

# Promoting sustainable health care and prevention of infectious diseases in Mongolia



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



## Fast Facts

**Country:** Mongolia

**Duration:** January 2001 to December 2002

**Implementing UN Agencies:** UNICEF

**Other Implementing Partners:** Policy Implementation and Coordination Department; Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

**Budget:** \$530,250

**Key Words:** Access to health care; capacity-building

## BACKGROUND

Mongolia is a large, landlocked country with a relatively small yet dispersed population. Its shift from a centrally planned socialist system to a capitalist democracy, which began in 1990, forced a vast reduction in public expenditures, leading to the degradation of social services including the health-care system. As a result, health facilities suffered from

frequent power outages, shortage of drugs and medicines, along with inadequately trained health personnel. This had severe consequences for Mongolia's vulnerable populations who experienced widespread health problems and dramatic decline in basic health indicators, particularly in rural areas.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project sought to contribute to the provision of affordable, functioning and accessible healthcare to marginalized communities in Mongolia by (i) increasing the availability of essential drugs; (ii)

training health professionals and (iii) promoting community-based processes to prevent and monitor health-related challenges.

### BENEFICIARIES

The direct beneficiaries were vulnerable people, local community leaders and health professionals, residing in the provinces of Huvsgul, Zavha, Selenge, Govi-Altai and Umnugovi. Vulnerable groups benefited from increased availability of essential medicines,

pharmacists were trained in drug management practices, and some 200,000 people were sensitized on the use of essential medicines through awareness-raising activities.