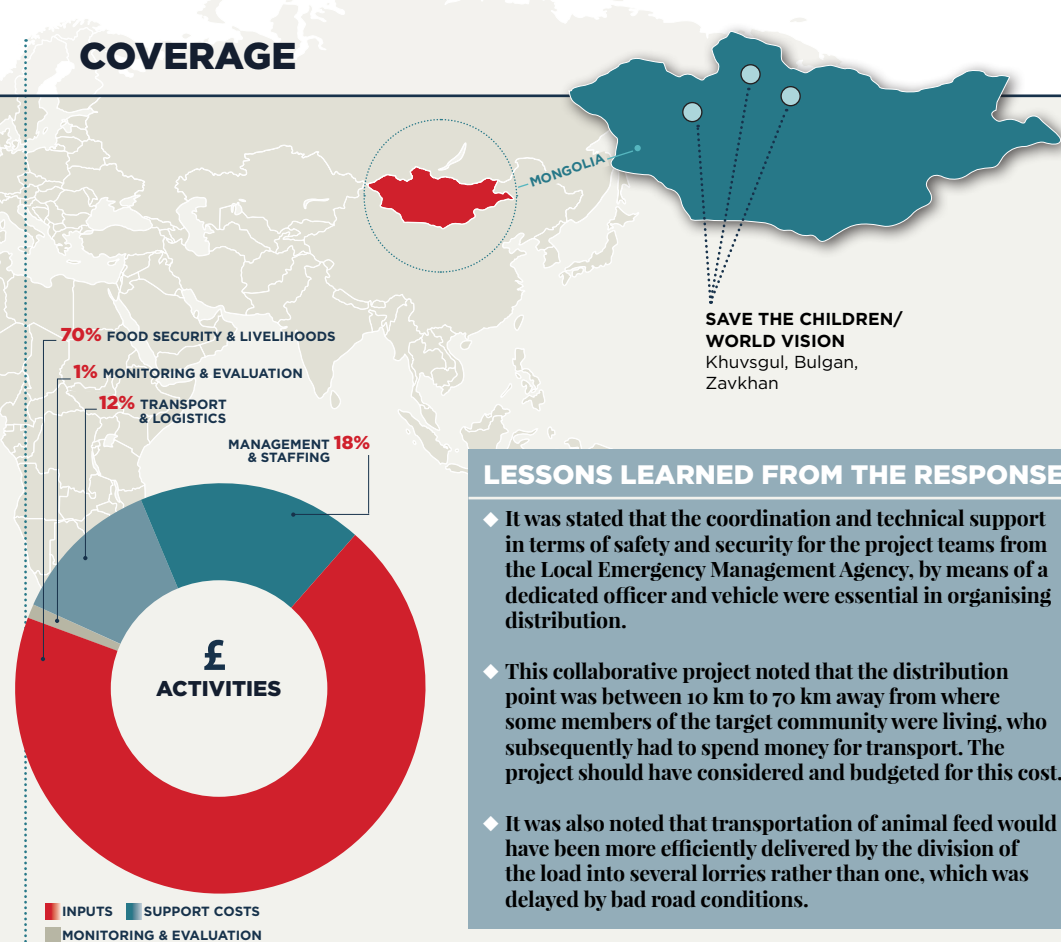
As of February 2017, seventeen out of 21 aimags (provinces) were affected by a dzud, a phenomenon characterised by extremely harsh winter conditions that results in high numbers of livestock deaths. Approximately 157,000 herders were at risk of losing livelihoods and harsh conditions were predicted to last until May. Although this phenomenon was previously rare occurring once per decade, this is the second consecutive year with dzud conditions which has strained herders' abilities to cope. At the time of the alert the situation was expected to worsen, as heavy snowfalls were predicted to coincide with the beginning of the spring birthing season.

RESPONSE SUMMARY

Save the Children and World Vision collaborated to respond to the most urgent and immediate food security and livelihood needs of the dzud-affected population by prioritising two main interventions to protect core sources of livelihoods: animal feed packages and unconditional cash transfers in 18 soums (counties) in 3 aimags (provinces). The unconditional cash distributions were conducted through bank transfers and were used as a modality to provide immediate assistance to households. The animal feed package component was to protect vulnerable herders' core livelihoods assets and prevent further livestock loss and death, while simultaneously mitigating negative coping strategies that could have proven harmful to children (such as reduction of food intake). The feed package also contained an information booklet detailing beneficiary selection criteria and complaint feedback phone numbers, key health and child protection messages for the dzud situation as well as information and advice for protecting livestock and vulnerable household members during the dzud.



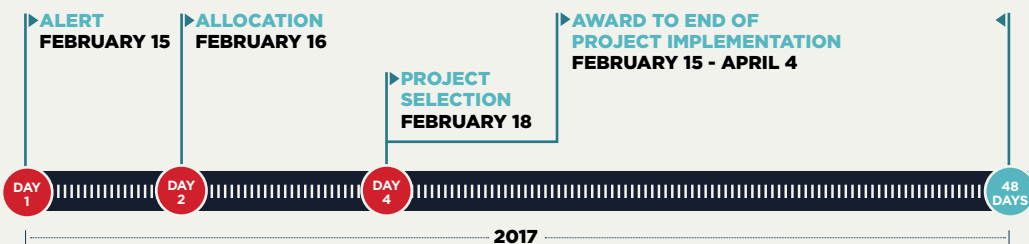
COVERAGE



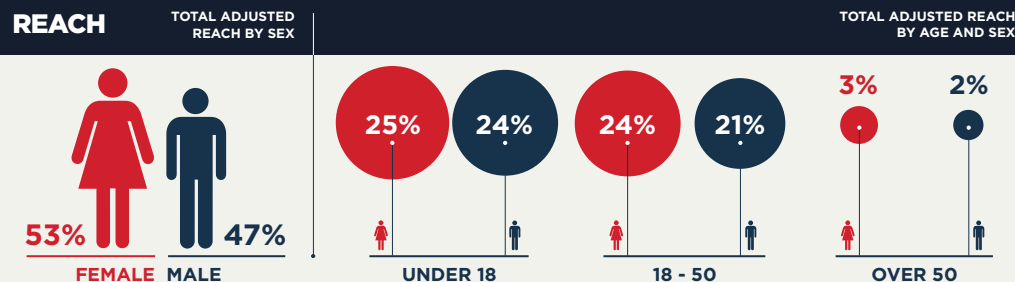
LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE RESPONSE

- It was stated that the coordination and technical support in terms of safety and security for the project teams from the Local Emergency Management Agency, by means of a dedicated officer and vehicle were essential in organising distribution.
- This collaborative project noted that the distribution point was between 10 km to 70 km away from where some members of the target community were living, who subsequently had to spend money for transport. The project should have considered and budgeted for this cost.
- It was also noted that transportation of animal feed would have been more efficiently delivered by the division of the load into several lorries rather than one, which was delayed by bad road conditions.

TIMELY RESPONSE



REACH



Data source: ACAPS briefing, Agency report forms, Start Fund learning exchange. For additional information, contact the Start Fund MEAL team at startfundmeal@worldvision.org.uk

For an overview of the Start Fund please see this [induction pack](#). To learn about crisis anticipation please read this [guidance](#).