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 Fact sheets on Cash Transfer Projects

## Cash for Herder Mongolia I

## Gobi-Altai aimag, Mongolia



**Implementation period:** July – December 2002

**Credit Proposal:** 7F-02323.01  
**Budget:** CHF 750'000  
**Overhead costs:** 41%

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### **Situation**

Mongolia was affected by three succeeding "Dzud" (Snow rich, and very cold winter). About 450'000 herder families have been affected during winter 1999/2002. Roughly 3Mio animals or 10% of the total live stock died. Another 4Mio animals starved or froze to death during winter 2000/2001. As a result, the means of existence of many herder families were endangered or even ruined.

### **Aim of the project**

The cash for herder project Mongolia 2002 (CfH) contributed to the survival of at least of 12'000 persons (about 1'800 families) and improving their stay in rural setting during the winter 2002/2003.

### **Provided assistance**

The Cash for Herder projects provided a 1-fold cash contributions to 3 categories throughout the province: 1'067 families who lost all animals received CHF 273. 786 families who were left with less than 50 animals received CHF 95. 155 poor families (hardship cases) received CHF 95.

### **Lessons learnt**

Beneficiaries develop different coping mechanisms according to their most important needs. No abuse of cash contribution reported.

### **Strengths**

- Short implementation period.
- High acceptance among local authorities and beneficiaries.
- Cooperation with Agricultural Bank of Mongolia.

### **Weaknesses**

- Ground transportation cost of project staff underestimated.
- No capacity building among local partners in cash project implementation.



## Implementation issues

### **Assessment, Project Start-up**

Took place between July 13 and August 09, designed in parallel with project start-up. The following facts were confirmed:

- Appropriateness of the cash approach.
- Acceptance among potential beneficiaries and authorities.
- Cooperation with financial institute.
- Quality of available data on animal losses among herder population.

### **Registration**

The registration of beneficiaries was based on animal counting data of all herders by the bag governors throughout the aimag. Criterion for listing was the difference between livestock count Dec. 01 and June 02 (hard criteria).

The data turned out to be reliable.

The installation of a hard ship fund was meant to reach poor people beyond the rigid criterion.

### **Verification**

As a result of the reliable results gathered during the assessment it was decided to skip an in-depth verification.

### **Announcement**

The intention to implement a cash project was initially an-

nounced to the national government by the Swiss Consulate which sent the information on air by radio.

Detailed information on eligibility and the list on beneficiaries were posted at the bank premises in the soum centers.

Also the members of the local authorities as partners of the projects informed the population on the project details such as payment dates.

### **Complaints**

A complain process towards the project management was not foreseen.

Complaining individuals were asked to refer to the project local committee composed by local authority members.

### **Payments**

Payments were made by the Agricultural Bank of Mongolia (Xaan Bank).

The Bank waived any commission fees in favour of the project and used the cooperation as promotion.

The cooperation was excellent in terms of reliability of payment procedures and security during transactions.

### **Monitoring**

The local Women's group as appointed and instructed to perform a post payment monitoring on the issues "reception and use of the contribution".

It revealed that all beneficiaries received the due contribu-

tion. Money was spent mainly on animals (50%) but also on food, clothes, ger repair, dept repayment and other topics.

The monitoring confirmed the appropriateness of intervention.

### **Supporting measures**

A number of Small Projects were implemented in order to receive and acknowledge the high effort and goodwill committed to the project by the local community.

Despite the highly time demanding efforts in order to assist inexperienced project proposer, the initiative was successful. A number of private initiatives were offered small grants to start a small business.

### **Documentation**

- 020820 Project Outline CfH Mongolia 2002.doc
- 020703 KA Mongolei 7F-02323.01 Cash For Herders.doc
- KA 7F-02323.01.02 CfH Zusatzantrag.doc
- 030226 CfH Monitoring Report.doc
- Final Report CfH Mongolia 2002