



Fast Facts

Country: Mongolia

Duration: June 2006 to June 2008

Implementing UN Agencies: UNFPA

Other Implementing Partners: Ministry of Health; Ministry of Social Welfare and Labour; National Statistical Office; Academy of Management; district Governor's Offices

Budget: \$988,235.89

Key Words: Climate; migration; health; poverty

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 health and social services. Compounding the hardships felt by the population was the Dzur of 2000-2002, a local weather phenomenon characterized by dry summers followed by snowy winters. Such conditions cause a significant loss of livestock, robbing rural herders of all their assets. Some of the rural herders affected, lacking access to services in their home regions, migrated into urban areas. Mongolian law required that families moving

into the cities register as migrants in order to gain access to services like health insurance and housing assistance in their new homes. The registration process, however, was complex and time-consuming and many households chose not to register. Other herding households who lost everything to the Dzur turned to informal gold mining as an alternative source of income. These mining communities were marked by poverty conditions and lacked access to health and sanitation services as well as electricity, leading to widespread health problems and a high incidence of violence. In addition, exposure of men, women and children to mercury used during the mining process compounded the health issues within the communities.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project sought to contribute to the human security of marginalized communities in Mongolia by improving access to basic social services, including reproductive healthcare, among underserved and unregistered peri-urban migrant and informal mining communities. Moreover, the project aimed to

strengthen mechanism for assessing and addressing the vulnerabilities and needs of these communities by strengthening the civil registration system and improving planning, policy formulation and programme development for these groups.

BENEFICIARIES

Almost 30,000 people received medical check-ups from the mobile teams. Moreover, through social-service consultations 9,000 people received advice on civil registration on social insurance and social

welfare. Meanwhile, 1,300 people received training in small-business management skills and 114 district leaders received training on the human security approach.