



UNITED NATIONS
MONGOLIA



UN COUNTRY RESULTS REPORT MONGOLIA 2017-2020



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FOREWORD BY RESIDENT COORDINATOR



TAPAN MISHRA

United Nations
Resident Coordinator

I am delighted to present the new Results Report of the United Nations (UN) in Mongolia for the period 2017-2020. First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and all the UN staff who made tremendous efforts in advancing inclusive Sustainable Development in Mongolia. The UN's excellent partnership and cooperation with numerous stakeholders including the Government of Mongolia (GoM), Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector entities, Academia, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), Development Partners as well as Global Thematic Funds (GTFs) have ensured that the achievements detailed in this report effectively fulfilled the organization's commitments to the people of Mongolia.

The COVID-19 pandemic was an unforeseen shock that threatened development gains. However, the UN, together with our partners, stood-up to this challenge and effectively responded to the pandemic in Mongolia. The UN in Mongolia developed a Socio-economic Response Plan and quickly mobilized US\$27.4 million through repurposing existing funds and fundraising. The focus of this response was the strengthening of the health system, protecting the people, and enhancing community resilience within Mongolia.

The continued increase in the prevalence and effectiveness of inter-agency collaboration between UN Agencies has facilitated the attainment of positive results under the three outcomes of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2017-2022. Efficacy and efficiency have been improved through reducing transaction costs and undertaking joint programmes and projects.

The UN's joint efforts contributed to Mongolia's success in significantly reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and increasing protected areas. These efforts will hugely impact the future generations of Mongolia who will have a chance to enjoy the beautiful nature of Mongolia. In addition, the collaborative efforts of UN agencies have contributed to an increase in the number of jobs (especially within rural areas of Mongolia) and the provision of more opportunities for the marginalized and

vulnerable population to generate income.

Furthermore, the UN in Mongolia worked with the GoM to ensure accessibility of social protection and services for the people, especially for those who are at risk of being left behind. Our joint efforts, inter alia, contributed to the development and implementation of an educational environment, that improves quality education for all children in Mongolia (including children with disabilities), and the reduction of preventable health risks amongst the people.

Moreover, the UN in Mongolia worked with the GoM to empower women, youth, and children through our joint advocacy and programmes. We could further contribute to Mongolia's success in upholding and promoting human rights and gender equality in Mongolia through amendments and implementation of different laws.

The support the UN provided the GoM, to facilitate the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), was predominantly through capacity development, technical assistance, policy advice, partnership, knowledge sharing, and data collection and analysis.

Nonetheless, a number of areas still need more attention such as inclusive growth, generation of decent jobs, reduction of poverty and inequality, access to quality education and health services, focused attention to vulnerable groups, leaving no one behind. This will require collaboration between all stakeholders to ensure these obstacles are effectively addressed whilst pursuing significant development gains.

The UN in Mongolia will continue its efforts and partnerships with the GoM and other stakeholders to mitigate the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and to expedite the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in Mongolia.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tapan Mishra'.

UN COUNTRY TEAM IN MONGOLIA

RESIDENT MEMBERS

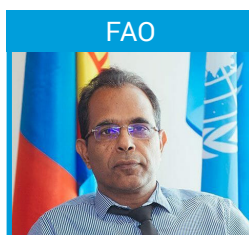
Mr. Tapan Mishra

UN Resident
Coordinator



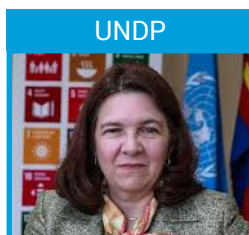
Mr. Vinod Ahuja

Representative



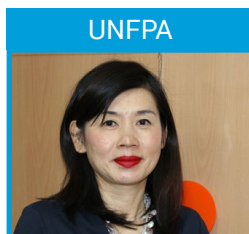
Ms. Elaine Conkievich

Resident
Representative



Ms. Kaori Ishikawa

Head of Office



Mr. Alex Heikens

Representative



Dr. Sergej Diorditsa

Representative



NON-RESIDENT MEMBERS

IAEA



Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi

Director General,
International Atomic
Energy Agency

ILO



Ms. Claire Courteille-Mulder

Director of ILO Country
Office for China and
Mongolia

IOM



Mr. Giuseppe Crocetti

Chief of Mission for IOM
China and Mongolia

UNESCO



Mr. Shahbaz Khan

Director and
Representative, UNESCO
Office in Beijing

UNEP



Ms. Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida

Regional Coordinator for
Chemicals, Waste and Air
Quality, Asia and the Pacific
Office, Bangkok

UNIDO



Ms. Tonilyn Lim

Representative and Head
of the Regional Office in
Beijing, China

UN-Habitat



Mr. Laxman Perera

Human Settlements
Officer, UN-Habitat
Regional Office for Asia
and the Pacific

KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN MONGOLIA

How we partner and work together, through principle-based, evidence-led development efforts, is more important than ever in enabling us to achieve the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, both globally and within Mongolia. In 2020, the UN in Mongolia continued to maintain strong partnerships with the Government of Mongolia and a diverse group of development partners within the country.

The UN in Mongolia acknowledges and appreciates the Government's leadership for advancing sustainable development amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Government counterparts are listed in Figure 1.

In addition, UN would not have been able to realize the results featured in this report without the support of our implementing partners from civil society, academia, multilateral organizations and governments. We would like to appreciate all and are looking forward to continuing our partnerships for

sustainable development, and to ensure we leave no-one behind. Our Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), academic, and multilateral organization and foreign government counterparts are listed in Figure 2.

The UN acknowledges and deeply appreciates all multilateral and bilateral development partners, private sector and civil societies for their invaluable funding support to our humanitarian and development programme. Our funding supporters are listed in Figure 3.

Beyond financing, strong partnerships were developed and maintained with the World Bank Group, ADB and European Union (EU). This resulted in the creation of greater synergies between financial and technical cooperation which improved the effectiveness of the support to Mongolia. In 2020 the EU, supported by UN, together with Development Partners' Group members initiated a process to enhance the aid and development cooperation architecture within Mongolia. We envision that this will start bearing fruit in 2021.

Figure 1: List of the Government Agencies within Mongolia with whom the Mongolia UNCT has partnered with.

The Mongolian Government Implementing Partners	
1 Parliament Secretariat	21 General Agency for Specialized Inspection
2 Cabinet Secretariat	22 Mongolian Agency for Standardization and Metrology
3 Deputy Prime Minister's Office	23 Information & Research Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology & Environment
4 Ministry of Foreign Affairs	24 Authority for Family, Children and Youth Development
5 Ministry of Construction and Urban Development	25 National Center for Maternal and Child Health
6 Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports	26 National Cancer Centre
7 Ministry of Environment and Tourism	27 First State Central Hospital
8 Ministry of Finance	28 National Center for Public Health
9 Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry	29 State Central Veterinary Laboratory
10 Ministry of Health	30 Subnational Government
11 Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs	31 Municipality of Ulaanbaatar
12 Ministry of Labour and Social Protection	32 Science, Industrial Development & Innovation Agency of UB
13 Ministry of Mining and Heavy Industry	33 Governor's Office of Darkhan
14 Ministry of Road and Transport Development	34 Governor's Office of Orkhon
15 National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia	35 Family, Child & Youth Development Agency of Orkhon
16 National Statistical Office	
17 Civil Service Council of Mongolia	
18 National Emergency Management Agency	
19 National Development Agency	
20 National Committee on Gender Equality	

Figure 2: List of the National NGOs, International NGOs, Academic Institutions and Multilateral Organizations and Foreign Governments with whom the Mongolia UNCT has partnered with.

National NGOs		International NGOs	
1	Banker's Association	1	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
2	Center for Citizenship Education	2	Artisanal Gold Council
3	Confederation of Mongolian Trade Unions	3	Asia Foundation
4	Female National Network	4	End Child Prostitution & Trafficking
5	Forest User Group in Mongolia	5	The Generation Foundation
6	Ger Community Mapping Center	6	International Rescue Committee
7	Gender Equality Center	7	Mercy Corps
8	Mongolian Employer's Federation	8	Norwegian Refugee Council
9	Mongolian Pediatrics Association	9	People in Need
10	Mongolian Red Cross Society	10	Red Cross Society
11	New Public Health in Mongolia	11	Save the Children
12	Women for Social Progress	12	World Vision

Academia		Multi-lateral/ Foreign Government Org	
1	Institute for Plant and Agriculture Science	1	Asian Development Bank
2	Institute of Veterinary Medicine	2	Global Green Growth Institute
3	Mongolian University of Life Sciences	3	Multiple Governments
4	Maastricht University - UNU Merit	4	Swiss State Secretariat of Economic Affairs
5	Nuclear Research Center of NUM		
6	National University of Mongolia		
7	National University of Medical Sciences		
8	Stockholm Environment Institute		

Figure 3: List of the funding supporters of the Mongolia UNCT

Country/Government Organizations	
1	Australian Agency for International Development
2	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
3	Department for International Development, UK
4	European Commission
5	GAVI The Vaccine Alliance
6	International Climate Initiative
7	International Cooperation & Development of European Commission
8	J/TIP of USA Department of State
9	Korean International Cooperation Agency
10	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
11	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
12	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
13	The Government of Canada
14	The Government of Denmark
15	The Government of Japan
16	The Government of Luxembourg
17	The Government of Monaco
18	The Government of the Netherlands
19	The Government of the Republic of Korea
20	The Government of the United Kingdom
21	United States Agency for International Development
22	USAID

Global Thematic Funds

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | Adaptation Fund | 16 | NDC Partnership - CAEP |
| 2 | Central Emergency Response Fund | 17 | Partnership for Action on Green Economy Multi-Partner Trust Fund |
| 3 | European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights Fund | 18 | Poverty-Environment Initiative Fund |
| 4 | Global Education Thematic Fund | 19 | Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation |
| 5 | Global Environmental Facility | 20 | Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management |
| 6 | Global Gender Thematic Fund | 21 | Sustainable Development Goals -Fund |
| 7 | Global Health Thematic Fund | 22 | The Fund to End Violence Against Children |
| 8 | Global Nutrition Thematic Fund | 23 | UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund |
| 9 | Global Partnership for Education | 24 | UN Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Multi-Partner Trust Fund |
| 10 | Global Thematic Fund - Child Protection | 25 | UNDP Biodiversity Finance Thematic Trust Fund |
| 11 | Global Thematic Fund - Social Inclusion | | |
| 12 | Global WASH Thematic Fund | | |
| 13 | Green Climate Fund | | |
| 14 | Korea Foundation for International Healthcare | | |
| 15 | Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of Montreal Protocol | | |

NGOs

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Canadian National Committee for UNICEF |
| 2 | Child Fund Korea |
| 3 | Italian National Committee for UNICEF |
| 4 | Japan Committee for UNICEF |
| 5 | Japan Voluntary Contribution |
| 6 | Korean National Committee for UNICEF |
| 7 | Saudi Arabia National Committee for UNICEF |
| 8 | Swedish Committee for UNICEF |
| 9 | United Kingdom National Committee for UNICEF |

Private Sectors

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation |
| 2 | Gobi Oyu Development Support Fund |
| 3 | Oyu Tolgoi Company |
| 4 | Private Sector Fund Raising - consolidated pool funding |

IFI

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1 | Asian Development Bank |
|---|------------------------|

1

KEY DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY

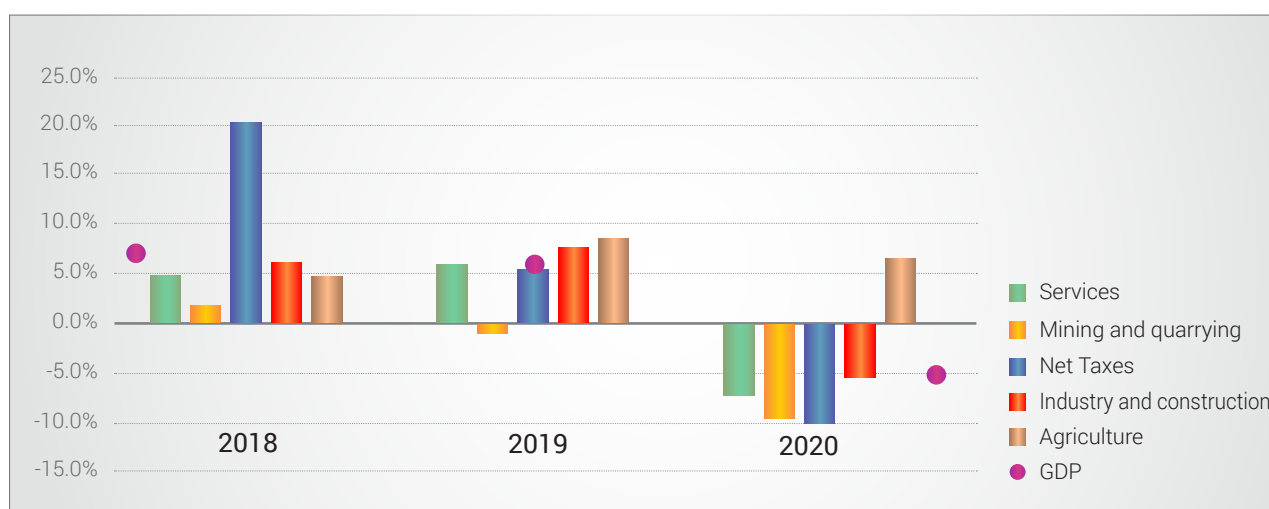


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A mother and a child in Tes soum, Zavkhan province.

Mongolia has made significant steps towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development since its adoption. Several long and medium-term policies and programmes were developed reflecting the key principles of the Sustainable Development Agenda and institutional mechanisms were in place to oversee the implementation of the SDGs in the country. In May 2020 the Parliament of Mongolia approved Vision-2050 as a new long-term, strategic policy document for the country replacing the Sustainable Development Vision-2030 which had been developed and implemented in Mongolia since 2016 after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development by the UN General Assembly. 2020 was an important milestone for development efforts within Mongolia due to the effects of political changes as well as the health and socio-economic implications of the COVID-19 pandemic in Mongolia. Mongolia is one of the few countries that has largely been successful in both preventing and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic with having no community transmission until mid-November 2020. However, the early implementation of prevention and response measures and a complete ban on all border crossings since early March 2020 has had a major detrimental impact on the country's socio-economic situation.

Figure 4: Sectoral composition of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) decline in 2020

Source: NSO, February 2021

In June 2020 Mongolia had its seventh parliamentary election since the country became a democracy in the early 90s with the incumbent political party (which had been in power since 2016), winning the election and establishing a new government in July 2020. However, that government resigned after 6 months. The new Government has set four priorities; 1) Pandemic Recovery, 2) Economic recovery, 3) A new national system to support the middle class, 4) Justice and e-governance. However, structural weaknesses continue to be persistent and threaten progress towards achieving the SDGs.

According to preliminary estimates, economic growth in Mongolia contracted by 5.3 percent in 2020 compared to 2019¹. As shown in Figure 4 the largest decline in economic growth was experienced within the mining and quarrying, industry and construction, and the services sectors.

The Mongolian economy still highly relies on the extractive sector and is extremely vulnerable to external shocks. In addition to the impact of the country's lockdown from the COVID-19 pandemic, the decline in the mining sector exacerbated the decrease in growth of other industrial and services sectors.

Furthermore, the education and health sectors were also hugely affected by the pandemic. Education disparities were exacerbated by the COVID-19

pandemic when in-class learning education shifted to TV/Radio lessons and online learning. According to the UNICEF MICS Plus dataset, 44 percent of households in rural areas have no access to the Internet compared to 22 percent in urban areas. This significantly affected education attainment rates in 2020 with every fourth child in rural areas and every third child in urban areas not receiving TV/Radio lessons, whilst only half of the children in urban and rural areas received additional online lessons. Moreover, private schools have provided almost double the number of additional lessons than provided by non-private schools². This will lead to higher levels of income and wealth inequality risk becoming long-lasting legacies of the COVID-19 crisis, whilst also contributing to a further increase in an already high inequality in education³.

The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized the need to reform the health sector to improve their preparedness for emergencies and to ensure equitable access to all walks of the people, especially those who are affected most and left behind by the current systems. The Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MNCCI) reported that approximately 8,000 jobs have been lost since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak. This trend is likely to continue to contribute to further increases in unemployment and reverse progress made in reducing poverty. Therefore, this has increased pressure on the Government.

¹ NSO, 2021

² MICS Plus, National Statistics Office and UNICEF, 2020

³ According to the UNDP Human Development Report, Mongolia's inequality coefficient in education was estimated at 11.9 percent in 2019 which is much higher than its peers in Central Asia.

The poverty headcount ratio was 28.4 percent in 2018, thus almost 905 thousand Mongolians live under the poverty line. In addition to the poor, 14.9 percent of the population (i.e. 474.8 thousand people) live just above the poverty line⁴ and if any unanticipated shocks hit, these vulnerable households could easily fall into poverty. In Mongolia, 7.3 percent of the population (i.e. 230 thousand people) are multi-dimensionally poor while an additional 15.5 percent are classified as vulnerable to multidimensional poverty (i.e. 492 thousand people) in 2018.

To protect vulnerable households during the COVID-19 pandemic, the government took significant measures; for households, for increasing transfers to the child money programme, for the food stamp programme, and for waiving social security contribution and personal income taxes among many other measures. According to an assessment undertaken by ADB, the poverty rate in Mongolia would have increased from 28.4 percent in 2018 to 36.7 percent in 2020 without the government's measures. The analysis argues that the social protection measures helped reduce the poverty rate to 17.6 percent in 2020. At the same time, analysis from the UN warns that the poverty rate is likely to increase due to the COVID-19 crisis⁵.

Within the human development index (HDI) Mongolia was ranked 99 out of 189 countries in 2019⁶ with a value of 0.737 which put the country in the high human development category. However, when the value is discounted for inequality the HDI falls to 0.634, a loss of 14.0 percent, due to inequality in the distribution of the HDI dimension indices. The Human inequality coefficient for Mongolia is equal to 14.0 percent.

Women's political participation in Mongolia remains limited with only 13 of the 76 seats (17%) in the State Great Khural currently being held by women. During the lockdown of the COVID-19 pandemic, a high prevalence of violence against women and children has been observed. The negative impact of the pandemic has been profound for children, women and girls, persons with disabilities, youth, ethnic minorities, residents of ger areas, informal workers, victims of trafficking, and stranded and unregistered migrants, impeding their participation and contribution to the country's sustainable development.

⁴ 2018 Poverty Update, World Bank and the National Statistics Office

⁵ CGE Model of Mongolia, WEFM-e, ESCAP Excel-based Model

⁶ Human development report 2020, UNDP; <http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/Country-Profiles/MNG.pdf>

2

UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

2.1 OVERVIEW

This is the fourth year of implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2017-2021 which, upon agreement of the UNDAF Steering Committee, has been extended by one more year due to the prioritization of UN interventions to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

United Nations agencies have worked both at the strategic and ground level to support Mongolia to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieve 16 out of its 17 SDGs. The SDG 14 (life below water or marine life) is not a focus of Mongolia and water ecosystems such as rivers, lakes, and spring are covered by SDG 6 and 15.

Between 2017 and 2021, the UN collectively mobilized \$163 million, out of which \$105 million was utilized for 174 projects and programmes carried out in

cooperation with 71 implementing partners across 21 provinces and the capital city. Out of which, 140 interventions have a nationwide impact.

These interventions supported the advancement of 16 SDGs. Half of the UN interventions were directed towards the advancement of Mongolian people's wellbeing and dignity under 5 SDGs as shown in Figure 6. Twenty-three percent of the UN activities were directed towards the protection of the beautiful nature and motherland of Mongolia under the Planet SDGs. Fourteen percent went to the Prosperity of Mongolia. Seven and six percent were directed towards the progression of Peace and justice and Partnership for the successful implementation of the sustainable development agenda in Mongolia respectively.

Figure 5: Geographic location of UN intervention within Mongolia

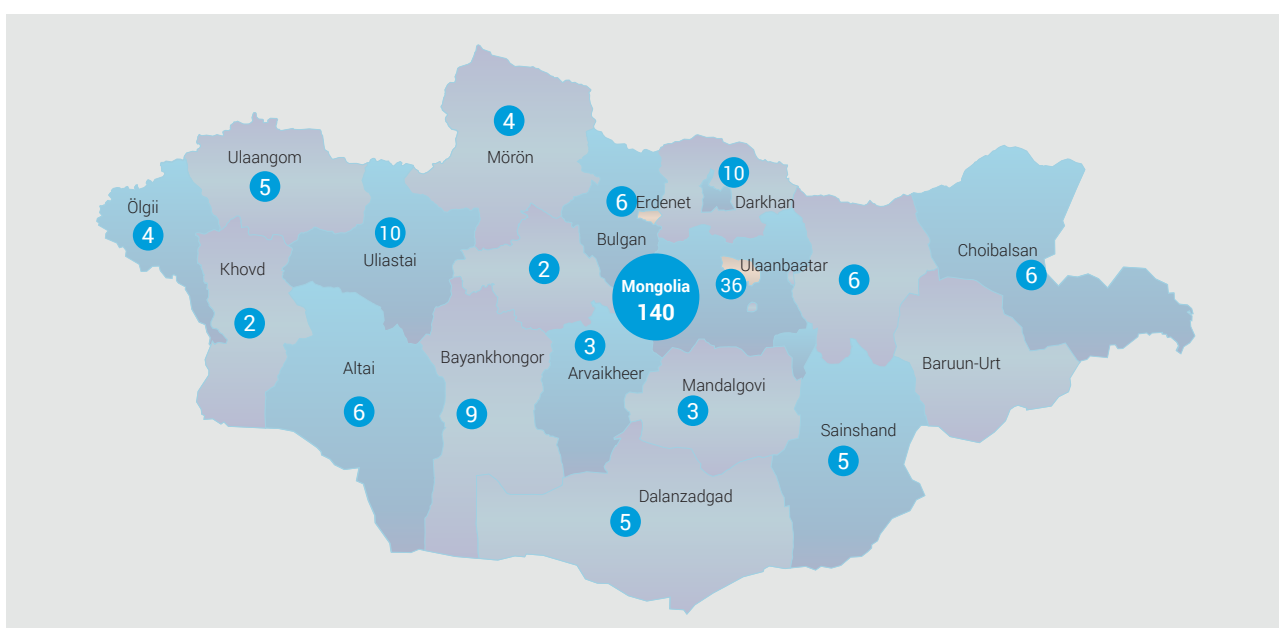
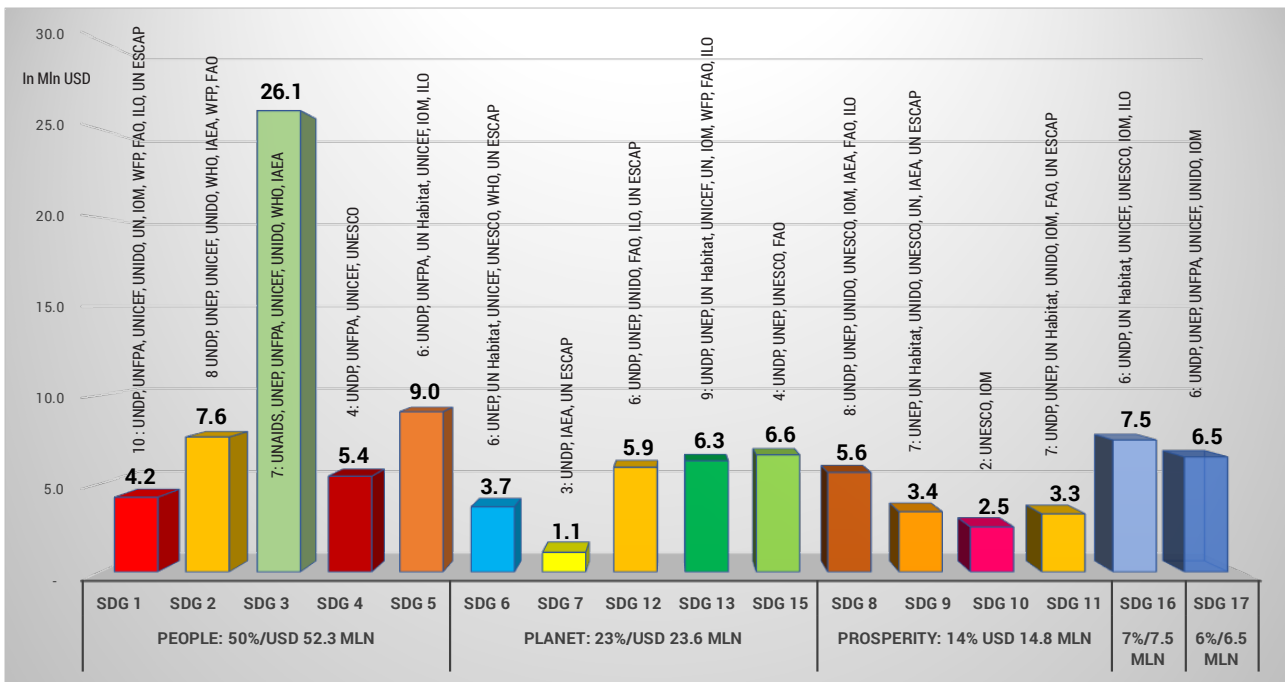


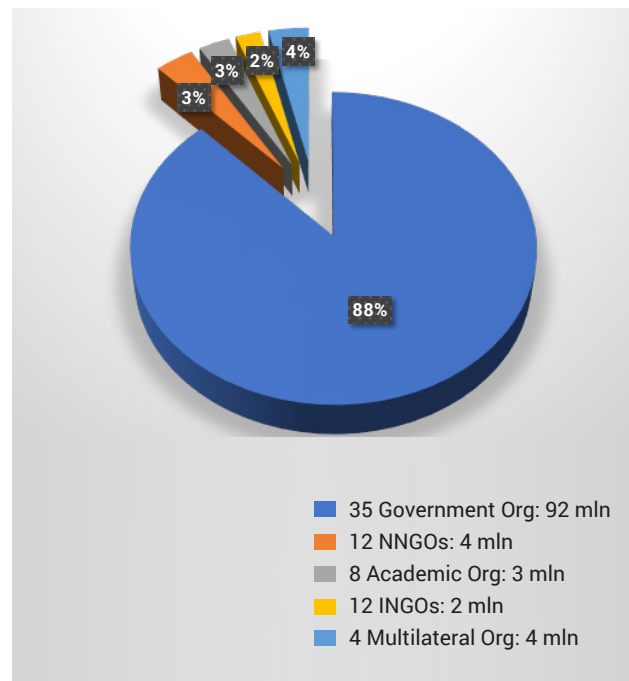
Figure 6: How the UN invested \$105 million towards SDGs under 5 Ps



The valuable contributions of, and partnerships with, Donors and Implementing Partners has enabled the UN to implement these interventions. Between 2017 and 2021, the UN in Mongolia consistently engaged with 35 different Government organizations, 12 INGOs, 12 NNGOs, 8 academic organizations and 4 multilateral organizations to facilitate the achievement of 16 SDGs in Mongolia. 88 percent of all UN delivery were implemented with Government counterparts, and 8 percent were implemented with the CSOs and academia. The Government of Mongolia has demonstrated its commitment to working with the UN and they have gradually increased their share in co-funded activities, which accounts for approximately \$10 million over the four years. To date, 25 Global Thematic Funds, 22 international Governmental organizations, 9 NGOs, 4 private sector organizations inter alia supported the UN's interventions.

All UN interventions are categorized under three outcomes namely 1) promoting inclusive growth and sustainable management of natural resources; 2) enhancing social protection and utilization of quality and equitable social services; 3) fostering voice and strengthening accountability in Mongolia.

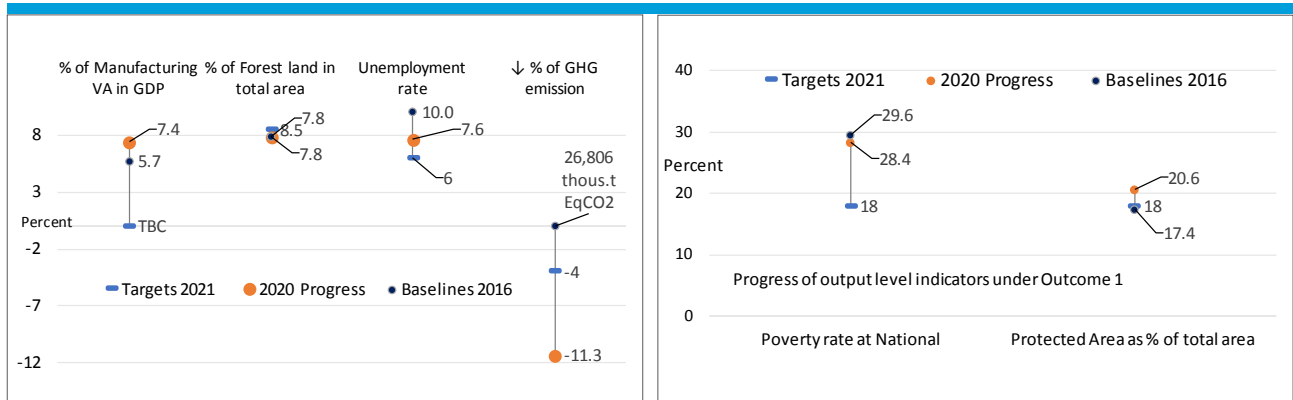
Figure 7: Types of UN Implementing Partners with their share of delivery



Under Outcome 1, the UN contributed towards reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, increasing specially protected areas and forestland, and increasing the share of manufacturing value-added (VA) in GDP,

promoting decent jobs, reducing disaster caused economic loss, and reducing poverty (especially child poverty) in Mongolia.

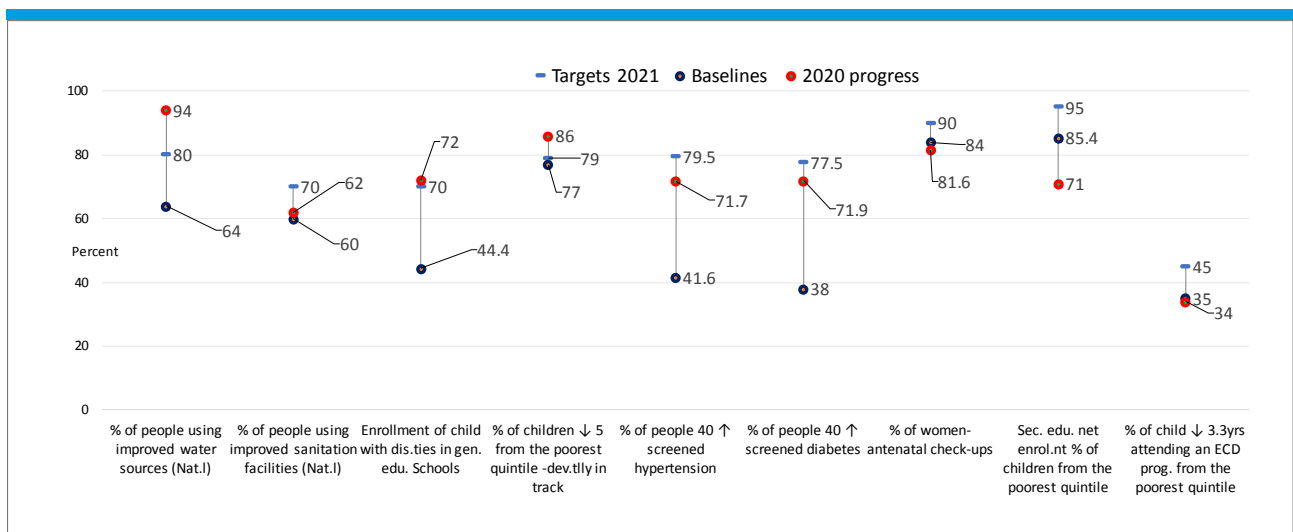
Figure 8: Status of Indicators under Outcome 1



Under Outcome 2, the UN contributed towards improving water and sanitation facilities, increasing the enrollment rate of children with disabilities in general education schools, increasing the percentage of children under 5 years of age from the poorest quintile who are developmentally on track, improving the learning achievement rate for 4th and 8th graders in mathematics and science, increasing the percentage of the population above 40 years of age

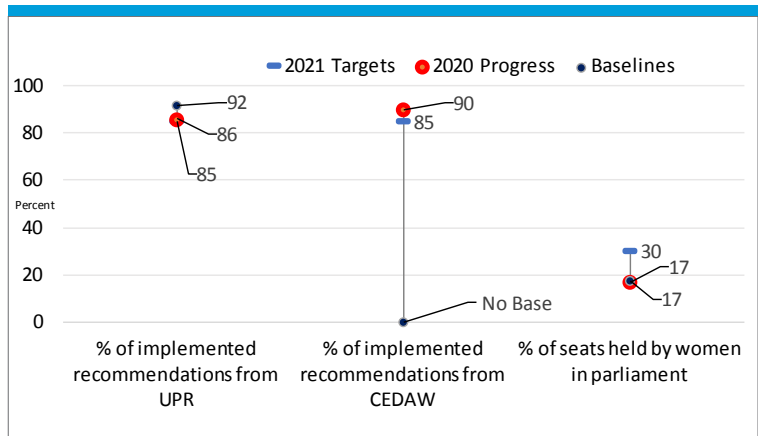
who are screened for hypertension and diabetes. However, a regress was seen in the percentage of women who underwent antenatal check-ups at least 6 times during pregnancy, the secondary education net enrollment rate of children from the poorest quintile, and the percentage of children aged 36-39 months who are attending an early childhood education programme from the poorest quintile.

Figure 9: Status of Indicators under Outcome 2



Under Outcome 3, the UN have contributed through the application of international treaties and conventions in Mongolia such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and ILO labour conventions, as well as through the implementation of recommendations issued by supervisory bodies of respective treaties and conventions including the human rights review mechanism Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The UN has also supported the revision of national laws, such as the Law to Combat Domestic Violence, Child Protection Law, Labour Law, and Law on Administrative and Territorial Units and their Governance among others.

Figure 10: Status of Indicators under Outcome 3



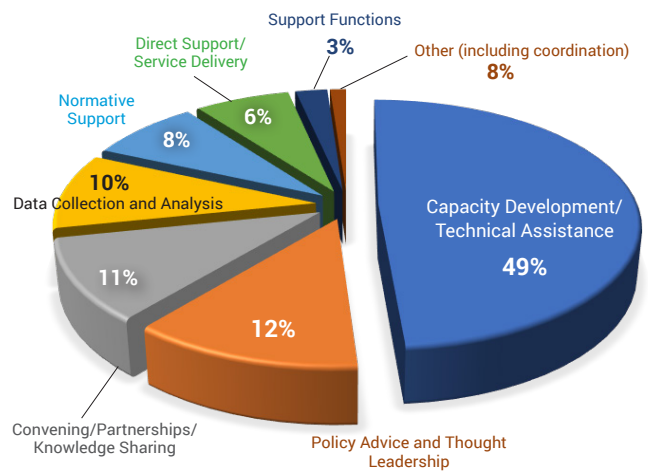
Munkhchimeg, an entrepreneur in eastern Mongolia

The UN contribute to the progress made in Mongolia, as measured by the output level indicators detailed within Figures 8, 9 and 10, by supporting the Mongolian Government through activities including capacity development and technical assistance, policy advice and thought leadership, knowledge sharing and partnership, data collection and analysis, and direct support and services. 92 percent of the UN’s activities were for the promotion and upholding of human rights in Mongolia and 94 percent of the interventions were in the promotion of gender equality in Mongolia. The UN is also supporting the Government to facilitate their successful implementation of international human rights treaties (HR Treaties). As shown in Figure 12.

The COVID-19 pandemic led to significant disruptions to economic, political and social activities throughout 2020. The Government of Mongolia and its development partners, including the UN, diverted their resources to COVID-19 prevention and responses putting aside other long-term development initiatives. The UN mobilized \$27.4 million and delivered \$13.2 million in response to the negative socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 under the five pillars of Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERP); Health, Protecting People, Economic Response and Recovery, Microeconomic Response and Multilateral Collaboration, and Social Cohesion and Community Resilience. In addition, the UN mobilized and delivered \$3.7 million for humanitarian interventions in response to severe winter and COVID-19.

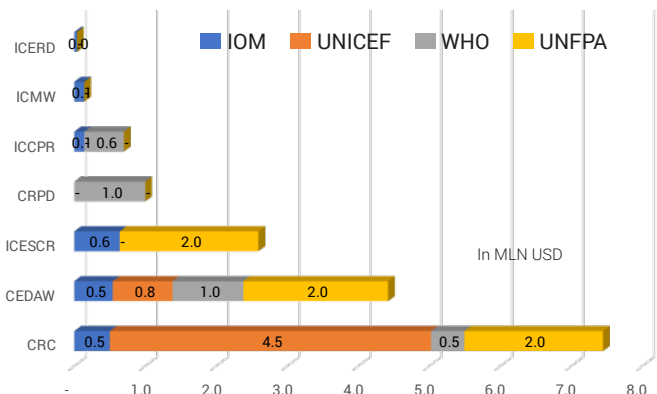
The effective collaboration amongst the UN agencies in Mongolia was essential in enabling all the achievements set out in this report to be accomplished. UN Agencies organized themselves into different thematic groups and results groups to plan, implement and monitor the joint programmes and projects to support the Government of Mongolia enabling them to serve their people more effectively. This improved organization also included joint communication and advocacy interventions to advance the SDGs in Mongolia, and the utilization of a Common Business and Operations Strategy to ensure greater effectiveness and efficiency via economies of scale and reducing of operations costs whilst implementing development interventions to advance SDGs in Mongolia. In addition, the UN worked closely to support the Government through the provision of integrated policy advice.

Figure 11: How the UN’s activities support the Mongolian Government



Finally, the UN’s activities within Mongolia have been affected by challenges within the external business environment resulting from the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. The limited number of public events for most of the year, due to the pandemic, has hindered some of the development interventions such as in-person capacity building activities, whilst the restrictive measures put in place have also exacerbated existing socioeconomic issues such as gender-based violence (GBV), violence against children (VAC), unemployment and poverty. Moreover, the recent local and national elections have led to changes in decision-makers and focal points in partner agencies of the UN. Consequently, this has required renewed efforts to sensitize and build the capacity of new staff of the partner agencies to address key development and humanitarian issues, especially sensitive issues such as GBV and human trafficking.

Figure 12: How the UN is supporting the GoM to implement international human rights treaties



2.2 UNDAF OUTCOME ONE:

PROMOTING INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



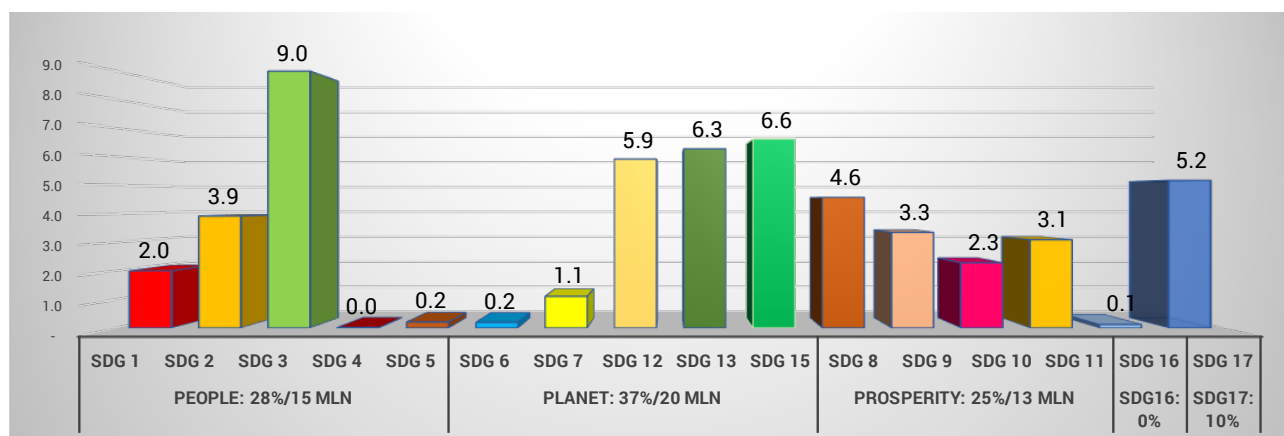
Herders prepare green feed for the livestock in anticipation of severe winter. Asgat soum, Zavkhan province.

The UN continued to provide technical support to facilitate inclusive and sustainable development within the legal and policy environment and critical institutional framework within Mongolia. 14 UN agencies collectively delivered \$53.8 million for its 98 programme interventions nationwide which were carried out in cooperation with 50 implementing partners. The target interventions reached 18 provinces and the capital city Ulaanbaatar. The overall disbursements were directed towards implementing 15 SDGs related to no poverty, zero hunger, good health

and well-being, gender equality, water and sanitation, clean energy, decent work, industry and infrastructure, inequality, sustainable cities, responsible consumption, climate action, life on land and partnerships.

2020 saw a significant improvement in the legal environment for national development policy planning and budgeting in Mongolia, with the UN further building upon the work undertaken during previous years focused on the establishment of integrated SDG policy frameworks at the national level.

Figure 13: Outcome 1: \$53.8 million spent towards 15 SDGs under 5Ps



With the adoption of the revised Law on Development Policy, Planning and Management, Mongolia, supported by the UN, strengthened its evidence-based and result-oriented planning, budgeting, monitoring, reporting, and auditing systems. As mandated by the revised law, the processes of aligning national and sub-national strategies, policies, and plans with the Vision-2050 will provide a mechanism to ensure the attainment of the ambitions articulated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In terms of the environmental protection, through UN projects Mongolia has expanded the protected area network by 4.99 million hectares (4.82 million hectares of Locally Protected Areas and 0.17 million hectares of Special Protected Areas). Relative to Mongolia's total land area (1,553,560 sq km) this represents a 3.2 percent increase of specially protected areas which is higher than the 0.6% increase targeted by the UNDAF commitment.

2.2.1 Development visions, strategies and plans

The latest poverty rate was estimated based on the National Statistics Office of Mongolia (NSO) 2018 Household Socio-Economic Survey. The national poverty rate in Mongolia as of 2018 was 28.4 percent (urban 27.2 percent; rural 30.8 percent; children 38.5 percent). This represents a decrease of 1.2 percent from the national poverty rate in 2016 which was 29.6 percent. With the UN-supported methodology of estimating multidimensional poverty (Multidimensional Poverty Index) and technical skills built to perform the analysis, the NSO conducted the Household Socio-Economic Survey 2020 the results of which will provide a comprehensive and in-depth picture of poverty in all its dimensions. The survey data will be released in 2021. The Multidimensional Poverty Analysis is on-going and includes the measurement of child poverty using the Social Indicator Sample Survey data and the deprivation analysis. The detrimental effects resulting from the COVID-19 situation risks an increase in the national poverty rate and a reversal of existing SDG sustainable development gains. The Ministry of Finance (MoF), Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment and Tourism and Ministry of Education and Science has ensured the continued funding of programmes

designed to achieve the SDGs by applying an SDGs-aligned Budgeting process and by including selected sector SDGs indicators are included in the State Citizen's Budget. In addition, with support from the UN, Ulaanbaatar city and Zavkhan aimag adopted their sub-national level 5 years General Guideline (2021-2025) aligned with the SDGs, Vision-2050, and 5-year national development guidelines. To reinforce this achievement and continue these efforts, in April 2020 Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry



Behind the Curtain
Creative work by artist participating in UNESCO's consultations on the impact of COVID-19 on female artists

of Finance was signed, affirming a partnership for SDGs-aligned results-oriented integrated financing, transparency, and reporting.

National data and capacity have seen improvement regarding internal migration management, clean energy access, human health and scientific education through nuclear techniques enabling new services. In close coordination with the Government of Mongolia, the UN has contributed to the country's economic diversification and sustainable industrial development through facilitating the creation of over 1,600 new and

potential rural jobs in 2020. Furthermore, UN support was provided to decent employment and value chains such as cashmere, textile, leather, meat, milk and vegetables, as well as the disrupted culture value chain for artists with a focus on technology transfers, training and innovations.

On a vision for the way forward, with support from the UN a sensemaking journey exploring *“what would post COVID Mongolia look like?”* identified portfolio options for the country to pursue to build forward Mongolia post COVID-19.

2.2.2. Climate change and mitigation

Supported by the UN and other development partners, significant policy level achievements were made laying a solid groundwork that will enable effective climate action to be undertaken. The UN has helped Mongolia to significantly increase Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) for reducing the greenhouse gas emissions from an initial 14 percent to 22.7 percent in 2019. In addition, if conditional mitigation measures such as carbon capture and storage and waste-to-energy technology are implemented then Mongolia could achieve a 27.2 percent reduction in total national GHG emissions. With the UN's support, Mongolia has also established its standardized mitigation reference level which has been submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for sound monitoring and reporting of its mitigation progresses such as GHG and non-GHG parameters and indicators. The Measuring Reporting and Verification (MRV) methodology and guidelines were piloted and approved (Minister's decree #37, 2020).

In the context of forests as a climate solution, members of more than 100 Forest User Groups (FUGs) with 564,531 hectares of forests were trained, technically

and logistically supported, and mentored to develop and implement 10-year forest management plans which include carbon and biodiversity conservation objectives. Estimated emission savings⁷ resulting from the reduction in the loss and degradation of 45,000 hectares of saxaul and boreal forests within the Gobi and Khangai demonstration landscapes was a 3,040,800 tCO₂ eq (carbon dioxide equivalent per tonne) reduction in GHG emissions. Furthermore, in line with Mongolia's current policies that have been designed to meet the country's obligations as a signatory of the Stockholm Convention, new resource-efficient waste management systems were created through the introduction of the amended Law on Waste and the introduction of a financing mechanism and incentives to reduce U-POPs⁸ emissions through the introduction of BAT/BEP⁹ for open burning sources.

Moreover, the national capacity has been developed to facilitate the elimination of mercury use within the supply chain of the artisanal gold and small-scale mining sector.



Mongolian herders are increasingly affected by the land degradation and desertification.

⁷ t CO₂.eq over the next 20 years

⁸ Unintentional formed persistent organic pollutants

⁹ Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices

2.2.3. Ecosystem services

Over the past years with UN support, 2,213 jobs were created in meat, dairy and vegetable value chains in 40 soums across major livestock and crop-producing areas. This collective effort involved the following stakeholders; 12,794 herders and vegetable producers, 78 food processing enterprises and professional associations, as well as central and local governments. In 2020, 120 new jobs were created through the establishment of 6 small scale wood processing units in the forest sector. The UN supported the implementation of the Natural resources use fee law, which resulted in increased budget planning for environmental protection and rehabilitation activities using the income generated from the use of natural resources. Herder groups have signed an agreement with soum governors to reduce their livestock head by 5% per annum and to improve pasture management through comprehensive actions. 1,306 herder households voluntarily formed 225 groups to commit to reducing pressure of 611.3 thousand hectares of land. Landscape based soum development plans have been developed which contain appropriate land

use plans which account for the need to enhance ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation. The critical area for biodiversity, especially from under-represented ecosystems designed to improve connectivity, has increased by 808,161 hectares in 12 target areas.



Mongolian nomads produce their own dairy products such as dry curds, cheese and cream

2.2.4. Resilient communities able to mitigate disaster risks

As per the National Statistics Office data, the economic loss due to disasters per annum was MNT 108.2 billion (approximately \$38.6 million) at the end of 2020 with the COVID-19 situation having a profound effect on the scale of this economic loss. During the pandemic outbreak and the lockdown in the country, the UN in Mongolia continued its support for response and recovery efforts. The UN helped the Government develop a national COVID-19 recovery strategy that comprehensively responded to economic and social dimensions based on leave no one behind principles and was in line with the Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan. The Incidence Management System has been strengthened at both national and local levels. Mongolia's SARS-COV-2 laboratory testing capacity has increased 10-fold compared with pre-and post-implementation of UN intervention. In response to COVID 19 pandemic, three national hospitals in Ulaanbaatar were supported with photocatalytic coating technology to improve health, sanitary and hygiene environment to fight against COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. In collaboration with private sector, the UN

contributed to the improvement of WASH facilities and supported the promotion of subsidized green loans which are expected to lay a solid foundation for innovative financing and public-private partnerships for clean air. In addition, to establish evidence and data, initiatives such as MICS Plus, a nearly real-time nationally representative household survey, have been undertaken.

With UN support, the Municipality of Ulaanbaatar became the first in the world to use the Displacement Tracking Matrix within the COVID-19 context, monitoring 3.5 million movements in and out of the capital city, detecting the first case of community transmission in Mongolia and producing key insights for planning and implementing evidence-based COVID-19 response actions. Over 600 Mongolian migrants stranded abroad due to COVID-19 were able to return with UN operational support. In addition to the COVID-19 support, dzud risk assessment and special funds were released to mitigate shocks and hardship caused by the harsh wintering condition.

2.3 UNDAF OUTCOME TWO:

ENHANCING SOCIAL PROTECTION AND UTILIZATION OF QUALITY AND EQUITABLE SOCIAL SERVICES

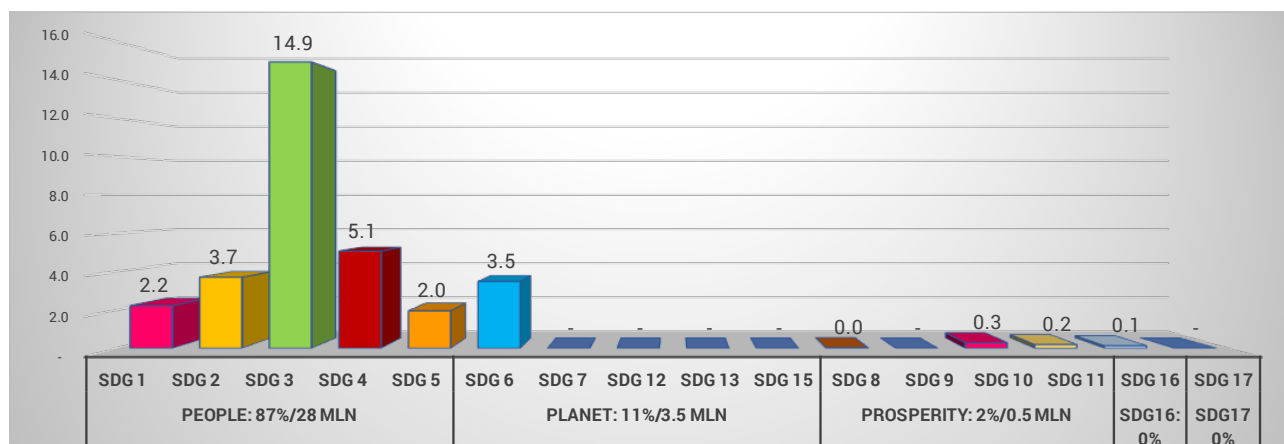


Social Insurance Officer is explaining the benefits of the social insurance to a herder couple during the fair organized by UN Joint Programme in Zavkhan aimag, Mongolia in September 2020

10 UN agencies collectively delivered \$32.0 million as part of their 52 programme interventions that were carried out in cooperation with 33 implementing partners. The target interventions reached 10 targeted provinces and the capital city Ulaanbaatar, whilst some interventions resulted in nationwide impacts. The overall disbursements were directed towards

implementing 10 SDGs related to no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, water and sanitation, decent work, inequality, sustainable cities, and peace and justice along with COVID-19 immediate responses to narrow the gaps for leaving no-one behind.

Figure 14: Outcome 2: \$32 million spent towards 10 SDGs under 5Ps



2.3.1. Health

As for the cumulative achievements of the health output, infant mortality and under-five mortality per 1,000 live births were both stagnant at 12 and 15, respectively, as of midyear. The first half of 2020 saw a doubling of maternal deaths compared to 2019, however the year-end mortality was comparable with 2019 (18 and 23 cases respectively). The percentage of women who received 6 and more antenatal check-ups stands at 81.6 percent, a slight decrease in comparison to previous years. The syphilis incidence rate increased in 2019 (56.2 per 10,000 population) in comparison to 2018 (50.8 per 10,000 population). This increase can be attributed to the improvement of early diagnosis and strengthened sexually transmitted infections surveillance due to the successful implementation of Government launched “Syphilis Elimination” program. Health insurance coverage remain high at 91 percent of total population. As of 2019, the percentage of screening for hypertension is 71.7 percent and for diabetes type 2 is 71.9 per cent, which represents an increase by 4.4 per cent and 4.1 per cent for hypertension and diabetes screenings respectively in comparison to 2018. The difference in Life expectancy across age groups and gender has reduced steadily since 2015.

Overall, the Health sector in Mongolia has evolved from a system that possessed only the minimum capacities to sustainable one that has demonstrated key system strengthening capacities towards achieving the SDG targets. Major policy and legal reforms have been enacted with comprehensive

laws on health, health insurance, medical services and drug regulation having been ratified. The amendment and development of these laws have become priorities in 2020 during the COVID-19 with emphasis now focused on ensuring their alignment to the SDGs and its focus on reaching vulnerable populations. However, 2020 has identified system gaps particularly in the area of Maternal and Child Health and addressing health related COVID-19 interventions. Action will need to be undertaken to guarantee national guideline compliance, to strengthen non-pharmaceutical interventions and multisource surveillance, to improve the quality of antenatal care and to ensure targets set for the country are reached.

In response to COVID-19 pandemic and to facilitate uninterrupted service provision, the UN provided technical and financial support as well as nationwide cascade training on the interim guides on COVID-19 management, contact tracing, isolation, infection prevention and control and hospital waste management, flow management, maternal and child health, and management of respiratory complications. Additional support was also provided to the national and local health institutions, which included the provision of personal protective equipment (N95 and surgical masks, coveralls, gowns, boot covers, gloves, face shields), medicine, lab diagnostic and medical equipment (patient monitors, syringes and infusion pumps, pulse oximeters, and adult and newborn size ventilators), Infection Prevention and



M.Enkhmaa, health center staff from Tsagaannuur soum, Khuvsgul province visits reindeer herder to bring mobile healthcare services to remote communities. Reindeer herder's home is in the mountainous Taiga, about 40 km from soum health center.

Control commodities (hand sanitizer, disinfectant, sprayer, autoclave), dignity kits for women and girls in quarantine, cash support (fuel costs) for outreach services, and supportive supervision. Furthermore, the UN provided rapid situation and causality analysis of

maternal and newborn health, gender-based violence and violence against children which was integrated with early detection and response measures.

2.3.2. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Substantial progress has been observed regarding access to improved water whilst slight progress has been observed regarding improved sanitation services. Between 2016 and 2018 the proportion of

the population with access to improved water sources increased from 64 to 94 percent whilst the proportion of the population with access to improved sanitation facilities increased from 59 to 62 percent.



Rural migrants in Ulaanbaatar face many challenges including lack of access to essential services and infrastructure.

National and sub-national WASH programming capacity was strengthened, with technical support from the UN agencies, by implementing water safety plans, targeting urban water suppliers and small community water sources. Over 250,000 people have benefitted from the implementation of demonstration projects for flood protection and climate-resilient WASH facilities in vulnerable communities, schools, kindergartens, and health centers. The capacity of health care facilities has been strengthened to prevent WASH-related diseases and COVID-19 pandemic through capacity building and training programmes.

2.3.3. Promoting Quality Education

Effects of pandemic also seen from education statistics. Although gross enrollment rate in basic education reached 97 in 2019 compared to 91.4 in 2016, only 71 per cent of children from the poorest quintile attend secondary education. Early childhood education programme reaches only 34 per cent of children from the poorest quintile compared to the national average of 74 per cent. Early child development index does not vary much by wealth with 86 percent of children from the poorest quintile being on track physically and developmentally. Although, challenges of quality of education continue with only 56 and 57 percent of children of grade 4 and 8 respectively demonstrating fundamental numeracy skills. One highlight however is that enrolment of children with disabilities have doubled since 2017 and stand at 72 percent.

The technical assistance support and policy advice provided by the UN in Mongolia has enhanced institutional capacity by facilitating the creation of an education system for the knowledge economy, characterised by inclusivity, high quality education and lifelong learning, which is underpinned by the Government's strong commitment to fundamentally reform the current education system in alignment with the global sustainable development agenda. The Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) has developed the comprehensive Mongolia Education 2050 long-term Vision and Education Sector Mid-Term Development Plan (ESMTDP), which is aligned and integrated with SDG4 priorities using the synthesis of the policy reviews reports of the various sub-sectors. All stakeholders and development partners were mobilized in capacity development, policy review and preparation of the key education strategies and plan for the long-term socio-economic development of Mongolia. Given the lack of institutional capacity in monitoring and evaluation, the MoES has agreed to establish a Monitoring and Evaluation Unit to monitor the progress of SDG4 and ESMTDP 2021-2030. The UN played a critical role in sustaining the continuation of learning during the COVID-19 through an integrated approach with child protection services to support children and families.



UNICEF and Scouts Association of Mongolia have conducted peer education trainings on water, sanitation and hygiene for high school students of Tsetserleg town in Arkhangai and Zavkhan province.

2.3.4. Improving Food Quality

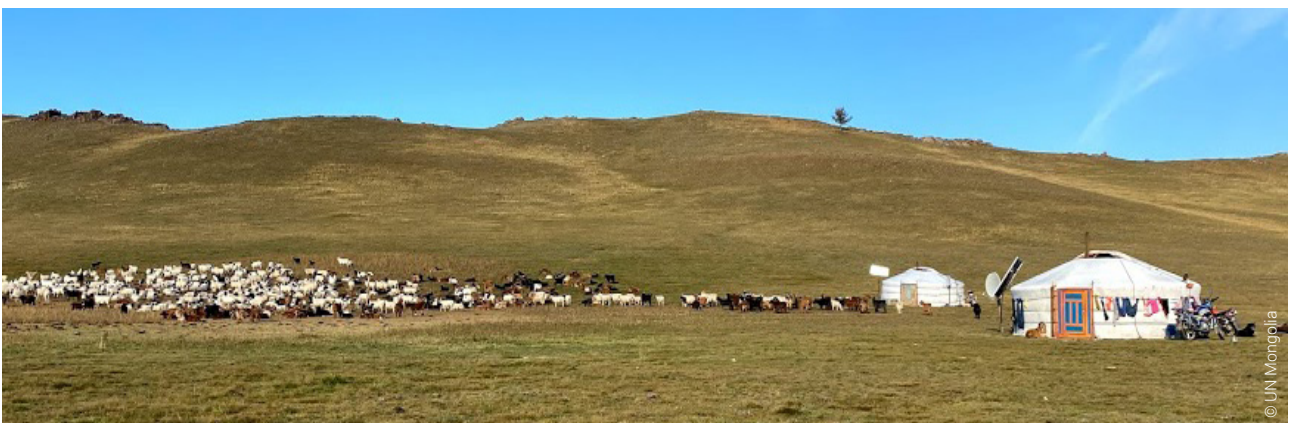
The UN provided technical expertise on number of laws, regulations and standards in order to strengthen the legal environment around food and nutrition security in Mongolia including 1) standards of laboratory analysis on premix, fortified flour and iodized salt submitted to Government to better implement Law of food fortification; 2) recommending the leveling up of the implementation of Law of Food and Law of Safety of Food products based upon a thorough assessment of both laws and national policies; 3) the development of simplified Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) guidelines and the revision of the Law of seed and variety to improve safety of local fruit and vegetable production; 4) Mongolian E-agriculture strategy endorsed by Government to introduce technology advancement in agriculture sector and selected solutions are under trial; 5) Foot and mouth disease (FMD) control strategy for 4 years along with Standard Operating Procedures for outbreak investigation submitted to the Government for adoption.

Support for healthy food and diet environment has strengthened the food security and nutrition narrative in Mongolia. Utilising food security statistics which were estimated based on analysis of 2014, 2016 and 2018 Household Socio Economic Survey (HSES) surveys' data obtained by using the ADePT module, it can be concluded that Mongolia has not achieved food security which would require all four pillars (availability, accessibility, utilization and stability) to be sufficient and stable. Public awareness activities are important to ensure the improvement of food and nutrition security; national, regional and aimag level activities will continue to be supported by UN agencies.



Teaching children about nutrition and a healthy diet

Notable food security and nutrition activities have included standardization of recipes of 66 school lunch sets and training to 210 school chefs; 4,134 health workers being trained on Infant and Young Child Feeding and Wasting Management; 360 civil servants, farmers, agronomists and inspectors being trained on GAP and IPM and the training of GAP auditors; 359 veterinary epidemiologists trained on Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak and investigation and response, and the provision of 250,000 doses of vaccine to the most vulnerable herders to support the control of FMD spread. During the pandemic, local vegetable supply increased with assistance of a total of 3,400 kg of seeds for 9 types of vegetables. Now the Government is able to supply 44.6 percent by local production. 309,166 children under 5 were provided with Vitamin A supplements and lifesaving treatment was administered to 439 acutely malnourished children. Moreover, 221 health facilities received essential nutrition supplies.



Mongolian herder's settlement

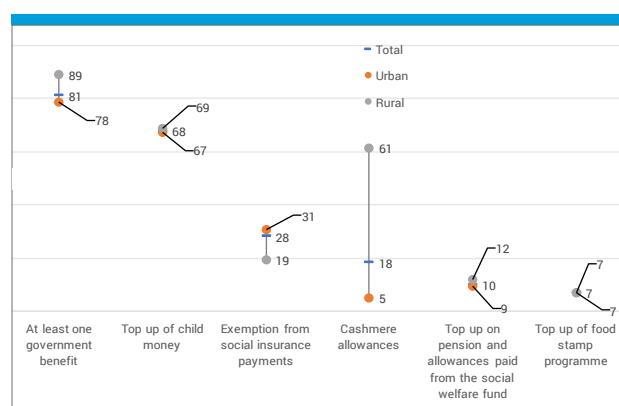
2.3.5. Social Protection

The UN has contributed directly and indirectly to increase of social and health insurance coverage of herders by 10 percent in 5 soums in Zavkhan aimag and 5 per cent nationally¹⁰. The UN has introduced peer-to-peer learning, where herders and non-traditional partners are trained as social insurance advocates, to promote the benefits of social insurance programme. This is a practical and non-traditional approach. The UN has piloted a Shock-Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) programme for rural children who were at risk of all types of shocks, by vertically expanding the Child Money Program (CMP). The UN also supported the Government in monitoring its pandemic response, focusing on CMP and Food Stamp Programme (FSP), providing evidence and lessons useful for future decision making. These activities demonstrated the value of mainstreaming SRSP into the national social protection system. The UN has started introducing the Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis (RIMA-II) in Mongolia to analyse herder household resilience capacity to climate-related risks and shocks. The UN has also supported the livelihoods of young herders and improved their business entrepreneurship skills.

The UN contributed to activities designed to build the resilience of the public and frontline workers to the impact of COVID-19 and related restrictions. An anti-stigma campaign and messages on precautionary measures have reached out 1.5 million people and 2,500 vulnerable households received emergency packages. The UN has improved capacity of frontline personnel, such as social workers to provide psychosocial support to vulnerable groups during emergencies, and provided Personal Protective Equipment and special equipment to MLSP, NEMA and GASI. The UN supported the Government to safely return 68,000 people stranded internally because of the lockdown.

It has supported the establishment of a network of local NGOs in 10 aimags and Ulaanbaatar to provide informational and psychosocial support to existent and prospective internal migrants in the efforts to respond to COVID-19.

Figure 15: Percentage of households who received government introduced benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic, by type of benefits and area



Source: NSO&UNICEF. MICS Plus 2020-2021

The government has taken various measures to protect people's livelihoods during the COVID-19 pandemic. While top-up of child money programme reached 68 percent of total household, this percentage was 98 for the households with children. Exemption of the social insurance payment is more prevalent in urban areas (19 percent in rural areas and 31 percent in urban areas) whereas cashmere allowances are more prevalent in rural areas where 61 percent of rural households received the allowance versus 5 percent in urban areas.

¹⁰ General Agency for Social Insurance

2.4 UNDAF OUTCOME THREE

FOSTERING VOICE AND STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY



OUTCOME STATEMENT: By 2021, governing institutions are more responsive and accountable to people while ensuring effective participation of young persons and realization of the rights of all, especially the poor and marginalized

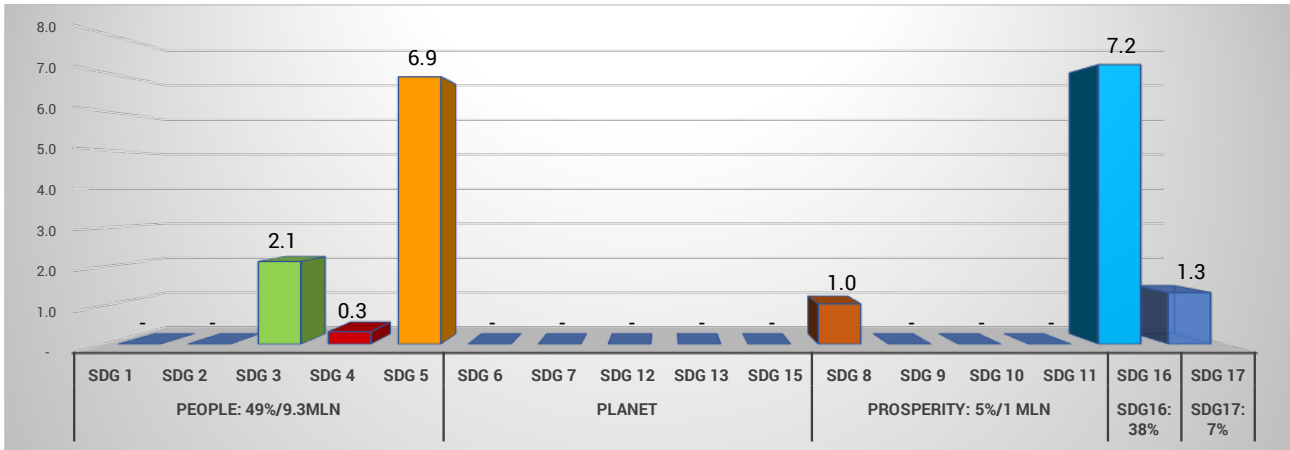


Rural communities collectively seek for solutions to the challenges they face

The work under this Outcome contributes to improving the capacity of governing institutions, including legal frameworks, to ensure that the country's development is inclusive and sustainable, and reflects the needs and protects the rights of all, including the young and the vulnerable.

8 UN agencies collectively mobilized \$25.0 million and collaborated with 26 implementing partners and delivered around \$19.0 million to achieve this outcome, and to contribute to the fulfillment of 5 SDGs relating to good health and well-being, gender equality, decent work, sustainable cities and peace.

Figure 16: Outcome 3: \$18.9 million spent towards 6 SDGs under 5Ps

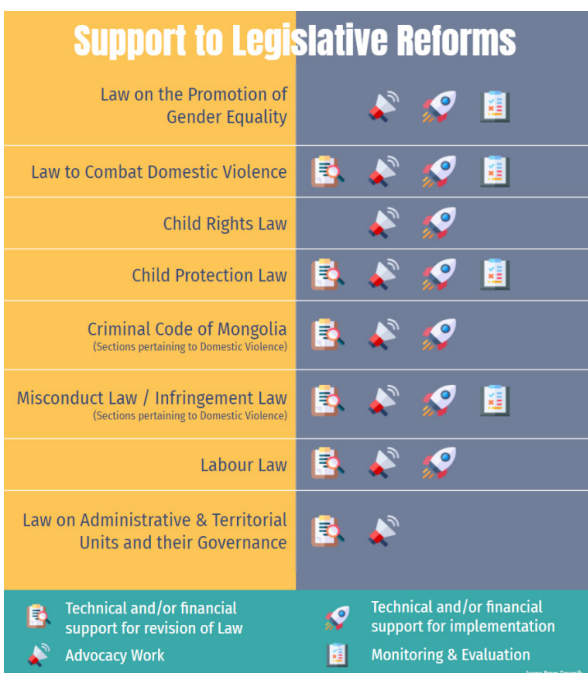


2.4.1. Normative protection mechanisms

As of 2020, 90% of the CEDAW recommendations and 86.1% of the UPR recommendations have been accepted by the Government of Mongolia and are currently being implemented primarily under the Law on Promotion of Gender Equality and the Law to Combat Domestic Violence (LCDV). The UN has also been supporting the Government of Mongolia in improving the legal framework to protect and uphold human rights, including the right to freedom from violence, as well as in implementing and monitoring these laws.

Most notably, survivor protection and perpetrator accountability mechanisms for cases of gender-based violence (GBV) and violence against children (VAC) as well as human trafficking have been established under law, and these mechanisms are continuously improved in line with international standards and good practices. Aside from major laws such as the LCDV and Child Protection Laws, the UN also provided technical and financial support to develop standard operating procedures, guidelines, and codes to guide the laws' implementation across sectors. With these legal frameworks in place coupled with extensive advocacy work by the UN and civil society organizations, government commitment toward GBV prevention and response improved as evidenced by the significant increase in state and local budget spending on GBV issues totaling to MNT 6.2 billion from 2017 to 2020. This was further supported by the UN through capacity building and sensitization interventions, including the establishment of a GBV Training Hall at the National Center for Gender Equality (NCGE) and the Training and Research Center of the Family, Child and Youth Development Agency, as well as the extensive training of duty-bearers on the identification of and service provision to victims of trafficking. As a result of all these efforts, in 2020 alone, a total of 3,799 survivors of GBV received care at One Stop Service Centers (OSSCs) and shelters across the county, of which 2,992 survivors sought help at UN-supported OSSCs or shelters, while 9,192 child protection cases were handled by multidisciplinary teams and social workers.

Figure 17: Support for legislative Reforms



These services continued to be provided in a safe manner even amidst the COVID-19 pandemic with technical and financial support from the UN, as well as through the UN's successful advocacy of categorizing staff of these centers as essential workers to allow them to continue working during lockdowns. Additionally, the UN also provided assistance in the repatriation of 7 Mongolian women and in repatriating 3 foreign women who are victims of human trafficking, including reintegration support upon their return. However, the impacts of these initiatives to the prevalence of all forms of GBV cannot yet be measured as a second National GBV Survey will not be conducted within the UNDAF reporting period.

The UN also supported crucial reforms to promote human rights, such as the protection of the rights of workers with revision of labour law and ratification of the ILO Convention for Safety and Health in

Construction (No.167) through strengthening of social dialogue among the Government, employers and workers and support to transition of informal workers to formality. Additionally, the UN provided technical and financial assistance to promote good governance, transparency and accountability within the GoM, particularly through the Law on Administrative & Territorial Units and their Governance as well as through civil service reform that seeks to improve the efficiency and quality of the government recruitment process. To complement these legislative reforms, the UN also assisted the GoM in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of these key laws through the conduct of standalone assessments and by supporting the establishment of mechanisms and procedures for regular monitoring. The results of these efforts were used to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of these laws that protect and uphold human rights in the country.

2.4.2 Representation of women and young people

After the 2020 elections, the percentage of women in local councils (Citizens' Representative Khurals) remained at 28 percent, which is below the regional average of 33 percent. To improve the participation and representation of women and young people in decision-making processes, the Khurals established and used mechanisms for engaging women, youth and vulnerable groups that were piloted with support from the UN. These mechanisms include the updated Model Meeting Procedures of the Khural, which institutionalized the right of any citizen (including government and non-government entities and businesses) to propose issues to be discussed by the Khural, as well as mandated that all meeting minutes and related documents be made available to the public.

The UN and the GoM also jointly facilitated participatory platforms for young people leading to the establishment of 331 sub-national youth councils in 21 provinces, 301 soums and 8 districts of Ulaanbaatar. These councils provided young people a venue to

discuss and address challenges they face in the country, and as a result, it increased the government's commitment toward youth empowerment, including provincial budget allocation of MNT 420 million for youth development nationwide.



During the 2018 Woman Leadership Training, representatives from the aimag and soum Citizen's Representative Khurals came up with strategies to tackle local issues.

2.4.3. Youth networks and organizations



Youth development center in Khovd aimag.

Youth networks have been cultivated in 35 Youth Development Centers (YDCs) established nationwide. Aside from providing young people a safe environment to socialize and engage with others these YDCs also provide a venue for young people to acquire life and job skills, seek various counselling services, and participate in decision-making processes on issues that affect them. Of these 35 YDCs, the UN supported the establishment of 19 and advocated for local government support for their continued operation. As a result, in 2020 YDCs serviced a total of 84,601 adolescents and young people. The youth empowerment efforts centered in YDCs were also complemented at the community level with the localization (in language and context) and distribution of the international “Empowerment for children, youth, and families: 3-R trainers’ kit on rights, responsibilities, and representation” toolkit. This toolkit teaches duty-bearers not only to encourage the empowerment of children and youth in their families and communities, but also teaches them how to mitigate the risks of child labour and trafficking of children and young people for labour or sexual exploitation. The UN supported the establishment of the Decent Work for Youth Network of government and non-government organizations, to promote labour

rights among young men and women. Through the Activated 2030 initiative Youth Enterprising Initiative, the UN implemented campaigns in UB city, Zavkhan and Orkhon aimags to engage to build their entrepreneurship capacities to meet the SDGs.

Finally, the Mongolian youth are extensively and strategically engaged by the UN in development and humanitarian interventions in the country, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The UN worked with 117 young volunteers (of which 60 were girls) to raise awareness about COVID-19 prevention, as well as to conduct rapid assessments related to the pandemic. The results of the volunteers’ research were taken into consideration in the development of prevention measures and protocols developed by the UN with the Ministry of Health. Additionally, youth groups, such as the Scouts Association of Mongolia, were also engaged by the UN to expand youth engagement in other important issues, such as clean air initiatives, WASH in schools, and menstrual health and hygiene. These activities included a total of 774 young volunteers (of which 538 were girls) to reach 22,925 people through direct interventions and social media.

2.5 SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

\$313 million in funding and financing was mobilized by the Development Partners for the Government-led whole-of-society COVID-19 response with public health at the heart. With the support of the Development Partners including the UN and its own stimulus package allocation fund, the Government of Mongolia has been able to minimize the health impacts of the pandemic within the Country while providing social protection and basic services to its 3.2 million population, as well as supporting Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, and Informal Sector Workers to protect jobs and livelihoods.

Moreover, the UN in partnership with the Government of Mongolia worked to extend the social protection system to herders with increased shock responsiveness. This joint programme has piloted child money top-up to families in high climate risk areas, and as a result, the Government has allocated around \$300 million to help families with children in dealing with the negative economic consequences of the pandemic and avoiding using negative coping strategies such as reduced spending for food and other essentials.

Coming together for catalyzing SDG financing

Mobilizing resources, both domestic and global, to support sustainable development remains a key challenge for many developing countries including Mongolia.

The UN in Mongolia together with the World Bank, ADB, International Monetary Fund and EU continued to support the Government in enhancing its public financial management capacities for the delivery of the SDGs. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Finance and the UNDP was signed in 2020, affirming the partnership for SDGs-aligned results-oriented budgeting, integrated financing, budget transparency, and reporting. The SDGs budgeting pilot scaled up in 2020 at the Ministry of Education and Science and Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

With the funding from the UN Joint SDG Fund, the UN in Mongolia supported the process for the development of Mongolia's Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF). INFFs spell out how national strategy can be financed and implemented, relying on the full range of public and private financing sources. INFFs are a planning and delivery tool to help countries strengthen planning processes and overcome obstacles to financing sustainable development and the SDGs at the national level. A Technical Working Group under the Ministry of Finance was established, and initial assessments and analysis work are progressing.

Joining hands in advancing SDG public-private partnerships

Attaining the SDGs is important for all stakeholders and the private sector has a strong role to play in financing and delivering the SDGs in Mongolia. The UN in Mongolia is championing selected public-private partnerships to harness the potential of this sector for the country's sustainable development.

An innovative partnership between Oyu Tolgoi (OT) and the UN started to support young people in Khanbogd soum in helping them realize their potential followed by the support to women and young people's health in Umniogobi province. The OT's financial contribution to the UN was dedicated to helping young people acquire life skills and grow as responsible, positive, and self-reliant people, so the youth themselves would improve the quality of their lives, and contribute positively to the development of their community and the country. Through these public-private partnerships, provincial and soum level youth participation platforms were established and strengthened, to harness youth empowerment policy and decision making for issues that affect them.

Haze Gazer

'A Public Eye on Air Pollution', a joint initiative with UNDP and UNICEF, was selected among the top five projects out of 196 participating countries in the Innovation Challenge calls. Air pollution causes serious health risks to children and mothers in Mongolia and is always on the agenda of the Government and many development partners and NGOs. However, although data and evidence exist, it is insufficient for thorough analyses and its quality needs validation. To fill the gap, non-traditional sources and big data were seen as an alternative to be used to effectively evaluate air-pollution-related interventions and programmes. UNICEF and UNDP supported the development of 'Haze Gazer', an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered, social-media-based web application to monitor the collective impacts of air pollution on human health and safety, communities' socio-economic situation, and public perception of interventions to improve air quality in Ulaanbaatar.

The platform, published in English and Mongolian, provides an AI-estimated, location-specific air quality map, coupled with socio-economic impact reports collected through an automated social media messaging service.

Partnerships to harness the potential of innovation and technology

Moments of change present new opportunities to solve old problems. The efficiency, innovation, and speed of a digitally connected world can expand what is possible for everyone, including those who historically have been marginalized.¹¹

Under this UNDAF period, information technology goods and services have boomed in Mongolia, and the Government sees digital transformation as key for its sustainable development. The UN in Mongolia with the support of the International Telecommunication Union and in coordination with the World Bank and other development partners, is partnering with the Government and private sector to expand access to eGovernance, eLearning, eAgriculture and Telemedicine, as well as access to key real-time information through, for example, the Haze Gazer initiative offering "a Public Eye on Air Pollution", and the web-based Integrated disaster management information system with NEMA and the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) to support humanitarian support for Herders. To catalyze further momentum and support this priority agenda for the Country, the UN in Mongolia is engaging with the new Office of the UN Tech Envoy to shape a strong partnership for the future.

Joint policy dialogue for people and planet

The UN in Mongolia is actively engaging with other stakeholders to ensure collective and coordinated support in bringing green investment and green technologies. In particular, the UN's PAGE programme brings together the expertise of five UN agencies to assist Mongolia in achieving green and sustainable development, with support from the Government of Germany.

To generate further momentum and support this key agenda a "Partnership for Ambitious Climate Action" online forum was organized on 22 December 2020 under the leadership of UN Resident Coordinator in Mongolia and the government of Mongolia. This partnership mechanism was initiated to leverage collective support to the government's commitment to the revised conditional NDCs 27.2 percent emission reduction target announced by the President of Mongolia. This online forum was very significant thus it managed to attract more than 100 representatives of key organizations working in this field, including Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassadors, international organizations, specialized agencies of the United Nations, international banking and financial institutions, as well as civil society participants and participants from abroad.

¹¹ The age of digital interdependence, Report of the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation (June 2019)

2.6 UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

2.6.1. UN entities' collaboration and coherence for the positive results

The UN coordinated and developed a comprehensive UN Socio-Economic Response Plan in line with the Secretary General's UN Framework for Immediate Socio-Economic Response. Furthermore, the UN advocated with the government to work towards a COVID-19 recovery strategy while providing support to the government in more immediate COVID-19 response efforts as part of the Resident Coordinator's work to coordinate the health, humanitarian, and socio-economic responses. The UN supported the government in managing complexity and uncertainty in connection with socio-economic aspects of COVID-19 in critical areas such as governance, social

protection, green economy and digital disruption, nudging decision-makers to look beyond response, towards recovery and 2030.

UN agencies cooperated to conduct overarching policy activities like the evaluation of the State Population Policy and worked together to return Mongolian migrants stranded internally and abroad because of COVID-19 lockdowns and implemented joint Risk Communication and Community Engagement campaigns aimed at preventing and reducing stigma during COVID-19 response.

2.6.2. Joint communication and advocacy

The UN in Mongolia has undertaken several joint communications and advocacy campaigns in support of advancing the implementations of SDGs in Mongolia.

A strong focus was given on the UN75 Global conversation in 2019-2020. The UN in Mongolia listened to the voices of people from all walks of life through 12 consultative meetings, involving 470 participants from UN colleagues, government agencies, private sector, employers and workers, civil society, academia, think tanks, youth, local communities, herders, elderly people, people with disabilities and media, based on the core development principle of "leaving no one behind".

A joint 16-day campaign undertaken by the UN in Mongolia that combats Gender-based violence in Mongolia has come to a new horizon in 2020 with the theme "No More Violence: End GBV at home, in the workplace, and Public Places". Led by UNFPA, the joint advocacy campaign, which received a strong endorsement by Prime Minister U. Khurelsukh, involved more than 20 government partners, UN agencies, development and civil society partners, private sector and social influencers, and ordinary

citizens. A social media and mass media campaign ran throughout the period, reaching at least 3,938,102 people.

Joint communications by the UN in Mongolia supported the rolling out of the national COVID-19 Risk communications campaign. A nationwide public health campaign on COVID-19 containment reached over 2 million people including children nationwide. Campaign on anti-stigma towards the COVID-19 patients reached 1.5 million views (accumulated). The United Nations Communications Group (UNCG) collaborated with the National Risk Communications and Community Engagement working group to improve public health communications during the pandemic in Mongolia.

The UNCT also jointly advocated for women's rights and gender equality in Mongolia during International Women's Day through a joint statement and various social media messages that were circulated in the local media. The messages and statements calling for increased investment in the great potential of women to boost the economic and social development of the country as well as strong gender equality have reached close to 70,000 audiences on UNDP channels alone.



Nomadic Mongolian family on the move. Tarialan county, Uvs Province, Mongolia

2.6.3. Common business operations

The UNCT is committed to advancing common business operations to ensure greater effectiveness and efficiency via economy of scale and reducing operations costs while implementing development interventions to advance SDGs in Mongolia.

To facilitate the common business operations, Operations Management Team worked collaboratively in developing a Business Operations Strategy for Mongolia and the strategy was approved in 2020. Within the Business Operations Strategy development work, the Operations Management Team identified three common service categories under two common service lines (Administration and Information and Communications Technology) that could potentially benefit country operations including Travel, Printing, and Information and Communications Technology services.

Based on the collaborative approach and support from the UN agencies several common Long-Term Agreements (LTA) were managed and implemented

to reduce administrative costs through better use of staff time and efforts. These include one LTA on security services (led by UNDP), one LTA on facility maintenance services (led by the UNDP), three LTAs on printing services (led by UNICEF), two LTAs on vehicle rental services (led by the FAO), fifteen LTAs on hotel accommodation and hospitality (led by the FAO) as well as two LTAs on catering services (led by the UNDP). These works also enabled some offices to carry out procurements despite their insufficient capacity.

Finally the UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF were part of the joint carpooling which aimed to enhance joint field operations, improve the efficiency of fleet management and performance reporting, reduce carbon footprints, increase safety and security of staff and vehicles and cut costs of UN agency operations.

2.7 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

2.7.1. Financial Overview

Table 1: Financial Overview

	AGENCY	UNDAF	Total	Total Available in mln USD			To be	Expenditure in million USD				
		Commit	Required	Total	Core	Non-Core	Mobilized	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
	GRAND TOTAL	79.7	173.0	163.0	31.6	131.4	10.1	21.1	22.1	23.3	38.2	104.7
	Outcome 1 Total	34.2	93.9	90.7	15.4	75.2	3.2	10.5	11.7	10.4	21.3	53.8
Outcome 1	1 FAO	3.7	9.4	9.4	2.5	6.9	-	4.4	1.6	0.9	1.4	8.3
	2 IAEA	1.4	1.9	1.5	-	1.5	0.4	-	0.1	0.1	0.8	1.0
	3 ILO	0.8	2.0	2.0	1.4	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	1.2
	4 IOM	-	4.4	4.4	-	4.4	-	0.4	0.7	0.5	1.7	3.3
	5 UN-SPIDER	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	0.0
	6 UN ESCAP	-	0.2	0.2	-	0.2	0.0	-	-	-	0.2	0.2
	7 UN Habitat	0.1	4.7	4.7	-	4.7	-	0.1	0.1	1.0	-	1.2
	8 UNDP	20.0	33.8	33.5	2.9	30.6	0.3	3.9	2.9	2.5	3.3	12.5
	9 UNEP	1.5	10.1	8.2	-	8.2	1.9	0.3	0.4	0.5	1.7	2.9
	10 UNESCO	0.3	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.3	-	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.5
	11 UNICEF	0.1	7.1	6.8	3.2	3.5	0.3	0.2	0.6	1.4	1.6	3.7
	12 UNIDO	2.3	11.4	11.4	-	11.4	-	0.8	5.2	0.9	4.1	10.9
	13 WFP	-	0.3	0.3	-	0.3	-	-	-	0.2	0.1	0.3
	14 WHO	4.1	7.7	7.7	2.1	5.5	-	-	-	2.1	5.5	7.7
	Outcome 2 Total	37.9	53.6	47.3	10.2	37.0	6.3	6.1	6.4	8.0	11.5	32.0
Outcome 2	1 FAO	-	8.2	8.2	1.2	7.0	-	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.9	1.4
	2 IAEA	1.7	1.3	1.2	-	1.2	0.1	0.0	0.7	0.4	0.1	1.2
	3 ILO	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.9	-	0.0	0.0	-	0.3	0.3
	4 IOM	-	0.8	0.8	-	0.8	-	-	-	0.1	0.4	0.4
	5 UN Habitat	0.1	0.3	0.3	-	0.3	-	0.1	0.1	-	0.2	0.3
	6 UNAIDS	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	0.0
	7 UNESCO	0.3	3.3	1.4	1.1	0.3	1.9	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.7	1.3
	8 UNFPA	9.3	7.6	7.6	1.3	6.3	-	0.9	1.7	2.3	2.3	7.2
	9 UNICEF	18.5	23.8	19.5	1.0	18.5	4.3	1.9	1.9	3.3	5.5	12.5
	10 WHO	7.2	7.3	7.3	5.5	1.7	0.0	2.9	1.6	1.4	1.3	7.3
	Outcome 3 Total	7.6	25.5	25.0	5.9	19.1	0.5	4.5	4.1	4.8	5.5	18.9
Outcome 3	1 ILO	1.0	1.2	1.2	0.4	0.7	-	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.7
	2 IOM	-	1.8	1.8	-	1.8	-	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.8	1.1
	3 UN Habitat	-	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	-	0.0	0.1	-	-	0.1
	4 UNDP	0.8	8.7	8.7	0.6	8.1	-	1.0	1.7	2.1	1.4	6.2
	5 UNESCO	0.4	0.4	0.3	-	0.3	0.1	-	-	-	0.3	0.3
	6 UNFPA	5.0	9.8	9.7	4.0	5.7	0.2	2.6	1.6	2.1	2.0	8.3
	7 UNICEF	0.5	3.5	3.2	0.8	2.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.9	2.1
	8 WHO	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.1

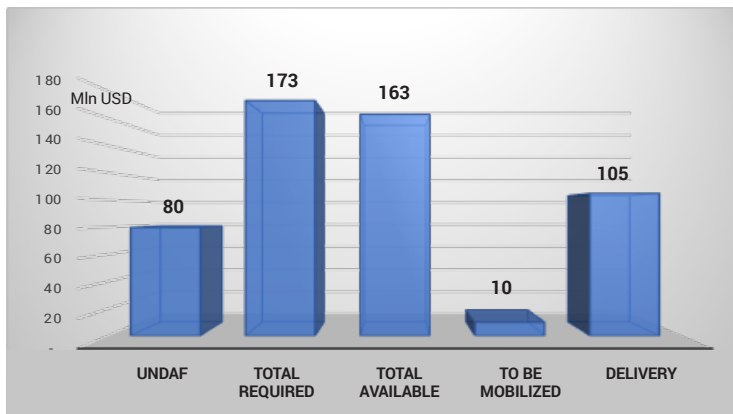


Figure 18: 2017-2020 funding & Delivery Status vs UNDAF Initial Commitment in \$Million

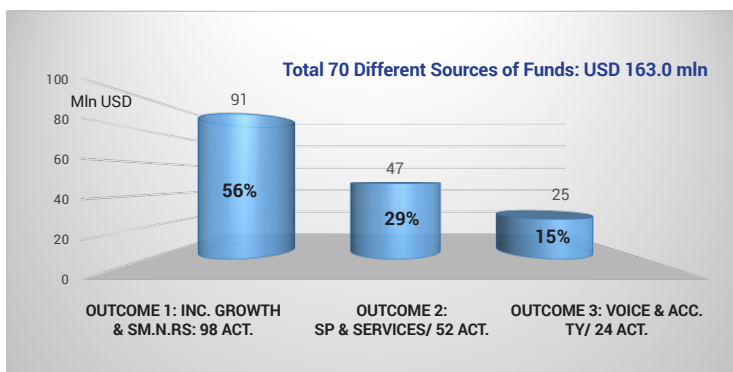
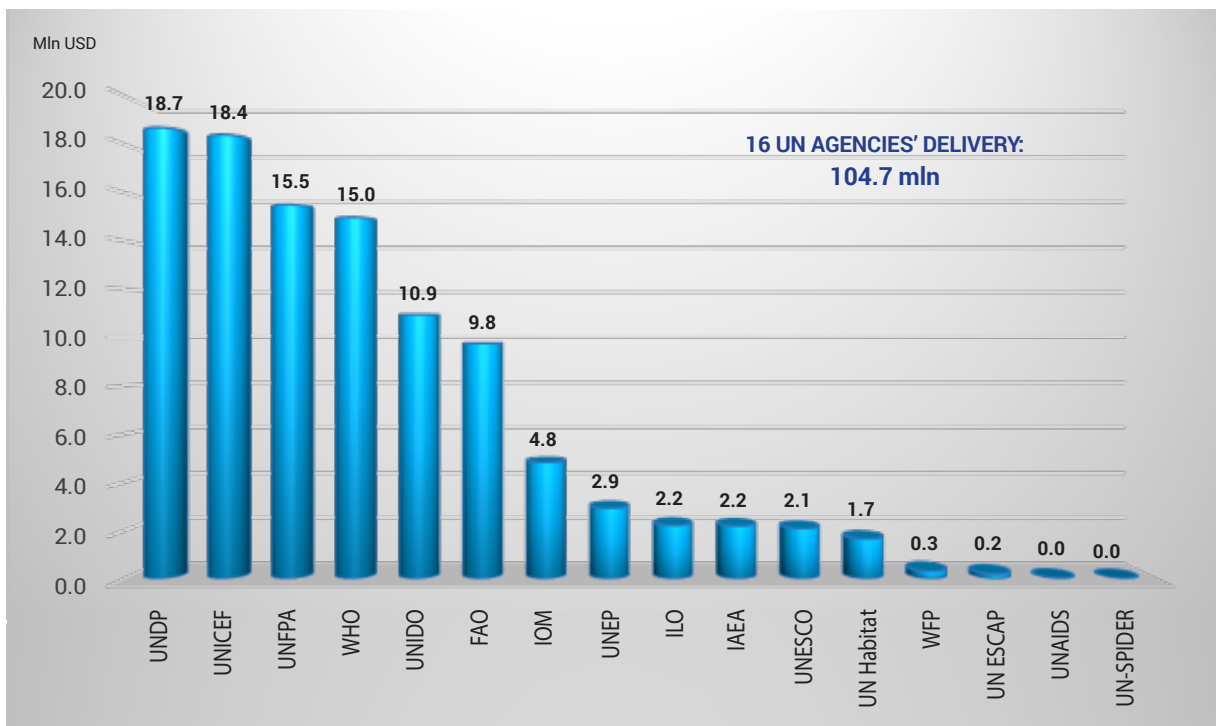


Figure 19: Resources Mobilized by Outcome

Figure 20: Expenditures by UN Agencies 2017-2020



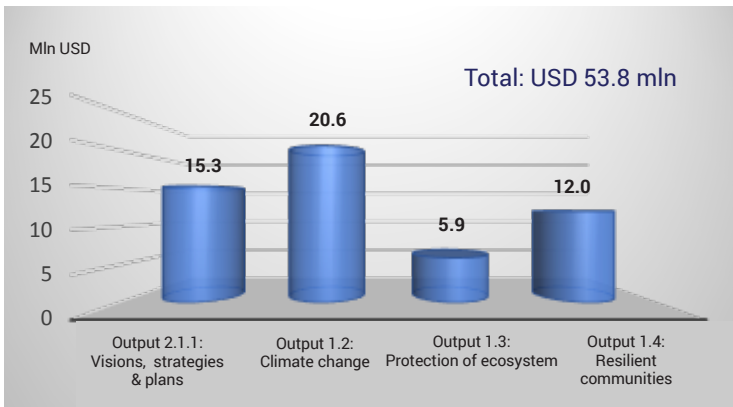


Figure 21: Outcome 1
Delivery by outputs 2017-2020

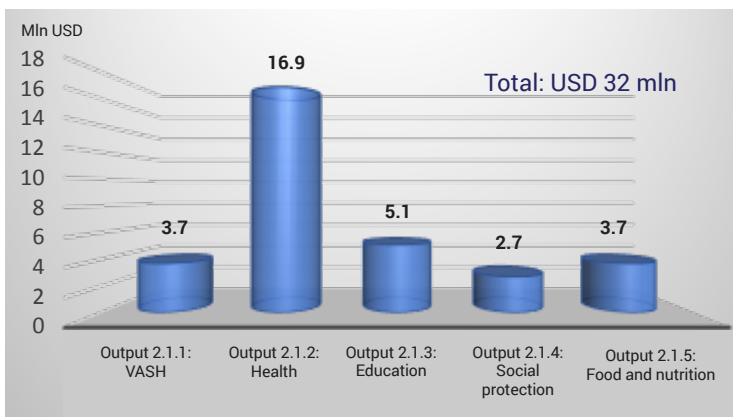


Figure 22: Outcome 2
Delivery by outputs 2017-2020

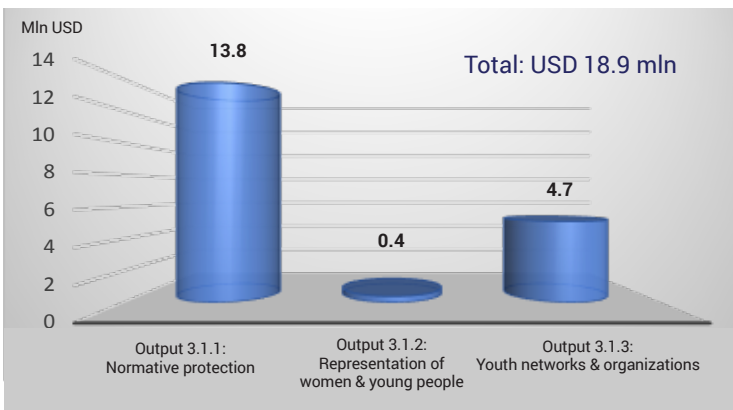
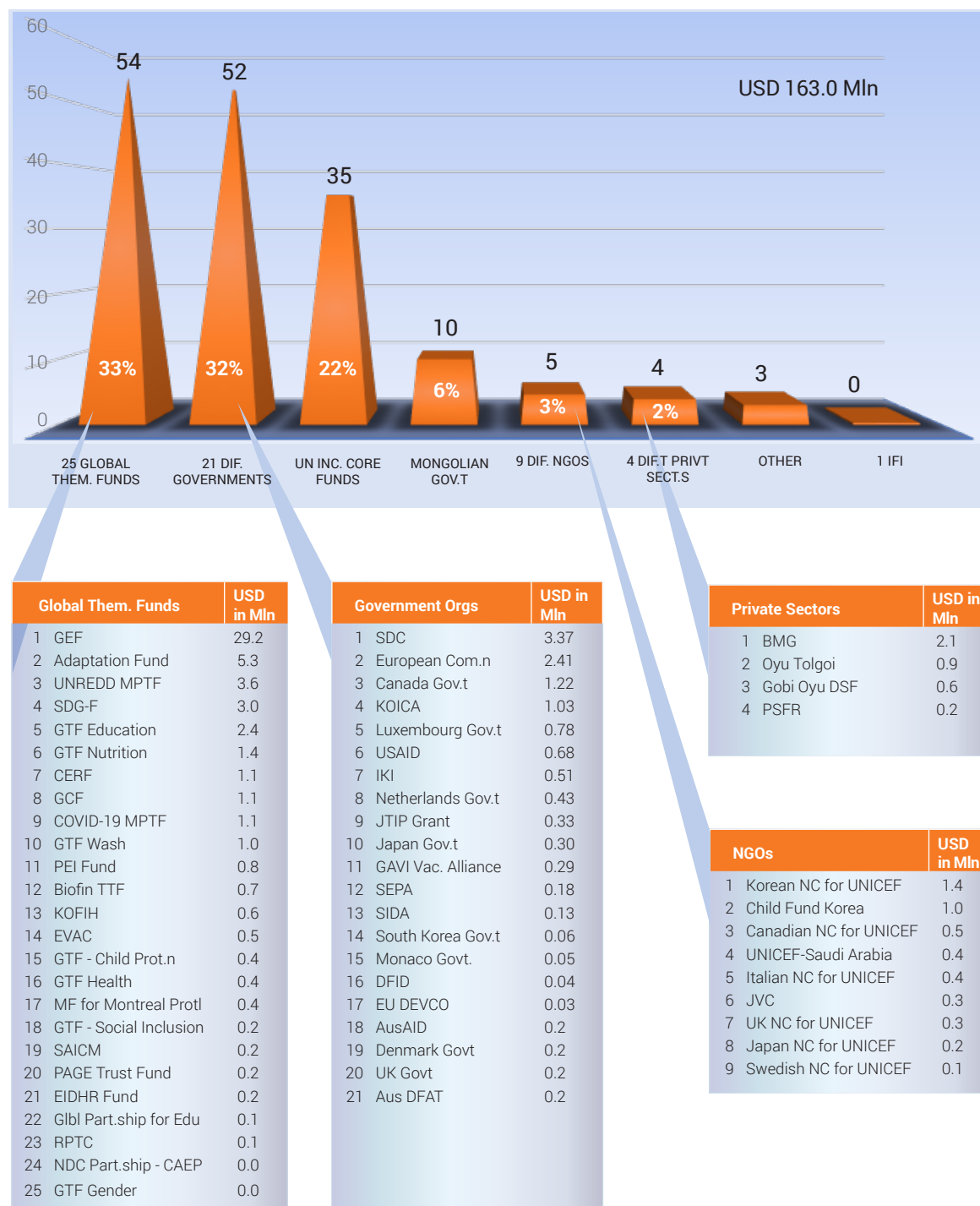


Figure 23: Outcome 3
Delivery by outputs 2017-2020

2.7.2. Resource mobilization

The UN Agencies collectively mobilized \$163 million from 70 different sources of funds. An overview of sources of funds with their funding contribution is shown in Figure 24.

Figure 24: Total Resources Mobilized 2017-2020:



3

UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR THE NEXT YEAR

The UN will continue its support for COVID-19 recovery work in 2021, focusing on health and socio-economic interventions in addition to the support for advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Mongolia.

Under Outcome One, the UN will implement interventions on SDGs integrated financing, budgeting, localization and monitoring and evaluation. Moreover, climate change, environmental governance, biodiversity, climate change adaptation, reduction of GHG, air pollution, elimination of mercury in artisanal mining, water security and waste management will be addressed by the UN during the next two years. Equally, activities for inclusive and diversified economic growth, employment generation, capacity building for the export of diversified and high-value livestock, land-use and green economy in addition to disaster resilience, community resilience, and Mongolian international and domestic migration will be also the focus of the UN.

For Outcome Two, WASH, sexually transmitted infection and HIV prevention, adolescent mental health services, quality sexual and reproductive

health services, protection of health workers, and Maternal and Child Health services will be supported. Moreover, UN interventions will be directed towards localizing SDG4 and supporting the Education sector including early childhood development, primary and adolescent learning, and technical and vocational education and training. Equally, labour and social protection legislative reforms and basic social services for the vulnerable populations such as herders and internal migrants will be supported. Similarly, efficient food control management and safety systems, national E-agriculture strategy, agricultural value chains, animal health, and nutrition services will be supported by the UN.

For Outcome Three, the protection system of children, women and girls from violence, abuse, and exploitation, the prevention of human trafficking, labour market governance, and rights at work will be supported along with the strengthening of citizen-centered Civil Service in Mongolia. Also, adolescents and youth development and empowerment through life skills education and youth network will be supported by the UN in the next year.



Due to inequalities in opportunities, many rural people move to and settle in urban centers in search of better livelihoods.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

Adaptation Fund	Adaptation Fund
ADB	Asian Development Bank
Aus DFAT	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
Biofin TTF	UNDP Biodiversity Finance Thematic Trust Fund
BMGF	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Canada	Government of Canada
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CFK	Child Fund Korea
CNC for UNICEF	Canadian National Committee for UNICEF
COVID-19 MPTF	UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
Denmark	The Danish Government
DFID	Department for International Development, UK
EC	European Commission
EIDHR Fund	European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights Fund
EU DEVCO	International Cooperation & Development of European Commission
EVAC	The Fund to End Violence Against Children
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GAVI VA	GAVI The Vaccine Alliance
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
GODSF	Gobi Oyu Development Support Fund
GPE	Global Partnership for Education
GTF - CP	Global Thematic Fund - Child Protection
GTF - SI	Global Thematic Fund - Social Inclusion
GTF Education	Global Education Thematic Fund
GTF Gender	Global Gender Thematic Fund
GTF Health	Global Health Thematic Fund
GTF Nutrition	Global Nutrition Thematic Fund
GTF Wash	Global WASH Thematic Fund
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
IKI	International Climate Initiative
ILO	International Labour Organization

INC for UNICEF	Italian National Committee for UNICEF
IOM	International Organization for Migration
Japan	The Government of Japan
JC for UNICEF	Japan Committee for UNICEF
JTIP Grant	J/TIP of USA Department of State
JVC	Japan Voluntary Contribution
KNC for UNICEF	Korean National Committee for UNICEF
KOFIH	Korea Foundation for International Healthcare
KOICA	Korean International Cooperation Agency
Luxembourg	Government of Luxembourg
MFFIMP	Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of Montreal Protocol
MG	Multiple Governments
Monaco	Government of Monaco
NDCP - CAEP	NDC Partnership - CAEP
Netherlands	Netherlands Government
OT LLC	Oyu Tolgoi Company
PAGE TF	Partnership for Action on Green Economy Multi-Partner Trust Fund
PEI Fund	Poverty-Environment Initiative Fund
PSFR	Private Sector Fund Raising - consolidated pool funding
Republic of Korea	Republic of Korea
RPTC	Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SANC for UNICEF	Saudi Arabia National Committee for UNICEF
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDG-F	Sustainable Development Goals -Fund
SEPA	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SNC for UNICEF	Swedish Committee for UNICEF
SSSEA	Swiss State Secretariat of Economic Affairs
UK	United Kingdom
UKNC for UNICEF	United Kingdom National Committee for UNICEF
UN ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UN Habitat	United Nations Human Settlement Programme
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNREDD MPTF	UN Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Multi-Partner Trust Fund
UN-SPIDER	United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

