

Donors
ECHO, French Embassy in Mongolia

Transfer Mechanism
Commodity voucher – paper

Project Duration
June 2010-April 2011

Objectives

Protect nutritional status and productive assets of vulnerable households by coordinating food aid; support herders in recovering from and preparing for dzüüd by facilitating their access to food and fodder.

Budget
€793,092

Beneficiaries
2,600 households

Areas of Intervention
Uvs Province, Mongolia

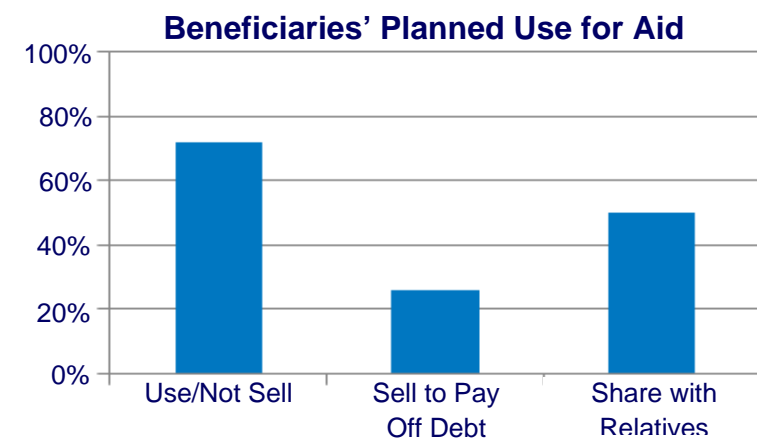


Situation

Several consecutive years of *dzüüd*, long severe winters, followed by summer droughts have had a deep and lasting negative effect on rural populations and the economy. Herders have demonstrated over recent years that they are incapable of independently coping with climactic extremes. Livestock is a major dietary staple, and 40% of the Mongolian population lives off animal husbandry. Another *dzüüd* was expected during the winter of 2010 when livestock was already weak and herders were indebted.

Rationale

ACF pursued a CBI to prevent herders from selling what remained of their livestock and assets in order to have the money needed to purchase basic foods and fodder. In the past, in-kind aid did not always reach the most vulnerable households. Vouchers supported the local economy, adding indirect beneficiaries to the program, and reduced ACF's implementation costs.

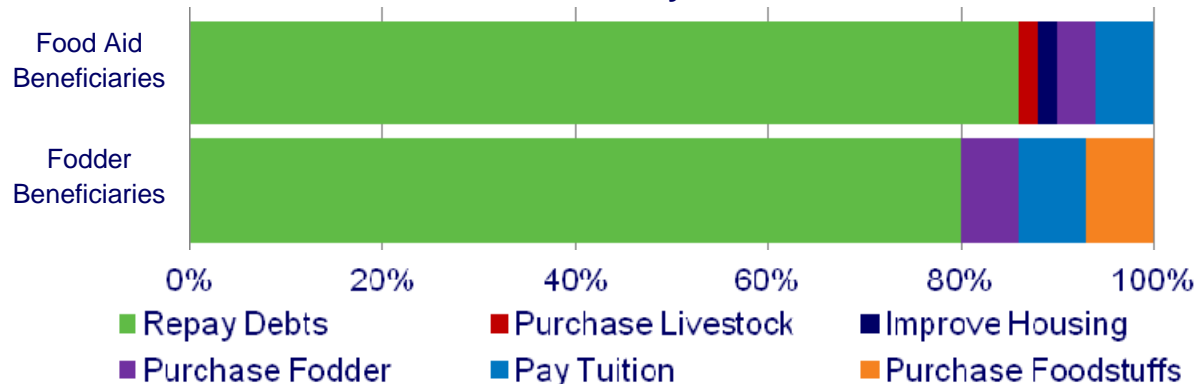


Beneficiaries

2,600 families (about 13,000 individuals) received vouchers, 1,000 of which for food aid and the other 1,600 for livelihood support. The value for food vouchers was first based on the food needs of a family of five and later changed to provide food according to actual household size for three months.



Beneficiaries' Plans for Money Saved due to CBI



Results

- Reduced immediate food insecurity;
- Increased beneficiary allocation of personal funds to debt repayment and other basic needs;
- Reduced loans taken out by beneficiaries;
- Increased beneficiaries' food and fodder stocks;
- Positively affected business of commodity traders.

Conclusions

This CBI demonstrated that a multifaceted voucher program can temporarily alleviate strain from chronic food insecurity and economic weakness. Increasing purchasing power in this case put a stop to a cyclical issue that threatened the livelihoods of beneficiaries. The positive results of this project make it a strong example for designing resilience or recovery programs that integrate food aid with livelihood support.