



PRESS RELEASE

UN sends out assistance to vulnerable herders

Ulaanbaatar, March 13, 2017: The United Nations (UN) is supporting the Government of Mongolia (GoM) to help meet the needs of vulnerable herder households as they continue to cope with the impact of harsh winter conditions this year. Since October 2016, at least 165,282 people (43,579 herder households) have been affected in 127 *soums* of 17 *aimags*.

To respond to the harsh winter conditions, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocated \$1.1 million to help 3,500 most vulnerable herder households. The first component of the assistance; a multipurpose cash grant of US\$ 100 has been provided to help meet the most urgent needs such as food, fuel, and clothing. The second component of the assistance targets livestock – the main asset of herders and the main source of food and income for them. The harsh winter has put the herds at serious risk of illness and death.

A total of 16 trucks loaded with animal feed and first aid veterinary kits were sent out to 36 soums today. Households will receive a package according to the size of their herd. Each package includes high nutritious fodder, mineral blocks and livestock first aid kits with essential medicines to treat animal diseases and injuries. These packages will help protect the livelihoods of 3500 vulnerable herder households by minimizing the loss of animals during the unpredictable spring and breeding season.

UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Beate Trankmann said that “UN is complementing the Government’s response to prevent a catastrophic loss of livelihoods of the most vulnerable herders, who depend on health of their herds for income and food”. She also thanked the Government of Mongolia for capably coordinating humanitarian response.

Mr. U. Khurelsukh, Deputy Prime Minister thanked the international community for providing generous humanitarian assistance of 10 billion MNT in response to the Government’s request for support in December 2016. He termed the animal feed packages timely for the livestock which is now giving birth after overcoming the severe winter.

FAO Deputy Resident Representative, Mr. Kevin Gallagher said "This compressed fodder will be important for survival of newborns and pregnant animals. This has been a strong team effort with NEMA leading the coordination, UN Humanitarian Country Team and Agriculture Cluster Members supporting and the local government on the front lines."

Representatives of Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry, National Emergency Management Agency, Food and Agriculture Organization, civil society and media attended the ceremony.
