



UN MONGOLIA ANNUAL RESULT REPORT 2021



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FOREWORD BY RESIDENT COORDINATOR



It has already been five years since the UN Mongolia implemented the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2017-2021 for Mongolia, and I am now pleased to share what we have achieved together with the Government of Mongolia under the UNDAF.

2021 was a very special year for the UN and the Government of Mongolia, as it was the penultimate year of UNDAF implementation and the 60th anniversary of Mongolia's membership in the United Nations.

The UN Country Team successfully conducted UNDAF evaluation and prepared a comprehensive new generation of Common Country Analysis (CCA), which served as a core integrated analytical tool for designing the new United Nations

Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027 for Mongolia. The UNSDCF is the key instrument for planning and implementing UN development activities to support the country's implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which is currently being finalized.

The UNDAF's independent evaluation concluded that the outputs under the three UNDAF outcomes have been achieved, and the UN has adapted its work and responded to the country's emerging and unforeseen needs. The most prominent example is undoubtedly the UN's collective response to coronavirus disease (COVID-19) for the last two years.

To cite a few examples, the UN supported 489,081 children engaged in distance learning, provided vaccines for 43% of the total population, and supported 1,726 health facilities and 8,610 health workers. As a result, Mongolia was one of the leading countries in vaccination, with more than 80% of the target population vaccinated with at least two doses of vaccines. This is a big victory for this developing nation.

In addition, the UN Country Team (UNCT) provided coordinated support to the government at the strategic level to accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the improvement of SDG coordination mechanisms.

I am proud of these achievements and happy to present them in this report and would like to express my sincere appreciation to my UN Country Team and UN staff who were behind all these achievements. Likewise, I would like to thank all our partners, especially the Government of Mongolia, who cooperated and supported us during the period.

Tapan Mishra

United Nations Resident Coordinator

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KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN MONGOLIA

In 2021, the UN in Mongolia continued to maintain strong partnerships with the Government of Mongolia (GoM) and a diverse group of development partners, civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector. The UN in Mongolia acknowledges and appreciates all our partners, including technical and funding contributors, from foreign government

organizations, global thematic funds, international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), national NGOs, international financial institutions (IFIs), academia, and the private sector who have made it possible to contribute to Mongolia's sustainable development.

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

National NGO	
1	Mongolian Banker's Association
2	Center for Citizenship Education in Mongolia
3	Confederation of Mongolian Trade Unions
4	Development Solutions NGO
5	Decent Work for Youth Network
6	MONFEMNET
7	Forest User Group in Mongolia
8	Gender Equality Center
9	Ger Community Mapping Center in Mongolia
10	Mongolian Employer's Federation
11	Mongolian Pediatrics Association
12	Mongolian Sustainable Finance Association
13	New Public Health in Mongolia
14	Women for Social Progress

International/Foreign Govt	
1	Asian Development Bank
2	Asylum, Refugee Regional Initiative
3	Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers
4	German Agency for International Cooperation
5	Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)
6	International Environmental Technology Centre
7	IOM Belgium
8	Korean International Cooperation Agency

International NGO	
1	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
2	Artisanal Gold Council
3	The Asia Foundation
4	End Child Prostitution and Trafficking
5	Mercy Corps
6	Mongolian Red Cross Society
7	Norwegian Refugee Council
8	People in Need
9	Save the Children
10	The Generation Foundation
11	The International Rescue Committee
12	World Vision
13	World Wildlife Fund

Academia	
1	Institute for Plant and Agriculture Science
2	Institute of Veterinary Medicine
3	Maastricht University - UNU Merit
4	Mongolian University of Life Sciences
5	National University of Medical Sciences
6	National University of Mongolia
7	Nuclear Research Center, National University of Mongolia
8	Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

Figure 1.1: List of the implementing partners Mongolia UNCT has partnered with.

Government/Foreign Government Organizations	
1	Government of Mongolia
2	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
3	Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
4	EIDHR Fund
5	European Commission
6	European Union Delegation
7	German Federal Ministry of Health
8	Government of Australia
9	Government of Canada
10	Government of Denmark
11	Government of Japan
12	Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
13	Government of Monaco
14	Government of Norway
15	Government of the Netherlands
16	Government of the Republic of Korea
17	Government of the Russian Federation
18	Government of the United Kingdom
19	Government of the United States of America
20	International Climate Initiative of the German Environment Ministry
21	JTIP Grant
22	Korean International Cooperation Agency
23	NDC Partnership - CAEP
24	RPTC
25	Seoul Policy Centre for Global Development Partnerships
26	SEPA
27	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
28	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
29	United Kingdom Department for International Development
30	United States Agency for International Development

International NGOs	
1	Canadian National Committee for UNICEF
2	ChildFund Korea
3	GAVI The Vaccine Alliance
4	Italian National Committee for UNICEF
5	Japan Committee for UNICEF
6	Japan International Volunteer Center
7	Korea Foundation for International Healthcare
8	Korean National Committee for UNICEF

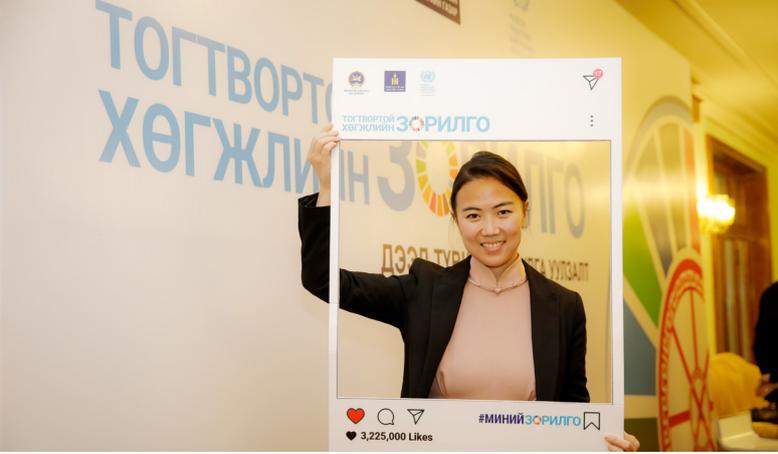
9	Luxembourg Committee for UNICEF
10	Netherlands Committee for UNICEF
11	UNICEF: EU/RR: WFP/USDA
12	UNICEF Saudi Arabia
13	United Kingdom National Committee for UNICEF
14	World Resources Institute

Global Thematic Fund	
1	Adaptation Fund
2	Biofin TTF
3	Central Emergency Response Fund
4	DESA Development Account
5	FAO Technical Cooperation Programme
6	Global Education Thematic Fund
7	Global Gender Thematic Fund
8	Global Health Thematic Fund
9	Global Nutrition Thematic Fund
10	Global Partnership for Education
11	The Global Environment Facility
12	Global WASH Thematic Fund
13	Green Climate Fund
14	GTF - Child Protection
15	GTF - Social Inclusion
16	IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund
17	IOM Development Fund
18	The Joint SDG Fund
19	Montreal Protocol
20	Partnership for Action on Green Economy
21	PEI Fund
22	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
23	United Nations COVID-19 Multi-Partner Trust Fund
24	UNDP Rapid Financing Facility
25	UNICEF EAPRO Emergency
26	UNICEF Humanitarian Fund
27	UN-REDD Programme Fund

IFIs	
1	ADB
2	World Bank

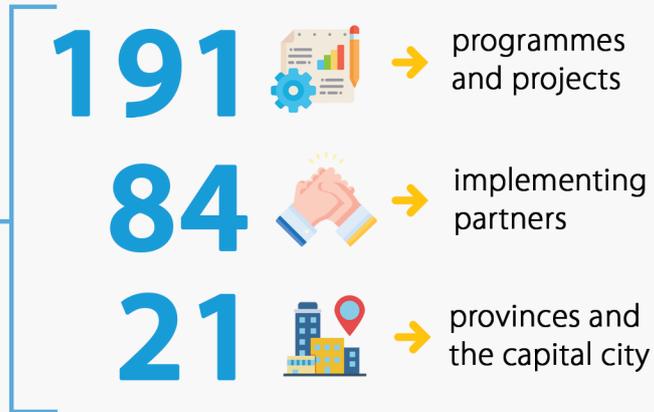
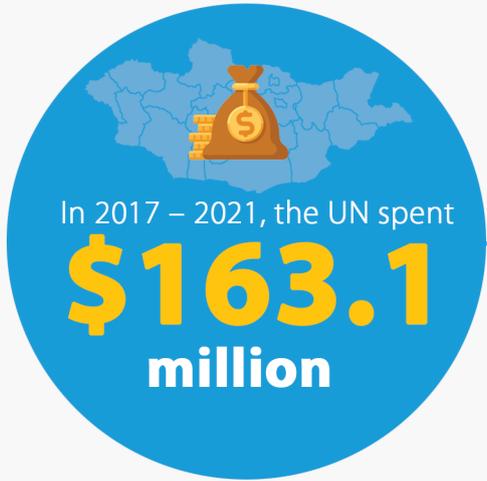
Private Sectors/others	
1	Gobi Oyu DSF
2	Fund to End Violence Against Children
3	Oyu Tolgoi
4	PSFR
5	Other funds

Figure 1.2: List of funding contributors Mongolia UNCT has partnered with.



UN MONGOLIA RESULTS REPORT 2017-2021 AT A GLANCE

The UN in Mongolia contributes to Sustainable Development of Mongolia



UN Response to COVID-19:



The distribution of UN activities under different SDGs 2017-2021

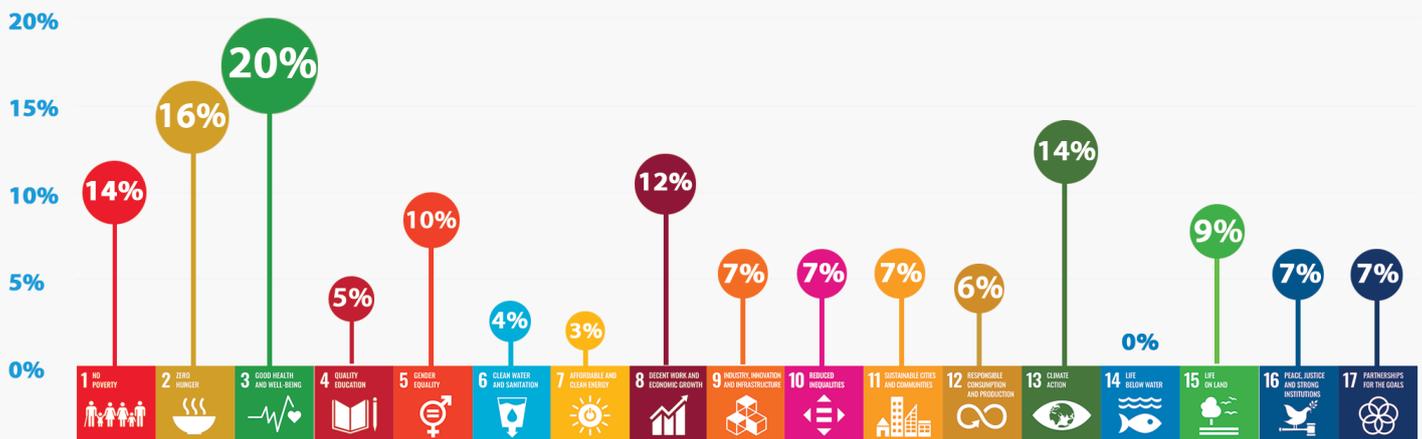


Figure 2.1.1: The distribution of UN activities under different SDGs

CHAPTER 1

KEY DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY

In 2021, Mongolia grappled with multiple political, economic, and social challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Following local transmission starting in November 2020, Mongolia experienced several pandemic waves accompanied by stringent domestic containment measures.

In late January 2021, peaceful public protests in Ulaanbaatar against the government's handling of the COVID-19 outbreak triggered the prime minister's resignation and a cabinet change. Presidential elections in June 2021, which resulted in a landslide victory for the ruling party candidate, ensured further consolidation of power and the Mongolian People's Party's (MPP) dominance over all state leadership positions for the second time since 1990. Although 2020 amendments to the Constitution largely restricted presidential power, the MPP candidate's victory secured policy continuity, given the MPP's overwhelming parliamentary majority.

A comprehensive 10 trillion Mongolian tugrik (MNT)¹ programme to protect health and revive the economy was approved in February 2021, which helped the country implement a vigorous COVID-19 vaccination campaign. As of the end of 2021, Mongolia had one of the highest vaccination rates in the world, with around 70% of the total population fully vaccinated. The government's economic recovery package was largely financed by the Bank of Mongolia (around 27% of gross domestic product (GDP)) to improve access to credit, save jobs, provide housing, and promote manufacturing, agriculture, and non-mining exports in 2021-2023. The government provided a wide range of COVID-19 relief packages to protect the vulnerable population, including top-ups on the existing child money programme, which played a crucial role in reducing the national poverty rate by 0.6 percentage points from 28.4% in 2018 to 27.8% in 2020.²

While comprehensive health and social response was necessary for preventing a health crisis and rise in poverty, it put additional strains on fiscal space, increasing debt vulnerability and reducing

financial resources for investment in sustainable development. After experiencing its first major recession in over a decade in 2020, the Mongolian economy grew beyond expectation in the first half of 2021, largely driven by minerals exports, resulting in a stronger global recovery and a resumption in mining foreign direct investment and private investment. However, subsequent border closure by China significantly reduced coal exports and production and put real GDP growth for the year at 1.4%, much lower than initial projections and pre-pandemic growth in 2019. The state's budget deficit was 3.2% of GDP, a significant decrease from 2020, financed by foreign loans and the withdrawal of government deposits. By mid-2021, government debt reached MNT 27 trillion, equivalent to the 2021 GDP in real terms.

In line with global trends, the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated digitalization in Mongolia with the launch of the digital public service platform e-Mongolia and online learning for students. Parliament also adopted several legislations important for SDG implementation, including the Law on the Legal Status of Human Rights Defenders, making Mongolia the first country in Asia to provide a legal framework for protecting people who speak out on human rights concerns and violations. Amid increasing domestic violence cases against women and children during lockdowns, the government strengthened social service delivery and law-enforcement measures.

Mongolia acceded to the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement and accelerated the implementation of the China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor Programme, which present tremendous opportunities to address logistics and trade facilitation bottlenecks and contribute to the country's aspiration to become a transit hub. In December 2021, the government adopted the New Revival Policy, which envisages structural transformation in ports, energy, industry, green development, and government productivity through the active participation of citizens, businesses, and investors.

¹The Central Bank of Mongolia. (31 Dec 2021). MNT 10 trillion is equivalent to US\$ 3.5 billion based on the BoM official exchange rate as of 31 Dec 2021. Retrieved from <https://www.mongolbank.mn/eng/dblistofficialdailyrate.aspx?Year=2021&vMonth=12&vDay=31>

²The National Statistics Office of Mongolia and the World Bank. (2020). Household Socio-Economic Survey. Retrieved from <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2021/12/30/mongolia-s-2020-poverty-rate-estimated-at-27-8-percent>

Mongolia also embraced the SDGs in 2021. The new prime minister reorganized the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) by expanding it to the UN development system, civil society, and the private sector. In October 2021, the Parliament of Mongolia held the first High-Level National

Forum for Sustainable Development to review SDG progress and announced the establishment of the Multistakeholder Council for Sustainable Development to support Mongolia in its commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



A herder family is on the move. © IOM Mongolia / N.Sukhbat

UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE UN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK

CHAPTER 2

2.1. OVERVIEW UNDAF PRIORITY AREAS

This is the fifth year United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2017-2022 implementation. United Nations agencies in Mongolia have implemented 191 interventions since 2017 at the strategic and ground levels to support Mongolia to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Most UN interventions are directed towards reducing poverty, hunger, improving health, promoting decent jobs and economic growth, and reducing the negative impact of climate change, followed by gender equality and life on land. The UN also contributes to improving industry, innovation, and infrastructure, reducing inequalities, making cities and communities sustainable, building peace and justice, and fostering partnerships, as shown in Figure 2.1.1. (See infographics on page 9)

During the last five years, the UN collectively mobilized US\$ 191.3 million, of which US\$ 163.1 million was utilized for 191 projects and programmes carried out in cooperation with 84 implementing partners across 21 provinces and the capital city (Figure 2.1.2.).

2017-2021 Delivery status in mln USD

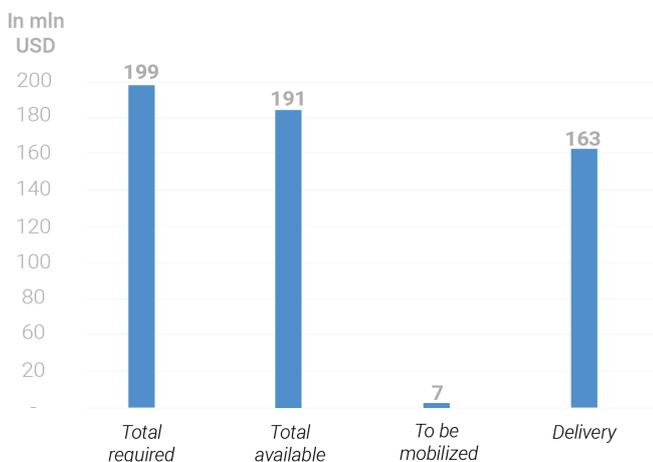


Figure 2.1.2: UN funding & delivery status

UN Mongolia Partners

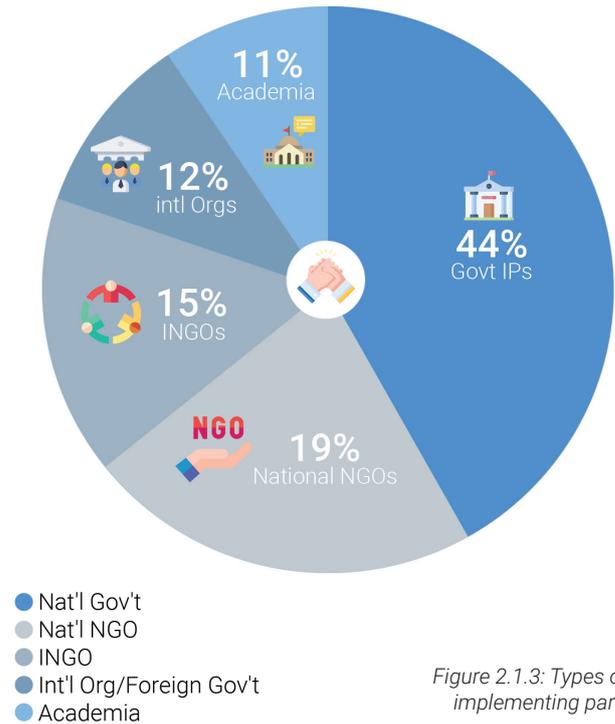


Figure 2.1.3: Types of UN implementing partners

The Government of Mongolia has demonstrated its commitment to working with the UN and has gradually increased its share in co-funded activities, accounting for approximately US\$8 million over five years. To date, 32 foreign governmental organizations, 28 global thematic funds, 15 NGOs, 4 private sector organizations, and 2 IFIs have supported the UN's interventions. (See Figure 2.7.2.1.)

For Outcome 1, the UN contributed towards reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increasing specially protected areas and forest land. The targets we collectively set for these indicators have been reached. The manufacturing value-added share in GDP is gradually increasing as planned, and the unemployment rate is on track. However, share regression is observed in the renewable energy mix, percentage of forest land, disaster impact loss, and the proportion of people living in poverty despite our tremendous efforts during the last five years (Figure 2.1.4).

Indicators

 <p>Reduction of GHG emission from BAU scenario</p> <p>Progress Achieved</p>	 <p>Special protection area as proportion of total area</p> <p>Progress Achieved</p>
 <p>Share of manufacturing value added in GDP</p> <p>Progress On track</p>	 <p>Unemployment rate</p> <p>Progress On track</p>
 <p>Share of renewable in the national energy mix</p> <p>Progress On track</p>	 <p>Percentage of Forest land in total area, %</p> <p>Progress On track</p>
 <p>Disaster impact - disaster economic loss</p> <p>Progress Regress</p>	 <p>Proportion of people living below poverty line</p> <p>Progress Regress</p>

Figure 2.1.4: Status of indicators under Outcome 1

Under Outcome 2, the UN contributed to increasing the percentage of people using improved water, supporting the health care system in Mongolia, reducing the probability of dying between 15 and 60 years of age, reducing adolescent birth rates, and increasing the general education enrolment rate of children with disabilities (Figure 2.1.5).

Indicators

 <p>Percentage of population using improved water sources</p> <p>Progress Achieved</p>	 <p>Number of new or revised national health policies, strategies and plans revised</p> <p>Progress Achieved</p>
 <p>Number of aims and districts endorsed and implemented Sub-national Health System Strengthening Strategies</p> <p>Progress Achieved</p>	 <p>Probability of dying between 15 and 60 years</p> <p>Progress Achieved</p>
 <p>Public social protection expenditures as percentage of GDP</p> <p>Progress Achieved</p>	 <p>Adolescent birth rate (15-19 years old) per 1000</p> <p>Progress Achieved</p>
 <p>Enrollment of children with disabilities in general education schools</p> <p>Progress Achieved</p>	 <p>Percentage of children under 5 years of age from the poorest quintile who are developmentally in track in health, learning & psychosocial well-being</p> <p>Progress Achieved</p>
 <p>Percentage of population using improved sanitation facilities</p> <p>Progress On track</p>	 <p>Percentage of women who underwent antenatal check-ups at least 6 times during pregnancy</p> <p>Progress On track</p>
 <p>Percentage of population above 40 years of age screened for hypertension and diabetes</p> <p>Progress On track</p>	 <p>Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years old</p> <p>Progress On track</p>
 <p>Prevalence of overweight students aged 13-17 years old</p> <p>Progress On track</p>	

For Outcome 3, the UN contributed to implementing the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and other human rights (HR) instruments to revise and adopt several legislations against all kinds of discriminations, increase the number of

young voters and civil participation, and empower women in decision making. All these targets are achieved, as shown in Figure 2.1.6.

Indicators

 <p>Incidence rate of syphilis among youth from 15-24 years of age per 10 000</p> <p>Progress Regress</p>	 <p>Primary and secondary education net enrollment rate of children from the poorest quintile</p> <p>Progress Regress</p>
 <p>Percentage of children aged 36-39 months who are attending an early childhood education programme from the poorest quintile</p> <p>Progress Regress</p>	 <p>Percentage of economically active population contributing to the social insurance system</p> <p>Progress Regress</p>

Figure 2.1.6: Status of indicators under Outcome 3

Progressing through the second year of the pandemic, the country saw drastic changes and their immediate results, in contrast with those of the first year, including changes in government structures, response strategies, and mitigation efforts.

The UNCT has been working effectively to deliver results. To facilitate efficient business operations, the Operations Management Team worked collaboratively on the implementation of a business operations strategy (BOS) by establishing a number of joint long-term agreements, which helped to reduce administrative costs through better use of staff time and efforts and shortened the time it takes for procurement process completion.

The UN also worked closely with the government at the strategic level. As a result of the UN's proactive advocacy, the GoM renewed the NCSD. For the first time, the UN is part of the council, which provides an advantage for strategically engaging with the government for sustainable and inclusive development. The UN's coordinated support was provided to the GoM in designing and formulating 10-year medium-term thematic programs for the implementation of the SDGs and Mongolia's long-term development program Vision 2050.

The UNCT continues to coordinate joint communications and advocacy with a stronger focus on cross-cutting themes such as human rights, gender equality, women empowerment, and climate change.

As 2021 was the penultimate year for UNDAF implementation, a UNDAF evaluation was conducted. Respective management responses will be prepared and implemented in the coming years.

OUTCOME 1:

Promoting inclusive growth and sustainable management of natural resources.



14
UN agencies



78.5
million USD



113
interventions



59
partners



UN support in creating enabling legal and policy environment for sustainable development



Legal environment for national development
policy planning and budgeting



- Law on **Genetic Resources**;
- Law on **Seeds and Varieties of Cultivated Plants**
- Revision of the **Law on Plant Protection**



Mainstreaming of SDGs in **policy planning, budgeting, financing, and implementation**



Youth voice was factored into 2022 State Budget on **youth-focused expenditure**



Children raised voice on environmental issues at the **Youth Parliament**



Status of Indicators under Outcome 1



Reduction of GHS emissions from the BAU scenario

11.3%
(target achieved)



Increased share of renewable the national energy mix

4%



Forest land percentage of total area (mln ha)

7.8%



Special protected area percentage of total area

20.6%
(target achieved)



Disaster impact disaster economic loss

108.2
MNT billion



Unemployment rate (disaggregated by gender)

7.3% **7%** (nationally) 6.7%



Inclusive and sustainable industrialization for economic diversification (MVA share in GDP)

9.2%
(on-track)



Proportion of people living below the poverty line

28.4%
27.2% (urban),
30.8% (rural),
38% (children)

Protection from flood risks in Ulaanbaatar:



221.9
ha of land



3419
households



5
physical flood protection facilities

UN Agencies that contribute to the Outcome 1:



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



IAEA



International Labour Organization



UN environment programme



IOM
UN MIGRATION



World Health Organization
Representative Office for Mongolia



UNIDO



UN-HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



UNESCO



unicef
for every child



UNDP



UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



WFP
wfp.org



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs

2.2. COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES, OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

2.2.1.

UNDAF OUTCOME ONE: PROMOTING INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Outcome Statement: By 2021, poor and vulnerable people are more resilient to shocks, and benefit from inclusive growth and a healthy ecosystem

The UN continued to provide technical support for the legal and policy environment and critical institutional framework for inclusive and sustainable development in Mongolia. During this period, 14 UN agencies collectively delivered around US\$ 78.5 million for 113 programme interventions nationwide carried out in cooperation with 59 implementing partners. The target interventions reached 18 provinces and the capital city, Ulaanbaatar.

The UN Mongolia interventions contribute to following SDGs under Outcome 1:



Harvest time. Herders prepare hay for their animals. © FAO Mongolia / Batzaya

Under Outcome 1, the independent evaluation team highlighted that the UN contributed to the legal environment for national development policy planning and budgeting and expanding Mongolia's protected areas.

UN support, amendments to the Law on Animal Genetic Resources were formulated and finally approved in December 2021. The law establishes Mongolia's first legal mechanism for monitoring and utilizing genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. It also regulates benefit-sharing from

utilizing genetic resources through biotechnological research and development. UN technical assistance in the development and approval of amendments to the Law on Seeds and Varieties of Cultivated Plants by Parliament in 2021 significantly contributed to increasing seed production, vegetable production with certified seed and investment, and farmers' income and profits. Support was also provided for revising the Law on Plant Protection by aligning it with the International Convention on Plant Protection and relevant standards.

The UN continued to work with national partners to mainstream SDGs in policy planning, budgeting, financing, and implementation at the national and sub-national levels. In 2021, the methodology for integrated results-based planning was used to draft short and medium-term development planning documents, including the 2022 Annual Socio-Economic Development Programme and seven 10-year targeted development programmes, with UN technical support to establish horizontal and vertical coherence and the integrated nature of the planning documents. The UN supported macroeconomic modelling and microsimulations to analyse different policy scenarios and their economic, environmental, and social implications to support evidence-based policymaking.

Following the UN's provision of technical support, the National Action Plan for Occupational Safety and Health was developed and approved. The UN also supported the issuance of Golomt Bank's first UN Principles for Responsible Banking Report in April 2021.

Further strengthening the policy environment for SDGs, several strategic documents were developed and approved in 2021, including the first draft of the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF), the action plan for implementation of the national programme on environmental health, action plans for nationally determined contribution (NDC) implementation in the road and transportation sectors, the renewal of national building codes (with a particular focus on hospitals, improving public buildings' climate resilience for health and well-being), and a review of the Science and Technology Master Plan.

Youth voices were factored into 2022 state budget preparations for the first time to ensure inclusiveness, with a youth-focused expenditure review and findings discussed at the National Youth Development Forum 2021 as part of the INFF. The Youth Parliament has created space and opportunity for children to speak up about environmental issues through media, social media platforms, and face-to-face meetings with government authorities and Parliament members.

Macro Policies for At-risk Populations



As part of the UN's efforts to support the country in measuring poverty, tracking changes in SDG progress, and monitoring COVID impact, national database and monitoring systems were strengthened. The UNCT utilized the evidence and data established by a number of interventions, including the measurement of nationally defined multidimensional child poverty, Poverty and Inequality During Covid-19 Using Big Data, the second national Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis, Multi Indication Cluster Surveys (MICS) Plus survey results, a study on the current state of plant hygiene, and assessments of Mongolia's food systems.

Output 1.1.2. - People-based climate change adaptation and mitigation approaches tailored to the Mongolian context

The UN supported the government's actions on climate change and contributed to environmental conservation. The state's protected areas were increased to 1,096,604.6 hectares in key biodiversity regions. Furthermore, calculations of emission savings from reduced loss and degradation of saxaul and boreal forests were updated. The GHG emissions benefit is estimated at 3,040,800 tCO₂-eq for 20,000 ha of boreal forests when implementing sustainable forest management plans for 2021-2025, capitalized over fifteen years.

Monitoring, verification and reporting (MRV) networks for the GHG inventory were updated to support data provision guidelines with a base of metadata established, the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) portal of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the MRV helpdesk for data storing. Institutional arrangements were enhanced to coordinate the preparation of ETF reports for agriculture sector.

The capacity to measure emissions, removals, and emission-reduction activities, as well as climate change impacts, vulnerabilities, and adaptation-related activities, were strengthened through technical assistance. To reduce GHG emissions in the waste sector, the UN helped to develop a waste sector action plan.

Climate change-induced disasters cause displacement in the country, resulting in the lack of access to social services and information for the displaced population, who become climate migrants. During the pandemic, the vulnerability of those displaced has been exacerbated, as similarly limited access to pandemic prevention information exposed them to increased risk of infection. In cooperation with Mongolian National Public Radio, the UN supported climate migrants through a daily radio program on COVID-19 and protective measures designed for herders engaged in otor movement.

The living conditions of target rural populations, particularly indoor air quality and thermal comfort (with reduced waste and dust), have been improved.

Livelihood opportunities were created through targeted interventions, including the Cooking, Heating Insulation Products project (CHIP), which reached 266 households (958 people: 476 males and 482 females), and the Household Income Increase Plan, which helped 227 herder groups. The UN also supported the government in organizing high-level dialogues on climate change and the environment, focusing on how to mitigate climate change, reduce air pollution, and foster renewable energy. The UN continued to work with national partners to mainstream SDGs on water security issues in terms of quantity and quality. National capacities have been raised for groundwater measurements and data analysis.



A mother enjoys clean air and quality time with her son thanks to the installation of the CHIP package. ©UNICEF Mongolia

UNICEF Mongolia's CHIP project has brought thermal comfort, reduced waste (dust and ash from burning coal), and improved health for household members. Thanks to the CHIP packages, women could save up to 40 minutes a day for making fire and heating the house: this gave them more time to play with their children or cultivating their interests.

Furthermore, CHIP production creates local green jobs: in 2021, 12 local producers with 101 employees, (59 were women), were involved in the production and supply of the packages. Over 2,000 women participated in the CHIP training (both in person and online) and increased their knowledge, attitudes and practices on the impact of air pollution and how to reduce their exposure to it.

The CHIP project led by UNICEF provided a sustainable solution to address air pollution and at the same time a mean to empower Mongolian women by giving them more free time.

Output 1.1.3. - Protection of ecosystem services that support the livelihoods of the rural poor and vulnerable

A bylaw regulating revenue generation from use fees, expenditure, and reporting on local measures for nature protection and rehabilitation was revised and endorsed by Cabinet on 5 January 2022, after two years of strategic intervention and technical support from the UN. This subsidiary legislation regulates the relations that arise with Natural Resource Use Fee Law implementation throughout the budget cycle. Thirty-nine small grants were extended to local communities and vulnerable populations to implement local projects protecting endangered species and reducing land degradation through appropriate pasture management. The small grants directly benefitted 300 people, and 30 new jobs were created. Pasture capacity maps were developed

with 76 new pasture monitoring sites established in target rural locations in 2021. Individuals and groups of herders use high-resolution remote sensing data to improve their seasonal movement, taking into consideration livestock distribution.

Furthermore, the UN carried out several interventions through the PlanetGOLD programme. The interventions contributed to the elimination of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining by applying a value chain approach—from miners to refiners—to the support provided to develop a legal environment and artisanal and small-scale gold mining policy, the introduction of Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Due Diligence Guidance and CRAFT Code to training for government officials and artisanal miners, and the design and layout of a mercury-free processing plant in Selenge Province.



A herder is tending his flock. © FAO Mongolia / Khangaikhuu

Output 1.1.4. - Resilient communities able to mitigate disaster risks

The UN facilitated the development of a COVID-19 health response strategy and multisectoral plan in alignment with the priorities of the UN regional action plan for response to large-scale community outbreaks of COVID-19 and the government's health sector. The health sector's disaster risk management plan was updated to be costing, multisectoral, and integrated with health security, and the government approved a pandemic preparedness plan. With UN support, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) now has access to high-resolution, real-time satellite imagery during major disasters, catastrophes, and accidents as an authorized user of the International Charter Space and Major Disaster platform. Moreover, the Deputy Prime Minister's Office and specialized border agencies

have conducted border risk assessments at six major border crossings to operate the borders in a safe and regular manner during the COVID-19 pandemic, paving the way to the gradual re-opening of the Mongolian border starting in June 2021.

A digital case management system supported by the UN was established for the first time in Mongolia for social workers to better assist marginalized people, especially people with disabilities whose lives and livelihoods were disrupted by COVID-19. The system enabled Mongolia's 728 social workers to connect and address challenges faced by the most vulnerable through a digital platform now managed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP). As a result, frontline workers improved their services and are currently reaching 40,000 vulnerable people. In 2021, the UN facilitated the safe and orderly return of 518 of the most vulnerable Mongolian migrants



Welcoming a Mongolian, who was supported in his return home during the COVID-19 pandemic. © IOM Mongolia

stranded in 17 countries due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of the returnees benefitted from reintegration services that included strengthening their skills in labor market orientation, job hunting, basic computer skills, and courses tailored for people starting specific small businesses. In the future, the courses will be hosted on the public e-learning platforms Tomyo.mn and Skillup.mn, which are popular with the youth. In parallel, the UN engaged with the MLSP for mainstreaming migration dimensions into the new population development cycle of the Population Development Policy and the Labor Market Model, and with the Ministry of Economy and Development on the Migration Math Model, in addition to mainstreaming migration concerns into the policies captured under Output 2.4.

In Ulaanbaatar, 221.9 hectares are now protected from flood risk, and 3,419 households have improved resilience, along with their 1,719 plots, as a result of UN-supported interventions. These include the construction of five flood protection facilities and capacity building for 1,176 members of 89 newly formed peri-urban community groups empowered to help their peer community members improve their adaptive capacities and eliminate barriers to change at the governance level. Animal feed and veterinary supplies were provided to more than 4,500 people in 1,000 vulnerable herder households in six affected provinces as part of emergency preparedness and early action for the severe winter of 2020-2021.



Flood protection facility construction in the suburb of Ulaanbaatar City. © UN-Habitat Mongolia

In close collaboration with NEMA, 1,052 local government officials in 336 soums were equipped with the skills to use mobile interview techniques with the Kobo Toolbox App. The Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis - II (RIMA-II) tool stated in Output 2.4. is customized to fit Mongolia's livestock production system, specifically taking into account the productive and non-productive assets, food consumption, and access to basic services of herder household. It allows the government to calculate the herder household resilience capacity index, which was calculated as 40.07 (on average), and identify the most vulnerable locations and provinces with the highest scores.

Furthermore, the UN partnered with the government to promote child-centred disaster risk reduction (DRR) to enhance the resilience of children and families to natural shocks by supporting local governments to develop a sample child-focused DRR and winter preparedness plans (WPP). Based on the review of child focus in 56 existing policies and procedures related to DRR and WPP, policy recommendations were provided to the national and sub-national governments, resulting in the revision of four key policy documents on DRR/WPP.

OUTCOME 2:

Improved social protection and equitable social services



9
UN agencies



61.5
million USD



109
programme activities



34
implementing partners

6900
children benefited from WASH facilities in



9
schools

6
kindergartens



Hygiene packages for



948 priority schools



540 dormitories



672 kinder-gartens



876,600

Maternal mortality increased to



94.9



deaths per

100,000

live births



47 out of **68**

due to COVID-19



Under-five mortality rates were sustained at a rate of

14 per **1,000**

live births



Children aged 2-17 couldn't access distance learning during COVID-19:

33% By Dec 2020

42% By June 2021

98% By Sep 2021 school commenced



Trainings on safe school opening for



5,000 staff



Learning loss support for

30,000



children in grades 1 & 2



358,494

children under five nationwide

The screening of



19,708

children detected



192

children with acute malnutrition

Nutrition counselling reached over

46,000



children and mothers

11,000

vulnerable migrants received support

Reached over **200,000**

actual and prospective migrants with migration information



4,950



benefited from Early Childhood Education and early childhood development services through the capacity building of

2,280



3,920



Provision of identification documents for

1,000

of the most vulnerable migrants

UN Agencies that contribute to the Outcome 2:





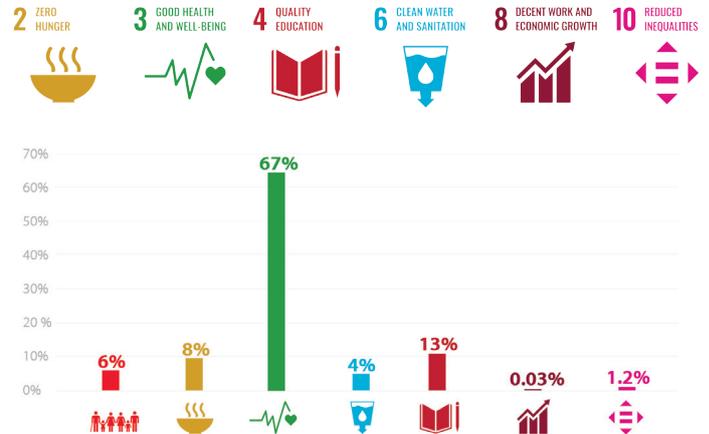
2.2.2.

UNDAF OUTCOME TWO: ENHANCING SOCIAL PROTECTION AND UTILIZATION OF QUALITY AND EQUITABLE SOCIAL SERVICES

Outcome Statement: By 2021, the poor and vulnerable population benefit from better social protection and can increasingly utilize quality and equitable basic social services, with a special focus on water, sanitation, and hygiene.

The UN continued to work on strengthening the provision of quality and equitable social services, including health, nutrition, education, WASH, and social protection, building on learning from COVID-19. Nine UN agencies collectively mobilized US\$ 61.5 million for 109 programme activities carried out in cooperation with 34 implementing partners across all provinces and the capital city, Ulaanbaatar.

The UN Mongolia interventions contribute to following SDGs under Outcome 2:



Children in Bayankhongor school enjoy improved WASH facilities. © UNICEF Mongolia

Output 2.1. – Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services are improved in selected peri-urban areas and soums through equitable access to technology, water, and sanitation facilities; supported by a more enabling environment, evidence-based knowledge, and social awareness.

Although no major progress is observed in access to basic drinking water services (85 percent), 74% of the MICS Plus survey respondents reported frequent hand washing and sanitizing practices.

Through the risk management-based water safety planning (WSP) and the national norms and requirements of WASH in kindergartens, schools, and dormitories supported by the UN, local government leaders can preserve the commitment to sanitation under climate change resilience components. Nearly 100 soums have approved WSPs with intuitively set monitoring mechanisms via capacity building and external audits. Over 6,900 children in nine schools (including dormitories) and six kindergartens have access to climate-resilient

WASH facilities (e.g., indoor toilets, showers, and handwashing facilities with water and energy-efficient technologies).

The community-level WASH models created by the UN are coupled with the advocacy indicator buy-in by the national government, for example, increased funding from the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) for the construction and rehabilitation of indoor WASH facilities nationwide in 2021. Further advocacy focuses on sustainable financing mechanisms that consider operations and maintenance costs and combine national, local, and other sources.

The continued implications of COVID-19 have also put pressure on WASH programming, and additional efforts were put into hygiene promotion. In line with increased infection prevention control, the capacity of secondary and tertiary level hospitals was strengthened by supplying hand hygiene inspection devices for training and daily monitoring purposes.

Critical hygiene and prevention supplies, including hand sanitiser and hygiene packages for isolation rooms in educational settings, were supplied to 948 priority schools, 540 dormitories, and 672 kindergartens, reaching 876,600 children. Local procurement and delivery processes were managed through the MoES in close collaboration with the Mongolian Red Cross Society.



A nurse helping a mother to breastfeed her new-born baby. © WHO Mongolia

Output 2.2. - The health system is strengthened to increase the health of the poor and vulnerable in urban/peri-urban/rural areas, ensure equitable access to quality health care, and promote evidence-based policies and decision-making, in partnership with national institutions.

The UN played a remarkable role in COVID-19 vaccine procurement and vaccination campaigns, reaching 43 percent of the population with three doses by the end of 2021. The UN also supported the expansion of cold-chain capacities at the central and peripheral levels by constructing brand-new vaccine stores and replacing outdated vaccine refrigerators and freezers. Strategies to achieve herd immunity, preceded by massive vaccination and communication campaigns and extensive capacity-building efforts, resulted in turbulent but increasingly stable health outcomes.

Under-five mortality rates were sustained at a rate of 14 per 1,000 live births. Unfortunately, the maternal mortality ratio has increased to 94.9 deaths per 100,000 live births, which has pushed back Mongolia's achievements in reducing maternal mortality by more than a decade (out of 68 maternal deaths recorded, 47 are due to COVID-19). The reduction in the percentage of women who underwent antenatal care (ANC) visits at least six times during pregnancy was caused by the measures taken to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, as pregnant women were encouraged not to come to crowded clinics for check-ups and use telephone calls for ANC contact, which was not counted as an ANC check-up. The adolescent birth rate has been declining over the past years, as seen in the graph below.

Essential COVID-related and non-COVID-related service delivery reached the community through telemedicine and mobile services and technologies at the primary healthcare level, especially during periods of restricted movement. Such innovation can be applied to other healthcare services and programmes during and beyond COVID-19.

Effective delivery of services and timely monitoring of system performance and health outcomes were

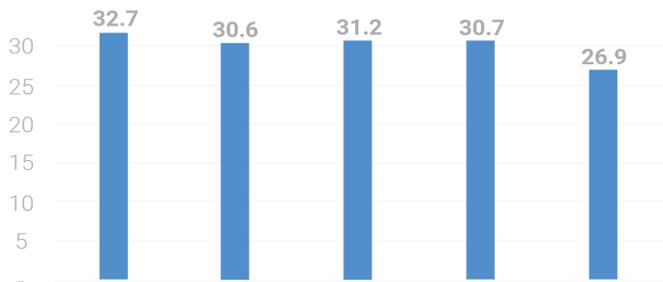


Figure 2.2.1: Adolescent birth rate per 1,000 women aged 15-19 by year, MoH

achieved by strengthening data management systems, including upgrading H-Info 3.0 and the child mortality dashboard. Now with additional functions, the web-based tool enabled care-seekers (individuals) and service providers (hospitals) to receive a COVID treatment pack, with services paid for by the Health Insurance Fund. As part of healthcare financing reforms supporting performance-based service delivery at the primary health care (PHC) level, in 2022, the soum health centre /family health centre budget per capita has doubled compared to 2021. The Ministry of Health (MoH) and the GoM can deliver the most up to date, evidence-based, and informed advice to the population of Mongolia across all levels of the health system as a result of ongoing review, updates, and strengthening of care pathways across the health system with the support of the UN. These include approval of the National Maternal, Child and Reproductive Health Action Plan (2022-2024)³, the identification of a core set of facility-level essential services related to maternal and child health, non-communicable diseases, and communicable diseases to be maintained during a pandemic.

Output 2.3. - Higher quality basic education is supported, with greater access to early childhood development and lifelong education in selected peri-urban areas and soums

Capacity development is the major UN focus of the education component. In SDG 4, localization includes a national SDG 4 benchmarking aligned with the education sector master plan, policies, and programmes at all levels of the education system. The UN supported an online learning platform for pre-primary, primary, and secondary education. The UN also supported interactive health education content, including comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in the Mongolian, Kazakh, and Tuva languages. It was made available online and accessible to users with hearing impairment. The UN supported a review of the information and communications technologies (ICTs) in education policies to adopt the country's first ICT in education master plan under the leadership of the MoES. Nevertheless, 33% of children aged 2-17 did not have access to distance learning at the end of 2020, dropping to 42% by June 2021, with primary enrolment of 98% as school commenced.

As a result of the UN's continued advocacy and technical support, the government prioritized CSE, life skills education and youth-friendly health services linkages, which contributed to youth employability, civic participation in youth sexual reproductive health and gender equality outcomes. Consequently, health education is institutionalized as a standalone subject, including CSE as one of its key topics in the curriculum and teaching guides. The UN also supported the government in translating and adapting 50 factual and age-appropriate videos for children up to 14 years of age into the Mongolian language. These child-friendly videos are accessible via <https://medle.mn> as an online resource for the e-learning platform run by the MoES.

³The Ministry of Health. (9 Dec 2021). Approval of action plan for maternal, child and reproductive health. Retrieved from <https://moh.gov.mn/uploads/files/e25ebef-7cbe51d7481c025197533dfbdbc231682.pdf>

In collaboration with other partners, the UN supported the MoES in ensuring the nationwide implementation of a child protection policy in kindergarten, guidelines on child development and school readiness monitoring, and a Nurturing Care Framework for parents in the target areas to ensure

cross-sectoral coordination. A total of 4,950 children, including those in 24-hour kindergartens, benefited from better quality early childhood education and early childhood development services through the capacity building of 2,280 teachers, 3,920 parents, and improved kindergarten environments.



Some herder children in remote areas received radios for audio classes to keep up with learning loss during the school closures due to COVID-19 pandemic. © UNICEF Mongolia

COVID-19 urged the need to pay extra attention to children's physical and mental well-being, particularly adolescents. In this regard, the UN supported the government in strengthening adolescent health services by developing the country's first curriculum on post-graduate training for adolescent medicine physicians and a short module for online, on-the-job training for adolescent medicine physicians and school doctors, as well as a policy document on supporting mental health and psychosocial support in school settings. Through volunteer engagement, public awareness campaigns on mental health and the health impacts of air pollution were carried out successfully, reaching 90,000 people.

As a result of successful advocacy and cross-sectoral collaboration, the UN provided comprehensive support for school and kindergarten reopening. Guidance and protocols for safe school reopening were developed, and training was organized for more than 5,000 school and kindergarten staff. To ensure the continuity of education and reduce learning loss, 30,000 children in grades 1 and 2 were supported with learning materials during school closures.

Output 2.4. - An efficient and effective social protection system is facilitated for all, and substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

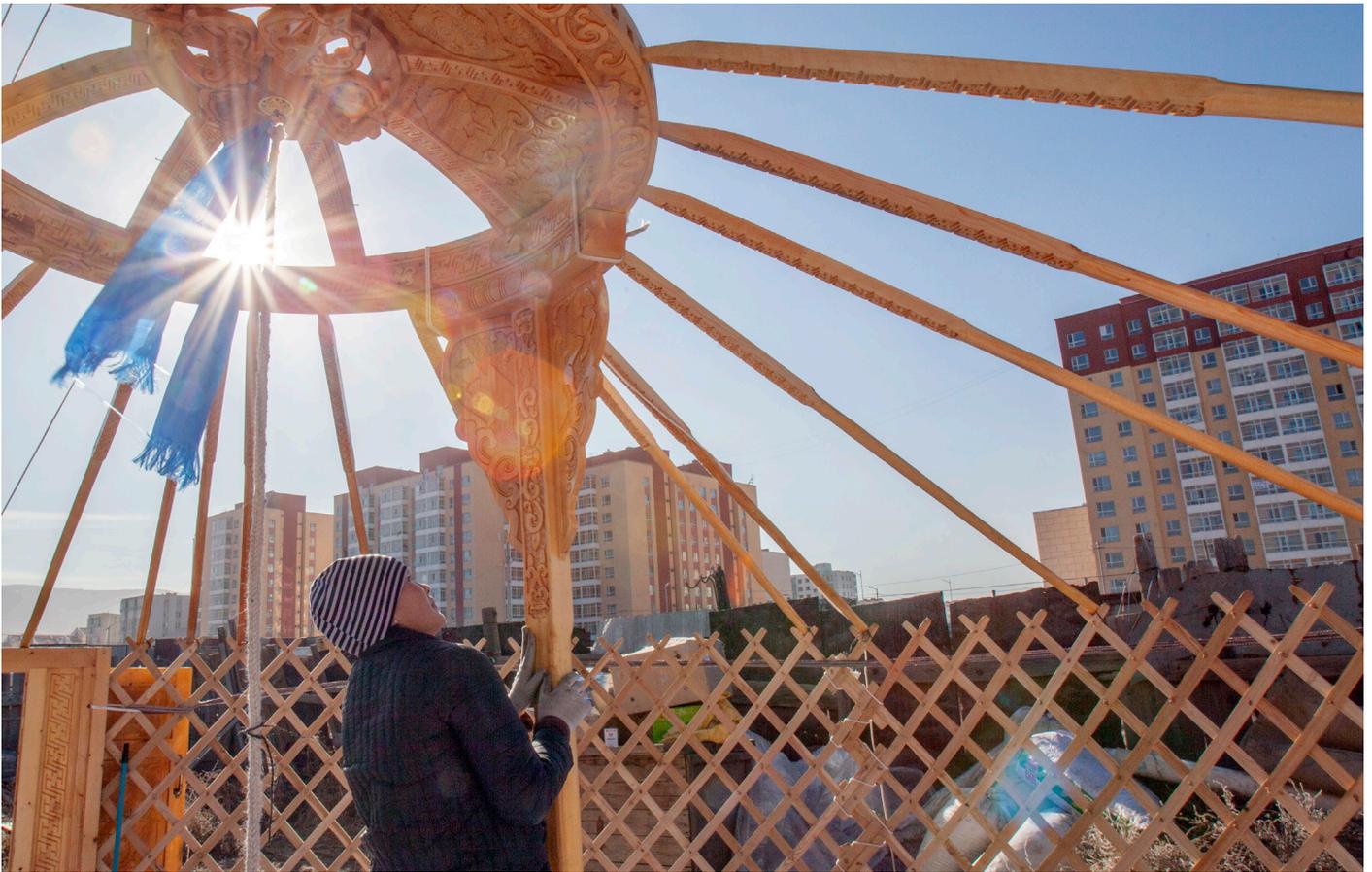
The first nationwide, more holistic social protection programme was developed for herders, with the main objectives of improving herders' life skills and updating their knowledge on livestock production and the benefits of social insurance programmes.⁴

As a result of the UN's support, herders' social and health insurance coverage increased by 10 percent in the five target soums in Zavkhan Province, with the implication of the national coverage rate increasing by five percent⁵ during the same period. The COVID-19 pandemic has made the government and public better understand the importance of social protection programmes. The government partially subsidized mandatory and voluntary contributions to social insurance from April 2020 until the end of 2021, and also implemented the Law on Repayment of Pension Insurance Premiums of Herders and Self-employed Persons in 2020-2021.⁶

⁴Rolling Out an Integrated Approach to the SDG Financing in Mongolia. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://jointsdgfund.org/where-we-work/mongolia>

⁵The General Agency for Social Insurance of Mongolia. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.ndaatgal.mn/v1/lst>.

⁶Repayment of Pension Insurance Premiums of Herders and Self-employed Persons. (1 Jan 2020). This law provides a single opportunity to reimburse pension contributions that were not paid from 1995-2020.



A family is building up a ger in the suburb of Ulaanbaatar city. © IOM Mongolia / U. Odbayar

Mongolia mainstreamed the notion of pastoral community resilience into relevant reforms of national policies on shock-responsive social protection, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk assessment (drought and dzud) using the RIMA-II government's efforts to define the targeted population in need of shock-responsive assistance.

The UN supported the GoM on evidence generation to improve the social protection system's effectiveness (coverage and adequacy), efficiency, and ensured sustainability. Support was also provided to include options to extend coverage to the most vulnerable, including herders and those affected by climate change, and develop a social protection financing strategy through the Study on Herders' Behaviour towards Social and Health Insurance and Social Protection Diagnostic Review and Financing Strategy.⁷

Extensive advocacy at the national and sub-national levels results in recognition of internal migrants as a structurally marginalized vulnerable group. As a result, migration concerns and data are mainstreamed into laws and policies, including the development of reverse (urban-to-rural) migration policies.

The commitment to enhancing the capacities of civil servants to work with migrants and the integration of arriving migrants in Ulaanbaatar have increased. Improved psychosocial, employment, and documentation services were delivered to over 11,000 vulnerable migrants. Over 200,000 actual and prospective migrants benefitted from better information via MigNet, a UN-supported network of local NGOs in Ulaanbaatar and 11 provinces.

Additionally, in collaboration with the General Authority for State Registration, the UN facilitated the provision of identification documents for 1,000 of the most vulnerable migrants and supported the digitalization of residency registration services.

Residency registration is one of the key bottlenecks for efficient and effective delivery of social welfare and protection services, as many vulnerable target groups—including migrants—are unregistered. The national information campaign *Should I Stay or Go? Research* It was organized to encourage registration and enhance access to public services, reaching over two million people. The campaign also raised awareness of informed migration decisions and the option of reverse migration.

⁷ UN Joint Programme in Mongolia. (19 October 2021). Social Protection Diagnostic Review and Financing Strategy Study for Mongolia. Retrieved from https://www.ilo.org/beijing/information-resources/public-information/press-releases/WCMS_824673/lang-en/index.htm.

Output 2.5. – Improved food and nutrition security: support healthy food/diet environment, reduce the burden of malnutrition, strengthen food and nutrition surveillance system and services

The UN General Assembly designated 2021 the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables (IYFV). In collaboration with 15 organizations, IYFV was marked throughout the year as a unique opportunity to raise awareness of the important role of fruits and vegetables in human nutrition, food security, health, and achieving SDGs.

The UN supported the Parliamentary Dialogue on a Sustainable Food System in Mongolia to support the government in building sustainable agri-food systems through a strategic, integrated, and inclusive approach across sectors, including the participation of development partners, producers, researchers, and financial institutions.

With the support of the UN, Vitamin A supplementation in Mongolia reached 358,494 children under five nationwide. The screening of 19,708 children detected 192 children with acute malnutrition, who were hospitalized for life-saving treatment, and nutrition counselling reached over 46,000 children and mothers. Evidence generation studies of children and adolescents during the COVID-19 pandemic revealed that 48 percent of children under five and 42 percent of adolescents aged 10-19 reported weight change, of which 86 percent was weight gain. In addition, the MICS Plus

survey revealed that 22 percent of respondents experienced food insecurity, mainly residing in Ulaanbaatar.

Important evidence generation led an important evidence generation led the government to amend the Advertisement Law (currently under discussion), as the prevalence of childhood overweight in Mongolia has risen very rapidly in the last decade, affecting 10.5 percent of children aged under five years and 17.6 percent of children aged 5-19 years.

Furthermore, standardization of school canteens, dormitories, and kindergarten kitchens, including meal recipes, are steps being taken by the UN to improve the school nutrition environment.

The UN further supported the government in building national technical capacity, including setting laboratory analytical method standards for fortified flour, iodized salt, and premix, strengthening the validity of food laboratory results. The UN-supported National E-agriculture Strategy will lead to integrating ICT in the country's agricultural sector to boost productivity, improve farmers' incomes, and expand employment opportunities.

To assess the impacts of climate change on nutrition and food security in Mongolia, the UN initiated the country's first-ever assessment in collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute, which will further inform the UN's work on climate-resilient food security and nutrition programming.



A herder woman prepares dairy products at home. © FAO Mongolia / Batzaya

OUTCOME 3:

Fostering voice and strengthening accountability in Mongolia



8
UN agencies



5.2
million USD
in 2021



24
million USD
since 2017



32
implementing
partners

89%



of the UPR recommendations
implemented.



State budget increase on GBV
issues, totalling
MNT 6.2 billion



between 2017 and 2020.

31

OSSCs and shelters provided
lifesaving services to

15,641

GBV survivors of all ages
between 2017 and 2021.



SOP for child protection
services supported

146,777

children infected with COVID-19



GBV response in 2020:
Care services for

3,799

survivors at OSSCs

9,192

child protection cases



Nationwide campaign
against human trafficking:

3

potential victims of trafficking



to self-report to the police,
identified

12 missing
children



Women's Leadership Network
support aspiring women leaders

301

from Ulaanbaatar and

268

from rural areas

Civil Service Council
nullified over

1,100

civil service appointments
recruited within COVID-19 law.



331

youth councils and

36

YDC nationwide offer
space for youth engagement for

152,633

young people since 2017



Youth Voluntarism:



1,114

young volunteers for
COVID-19 response in
child protection services

400 young volunteers
reached

90,000

with mental health and
self-care messages



1,277 young volunteers
reach

22,925

people within clean air and
WASH initiatives



UN Agencies that contribute to the
Outcome 3



2.2.3.

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

The UN Mongolia interventions contribute to following SDGs under Outcome 3:



Output 3.1. Normative protection mechanisms are improved by revising laws in line with international standards, and monitoring mechanisms are established or strengthened to protect human rights, especially of the poor and marginalized.

As of 2021, 89% of the UPR recommendations have been fully (56/150 recommendations, or 37%) or partially implemented (77/150 recommendations, or 51%) with two noted recommendations. The implementation of CEDAW recommendations is being prepared and will be available to present at the CEDAW session in 2022.

The UN continued to support strengthening survivor protection and perpetrator accountability mechanisms for cases of gender-based violence (GBV). Guidance for the child protection system, human trafficking prevention and response, and ending violence against children at home, in

standard operating procedures (SOP), guidelines, and codes to guide implementation across sectors and relevant surveys and assessments.

With these legal frameworks in place, coupled with extensive advocacy work by the UN and civil society organizations, government commitment to GBV prevention and response improved, as evidenced by the significant increase in state and local budget spending on GBV issues, totalling MNT 6.2 billion between 2017 and 2020. In addition, the UN supported revising the SOP on operations and funding multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) in 2021. This intervention will ensure the budget allocation to 748 MDTs nationwide, which contributes to improving the quality of multi-sectoral service provision to the survivors of GBV through one-stop service centres (OSSC) and shelters.

As a result of the strong leadership and advocacy of the UN and other stakeholders, OSSCs and shelters were included in essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns and maintained the provision of services to GBV and domestic violence survivors. Thirty-one OSSCs and shelters function nationwide, and they provided essential and lifesaving services to 15,641 GBV survivors of all ages between 2017 and 2021. The UN further supported GBV prevention and response mechanisms through capacity building and sensitization interventions, including the establishment of a GBV Training Hall at the National Committee on Gender Equality and the Training and Research Center of the Family, Child and Youth Development Agency, and the extensive training of duty-bearers on the identification of and service provision to victims of trafficking, and providing services to vulnerable groups and psychological support to survivors.

Support for Legislative Reforms					
	Law on the Promotion of Gender Equality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Law to combat Domestic Violence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Child Righth Law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Child Protection Law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Criminal Code of Mongolia (Section pertaining to domestic violence)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Infringement Law (Section pertaining to domestic violence)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Labour law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Law on Admininstrative & Territorial Units and their Governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Technical and/or financial support for revision of Law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Advocacy work	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Technical and/or financial support for revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Monitoring and evaluation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

schools, and online are now in line with international standards and best practices. Aside from major laws such as the Labour Law, Law to Combat Domestic Violence, and the Child Protection Law, the UN provided technical and financial support to develop

The UN also initiated the development of the comprehensive, community-based Social and Behaviour Change Communications Model, guided by international best practices and methodologies

and localized for the Mongolian context, to address the social norms and root causes of GBV. However, these initiatives' impacts on GBV prevention and response cannot yet be measured as a second national GBV survey will not be conducted within the UNDAF reporting period.

Furthermore, the UN supported the development and approval of standards for providing social work services to improve the access and quality of child protection services. The SOP for child protection services during the pandemic was developed with UN support and approved. Different groups of children, including 146,777 children infected with COVID-19 and 2,646 children temporarily placed in protection shelters, benefited from the SOP, ensuring the continuity of child protection services during the pandemic. In addition, the UN supported the nationwide campaign against human trafficking Dream Umbrella. The campaign assisted three potential victims of trafficking to self-report to the police, identified 12 missing children, assisted them in reuniting with their families, and provided assistance in the repatriation of seven Mongolian women and three foreign women who were victims of human trafficking, including reintegration support upon their return.

As a result of UN technical support and facilitation, tripartite debate, and joint work for almost a decade, amendments to the Labour Law were approved in July 2021. The new legislation significantly improves the legal framework governing employment relations and working conditions and is better aligned with international labour standards (ILS). It broadens the legislative scope, prohibits all types of forced

and child labour, prevents and eliminates all types of harassment and violence in the workplace, and more effectively regulates newly emerging labour relations. The UN also supported the tripartite consultation and approval of the Law on Labour Migration in December 2021, more aligned with ILS, and used the International Labour Organization's Principles and Operating Guidelines on Fair Recruitment.

The UN provided support in addressing violence and harassment in the workplace, including sexual harassment. For instance, the UN supported a situational analysis and legal gap analysis on harassment and violence in the world of work, and a survey on the knowledge, attitudes, and prevalence of sexual harassment in the workplace among civil servants. Based on the survey results, the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia was able to conduct the first open- and closed-door meetings with senior hiring managers on preventive measures and concerted actions for perpetrator accountability. In addition, the UN supported action plan development to ensure gender equality in the civil service in 2021-2023, which was approved by the Civil Service Council (CSC).

With UN support, the Charter of the Public Oversight Council was approved by the CSC in September 2021 and formally recognized by the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs. Consequently, the CSC adopted a resolution at the year's end that nullified over 1,100 civil service appointments made under the pretext of the April 2020 Law on Prevention, Combating, and Reducing the Social and Economic Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19 Law).⁸



Mrs. Reem Alsaalem, UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women visited Mongolia in December 2021. © UNFPA / B.Khash-Erdene

⁸ Law on Prevention, Combating, and Reducing the Social and Economic Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic. (29 April 2020). Retrieved from <https://www.legalinfo.mn/law/details/15312?lawid=15312>

Output 3.2. Representation of women and young people (up to 34 years) at the decision-making level (members of parliament, ministers, state secretaries, local governors, and local representatives) is increased

The percentage of women in local councils (Citizens' Representative Khurals) remained at 28% after the 2020 elections, below the regional average of 33%. To improve the participation and representation of women and young people in decision-making processes, UN-supported councils used mechanisms for engaging women, youth, and vulnerable groups. The mechanisms include the updated Model Meeting Procedures of the Khural, which institutionalizes the right of any citizen—including government and non-government entities and businesses—to propose issues for khural discussion and mandates that all meeting minutes and related documents be made available to the public.

The UN supported and implemented the Women's Leadership Programme (WLP), which comprises three distinct subprograms: coaching, mentorship, and soft skills training. The Civil Service Council of Mongolia approved WLP integration in civil service in 2021. The landmark decision enables public organizations to formally adopt the program in annual human resources training and development plans. The results of the WLP were manifested by the increased applications by program participants to higher positions and eventual promotion. Furthermore, the UN supported the launch of the Women's Leadership Network (WLN), the foundation for a professional support system for aspiring women leaders interested in running for the 2024 elections. To date, the WLN has been launched in six key locations by current and aspiring women leaders from diverse political affiliations, including 301 from Ulaanbaatar and 268 from rural areas. Following the WLN launch in October 2021, ongoing capacity building to increase political awareness, leadership, and knowledge is in place.



Human Rights Due Diligence training for professional associations and civil society organizations.

The UN and the GoM also jointly facilitated participatory platforms for young people to congregate, discuss, propose, organize, and advocate on key priorities to policy and decision-makers. The participatory platforms consist of the National Council on Youth Development and its 331 sub-national youth councils in 21 provinces,

301 soums, and eight districts of Ulaanbaatar. These councils provide young people with a venue and opportunity to discuss and address their challenges. The government's commitment to youth empowerment has increased, including a provincial budget allocation of MNT 420 million for youth development nationwide.

Output 3.3. Youth networks and organizations are strengthened and are effectively participating in expressing the youth's voices as equal partners

Youth networks have been cultivated in 36 youth development centres (YDCs) established nationwide by 2021. The UN supported the establishment of 20 of these 36 YDCs, advocated for state budget allocation for staffing the centres, and continued to provide support for YDC activities. YDCs offer a safe environment to socialize and engage with others and 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. YDCs have reached 152,633 young people since 2017, including marginalized groups such as youth with disabilities, unemployed youth, and young mothers. The youth empowerment efforts of 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. This toolkit teaches duty-bearers to encourage the empowerment of children and youth in their families and communities and mitigate the risks of child labour and the trafficking of children and young people for labour or sexual exploitation.

The first meeting of the National Council on Youth Development, chaired by the Prime Minister, was held in 2021, and youth councils' functions at all levels were discussed during the meeting. As a result of the advocacy of the UN, all ministries established youth working groups to support youth development. In addition, the UN organized the 7th National Youth

Development Forum with the MLSP, which enrolled delegates from relevant ministries, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and youth representatives.

To support the actions of informed and proactive young voters and strengthen the impact of youth voices, the UN worked with General Election Commission and MLSP to develop two youth voter education training curriculums with a gender focus. The two curriculums will be utilized in training nationwide in 2022.

Even in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, youth extensively and strategically engaged in the UN's development and humanitarian interventions. Since the pandemic, 1,114 young volunteers supported COVID-19 response in child protection services and raised awareness of COVID-19 prevention. In addition, the UN supported volunteer engagement initiatives implemented by the Authority of Family, Child and Youth Development to organize mental health and child protection campaigns. A total of 400 young volunteers were directly involved in the From Awareness to Action: Let's Keep Our Mind Healthy virtual campaign and reached 90,000 people through mental health promotion messages and activities and by creating self-care support groups in their communities. The UN also provided support to expand youth engagement in other important issues, such as clean air initiatives, WASH in schools, and menstrual health and hygiene. These activities included 1,277 young volunteers to reach 22,925 people through direct interventions, social media, and Youth Network for Climate Change and Clean Air.



Decent Work for Youth Network was established with UN support, comprising various government and non-government organizations, to promote rights at work among young men and women. With the approval of new Labour Law amendments, the network actively advocated for youth rights at work and the implementation of the revised law.

Macroeconomic Response and Multilateral Collaboration


Gender sensitive
impact assessments




Human impact needs
assessment for
at-risk populations




Labour market impact
assessment



2.2.4. KEY CHALLENGES FACED IN 2021

- The COVID-19 pandemic and its restrictions, including the prohibition and limitation of public events, gatherings, and domestic travel, continued to hinder the organization of events, including advocacy and capacity-building activities and in-person monitoring and evaluation.
- COVID pressure added to the complexity of the emergency, combined with changes in the

government and its structure, putting pressure on the timeliness and effectiveness of UNCT the programme.

- Furthermore, the pandemic and the restrictive measures put in place exacerbated existing socio-economic issues, such as GBV, violence against children (VAC), unemployment, and poverty, among others.



A herder woman leading the camel caravan on the move. © UNRCO Mongolia /D. Soyolmaa

2.3. SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

In 2021, the UN supported the Parliament of Mongolia in establishing the MCSD. The MCSD was announced during the High-Level National Forum on SDGs on 4 October 2021, with the Speaker of Parliament and the Prime Minister. The MCSD will include selected bilateral and multilateral development partners, the GoM, and the private sector. The MCSD's main objective is to support SDG implementation in the country, including mainstreaming SDGs in the national development planning, financing, and monitoring frameworks.

Partnerships for collective COVID-19 response

Coordination and planning among key partners within the UN and beyond during the COVID-19 pandemic are essential as the pandemic continues to disrupt the globe, including Mongolia. For example, World Health organization (WHO) technical support and leadership ensured the planning and coordination mechanism for COVID-19 vaccine deployment preparedness. The National Coordinating Committee was established and chaired by the Minister of Health and composed of members representing the MoH, National Center for Communicable Diseases, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNICEF, the World Bank (WB), and the WHO. The committee member's main roles were to provide general supervision and management to implement plans and guidelines for activities and to collaborate with national and international donor organizations on COVID-19 vaccination implementation.

Moreover, the Intra-Action Review of COVID-19 response, which identifies best practices and key challenges, and suggests opportunities for future improvement, was conducted at the national level under the leadership of the Deputy Prime Minister with technical support from WHO and UN agencies. In terms of engaging the private sector, UNFPA successfully partnered with the largest mining conglomerate operating in Mongolia, Oyu Tolgoi LLC and obtained funding to establish four fully-equipped Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) laboratories, provide personal protective equipment to front-liners working in prevention and response to COVID-19, and strengthen the capacity of laboratory staff on utilization of PCR technologies. Under the leadership of the NEMA, IOM, UNICEF, and WHO supported the national Wash Hands and Wear a Mask campaign to strengthen the government's efforts to encourage pandemic prevention among

the public, which reached more than 1.7 million.

Moreover, IOM, the UN Resident Coordinator Office (UNRCO), UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, WHO, FAO, SDC, and the Mongolian Red Cross Society partnered with the government to organize the Support and Thank campaign to fight the stigma associated with COVID-19 infected persons and first contacts, and to support the continuous efforts of frontline workers, including doctors, police, etc.

Designing an integrated financing strategy by leveraging strategic partnerships

Given the ambitious SDG-aligned national development agenda to be achieved by 2030, a significant amount of additional financing will be required. To close this financing gap, it is imperative to increase the mobilization of additional financial resources from domestic and international markets; strengthen the planning, budgeting, and financing process; and ensure a better alignment of existing financing with the SDGs. To address the need for additional financing, the UN Joint Programme on Rolling Out an Integrated Approach to SDG Financing in Mongolia made significant progress in 2021 by developing the first draft of the INFF. The draft was developed with UNDP technical support, involving a dynamic range of partners, including the European Union, WB, International Monetary Fund, Asian Development Bank, Ministry of Finance, Bank of Mongolia, Financial Regulatory Commission, and the UN. The draft INFF was presented during the Mongolian Sustainable Financing Forum by the Ministry of Finance. The INFF determines integrated and multilateral strategic steps to overcome financing challenges for implementing the Five-Year Development Guidelines for 2021-2025, which reflect national sustainable development priorities, and to improve the mid-term development plan's monitoring, reporting, governance, and coordination mechanisms.

The INFF showcased effective inter-agency collaboration and coordination, especially in reaching the most marginalized communities. As part of the INFF, UNICEF prepared a child-focused social sector expenditure review to generate evidence-based information that will promote greater visibility of children's issues in government budgeting processes and strengthen the effectiveness of public expenditure on children. An expenditure

review at the Ministry of Education and Science is part of another UNDP project. Building on this work, a manual for special-purpose transfer budgeting is being developed with UN support. Lastly, a UN-supported, youth-focused expenditure review was conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

Engaging international financial institutions

The UNCT in Mongolia, particularly FAO, UNICEF, and United Nations Industrial Development Organizations (UNIDO), has accelerated the country's engagement with International Financial Institutions, leveraging the established close relationship between the UNCT, UNRCO, and IFI country representatives through the country's development partner community. As a non-resident agency in Mongolia, UNIDO was invited by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry to provide technical assistance under the WB's International Development Association-funded Mongolia Export Development Project (EDP).

Assistance was required for Component 3, focusing on strengthening certification services to enhance the export competitiveness of small and medium agribusinesses. The overall objective of the EDP is to support Mongolian small and medium-sized enterprises in non-mining sectors to strengthen their export capabilities and expand access to export markets through improved compliance with market requirements. This entails developing food and non-food certification services to meet domestic and foreign consumer standards. The Sustainable Food Systems Division of the Agribusiness Department at UNIDO is leading overall EDP project implementation, monitoring, and evaluation in close cooperation

with other departments and divisions of UNIDO headquarters and the regional office in China.

Public-private partnerships

Strong public-private partnerships (PPPs) are critical for sustained development at all levels of society and vital to bridging the SDG financing gap.

The UN, led by UNDP, has actively played the role of convener and broker in Mongolia to establish PPPs in various sectors, including the cashmere industry.

The Mongolian Sustainable Cashmere Platform brought together the government, private sector (including international fashion brands), civil society organizations (CSOs), and herder communities in 2021, demonstrating UNDP's ability to provide space for different interests in Mongolia to reach consensus on challenging issues. The participating stakeholders in the umbrella mechanism are Cashmere Holding LLC, Khanbogd Cashmere, Monital Cashmere LLC, Schneider Electric Mongolia LLC, Goyol Cashmere, Khatant International LLC, the Mongolian Wool and Cashmere Association, Mongolian National Federation of Pasture User Groups, and Sustainable Fibre Alliance. UNICEF continued to expand business engagements in Mongolia by actively promoting family-friendly policies among the biggest companies operating in the country. Progress in improving an enabling environment for working families to raise happy and healthy children was created through Parliament's adoption of amendments to the Labour Law, introducing gender-progressive provisions for family-friendly policies.



A herder woman participated in the Sustainable Cashmere Platform. © UNDP Mongolia

Digitalization, innovation and technology

The UN is working closely with the newly established Ministry of Digital Development and Communications to implement Mongolia's Digital Nation Strategy, including working with private sector partners and international financial institutions. The UN in Mongolia, including UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, and International Telecommunication Union, is working in coordination with the GoM, WB, and

other development partners in the areas of digital literacy, cybersecurity, COVID-19 response, and health, with a special focus on youth engagement and leadership. In particular, digital innovations and technologies were leveraged to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by the UN in Mongolia, with a focus on supporting the most marginalized populations.



Youth spoke up and raised their voice at the Digital Nation forum. © Ministry of Digital Development and Communications of Mongolia

For instance, UNDP helped the government effectively address social issues during the pandemic by supporting the establishment of Mongolia's first digital case management system for social workers to better assist marginalized people, as outlined in Output 1.1.4.

A partnership agreement between UNFPA and Unitel LLC, a major Mongolian telecommunications company, was established to support the marketing and National Center for Maternal and Child Health hotline functions of UNFPA's Mandukhai chatbot project. Unitel's partnership and in-kind contribution make the sexual and reproductive health information and referral service available to all youth and

adolescents nationwide.

UNICEF, UNESCO, and UNFPA have jointly implemented an initiative supporting digital learning to maintain educational services during school and kindergarten closures due to COVID-19. Through the initiative, a first-of-its-kind digital learning solution was introduced to pre-primary, primary, and secondary education in Mongolia. In addition, UNICEF initiated the development of audio content to respond to the needs of herder children and those without access to TV and internet. More than 600,000 children accessed both interactive and audio content.

Case Study: Support for M-Health Technology, WHO and partners

The Expanding use of mobile health technology in PHC towards universal health coverage in Mongolia initiative, or M-Health, is now being implemented in Mongolia's 21 provinces and nine districts in Ulaanbaatar. The initiative started at 22 PHC centres in 2016 and expanded to 302 PHCs (56% of all PHCs) within five years because of national and local government commitment.

Guided by the Leave No One Behind principle, strategies were designed to ensure the delivery of people-centred integrated PHC services, especially reaching out to disadvantaged groups and people living in Mongolia's remote and peri-urban areas.

Good partnerships and strong multi-sectoral relationships with various stakeholders, including the MoH, local governors, province and district health and administrative bodies, academic institutions, NGOs, and private entities, have contributed to delivering more people-centred integrated PHC services. The initiative was supported by WHO and other international partners, such as the Korea Foundation for International Healthcare, Community Chest of Korea, the European Union, the Embassy of Australia to Mongolia, and Oyu Tolgoi LLC.

2.4. RESULTS OF THE UN WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER: UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

As part of the UN reform agenda, the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator (RC) system in Mongolia has been fully functional since June 2021 to support the UNCT.

As a result of proactive advocacy of the UN RC on the whole of government and society approaches, the GoM renewed the NCSD, chaired by the Prime Minister, as the highest-level coordination body for sustainable development within the government.

The NCSD extended its membership to the UN RC system, which provides an advantage for the UN to strategically engage with the government for sustainable and inclusive development. Long waited nationalized SDG indicators and targets were discussed and supported by the NCSD and submitted to Parliament for approval. In addition, the first high-level SDG forum was organized by the GoM and UN, emphasizing the concerted and dedicated joint efforts for a decade of sustainable development action.

Furthermore, the Parliament of Mongolia established the MCSD, inviting key stakeholders to participate, including the private sector, CSOs, academia, and development partners. The multi-stakeholder platform led by Parliament is expected to play a crucial role in prioritizing and coordinating

the integrated and coherent policy formulation, financing, and results monitoring of sustainable development in Mongolia.

The UN's provided coordinated support to the GoM in designing and formulating the 10-year thematic programs to implement the SDGs and Vision 2050, and UN agencies provided technical support in their mandated areas.

The UNCT in Mongolia, under the leadership of the UN RC, was one of the 14 countries involved in the UN Development Coordination Office's global SDG Leadership Lab initiative to test approaches to developing new leadership capabilities, build understanding and skills in the practical applications of systems thinking, innovation, and transformative leadership.

Under the leadership of the UN RC, the UNCT continued the implementation of three UN joint programs supporting the GoM:

- To implement the National COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan and provide critical education and health services during the pandemic.
- To develop a financing strategy for SDGs.
- To increase herders' social and health insurance coverage and develop start-up business models



The Speaker of Parliament H.E. G. Zandanshatar advocated for the acceleration of the SDGs at the first-ever National SDG Forum. October 2021. © UNRCO Mongolia

for young herders through pilot initiatives, such as income-generating capacity development and national institutionalization of herder programmes through nationwide awareness-raising activities.

The UNCT continued to monitor and analyse UN interventions and the cumulative results of UNDAF outcomes using the web based UNINFO platform.

The UNCT has worked together effectively and delivered results aligned with national priorities. However, there is still room to further improve the team's effectiveness and efficiency, as pointed out by the UNDAF evaluation. With the new UNSDCF 2023-2027 being developed, the UNCT will continue ensuring coherence and alignment of its programmes with national priorities for results based on the comprehensive CCA conducted in 2021, which analysed SDG implementation in the country, challenges, and priority actions.

The UNCT continues to have joint communications and advocacy focusing on cross-cutting themes, such as human rights, gender equality, women's empowerment, and climate change.

UN Communications Group led a number of joint outreach campaigns with a prominent emphasis on promoting the SDGs.

To facilitate efficient business operations, the Operations Management Team (OMT) worked collaboratively on the implementation of the BOS by establishing a number of long-term agreements for travel services, facility maintenance services, security services, printing services, hotel accommodation/hospitality services, translation services, and vehicle rental services. These works helped reduce administrative costs through better use of staff time and efforts, shortened the time it takes to complete the procurement process, and supported smaller offices in carrying out procurement.

Based on a collective approach, the OMT worked on developing the Country Common Premises Plan, which is designed to support the planning and implementation of premises consolidation projects. This platform provides accurate, up-to-date information on the premises' situation, progress on common premises projects, and efficiencies achieved through the consolidation of service provision.

2.5. EVALUATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

The UNDAF 2017-2022 evaluation was conducted under the auspices of the UNDAF Joint Government and UN Steering Committee from August 2021 through February 2022 by the Independent Research Institute of Mongolia. The evaluation assessed the UNDAF in terms of its a) relevance and adaptability; b) effectiveness; c) sustainability and orientation towards impact; d) coherence and coordination; e) efficiency; and f) cross-cutting principles. Some of the report's key findings, conclusions, and recommendations can be found here.

2.5.1. Key findings and conclusions

Relevance

Evidence shows that the UNDAF was aligned with the Mongolia Sustainable Development Vision 2030, which effectively reflected the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UN has adapted its work and responded to the country's emerging and unforeseen needs.

Effectiveness

Some UNDAF indicators are formulated in a way that does not allow for the effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of results, as several indicators are too ambitious for the UN to make significant contributions. For the next UNSDCF, the UN will need to be realistic in terms of output, outcome, indicator, and target formulation to ensure that the results can be measured and the contributions of the UN can be determined.

Sustainability and orientation towards impact

The evaluation report describes the outputs that have been achieved for each of the three UNDAF outcomes. There are many concrete examples of collaborative projects launched under the UNDAF that have been maintained by national partners and counterparts or replicated and scaled up by the government. However, a lack of resources and a scale-up or replication strategy hinder the potential to maintain some UNDAF benefits over time. The government's engagement is crucial for the sustainability and alignment of the UNDAF

with government priorities from the onset of the development of the UNDAF. The UNDAF was oriented towards having a real impact on people and made a difference in protecting the rights of people and their living environment.

UN coherence and coordination

The UNDAF has not fully served as an effective and strategic tool for the collective interventions of the UN system, except in a few joint programmes which are rather resource-driven. Nevertheless, the UNDAF gave broad directions for all UN agencies and provided the big picture with which agencies tried to align and a rationale for joint interventions and programming. The UN has contributed to coordination and coherence among government organizations by promoting the SDGs as the heart of Mongolia's long-term development policy. The UNCT did not develop joint work plans in the format recommended by the DCO in the UNDAF Guidelines, which they would have used to monitor UNDAF implementation.

Efficiency

The OMT advanced common business operations to ensure greater economy of scale and reduce operations costs through common business processes for procurement. Transaction costs have decreased thanks to the harmonized approach to cash transfers through a common operational framework for transferring cash to government and non-governmental partners.

Mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment

Gender equality and women's empowerment have been taken into account in the UNDAF design and implementation of all outcomes, especially Outcome 3. According to the UNINFO gender equality marker, 94% of UNDAF interventions addressed the promotion of gender equality in Mongolia in the period 2017-2020.

Human rights-based approach

The UN is one of the more consistent voices on human rights and encourages Mongolia to implement human rights conventions. UNDAF implementation has focused on human rights and contributed to fulfilling Mongolia's international and regional commitments and obligations. Nonetheless, UNDAF implementation did not pay significant attention to the human rights-based approach and the observations and recommendations of the UPR and other HR mechanisms.

Leaving no one behind

The current UNDAF has not precisely defined vulnerable groups for addressing the principle of leaving no one behind. Groups such as the elderly, people with disabilities, LGBTIs, ethnic minorities, and people in prison have hardly been covered by UN interventions. Other sensitive issues include GBV and sexual violence against children. There is an important need to address these sensitive issues through structured discussions with the government, development partners, academia, CSOs, etc. Moreover, poverty and inequality have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, so more situations of vulnerability need to be taken into consideration.

Disability inclusion

Although disability inclusion is discussed across programmes and projects, integration into implementation is rarely considered, even if required on the programmes and projects. An inter-agency task force was formed on this issue. It was determined that different agencies have their own specific focus.

Consideration of environmental impact

Although environmental implications are discussed across programmes and projects, their integration in implementation is limited. UNDP uses social and environmental standards across several of its projects.

2.5.2. Recommendations

Recommendations with higher priority:

1. The UNCT and GoM can improve the design and usefulness of the next UNSDCF as an instrument to capture a shared vision and mission in the context of the SDGs.
2. The government should strengthen its ownership and strategic management of the next UNSDCF.
3. UN agencies should implement the UNSDCF and increase their cooperation through Outcome and Thematic Groups and use them to help the UNCT manage the UNSDCF strategically with the RC/UNCT leadership.
4. The UNCT should ensure greater mainstreaming of the UNSDCF guiding principle of leaving no one behind and the human rights-based approach under the leadership of the RC.
5. The UNCT should ensure greater mainstreaming of the UNSDCF guiding principles on gender



equality and women's empowerment.

6. The UNCT and the government should contemplate creating an integrated funding framework in the next UNSDCF and adequate funding instruments to ensure the scale of impact necessary for attaining the 2030 Agenda

Recommendations with medium priority:

1. The UNCT should promote effective partnerships and strategic alliances around outcome areas and with a variety of stakeholders to enhance UNSDCF effectiveness.
2. The UNCT is invited to strengthen joint programming and resource mobilization and implement joint targeted programmes while taking into account the geographic spread of UN interventions, integrated programming, and geographical targeting experiences.
3. The UNCT and government should strengthen their use of effective Results-Based Management and M&E systems to strategically monitor and manage the UNSDCF.
4. The UNCT, the National Statistical Office, and ministries should strengthen collaboration in view of improving national capacities for disaggregated data collection, analysis, dissemination, and use, especially given their importance for measuring progress on the SDGs and the next UNSDCF implementation.
5. The UNCT and the Government should strengthen the sustainability of the UNSDCF.
6. The UNCT should continue its efforts to reduce transaction costs where possible.

2.6. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

2.6.1. Funding and delivery overview

Table 1. UNDAF Financial Overview

Agency	UNDAF	Total Required		Total Required		To be	EXPENDITURE						
	COMMITMENT	Total	Total	Core	Non-Core	Mobilized	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total	
GRAND TOTAL	79,670,034	198,767,513	191,329,408	20,868,298	155,595,434	7,438,105	22,828,611	22,326,988	24,713,475	40,397,123	52,837,772	163,103,968	
Outcome 1 Total	34,199,242	98,472,264	94,950,961	-	80,085,283	3,521,304	12,494,118	11,690,581	11,772,192	24,412,939	18,116,955	78,486,785	
1	FAO	3,700,000	11,128,767	11,128,767	1,932,578	9,196,189	-	4,352,692	1,601,235	1,927,343	2,112,458	991,151	10,984,879
2	IAEA	1,400,000	2,346,063	2,315,563		2,315,563	30,500	-	66,452	74,326	1,000,966	1,058,707	2,200,451
3	ILO	750,000	1,391,830	1,342,840	1,171,767	171,073	48,990	434,962	181,428	255,335	189,278	371,074	1,432,077
4	IOM		3,932,163	3,925,265	1,589,000	2,336,265	6,898	400,224	691,090	506,871	897,572	334,097	2,829,853
5	UN-SPIDER		15,000	15,000	15,000	-	-				13,000		13,000
6	UNICEF	100,000	6,570,858	6,323,841	2,998,521	3,325,320	247,017	220,752	604,177	1,365,224	1,553,112	1,421,276	5,164,541
7	UNDP	20,000,000	25,530,230	25,456,861	3,262,912	22,193,949	73,369	3,886,805	2,879,921	2,485,021	3,647,383	4,541,732	17,440,861
8	UN ESCAP		248,890	248,890		248,890					164,345	84,545	248,890
9	UNESCO	322,000	800,122	665,712	427,149	238,563	134,410	0	52,000	75,000	425,063	63,000	615,063
10	UNEP	1,500,000	5,787,651	4,829,766		4,829,766	957,885	313,863	371,200	865,275	1,733,293	1,004,981	4,288,612
11	UN Habitat	100,000	3,968,576	3,968,576		3,968,576	-	95,167	86,300	985,662	1,825,119	976,328	3,968,576
12	UNIDO	2,277,242	22,294,977	20,272,742		20,272,742	2,022,235	2,789,654	5,156,778	908,485	4,187,545	4,765	13,047,227
13	WFP		323,215	323,215		323,215	-	-	-	195,708	127,507		323,215
14	WHO	4,050,000	14,133,922	14,133,922	3,468,751	10,665,171	-	-	-	2,127,942	6,536,299	7,265,299	15,929,540
Outcome 2 Total	37,855,792	71,661,862	68,443,054	14,506,887	53,936,167	3,218,808	6,023,160	6,268,388	8,109,424	10,686,712	29,542,071	60,629,754	
1	FAO		4,713,828	4,713,828	1,182,736	3,531,092	-	164,572	148,675	340,001	875,613	860,628	2,389,489
2	IAEA	1,700,000	1,371,642	1,292,455		1,292,455	79,187	6,376	748,421	386,354	73,981		1,215,132
3	ILO	750,000	467,420	467,420	19,011	448,409	-	17,815.00	1,196.00		292,226.00	366,763.00	678,000
4	IOM		1,151,669	1,080,269		1,080,269	71,400			54,454.30	358,000.70	398,093.00	810,548
5	UNICEF	18,513,227	40,831,468	37,763,246	2,361,537	35,401,709	3,068,221	1,850,282	1,855,625	3,325,432	5,513,564	23,170,474	35,715,377
6	UNESCO	300,000	1,495,000	1,495,000	1,205,000	290,000	-	110,000	180,000	340,000	650,000	275,744	1,555,744
7	UN Habitat	100,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	1,000,000	-				200,000	400,000	600,000
8	UNAIDS		24,232	24,232	24,232	-	-	24,232					24,232
9	UNFPA	9,300,000	9,065,589	9,065,589	1,538,947	7,526,642	-	931,283	1,705,872	2,255,182	2,278,523	1,617,324	8,788,184
10	WHO	7,192,565	11,541,014	11,541,014	8,175,424	3,365,590	-	2,918,600	1,628,599	1,408,000	444,805	2,453,045	8,853,049
Outcome 3 Total	7,615,000	28,633,387	27,935,394	6,361,411	21,573,984	697,993	4,311,333	4,368,019	4,831,860	5,297,471	5,178,746	23,987,428	
1	ILO	1,000,000	898,385	898,385	514,916	383,469	-	35,000.00	89,322.00	151,041.00	124,828.00	151,693.00	551,884
2	IOM		1,453,040	1,453,040		1,453,040	-	189,579.20	139,965.20	2,100.00	777,372.00	389,505.00	1,498,521
3	UNICEF	450,000	3,374,827	2,839,137	749,216	2,089,921	535,690	333,701.00	418,605.00	468,030.00	887,595.99	690,440.00	2,798,372
4	UNDP	750,000	11,091,302	11,090,075	560,000	10,530,075	1,227	1,033,522.53	1,880,285.00	2,065,814.52	1,492,962.43	2,357,328.00	8,829,912
5	UNESCO	365,000	180,854	180,854		180,854	-	0.00	0.00		0.00	65,360.00	65,360
6	UN Habitat		338,760	338,760		338,760	-	148,320.00	190,440.00				338,760
7	UNFPA	5,000,000	11,244,128	11,108,163	4,510,298	6,597,865	135,965	2,562,949.92	1,645,921.84	2,106,614.00	2,014,712.60	1,524,420.00	9,854,618
8	WHO	50,000	52,090	26,980	26,980	-	25,110	8,260.00	3,480.00	38,260.00			50,000



2.6.2. Resource mobilization

The UN Agencies collectively mobilized US\$191.3 million from 84 different funding sources. An

overview of the sources of funds and their funding contribution is shown in Figure 2.6.2.1.

Expenditures by un agencies 2017-2021

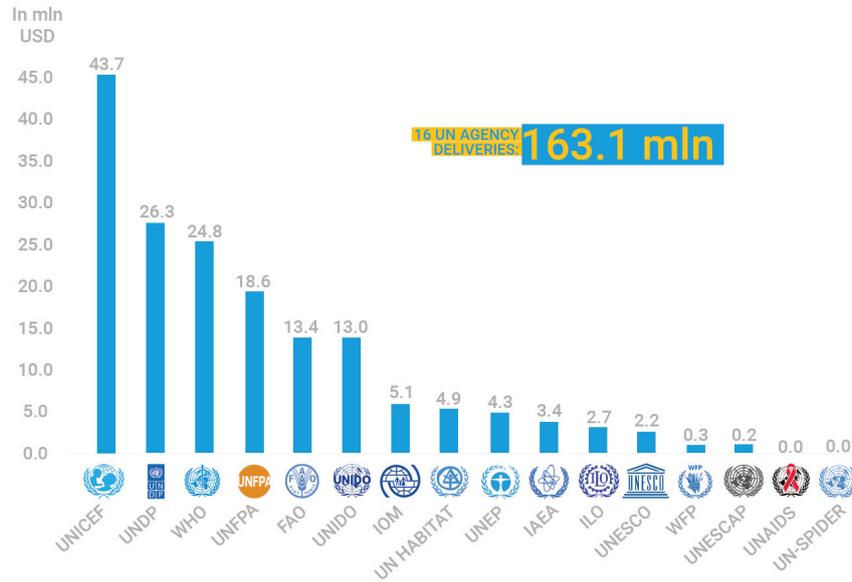


Figure 2.6.2.1: Total resources mobilized 2017-2020

Total resources mobilized 2017-2021 by source of funds:

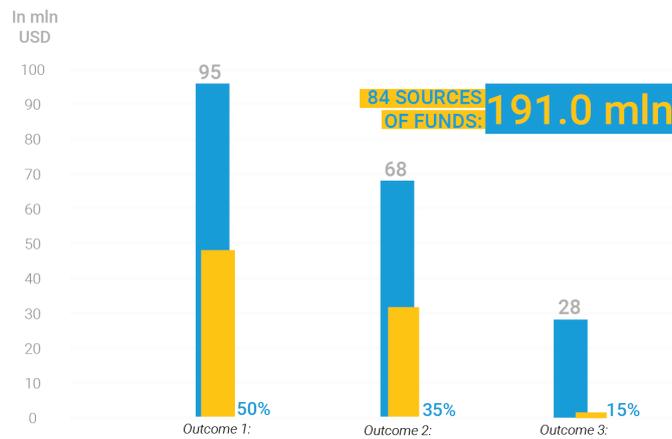


Figure 2.6.2.2: Total resources mobilized by outcomes

Resources mobilized by outcomes (in million usd) 2017-2021

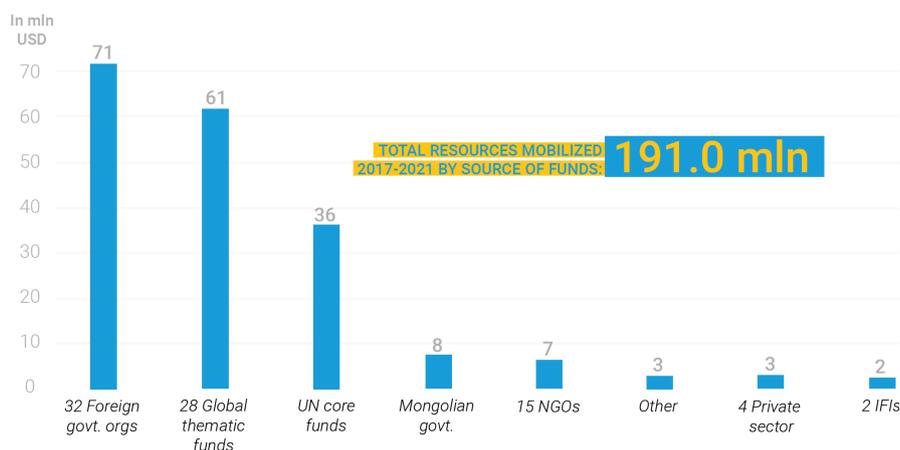


Figure 2.6.2.3. Delivery by UN agencies 2017-2021

CHAPTER 3

UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR

In 2022, the UN will focus on the following key areas:

- Strengthening capacities, operations, and outreach of civil society organizations focused on SDG achievement, especially in rural Mongolia
- Supporting a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to strengthening regional development
- Increase capacity building for public service providers to improve outreach and quality of services delivered to those left farthest behind
- Financing of the SDGs and aligning the budgetary process with policies, and enhancing employment opportunities, especially for the most vulnerable
- Promoting sustainable development by improving the sustainability reporting practices of companies and identifying green investment opportunities
- Integrating more innovation into UN programmes and advancing digital literacy for the most vulnerable
- Introducing environmentally sound technologies and practices to support Mongolia in its NDC implementation plan
- Building resilient herder communities by enhancing climate-informed natural resources management with sustainable livestock management practices
- Supporting the improvement of the prevention, quality, and accessibility of survivor protection mechanisms for GBV, VAC, and human trafficking
- Supporting the enforcement and monitoring of the relative laws, including those newly approved in 2021, to complement legislative reform in Mongolia
- Strengthening and expanding the youth and women's network to increase their leadership, participation, and representation at the decision-making level
- Building on learning from COVID-19, shock responsive resilience at all levels
- Accelerating the SDGs with emphasis on those left farthest behind
- Support the development of a nutrition education package for kindergarten children for further integration into the preschool education curriculum
- Support data and evidence generation for development policymaking to support legislation and policy planning
- Develop and implement a management response plan to the UNDAF evaluation

APPENDIX

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ANC	Antenatal care
BOS	Business operations strategy
CCA	Common Country Analysis
CEDAW	The Convention on the Elimination of All forms and Discrimination Against Women
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease
CSC	Civil Service Council
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EDP	Export Development Project
ETF	Enhance Transparency Framework
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
GBV	Gender-based violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GoM	Government of Mongolia
HR	Human Rights
ICT	Information and communications technologies
IFI	International financial institution
ILS	International Labour Standards
INGO	International Governmental Organisations
INFF	Integrated National Financing Framework
IOM	International Organization for Migration
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDTs	Multi-Disciplinary Teams
MICS	Multiple Indication Cluster Surveys
MLSP	Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
MNT	Mongolian Tugrik
MoES	Ministry of Education and Science
MoH	Ministry of Health
MPP	Mongolian People's Party
NCSD	National Council for Sustainable Development
NDC	National Determined Contribution
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OMT	Operations Management Team
OSSC	One-stop service centre
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
PHC	Primary health care
PPP	Public-private partnerships

RC	Resident Coordinator
RIMA-II	Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis-II
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SOP	Standard operating procedures
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UN-REDD	United Nations Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation
UN-SPIDER	United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
VAC	Violence against children
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
WB	The World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization
WLN	Women's Leadership Network
WLP	Women's Leadership Programme
WSP	Water safety planning
YDC	Youth Development Centre



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