

Understanding and Managing Internal Migration in Mongolia (2017-2018)



Mongolia's unique geographical location and the dependence of the nation's rural population on animal husbandry because of the lack of alternative income streams and diversification strategies make it one of the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change. As dzud events and harsh climatic conditions increase the hardships of rural life, an increasing number of people have moved to Ulaanbaatar. The percentage of the Mongolian population living in Ulaanbaatar has increased from 26.8 per cent in 1989 to 47 per cent in 2013.

Beyond environmental degradation, internal migration is prompted by factors such as limited possibilities to engage in production and services in rural areas, access to quality services (e.g. education, health), as well as to be closer to families and relatives.

Most internal migrants in Mongolia settle in Ger districts on the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar which make up about 60 per cent of the city's population, but despite their size, these districts have not been adequately integrated into the city development planning. New migrants form almost one third of the population living in these areas, and of all the migrants to Ulaanbaatar, 39 per cent are people in greatest need.

In July 2017 IOM Mongolia launched eighteen-month project aimed to contribute to strengthening of internal migration management through enhanced data collection and capacity building of government agencies and key stakeholders.



Ger district on the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar. Photo/IOM



PROJECT DURATION

July 2017 – December 2018

PROJECT SUPPORT

The project funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is the agency for international cooperation of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA).
<https://www.eda.admin.ch/sdc>.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Ministry of Environment
Municipality of Ulaanbaatar
Mongolian National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)
National University of Mongolia (NUM)
Ger Community Mapping Center (GCMC)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to strengthened internal migration management.

Outcome:

The Government of Mongolia demonstrates enhanced management of internal migration, including taking into consideration factors such as climate change and natural hazard. The project has four expected outputs:

1. An assessment on internal migration is available to key stakeholders.

Activities include:

- Development of methodology and data collection systems.
- Analyzes and mapping nation-wide migration flows, including causes of migration.
- Translation of the assessment.
- Dissemination of the assessment to key stakeholders.

2. An urban migrants' vulnerability assessment and methodology are available to key stakeholders.

Activities include:

- Analyzes of vulnerabilities of urban migrants in Ulaanbaatar.
- Assessment results validation workshop.
- Translation of the assessment.
- Dissemination of the assessment to key stakeholders.
- Consultation and dissemination workshops in Ger district.

3. The Government of Mongolia and other key stakeholders are trained to plan proactively and in a coordinated manner to address rural-urban migration.

Activities include:

- Training for officials from key government agencies, municipal authorities and CSOs on nexus between urban planning and rural-urban migration, to build capacity to plan for future migration, and to factor migration management into environmental, planning and development policies.
- Training for municipality officials and local stakeholders on internal migration management and management of informal settlements

4. Plan on mainstreaming internal migration in local and national policies is approved and available.

Activities include:

- High level policy dialogue (Government, UN and CSOs) on internal migration and relevant policies, including those related to urban development. This high level policy dialogue will also provide an opportunity to consolidate findings from assessments and will result in a concrete plan of action and recommendations for future interventions.
- Recommendations and Plan of Action are disseminated amongst key stakeholders.

For more information on IOM activities in Mongolia please check our website:
www.iom.int/countries/mongolia

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