



Fast Facts

Country: Mongolia

Duration: June 2004 to June 2006

Implementing UN Agencies: UNICEF

Other Implementing Partners: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Budget: \$658,800

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

To improve access to health care for vulnerable populations, this project sought to (i) increase the availability of essential drugs; (ii) improve health conditions for women and children living in rural

areas; and (iii) enhance the involvement of communities in the planning, organizing and the delivery of health services.

BENEFICIARIES

The direct beneficiaries were vulnerable people, community leaders and health professionals living in the provinces of Hovsgul, Zavkhan, Selenge, Govi-Altai and Umnugovi. While more than 274,400 herders were informed on how to access essential drugs in local areas, 200 local health workers were trained in

delivering basic health-care services at the community level. Lastly, 40,000 households were engaged in awareness raising activities to better understand the risks of water-borne diseases and to implement proper sanitation and safe hygiene practices.