

Dear Eric

I am writing this letter on behalf of our people

### **THE ZUD IN BULGAN SOUM**

Hovd aimag Bulgan soum is located in the front side of the Mongol Altai mountains in the outermost west of Mongolia bordering with the People's Republic of China. The distance from UB is 1600 km and from Hovd aimag is 400km. Our soum has a population of 9515 out of which 75% torguud tribe, 25% Kazakh and other tribes. The soum covers an area of 8105sq.km and has 2152 households. The main living source is nomadic animal husbandry, agriculture and local business. There is still little infrastructure. Roads in and out of Bulgan have improved slightly but even within the nation of Mongolia, Hovd-Bulgan can still certainly be classified as isolated and extremely disadvantaged. With banks not providing credit over the past year and the fall in herders products such as cashmere and skins, the seasonal hardship of survival living has hit many households severely. Most Hovd-Bulgan people still live seasonal lives through herding of livestock.

Having drought, dryness and bad crop in 2009, The soum prepared 15.6 tons of hay and the animals got bad strength and fatness. Since it rained heavily in November, it has snowed 20 times and the temperature had fallen -42°C under zero. The whole land of the soum has covered by thick snow which is 40-50cm in the fields, 60-70 cm in the mountains and 1.2-1.5 m in the places where there is snowdrift. Because of the snow, it has become harsh winter for people especially for herders and the roads between the herders, soum, and the aimag were closed. The official representatives of the state emergency commission got introduced the condition at the stage and set up that the zud had reached the disaster level.

Some herders who felt the disaster in advance killed about 5800 of animals and sold them. In 2009 the soum had 240.6 thousands of animals but we have

already lost 84 thousands of animals so far. The animals which are one year old have been lost completely, mares and goats have had miscarriage completely too.

It's not possible for the herders to know where their horses are which have to be in the mountains Also the fodder and hay resources they prepared for the winter are going to be exhausted.

The loss of the animals is increasing because of the starvation. The soum has spent 22 million tugrug just for the truck petrol which is being used to open the roads between the soum and the herders.

A herder's family has came to the center from the mountain area where they were herding animals with one goat and one horse left after losing their 600 of animals, loaded their ger on camels.

One another family who had 700 of animals has lost 500 of animals and now they have 200 of animals. One night when they counted their animals the number was 215 but the next morning they found that they had lost 22 animals because the animals piled on each other in cold weather. The herders are desperate. They want to save their animals they have now. Most of the herders are the same.

Taking steps to introduce the condition to the leaders of the state, Government and Nongovernment organizations, companies, and foreign Ministries have been sending some help of food , medical things, clothes and fodder.

We'd really appreciate some help as we are the largest rural soum which is in the disaster condition and have had a good relationship with your soum .

Yours sincerely

B. Munkhtuya

Hovd Bulgan soum

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