

# NATIONAL REVIEW BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO REPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

NETWORK OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS OF MONGOLIA

Ulaanbaatar

2019

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ABBREVIATIONS

MPRAM	Mineral Resources and Petroleum Authority
STDs	Sexually transmitted diseases
LEIA	Law on Environmental Impact Assessment
FP	Family planning
DV	Domestic / family violence
LDV	Law on Domestic violence
NSCT	National Study Center of Trauma
RCCP	Regulatory council on crime prevention
WVI	World Vision International
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
TPP	Thermal power plant
GES	General education school
CM	Contraception methods
CSO	Civil society organization
MFWA	Mongolian Family Welfare Association
MGL	Mongolia
MSDV	Sustainable development vision of Mongolia
MASWL	Mongolian association to support women's labor
MW	Megawatt
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
SISS	Social indicator sample survey
IO	International organization
SBD	Sukhbaatar district
PSE	Preschool education
NGO	Non-governmental organization
SDG	Sustainable development goal
SDV	Sustainable development vision
CC	Climate change
HPP	Hydropower plant
INDC	Intended nationally determined contributions
VNR	Voluntary national review
ODA	Official development aid
NPHS	National population and housing census
GEC	Gender equalitt center
KhUD	Khan-Uul district
HT	Human trafficking
NCAV	National Center Against Violence
FHR	Forum for Human Rights
GPD	General Police Department
SCO	Swiss Cooperation Office
MTEP	Midterm Energy Program

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## PREAMBLE

Countries of the world must present their reports on implementation Sustainable Development Goals which were jointly drafted and approved in 2015 at least twice by 2030. Mongolia shall be presenting its first report to the UN High-level Political Forum in July of 2019. As the Government of Mongolia prepared its Voluntary National Review, the “SDG and CSO” network of Civil Society Organizations presents its independent report. We envisioned and created this report as an opportunity to execute the principle to ensure multistakeholder participation in VNR, contribute in the Government review, to support cooperation of the Government and CSO, deliver voices of the citizens to the global community, to ensure progress in each sector where we work.

We wanted to learn how the global SDGs are adapted to Mongolian conditions and to see the implementation progress of crucial goals which are significant for daily lives of every citizen of Mongolia including poverty, food security, health service, education, inequality, living and working environment from our perspectives.

The “SDG and CSO” network appreciates the Government for their open cooperation, organization of discussions and meetings during the preparations of report on SDG and target implementation; and inclusion of CSO views, conclusions and recommendations in the VNR at satisfactory level. We extend our gratitude to UNFPA for the financial support to prepare CSO report.

The activities of the “SDG and CSO” shall not be restricted with the VNR as we are encouraging the members of “SDG and CSO” network to annually report the implementation progress of SDGs relevant to their work fields and submit recommendations on the status, results and actions to be carried in the future to the SDG National Council, UN and international organizations in the region.

I believe that CSO report shall make an invaluable contribution to the implementation of SDGs and targets.

“SDG and CSO” network coordinator

/ G.Urantsooj/

## I. INTRODUCTION

Voluntary National Review (VNR) is the globally accepted path to share the success, achievement, best practices, challenges, lesson learnt and actions to take to advance the implementation of global sustainable development goals (SDGs) 2030.

The VNR shall also support the implementation of SDGs through encouraging cooperation of sectors, expand partnerships to improve the state policies and strengthen existing structures. Country reviews are discussed on the United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF). The CSO network of Mongolia presents this first integrated report on SDG indicators related to their areas of work and faced challenges. The 2019 SDG implementation report is called to address the activities to “Empower people and ensure access and equality”. Mongolia shall be specifically presenting “air pollution” as one of development issues.

The CSO report reviews the current conditions of the implementation of SDGs and targets which are directly related to CSO activities as well as the challenges faced. The CSO believes that implementation of SDGs directly depends on the inclusion of SDGs in national policies and programmes of Mongolia and their coordination. For this purpose, we have specifically reviewed the inclusion of the solutions, measures to ensure implementation of SDG targets and indicators in the MSDV-2030, “Three pillar development policy” ratified by the resolution 42 of the Government of 2018, Government platform for 2016-2020 and its action plan and relevant national programs, policy papers of the sectors.

### PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Member organizations of the “SDG and CSO” network have cooperated to finalize the report on implementation of SDGs.

CHRD had jointly conducted an assessment on understanding, information and implementation of SDGs in the countryside with national network MONFEMNET.

A survey to determine the population group with risk of being left behind was jointly organized by the Association to support Mongolian Women’s labor and Khugjliin Khelkhee NGO. They worked on the waste disposal site of the capital city and conveyed the information about the people living there to the state.

Globe International Center NGO conducted a study on implementation covering SDG target 16.10 and made an assessment on execution of the information transparency and rights and organized a multistakeholder consultation.

World Vision International had initiated the first consultation *Mongolian Children: Sustainable Development Goals – 2030* within the framework to report the implementation of SDGs. The purpose of the consultation was to improve knowledge of children on the SDGs, presentation on selection of representatives of Mongolian children to attend the UN HLPF, conduct the first stage of the selection process, include the proposal and initiatives of children in the VNR. Consultation discussions were held in five areas including education, health, protection of children’s right, child participation, family economy and consumption. The consultation is believed to have a significant impact on promoting understanding of SDGs and implementation.

The Volunteer organization network organized “Participation of volunteers to ensure sustainable development”. Providing opportunities to public to participate in sustainable development is the contribution of the volunteers in SDGs.

The National Council on public education had jointly organized the national consultation on “Instilling SDG-4 in Mongolia” together with the stakeholders. Various books, leaflets, videos were produced to improve knowledge of citizens and CSOs to better understand the SDG-4 and multistakeholder symposium had took placed on SDG-4.7 on education of global citizens.

XIII conference on “Through eyes of women: air pollution and mothers and children health” organized by the MONFEMNET, the national network was a significant event to share knowledge and experience.

Many civil society organizations, networks, coalitions had supported the preparation of the VNR to promote SDGs, providing information to all levels of state administration and to open opportunities to assess the implementation of SDGs. We believe in future cooperation to ensure success.

## II. CSO STRATEGY TO PREPARE THE VNR

Civil society organizations of Mongolia formed a network “SDG and CSO” in December of 2017 to make own contribution to implement SDGs and to ensure everyone’s access to development impact. We understand the development impact as “the progress to end poverty, ensure gender equality, protect and ensure environmental balance and to improve citizens’ capacities to have access to information, participate in decision making and hold others accountable” specified by the international civil society organizations.

We have defined the objective of the network to contribute in implementation of the SDGs through promoting SDGs, targets to citizens, mobilize their resources, cooperate and develop partnership with multistakeholders in the local communities, provide support to public to actively participate in the development process.

As the Government of Mongolia had prepared the VNR on implementation of global SDGs and shall be presenting it to the United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF), the member organizations of the network had actively taken part in preparation of the VNR and expressed an aspiration to contribute in VNR preparing a report on implementation of SDGs related their field of activities. The request was accepted by the National Development Agency of Mongolia which leads the preparation of the Government report and included representatives of the network in the working group formed by the Government to prepare the VNR. Network organizations had actively participated in the consultation to define the scope and content of the VNR.

Network organizations joined to implement the following strategies and objectives to participate in the preparation process of VNR:

- Network organizations to form teams to work on SDGs to prepare the report
- Report of the network organizations to be reflected and contributed to the VNR
- Proposals and recommendations of the network organizations to be included in the conclusion and future actions of the VNR.

Each SDG is structured as

CURRENT SITUATION, CHALLENGES  
INCLUSION IN THE POLICY  
PROPOSALS, RECOMMENDATIONS

in the report and written by the network within the scope of their activities. We aimed to include brief introduction and opinions on challenges of each civil society organization involved in the report.

The network report mainly focused on the inclusion of the Sustainable development goals developed and mutually accepted at the global level and the indicators to measure the targets in the MSDV-2030 and other national policies and programs as we believe that inclusion of the global SDGs and targets in national policies and plans as well as make them unique to individualize shall provide an opportunity to ensure complete implementation.

The Great Ikh Khural of Mongolia (Paliament) ratified the Mongolia's Sustainable Development Vision (MSDV) with 44 objectives and 20 indicators with the resolution 16 of 2016 as the beginning to instill global SDG -2030 program with 17 goals, 169 targets and 244 indicators approved in 2015 by the **high level conference** of the UN General Assembly. The report of the NDA defined that the MSDV-2030 is the document which includes 13 SDGs and 43 targets. According to 2018 assessment of the NSO on readiness of data to assess the implementation of the SDGs<sup>1</sup>, information to assess 118 indicators of the global SDGs are ready to be used. See the table.

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<sup>1</sup><http://sdg.gov.mn/Home/Availability>



SDG	Goal	Targets	Indicators	Indicators with available data
1	No poverty	7	14	7
2	Zero hunger	8	13	7
3	Good health and well-being	13	27	16
4	Quality education	10	11	8
5	Gender equality	9	14	8
6	Clean water and sanitation	8	11	6
7	Affordable and clean energy	5	6	4
8	Decent work and economic growth	12	17	13
9	Industry, innovation and infrastructure	8	12	6
10	Reduced inequality	10	11	5
11	Sustainable cities and communities	10	15	6
12	Responsible consumption and production	11	13	2
13	Climate action	5	8	3
14	Life below water	10	10	0
15	Life on land	12	14	5
16	Peace and justice strong institutions	12	23	12
17	Partnerships to achieve the goal	19	25	10

We believe that presentation of the draft version including proposals and recommendations delivered during the five consultations with the various working groups of CSO to the advisory team, Working group and the National Development Agency to prepare the VNR was the significant step for us to prepare the report on the implementation of the SDGs. Network organizations had actively participated in the National consultation on VNR and expressed their opinions, ideas and recommendations. Once the VNR shall be publicly disclosed, we will assess the inclusion of the CSO proposals and recommendations in the VNR and shall plan future actions.

We are presenting this CSO report on implementation of the SDGs prepared by the “SDG and CSO” network of Mongolia not only to the audiences in Mongolia but also to the regional and global audiences in English version.

### III. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy and mechanism to implement SDGs, targets in Mongolia:  
Situation, Recommendation

#### Condition 1. Reflection of SDGs, targets in Development policy of Mongolia

SDGs and targets are not yet fully included in the MSDV-2030 – national, sectoral, local development policies and programmes. The indicators and levels to achieve to measure the implementation of SDGs and targets are not defined. Therefore, no work has been done to plan, budget activities to implement the SDGS is done along with data availability.

*Recommendation 1. To completely include SDGs in the development policies and define and execute indicators to measure the implementation.*

*Required to fully integrate and include SDGs and targets in the MSDV-2030 at national, regional, local and sectoral levels. Start to develop target levels, measuring indicators to implement SDGs and targets with public participation without delay, ensure data availability, disclose to public and include in the socio-economic development framework, plan funding, report implementation and start assessments.*

**Condition 2. No structure and mechanism to ensure and regulate integration of policies of the sectors within the three pillar framework of SDGs**

Currently the NDA is in charge to execute the responsibility to ensure and regulate the integration of policies of the sectors within the scope of three pillar framework of SDGs, monitor, assess and plan the implementation of SDGs. However, the NDA has no full authorities to execute its responsibility.

*Recommendation 2. To establish monitoring structure and mechanism to ensure integration of policies of sectors with the three pillar framework of SDGs*

*An amendment should be made to the Law on Development policy and planning to grant required authorities to the NDA to ensure and coordinate the integration of policies of the sectors, monitor, assess and plan the implementation of the SDGs.*

**Condition 3. No multistakeholder consultation mechanism to eliminate breaches of sector policies.**

Development (long, mid, shortterm, national, regional, local and sectoral) policy balance and association cannot be ensured. Inconsistencies between national and local development policies, mineral exploitation and environmental policies; violations of citizens' rights by large development projects have an adverse impact on livelihoods of citizens. Development policies and programmes of the sectors are also subject of multistakeholders discussions, for instance, issues which are supposed to be discussed jointly by teachers, parents, school administration, sector specialists are attempted to be solved by one party without any progress. Such situation is observed in many sectors including health, food, agriculture and more.

*Recommendation 3. Салбарын болон салбар хоорондын бодлогын зөрчлийг арилгах олон талын зөвлөлдөх механизмыг байгуулж ажиллуулах*

*Салбар хоорондын бодлогын зөрчлийг арилгах, уялдааг хангах, талуудын эрх ашгийг тэнцвэржүүлэх олон талын зөвлөлдөх механизмыг ҮХГ-ын дэргэд, салбарын хөгжлийн асуудлыг хэлэлцэх олон талын механизмыг яам тус бүрийн дэргэд байгуулан ажиллуулах хэрэгтэй байна.*

**Condition 4. SDGs and targets are not included in the activities of the Ministries**

Currently the socio-economic indicators and indicators for activities of the Ministries cannot make significant contributions to resolve cross-sectoral issues such as SDG-2030 to leave no one behind, develop participatory good governance, eliminate inequality and poverty, ensure gender equality, protect environment.

*Recommendation 4. Ensure compliance of indicators of activities of the Ministries with the SDGs and targets.*

*Improve and ensure compliance of monitoring and evaluation structures of Ministries. For this purpose, the socio-economic indicators and performance indicators of the ministries should be measured for the contributions in decision making process on leaving no one behind, develop public participatory good governance, eliminate inequality and poverty, ensure gender equality, protect environment as specified in the SDG-2030.*

**Condition 5. CSO participation is not fully ensured, knowledge, experience and voluntary work is not mobilized for implementation of SDGs.**

CSOs contribute to the protection of public interests and rights, protection of environment, state's execution of its responsibilities to deliver development outcomes to the public and monitor and assess the activities of the state organizations. It also provides opportunities to organize and mobilize voluntary involvement of citizens. However, there is no mechanism to ensure participation of CSOs in planning, assessment and monitoring of development policies and implementation on regular basis and lack of policies and regulations to support voluntary work of citizens. None of ministries, agencies, local administrative organizations have clear policies and procedures when and how to cooperate with CSOs. Currently, CSO participation is restricted with one-time meeting, conference. It's common for the working groups, committees of the state organizations to engage and include "own" CSOs. This situation may continue during the implementation of SDGs. CSOs strive to stop this tendency and make their contributions in the implementation of SDGs at all levels. "SDG and CSO" network aims to conduct annual assessment and conclusion on SDG implementation until 2030.

*Recommendation 5. Institutionalize participation of CSOs in implementation of SDGs*

*To support activities of CSOs which ensures participation of citizens and organizes voluntary work, to develop and execute procedures to have representatives of the CSOs in the structure under the Parliament, Government, NDA, ministries, agencies, local administration and citizens' representatives councils in the process of implementation of SDGs. To consult with "SDG and CSO" network to select the CSO representatives.*

#### IV. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS /BY EACH GOAL/

##### SDG-1. Eliminate poverty

#### CURRENT SITUATION, CHALLENGES

The MSDV – 2030 proposed to reduce income inequality and have 80 percent of the population in the middle and upper-middle income classes.

Poverty rate, urban and countryside areas



According to the official statistics, the poverty rate reached 29.6 per cent in 2016, increasing from the previous year<sup>2</sup>. This tendency demonstrates a tough challenge to reduce the poverty rate down to 18% in 2016-2020 as reflected in MSDV-2030.

Source: Poverty profile study, 2016 NSO

*State actions:*

Children's allowances, Food stamp, Mothers with salaries, Target household programmes and other social care and protection measures.

### *Challenges:*

- Access of many activities such as Children's allowances, Food stamps is not satisfactory, many examples of the programmes to reach the target recipients.
- Methodology to determine the household livelihood rate failed to reflect nation specific characters.
- Target household programme focuses only on few households due to limited labor and financial resources, therefore, the spectrum is very restricted.
- There is no cohesive policy on poverty reduction in Mongolia.

**SDG implementation in the local communities:** There is not enough information on SDG-2030 in Bayandun soum of Dornod province. It creates doubts whether the survey to determine the livelihood rate which creates the basic database to provide support to low income families is done accurately.

The local communities have poor infrastructure and no sufficient jobs. For the past five years, no budget was planned and spent to reduce poverty and support employment. 47 per cent of unemployed people are young people of age 20-30.

### *"Any population with a risk to be left behind?"*

#### **Case 1: Results of survey conducted at Tsagaan Davaa waste disposal site...**

*Khugjliin Khelkhee NGO and the Mongolian Association to Support Women's Labor conducted this survey in 2017 among the 94 individuals who permanently live and work at the Tsagaan Davaa waste disposal site. Individuals were observed for five days, 94 individuals were interviewed and asked questions. 370 individuals including 211 adults with 159 children had been living at the site. 67% of respondents were women, 28.7% had no documents, 47.9% don't live on their registered addresses, 48.9% were not included in the study to determine the rate of livelihood. Living conditions of citizens living and working at waste disposal site didn't meet the minimum hygiene and sanitation*

<sup>2</sup> NSO, Household socio-economic survey, 2016

requirements. Eight respondents have been living and working at waste disposal site for more than 9 years, 27 for 5-8 years, 42 for 2-4 years, 17 for up to one year. 31 of them do not change their work uniforms, 44 don't use any tools or instruments and do everything by hands.



**Case 2.**Khugjliin Khelkhee NGO: Target actions to work with 42 children from 30 families. Children used to live in the streets who were



brought back to the families. The NGO has been working with the homeless children since 2012 until today who live on waste disposal site, abused providing daily care service. The organization works with 30 families a year. 30 per cent of families now have own incomes and children attended the tertiary trainings. The NGO provides food and clothes for 60 children a year.

## INCLUSION IN THE POLICY

MSDV-2030 Target 2.2.1.1 to end all types of poverty is in-line with the global SDGs.

A significant provision 18.3 of the Law on Social Care of Mongolia which provides a social welfare service organization of province, capital city, district to estimate funds required for public participation centered social care service based on the proposal of soum, khoroo committee to support livelihoods and submit to a state administrative organization in charge of social care is not being executed.

National programs “Improvement of development and protection of target households”, “Food stamp” fail to reach its target audience.

## PROPOSALS, RECOMMENDATIONS

Lack of cohesive policy on poverty reduction. Activities to reduce poverty can be defined as insufficient

No integrated policy on poverty reduction. Access to measures on poverty reduction is insufficient, poor quality, doesn't reach out the target audience and has no control. Mongolia needs to clearly define poor and measurement of shortage. Therefore, we propose to immediately implement the following measures:

- To have cohesive policy, programme to eliminate poverty,
- Improve methods, methodology to estimate the poverty, include national character
- Support employment through small and medium businesses, retail sales and family businesses affordable for poor families
- Provide free professional trainings to working age citizens of very poor families, specifically youth,



- Cooperate with the CSOs to reach out population with high risks of being left out, provide technical and financial support
- Introduce and apply best practices such as methodology of World Vision International which use systemized method to upscale extreme poor families into sustainable livelihood at minimum costs
- Utilize CSOs to promote and provide information on SDG and MSDV-2030 goals and targets to local communities, trigger activities to evaluate the execution

### SDG-2. Zero hunger

#### CURRENT SITUATION, CHALLENGES

“Food stamp” programme was launched in 2010 to support the low consumption groups of population. 135413 individuals of 24642 households are provided support since 2015 including MNT13,000 to adults and MNT6500 to children. This measure targets to prevent low income citizens from malnutrition and provides an opportunity to receive required daily calories.

*Case: a citizen informed the organization engaged in food rights about “a person with a car gets food with food stamp”. Social media reported that food stamp doesn’t reach the target audience.*

The National V study of 2017<sup>3</sup> determined that all population groups, specifically infants, toddlers, pregnant women are facing malnutrition. High vitamin and mineral deficiency is observed among children under age 5. 27% of children are experiencing anemia, 21%

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<sup>3</sup> Food challenges of population of Mongolia, 2017, Ministry of Health, National Center of Social Health, UNDP

iron deficiency, 70% A vitamin deficiency, 90% D vitamin deficiency or have unsatisfactory levels.

Study results demonstrated common occurrence of imbalanced food security at the country level. Highest rate was observed in forest region (80%) and Ulaanbaatar (68%). 27% of households of Ulaanbaatar with children under age 5 experience serious food security balance which means that the poor population are in food shortage, failing to consume food at required level.

There are many evidences of unstable food prices, insecure and low quality food as well as GM foods. For example:

- Mass food poisoning caused by food served in schools, canteens, restaurants, food factories,
- Food packaging, liquid bottles are made of non-food PP designated for chemicals
- Unclear origins of imported food, unsecure food with expired dates, weak contrl of security
- Lack of integrated food supply and delivery service, lack of an independent laboratory to certify the food security to serve the public are still involving risks of unsecure food.

The following pictures illustrate the current conditions in Airag, Dalanjargalan, Ulaanbadrakh soums of Dornogovi province. Environmental pollution due to mining and transportation of minerals impacts on food security.



Source: 2019 Forum “Through eyes of women”, presentation by N.Bayarsaikhan, chairwomen of Steps Without Borders NGO

We observe shortage of pastureland and land for crops along with pollution

of water and soil. According to statistics of the Customs General Administration Mongolia imported 74.8 thousand tons of vegetables in 2017 which is increased by 5.4 thousand tons from 2017. Demand for potato is fully supplied from domestic markets. 94.4% of grain, 52.5% of vegetables are supplied domestically and the rest is being imported. Ratio of domestically produced grain in the grain reserves has increased by 19.7<sup>4</sup> points in 2017 from previous year.

Lack of legal mechanism to provide compensation for the loss carried due to duplication in granting licenses for pastureland for agricultural purposes and mining of minerals. Lack of legal mechanism to acknowledge exploitation of pastureland used by herders in traditional means cause deterioration of pastureland, degradation and shortage of infrastructure. According to data of land affairs, geodesy and mapping, size of land for agricultural purposes equaled to 114.8 million hectares in 2017 which is decreased

<sup>4</sup> NSO, Presentation of Agrcultural sector, 2017, p. 107

reduced by 87.6 thousand hectares from the previous year and by 518 thousand hectares from 2013<sup>5</sup>.

### INCLUSION IN THE POLICY

Indirectly associated with the MSDV-2030, however, not included in the SDG-2 targets.

Despite presence of policies and legal environment on the National Security vision of Mongolia, Law on Food (2012), Law on Ensuring Food product security (2012), Law on Food for infants and young children (2017), National programme on Population food and nutrition (2016-2025), Sectoral strategy to ensure food security (2016-2021), CSOs conclude insufficient execution of the documents.

### PROPOSALS, RECOMMENDATIONS

We believe that the following measures should be immediately executed based on the analysis of current situation including instable food prices, loss of food security, nutrition and quality, wide spread of GM products, uncontrolled production, supply and distribution of food, formation of improper food consumption and behaviors.

1. Conduct an assessment of food consumption of the population with risks to left out, secure rights to avoid from hunger,
2. Improve access to food stamps, ensure inclusion of all poorer and vulnerable households with risks to be left out,
3. Determine whether the food program for vulnerable children satisfies the daily consumption of calories and nutrition, associated with other measures to eliminate children's deficiency of food and nutrition,
4. Establish legal environment to stop and prevent from granting land licenses designated for pastureland and crops for other purposes. If licenses are granted, ensure compensation for carried loss and restore the initial designation and purpose.
5. Provide financing and legal environment to ensure participation of citizens and CSOs in food control,
6. Upgrade capacities of and access to an independent laboratory to certify food quality, improve human resources and technologies, provide certifications
7. To start production and broadcasting of regular TV and radio programs on the Mongolian National Broadcast to provide science based understanding, knowledge on food to general public.

### SDG-3. Health support

*SDG-3.5. Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol*

### CURRENT SITUATION, CHALLENGES

388 cases of illegally making, acquiring, possessing, carrying, sending, selling and smuggling narcotics, psychoactive substances were registered in the past ten years

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<sup>5</sup><http://1212.mn/BookLibraryDownload.ashx?url=XAA-2017.pdf&ln=Mn>



(2006-2016) at country level with 1112 citizens being interrogated. Means and methods to smuggle drugs to the country had been becoming more inventive and such crimes are committed in more organized manner. The Anti-Drug Control Department has been inspecting 67 crimes involving 130 individuals since the beginning of 2019. Over 80 per cent of suspects are young people of age 18-35 which demonstrates the seriousness of the issue<sup>6</sup>.

### INCLUSION IN THE POLICY

Not reflected in the MSDV-2030.

The Government of Mongolia approved “National Program on Fight Against the Circulation of Narcotic Drugs and Psychoactive Substances” with the resolution #77 of March 7, 2017 of the Government and established the National Council chaired by the Minister of Justice and Internal Affairs.

### PROPOSALS, RECOMMENDATIONS

- To conduct national level surveys to determine use of drugs, psychoactive substances and risk-taking behavior.
- Proposing to create the following new indicators, including:
  - Data on sickness, mortality related to use of alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, drugs and psychoactive substances, number of treatment centers to treat depressions,
  - Quality of psychotherapy service on addiction to alcohol, tobacco, drugs and narcotics, create database on monitoring and assessment of activities targeted on reduction of discrimination.

### *SDG-3.7.1 - Proportion of women of reproductive age (15-49 Years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods*

### CURRENT SITUATION, CHALLENGES

According to the social indicator sample survey, demand for unmet need for family planning increased from 4.6 to 16 per cent in period of 2003-2013. Consumption of contraceptives is declining among women of reproductive age. 69.0 per cent of women of reproductive age used certain contraceptives in 2003, 55.2% in 2008. The proportion of women using contraceptives declined down to 54.6 per cent in 2013.

Factors influencing to not use contraceptives<sup>7</sup>:

- Misunderstanding, lack of information and knowledge about contraceptives,

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<sup>6</sup>[www.police.gov.mn/a/4363](http://www.police.gov.mn/a/4363)

<sup>7</sup> Qualitative survey on family planning in Mongolia, 2016, Ministry of Health, UNFPA, page 38

- Inadequate skills to discuss it with husband/partner, negative perception of friends and other close people,
- As secondary and tertiary care physicians have no authorities to write prescriptions on contraceptives allowed to be obtained at discounted price from pharmacies, it restricts access to family planning service<sup>8</sup>.

The report on support and service on family planning, Mongolia had significantly developed the medical care of mothers and children, however, left out the family planning. Lack of open promotion of family planning at three levels of medical care evidences the unsatisfactory level of family planning service.

### **Funding and spending of contraceptives**

The Government was providing funding for contraceptives at certain level and increased to MNT 85-163 million in 2009-2013, MNT 210 million in 2014, however, the total funding was reduced in 2015-2018 down to MNT 150 million<sup>9</sup>.

Injectable contraceptives, IUD, implants are not covered with the medical insurance. Family planning service clients have to cover own costs for family planning in the private medical sector. Unless the client failed to obtain contraceptives from state health organization, they are required to buy contraceptives from private pharmacies, private hospitals under the social marketing program.

### **INCLUSION IN THE POLICY**

MSDV – 2003 includes a general provision to support quality and access to reproductive health care and service as the part of the target to establish accessible and high quality health service, but it failed to include global SDG 3.7.1 indicator.

An objective is proposed to reduce unintended pregnancies and abortions through improving access to family planning service that meets reproductive rights under the National Programme of mother, children and reproductive health 2017-2012. The objective set targets to upscale 48.2 per cent of 2014 of reproductive age women using modern contraceptives to 60 per cent in 2020. State allocated MNT 150 million in 2016 for contraceptives which is targeted to be increased to MNT 400 million by 2020. 70 per cent of women aged 15-49 who received family planning service (as of 2014) are said to be increased to 80 per cent by 2020. Primary care health organizations which serve with not less than 5 categories of contraceptives (2015) are targeted to be expanded to 50 per cent by 2020.

### **PROPOSALS, RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Include questions in the Social Indicator Sample Survey to obtain detailed information on women with disabilities and other target groups,
- Ensure assessment of execution through including “Health support” criteria in the MSDV-2030.

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<sup>8</sup> Situation Analysis of Family Planning, 2016, Ministry of Health, UNFPA, page 29

<sup>9</sup> Situation Analysis of Family Planning in Mongolia, page 20, 2016

- Conduct detailed studies on types, categories, brands of contraceptives available on the market, including costs, price, demand of each product, health insurance impact; expand participation of non-governmental organizations and private sector with relevant experience;
- Support family clinics and NGOs with medical insurance,
- Ensure provision of implants, injectable, IUD contraceptives under the medical insurance, make accessible at second and third level of health institutes, learn options to grant an authority to all midwife gynecologists to write prescriptions.

### SDG-4. Supporting quality education

This target on education is directly associated with the 3.7 Supporting health, 5.6 gender equality, 8.6 decent jobs and economic growth, 12.8 responsible and sustainable consumption and production, 13.3 reduce impact of climate change.

#### CURRENT SITUATION, CHALLENGES

##### *SDG-4.2.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex*

2013 SISS result of 76% demonstrates the decline from 2010 level (85.1%). Physiological and learning capacity development is rated at 97.8-99.0%, however, the social and psychological development should be addressed as only 75.7 % of children are at normal level. Characteristics such as male, minority, special needs impact on child development to get low rates.

##### *SDG-4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex*

It had increased in 2016 from the previous year (66.2-68.3%) but declined back in 2017 (64.6). 6.4 per cent of new students for 2017/2018 academic year are students entered at older age. The percentage of pre-school training was 79.2% in 2017 which demonstrates that pre-school education standards and investment are should be addressed. Roving kindergarten was introduced to provide pre-school education to

children of herders, however, the attendance remains low. The development rate is lower than children attended the regular kindergarten.

*SDG-4.3.1 Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex*

Youth Monitoring of Policies NGO did a mapping of access and approachability of life-



long education centers and other state funded training organizations in 2018. The map covers 62 training organizations of 10 provinces and 28 training organizations from Ulaanbaatar. The map demonstrates that there are less training organizations in the high density ger districts but more in apartment districts.

Only 10 per cent of planned target group is involved in sport,

culture and public events which leaves out the main curriculum activities of education and training.

*SDG-4.6.1 Proportion of population in a 15-24 age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex*

According to the population and housing census of 2010, effective literacy rates were 95.2% for men and 97.5% for women ages of 15-24. The rate was stable according to the Social Indicator Sample Survey of 2013. Illiteracy is almost eliminated in the cities (98.4% for men and 99.2% for women), however, the literacy rate in the countryside was 88.2% for men which is the lowest rate. The literacy rate of poor families should be addressed which were 84.4% for men and 87.9% for women. Literacy was considered to the result of the primary education of the previous ten years which is one of the factors to influence economy growth.

*SDG-4a1 Proportion of schools with access to: (a) electricity; (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; (e) basic drinking water; (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic handwashing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions)*

Proportion of schools connected to the energy grid stably remains at 96.6% since 2015, but the proportion of schools with internet connection to be used for education purposes has slightly increased to 67.8-68.4% as well as the proportion of schools equipped with computers for training (94.8-95.4%).

82 per cent of 34.7 thousand children living in the general education school dormitories in 2018-2019 academic year are children of herder families. 35,195 children applied for

dormitories and 35,196 had been accepted. According to the study on “Current status of sanitation facilities of kindergartens, general education schools and dormitories” jointly conducted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports and UNFPA in 2017, 71% of dormitories are not connected to the centralized sanitation system, 61% have outside toilets, only 17% or 68 dormitories have inside toilets. 56% of dormitory students have an access to showers.

*SDG3-4.c.1 Proportion of teachers in: (a) pre-primary; (b) primary; (c) lower secondary; and (d) upper secondary education who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training (e.g. pedagogical training) pre-service or in-service required for teaching at the relevant level*

As of 2015, 95.7% of pre-school teachers, 92.7% of primary school teachers and 82.4% of high school teachers have attended the minimum trainings to teach. 2017 statistics showed decline down to 95% for pre-school teachers, and increase to 98.8% and 99.2% for primary and middle, high school teachers accordingly.

### **Indicators without official statistics:**

*SDG-4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex*

Students' test performance on subjects as following:

90.6% for 1<sup>st</sup> grade students with 60-100% performance; 85.4% and 88.3% accordingly for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students with 41-80% performance, 84% and 98% for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students with 21—60% performance. Performance rate is declining with grades and proportion of students with unsatisfactory performance is increasing. Required to define the most suitable training method, minimum reading and mathematics skills to be measured.

*SDG-4.7.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in: (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment*

The institute of Education conducted an analysis “Global citizen education in Mongolia” of curriculum of general education schools, institutes and universities. Our study revealed that topics of global citizenship education, purpose and objectives of learning are somehow included in the valid curriculum of social sciences and civic education as well as in the content, methods, evaluation of activities to support education and training. Core curriculum of elementary and basic education includes less global and regional level issues but more national and country issues.

Review of SDG-4.7 inclusion in the education policies, elementary and secondary education curriculum, specifically in main subjects, of 22 countries of Asia, concluded that Mongolia included content of wellbeing, safety, security, peace, culture,

environmental protection, sustainable environmental situation, human rights and freedoms, heritage; and capacities such as survival, cooperation, partnership, decision making, creative and critical thinking at satisfactory level. However, it had revealed lack of content such as economic sustainability, sustainable growth, climate change, waste management, healthy lifestyle, reproductive health, gender equality, balance, standards and norms, socialization, empowerment of girls/women, peace-building, understand types of violence, global governance system and progress, multinational corporations, terrorism, poverty, inequality, history of colonization, respect multiculturalism, diversity and dissimilarity, mankind identity and inadequate inclusion of integrated thinking, systematic thinking, global and local thinking, 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.

7,335 students of 186 classes of 25 schools are attending the 3<sup>rd</sup> shift classes in the 2017-2018 academic year at the state level. 85.5 per cent of 3<sup>rd</sup> shift classes are primary school kids. The number may increase in the future. Three of 25 schools with three shifts are in province, 22 are in Ulaanbaatar. This number hasn't declined from 2013-2014 academic year. Number of student in classroom is 28.3 at country level which is 0.2-point increase from previous year, including 0.5-point increase from 29.5 of public schools. Number of students in a classroom exceeds norms or there are 35 schools in Ulaanbaatar, five schools in provinces with 37.0-53.7 students in a classroom.

### INCLUSION IN THE POLICY

Results of the study on inclusion of SDG concept in the MSDV-2030, state policy on education, the Government platform for 2016-2020 of Mongolia reveals:

1. Focus on **education access**
2. Key concepts, principles to address lifelong learning, equal access to education, education quality at wide scope and ensure equality in education are not included in the documents,
3. Some provisions of the policy documents are not linked and conflicts with each other<sup>10</sup>.

For example, the state policy on education and document for 2014-2024 provides to ensure one-shift lessons of general education schools by 2024, the MSDV-2030 provides to reduce number of school with two shifts by 50 per cent by 2026-2030 which demonstrates the lack of links between mid and long term policy documents and are not based on actual estimates<sup>11</sup>.

The key objective included in the MSDV-2030 and policy on ODA projects and programs for 2018-2020 is the provision of quality education. However, the documents fail to include measures to improve **quality of education** and measured only with the participation in international studies. The rest of documents except state policy on education do not provide clear provisions on financing, the equal allocation of funds failed to be mentioned.

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<sup>10</sup> Proposal to the delivered to the Government of Mongolia, Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports from participants of National Forum of Civil Society on "Education: Quality, Funding, Responsibility", 2016

<sup>11</sup> "Youth analysis" National Coalition of Civil Society of Public for Education, 2016

Policy documents on education of Mongolia includes some provisions on lifelong education “to be suitable for lifelong learning needs, interests, talents, capabilities, development character, provide equal opportunities, to have alternatives, free and open”. It’s encouraging to see provisions on improvement of capacities of tertiary education and training staff, expand technical base, implement staged measures to improve quality of training, amend the curriculum to meet the modern demands and needs, upgrade laboratories and to strengthen activities of tertiary trainings and centers.

MSDV-2030 includes a qualitative objective to create lifelong education system but the definition of “lifelong education” is not provided which may restrict the current activities or only the activities of lifelong education centers.

### PROPOSALS, RECOMMENDATIONS

Unequal access to education and outcome for every person is the reason to expand the gap of social inequality, extend poverty and non-implementation of the objective of leaving no one behind in the education sector. Instead of considering education sector as development accelerator, many see the objective in relation to social development. Ethical and corruption issues in the education service are mostly related to the budget, financial capacities, salaries, environment, an attitude of parents towards the education sector.

The following activities are proposed to support quality education:

- Have separate indicators for number of students in a classroom for elementary/secondary, urban/rural, soum/provincial center, city center/ger district instead of estimating the average in the MSDV,
- Set an objective to provide mandatory one-year pre-school education for free at minimum including development and education of young children who meet the requirements to enroll to schools
- Study and determine problems of children who didn’t enroll at all or dropped out from school, take immediate stable actions to eliminate it
- From the perspective to ensure common objective to include all children and educate all children, make amendments and changes to content, attitude, structure and strategy
- Resolve discrimination, marginalization, dissimilarity and inequality in access, participation and education achievements – to develop policies and secure budget for children including **children with disabilities, children of minorities, self-employees, ninja (artisanal miners), child-jokeys, children of herders**
  
- Provide opportunities to capable teachers, pedagogues with decent management to work stably to provide quality education and improve achievements
- To ensure citizens to obtain skills on survival and decision making to respond challenges and problems faced at international and local levels through sustainable development education and global citizenship education,
- Improve flexibility of education such as to accept the knowledge, skills and capacities obtained unofficially and outside of schools, provide certification and match
- Certify results of high education, advanced degrees, improve access to quality distance learning and open online lessons, introduce other means in compliance with quality standards along with related financing and technology application

- Ensure capacities to resolve challenges faced by children such as bullying, discrimination, violence and abuse, use of tobacco and alcohol, allocate new budget for the program on child protection in education environment (schools and dormitories)
- Instill culture of consultation of education related parties at national/provincial, local levels including:
  - ✓ Define education policy priorities and strategies
  - ✓ Execute curriculum planning,
  - ✓ Plan activities,
  - ✓ Determine methods to conduct monitoring assessment
  - ✓ Resolve funding
- Implement the following activities to establish education related multistakeholder (teachers, parents, CSOs, researchers, donor etc) consultation mechanism with regular operations at national level:
  - ✓ Conduct assessment of conditions in education system with multistakeholder participation,
  - ✓ evaluate the implementation of education sector master plan, revise the master plan,
  - ✓ Evaluate the valid laws, policies, programs, make changes if required
- Disclose information including statistics on education, budget, finance, projects and programs under execution and executed except students' grades in the Management database of education, ensure access to information to citizens and CSOs,
- Take measures with direct positive impact to children vulnerable to air pollution, for example, vaccinate against pneumonia, improve air quality of public facilities for children, provide information on instruction to use high quality masks, organize information campaigns to influence public customs and behaviors,
- Mongolian Children: initiative of participants of first consultation on "Sustainable Development Goals -2030", World Vision International:



Challenges	Solution
<p>No classes except lessons</p> <p>Insufficiency of textbooks, different qualities</p> <p>Insufficient social science content in the curriculum, more content of natural sciences, however, the society develops very rapidly</p> <p>Listen opinions of children at decision making level in schools – ensure participation of children on appointment of social staff</p>	<p>Teachers, children and schools to develop positive behavior towards children with disabilities in the regular general education school</p> <p>Education curriculums to be flexible suitable for child's needs</p> <p>Reduce child employment with participation of families, children and teachers</p> <p>Improve teaching skills of teachers</p> <p>Ensure equal communications without discrimination</p> <p>Ensure accessibility of content on communications, attitude, self development for school children</p> <p>Teachers to value ethics</p> <p>Improve school environment</p> <p>Increase tools and laboratories and create comfortable environment</p> <p>Encourage participation of children with disabilities</p> <p>Improve teachers' evaluation</p> <p>Create more environment for children to spend free time outside of school</p> <p>Put overcoats in bags in schools and at home</p> <p>Use slippers in schools or change shoes</p> <p>Provide sport gyms to students for free, construct more gyms</p> <p>Address and improve quality of lunches served in schools and kindergartens</p>

- Улсаас цэцэрлэг, сургууль, эмнэлэг барихаар төлөвлөхдөө барилгын дулаалга, тусгаарлагчийн зардал, мөн дотоод агаарын чанарын удирдлагын тогтолцоо нэвтрүүлэх хөрөнгийн зардлыг төсөвт суулгаж тооцох,
- Develop and execute integrated air quality management methodology combining technical solutions and behavioral change in kindergartens, schools, and hospitals.

## SDG-5. Ensuring gender equality

### CURRENT SITUATION, CHALLENGES

*SDG-5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age*

The NSO study on Gender based violence of 2017<sup>12</sup> reported 14.7 per cent of women aged 15-49, 12.7 per cent of women aged 15-64 had been physically or sexually abused in the last 12 months. Proportion of abused women in the last 12 months is different. The highest rate was registered in Uvurkhangai (19.4%), Dundgovi (15.3%), Umnugovi (15.3%) provinces. The province with the high above average rates have no one-point service and shelters to protect victims which causes deaths of victims whose health and safety are failed to be protected.

*Case example: victim E, 28, married with three children for eight years. Local police and siblings were aware of the domestic violence; however, no help and assistance was provided. She lost her life being beaten by her husband. This was a domestic violence murder case, however, the law organizations sentenced the husband under the criminal code in 2018 with the law provision “made others to commit suicide” (soft sentence).*

**SDG-5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights**

*Unmet demand of contraceptives*

According to the Social Indicator Sample Survey f 2013<sup>13</sup>, unmet demand of contraceptives had increased 2.6 times among teenagers (15-19 years) in 2010-2013. High rates of teenage pregnancy and abortion demonstrates the unmet demand of contraceptives<sup>14</sup>. Proportion of teenagers (15-19 years) in total birth was comparatively steady in the last 10 years with slight decline in 2016, however, proportion of birth rates per 1000 girls aged 15-19 had doubled during the period and reached 33.1 per cent which is the highest rate.

Picture 5. Birth rate of teenagers aged 15-19 per 1000 girls.



Source: Factsheet on sexual and reproductive health, 2018, Ministry of Health, UNFPA

Abortion rate among adolescent female ages 15 to 19 had increased from 0.6 in 2003 to 4.9 in 2013 per 1000 teenagers. Increase of abortion and rates of STDs demonstrate

<sup>12</sup> Naked truth of violence: Study on gender based violence, 2017, NSO, UNFPA, AusAID and Swiss Cooperation Office.

<sup>13</sup> Social Indicator Sample Survey was conducted in 2018, however, the results were not disclosed. Data used in the report are referenced from 2013 study.

<sup>14</sup> Factsheet on sexual and reproductive health -2018, Ministry of Health, UNFPA

inaccessibility of friendly service, lack of knowledge on reproductive health of teenagers, parents and guardians<sup>15</sup>.

The general education schools included subject on sexual health in the curriculum of 2018-2019 which we see as the significant progress to meet reproductive and sexual health needs. The country is required to provide refreshment trainings for teachers teaching this subject and to train new teachers. The relevant authorities are required to make efforts at policy and funding levels, ensure engagement of health and education sectors, sectoral arrangements, coordinate multistakeholder partnership in order to secure the progress. An indicator should be applied to number of specially trained teachers to teach health subjects to measure the impact of SDG-3.7.

We would like to emphasize here that the Government of Mongolia delivered a decision to increase the funding for the contraceptives and allocated MNT 1.7 billion in 2019 in the state budget. This is the significant progress in this area.

Monitoring mechanism should be created involving citizens and NGOs to ensure provision of funding to all provinces and outreach of targeted audience, including teenagers, students, female herders, girls with disabilities. Mechanism to be created shall ensure the concept of leaving no one behind. If HIV infected persons shall be included in this group to have a free access to contraceptives, the country can achieve the 2030 target rate.

*Mongolian children: participants of first consultation meeting on "SDG-2030", World Vision International:*

- poor access to health services
- school environment, canteens, toilets fail to meet the hygiene requirements
- fail to obtain health education and knowledge

### *Maternal mortality*

Maternal mortality rate had rapidly grown in 2016 and declined back in the last two years to 2015 level. The recent maternal mortality study<sup>16</sup> revealed more than half of mortality (54%) is directly related to accouche service including bleeding, sepsis, high blood pressure. 45% of total mortality was concluded can be prevented if high quality prenatal, delivery and postnatal services were provided.

Social Indicator Sample Survey, 2013, monitored antenatal care with five indicators. the results revealed the proportion of women under the antenatal care was only 37.3% at country level.

The Law on Health provides provision of free of charge antenatal care and service, however, pregnant women receive paid services from private hospitals for diagnosis<sup>17</sup>.

## INCLUSION IN THE POLICY

SDG-5 gender equality is reflected in the **concept** section of the MSDV-2030 in general only which we see that this subject is left out.

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<sup>15</sup> Factsheet on sexual and reproductive health -2018, Ministry of Health, UNFPA

<sup>16</sup> Why mother died?, 2012-2015

<sup>17</sup> Factsheet on sexual and reproductive health -2018, Ministry of Health, UNFPA

MSDV-2030 2.2.2.2 proposes objectives to reduce factors to influence maternal and infant mortality which can be prevented through improving quality and accessibility of reproductive health care and service; and determined indicators and baseline rate.

National programme on gender equality for 2017-2020 was approved for the purpose to execute Law on Gender equality and implement Government platform for 2016-2020.

The Government approved and executes National programme on Mothers, Children and Reproductive Health with the resolution 78 of 2017 to achieve the above-mentioned objectives.

## PROPOSALS, RECOMMENDATIONS

Objectives and indicators of MSDV-2030 related to sexual and reproductive health shall be measured with quantitative data which we see is not satisfactory.

Recommendation:

- Include SDG-5 as a separate objective in MSDV-2030,
- Include a new objective to create grievance mechanism to address the requests and complaints of the customers related to the accessibility and quality of sexual and reproductive health with the participation of client representatives.
- Include number of target group which received the free of charge modern contraceptive methods as a separate indicator for SDG 3.8.
- Include persons with HIV in the group of recipients to get contraceptives for free;
- Conduct an assessment on reproductive health for communities around mines and mine staff, develop protection policies and create legal environment.

### *Mongolian Children: participants of first discussion on "SDG-2030":*

- Organize regular preventive medical check-ups at schools,
- Create eco-environment in schools
- Build bike paths in Ulaanbaatar
- Improve quality of lunch served in schools and kindergartens
- Teach health lessons in a suitable manner for children
- Organize free of car day once a week
- Instill a new culture to do regular exercises
- Regularly provide non-class health classes for children
- Teach healthy eating classes

SDG-6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

CURRENT SITUATION, CHALLENGES

According to population and housing census of 2010, 72.6 per cent of population of Mongolia or 1922.2 thousand people have an access to reliable water sources.

INCLUSION IN THE POLICY

MSDV-2030 2.3.1 set an objective to scientifically conserve at least 60 percent of water resources, river streams and water sources under special protection, and draw a medium-scale hydrology map for 30 percent of the territory.

Law on Population and housing census, Law on Water, 2012

Law on penalties for polluting water was ratified in 2012, however, now the law shall be amended without being applied.

PROPOSALS, RECOMMENDATIONS

- To execute vision of the National Development Agency to make a decision subject to ensuring multistakeholder participation in preparing development policy.
- Understanding of the water as non-renewable, irrecoverable natural resource at all levels should be a beginning of actions to protect potable water.

## SDG-7. Introduce renewable energy

### CURRENT SITUATION, CHALLENGES

More countries strive to increase number of renewable energy source and reduce impact on environment. Comparing to approximately 14 per cent of primary energy supplied around the world is sourced from renewable energy, Mongolia's source equals to 4 per cent only<sup>18</sup>.

The global rate of coal sourced energy production is 38.4 as of 2016 and 54.3 per cent in Asia. Mongolia's rate of coal use for the same purpose is too high or 92.7 per cent.

### INCLUSION IN THE POLICY

MSDV 2030 – 2.1.5.2 provides to increase proportion of renewable energy in total energy production and ensure preparations to use new sources of energy. A target is proposed to increase the proportion of renewable energy to 30 per cent in total energy volume and to start using nuclear energy.

It's unlikely to execute the above-mentioned objectives from compared analysis of execution of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of Mongolia proposed to reduce the climate change with the *Midterm Energy program*<sup>19</sup> approved by the Resolution #325 of the Government of Mongolia on October 24, 2018.

We analyzed the the newest policy document of the sector – Midterm Energy Program to ensure compliance of policy integration, financial and other resources in MSDV, Global Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Accord and other pledges on combatting climate change and desertification.

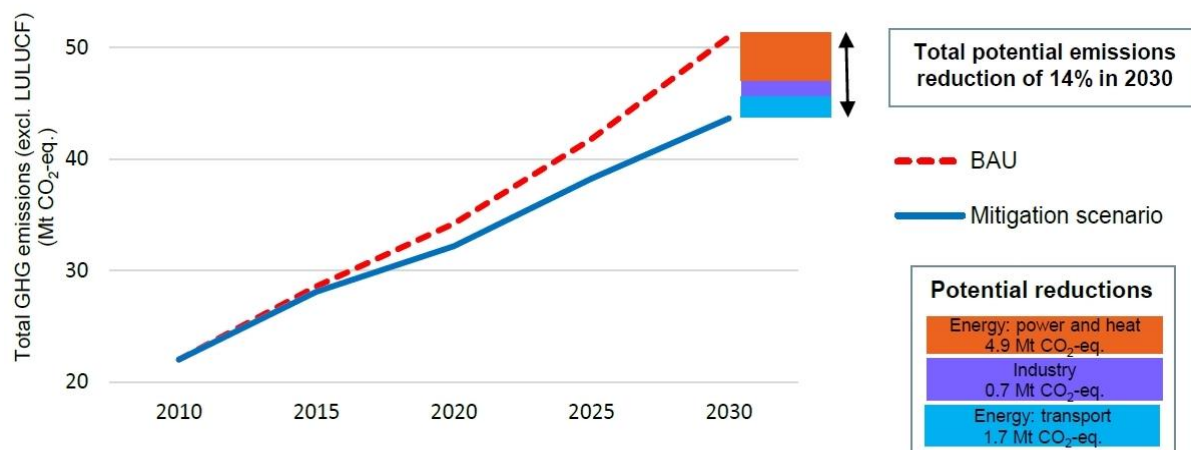
Picture 6: comparison of Mongolia's NDCs BAU option and reduction plan. Source: NDCs 2015

Business As Usual option (Picture 6: BAU) shall increase the national level greenhouse emission by 2.5 times by 2030 from 2010 or from 21 to 51 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> eq. Mongolia pledged to reduce greenhouse emission by only 14% from BAU estimating energy production to be reduced by 10% or 3/2. Total result of reduction measures listed in the NDCs is to reduce by 7.3 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq. annually (comparing to BAU) or in other words, instead of 150% of greenhouse emissions, the country pledged to reduce by 120%. This pledge is “fully conditional” or to be implemented and reduced only if international and foreign investment shall be granted comparing to other countries which are subject to “implement in any condition”, “to be implemented in certain terms”

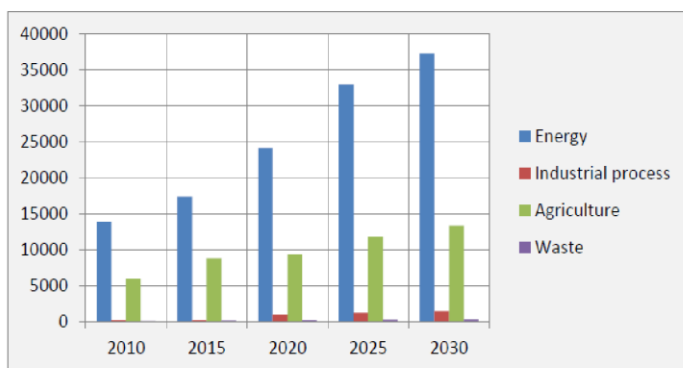
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<sup>18</sup> Energy efficiency and accessibility of Mongolia, composition analysis, 2019, NSO

<sup>19</sup> Midterm Energy programme of Mongolia, 2018-2023



Picture 7. An option to continue greenhouse emissions without change. 3<sup>rd</sup> National report submitted to the UNFCCC.



The following changes had been included in the Midterm programme comparing 3<sup>rd</sup> National report submitted to UNFCCC in 2017.

- Plan on installation of windfarms reduced from 300 MW to 100 MW
- Plan on installation of solar

panels reduced from 100 MW to 60 MW,

- Growth of coal fueled energy was changed by 800% or 9000 MW from the initial BAU plan to increase coal fueled sources by 150% or 2760 MW. See Midterm Energy Program Table 1<sup>20</sup>.

If the Midterm Energy Program shall be executed as planned, it shall have the following impact on NDCs:

1) pledge to increase sources of renewable energy in total installed power capacities to 30% by 2030 shall not be met (the most successful option of 400 MW renewable energy, if 400 MW hydropower station (the hydropower station with a risk to adversely impact on World's heritage site and areas protect by Ramsar conventions) shall be built in addition, the capacities of coal fueled thermal power plants shall be increased to 9000 MW.

2) we estimate the greenhouse emissions to increase to 60 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> eq or double from current level instead of reducing greenhouse emissions as pledged by 14%. The emissions shall be increased five fold from 2010 level.

<sup>20</sup><https://www.legalinfo.mn/annex/details/8750?lawid=13738>



Annex table of the midterm energy plan provides financial estimates and budget for coal sources projects, however, it fails to provide budgets for renewable energy, including solar panels and roofs which demonstrates the probabilities to implement the SDG.

Plan to double capacities of the thermal plants #2, #3 and #4 of Ulaanbaatar city, newly install 700 MW capacity in Baganuur or increase the total power produced at country level to 1200 MW may increase the air pollution which is at the disaster level today.

Installation of infrastructures to use coal technologies in the long run does not tied up with the national SDGs to reduce diseases and mortality of population and protect reproductive health as the world replaces policies to use coal.

Budgeted estimate of approximately MNT 4 billion in loans does not comply with the policy to eliminate the existing debt burden.

### PROPOSALS, RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct an assessment on compliance of with participation of CSOs Midterm energy programme
- Conduct an assessment with participation of CSOs whether the midterm energy programme is in compliance with the MSDV 2030 objective to increase sources of renewable energy;
- Conduct assessments and estimate the NCDs under the conventions and accords on climate change, ensure compliance;
- Conduct assessments, consult with CSOs and ensure compliance of creating healthy and safe life conditions, reduce environment and air pollution;
- Conduct assessments, consult with CSOs and ensure compliance of sustainable economi development and credit policies with the SDGs;



## SDG 8. Decent jobs and supporting economic growth

### CURRENT SITUATION, CHALLENGES

According to labor force study of 2018<sup>21</sup> 1253.0 thousand people were in employment relations, including 669.6 thousand (53.4%) men and 583.4 thousand (46.6%) women.

*SDG-8.3. Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services*

CHRD, MONFEMNET national network had jointly conducted a field study in Dornod, Khentii provinces and Bayandun soum of Dornod province to determine creation of decent jobs in the countryside. No decent jobs are created due to the following common reasons:

- Insufficient knowledge and information on SDGs
- No funding from Small and Medium enterprise development fund
- Reduced funds allocated for local community development fund
- Reduced budget for jobs creation
- Tenders are announced with short deadlines which restricts opportunities for local citizens to submit bids
- No support to train and develop temporary labor
- No on-job training mechanisms
- Increase of illiterate youth
- Lack of financial education

*SDG-8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.*

The 2018 labor force survey<sup>22</sup> results are shown in Table 3. Although 50.8 per cent women's proportion in total population is higher than men's, but the employment levels are below than men.

**Table-3. Employment of population of age 15 and above, by sex**

Situation	Total		By sex			
			Male		Female	
	quantity	%	quantity	%	quantity	%
Population of age 15 and above	2 226 596	100.0	1 051 276	47.2	1 175 320	52.8
Participation level of labor force		61.0		69.5		53.4
Rate of employment		56.3		63.7		49.6

<sup>21</sup> Report on labor force survey, 2018, NSO

<sup>22</sup> Report on labor force survey, 2018, NSO

Rate of unemployment

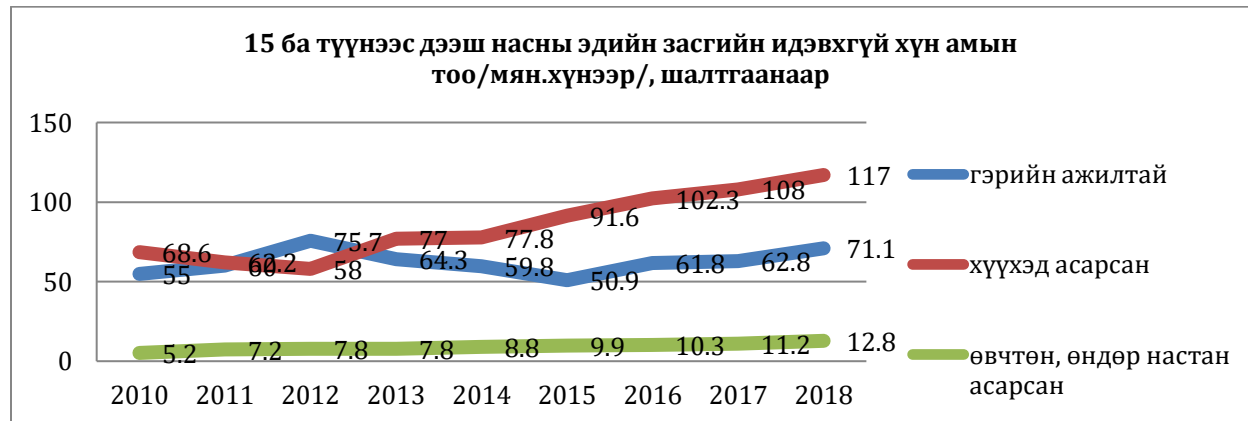
7.8

8.3

7.1

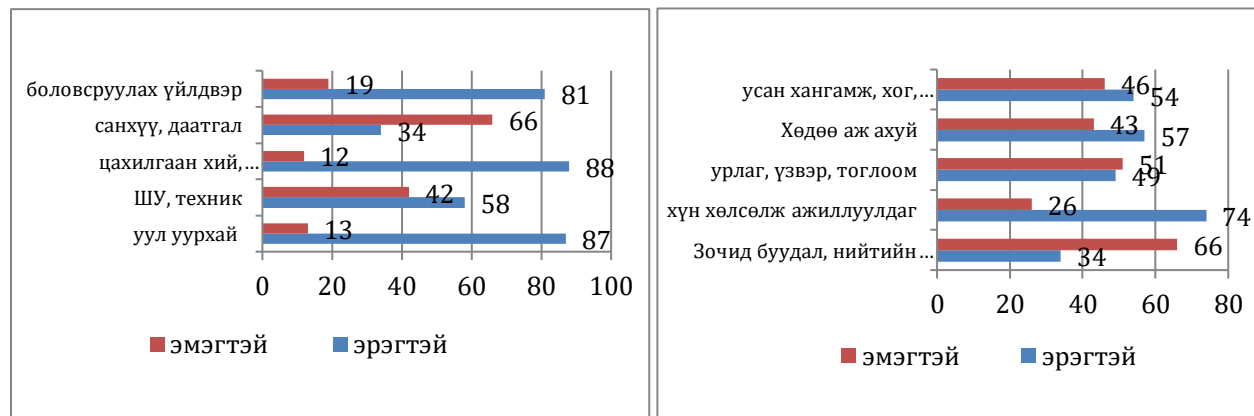
39.0 per cent of total population ages 15 and above are economically inactive population, 63% of which are women according to the labor force survey of 2018.

Picture 8. Economically inactive population, by main reasons, 2010-2018



The survey demonstrates that girls and women do not have equal access to economy and natural resources. They work in low income sectors and paid lower salaries as well as there is lack of policies to train women to work in the competitive sectors and support them with specific policies to run business.

Proportion of highest and lowest paid employees of five sectors, by sex:



The analysis on salary inequality of male and female employees conducted by the NSO based on the 2013-2015 data of labor survey demonstrates the gap of 17.3 per cent of salaries of men and women with the same education. Sex of employees is said to influence the difference of salaries despite the same education and skills.

High levels of discrimination is observed in employment by sex and age. One of two positions advertised on the labor market discriminates by age and one of three job

discriminates by sex. Proportion of employees with different salaries on the same job was 34.2 per cent, 79% of employees were mistreated on the work places, which are the violations of labor rights. Work place bullying and sexual harassment cases are increasing. One of three women face sexual harassment of job. 98% of victims are women and 2% are men.

Many women are trapped in unreliable work conditions, their jobs are unstable, the salaries are variable and they cannot access health and pension insurances.

The weakness of social welfare system is failure to provide support to people who does not fall into any classifications of social care program criterias and who are close poor and close to poverty levels.

The state allocated MNT56.7 billion in 2016, MNT50.6 billion in 2017, MNT65 billion in 2018 for the Small and medium industry support fund. The Fund had received 1178 project proposals and selected 480 projects. 136 projects were provided 3% loans, 122 of which were received by the entities related to Members of the Parliament and high level officials. Women engaged in private businesses were rejected requesting MNT 5-200 million soft loans from the Small and medium business fund due to “lack of funding”.

According to 2018 Labor force survey, 56.1 per cent of unemployed population are individuals ages of 15-34, 19.5 per cent ages 20-24 which are new to labor force group. 25.3 per cent of unemployed citizens are ages 15-24. The current situation demonstrates the need to address the unemployment of young people and take relevant actions along with the development of tertiary education students. Criterias such as on job trainings, staff development, hiring staff from tertiary education institutes can be applied for economic entities and companies as the part of CSR.

### INCLUSION IN THE POLICY

SDG-8.5 is included in the content of 2.2.2 of Sustainable social development of MSDV-2030. The MSDV-2030 targeted to support employment, expand economi activity to 70% by 2030, ensure 3% unemployment rate, increase the funds of small and medium enterprise fund to not less than MNT 300 billion.

However, no clear policies for social groups, employment environment and labor right violations which are the key pillars of decent employment are included in the MSDV-2030.

The state mentioned in its policy on employment to ensure equal participation of people with disabilities and women, provide support through legal arrangements to jobs suitable for labor capacities, however, it dropped out the employment rights, work environments or decent jobs.

The MSDV defined the economic activity and unemployment rates for each stage, however, the indicators for six programs to support employment failed to include indicators to represent increase of economic activities, reduction of unemployment which creates uncertainties to measure policy implementation.

### PROPOSALS, RECOMMENDATIONS

Regardless of state policy to support employment, number of women unable to be employed due to reasons of “childcare, care for someone in the family” is increasing. We see the need to arrange and regulate accessibility of kindergartens, childcare service which directly impacts to employment of women along with opportunities to work from home and to provide flexible work hours.

Execution of rights to employment and equal pay, one of the key criteries for decent employment is not mentioned in the policies and programmes. These issues are not included on the indicators which may lead to risks of sexual harassment on work places, discrimination by sex, age and opinion, discrimination of pregnant women to continue in the future.

Direct funding was provided by the state to reduce poverty, support employment and create new jobs, however, the funds failed to reach the target group.

Funds of the small and medium enterprise support fund failed to reach the true owners restricting creation of jobs and ensure economic growth.

To measure the objectives to support employment:

- Execute the law to provide same salaries for same jobs,
- Include a policy to support employment of reproductive age women in the MSDV and policies and programs of other sectors,
- Listen to voices of girls and women, ensure equal participation in decision making, take into consideration employment conditions and their specific needs in development of procedures in order to support employment and businesses of girls and women
- Include a policy on employment value of the education, health, social service in the MSDV-2030, include a new indicator on employment rights, implementation of violation of rights, registration of complaints to be measured in the sectoral policies,
- Include indicators for national policies and programmes in the indicators of performance of sectoral policies, programmes and activities of subsidiaries, assess the implementation
- Join and enforce pacts, conventions of international labor organizations in order to protect and ensure labor rights of which Mongolia is not a part..

### SDG-9. Development of innovation and infrastructure

### SDG-10. Reduce inequalities

## CURRENT SITUATION, CHALLENGES

Inequality reduction is one of the challenges faced to our country. Four targets of SDG-10 are aimed to implement the key concept of the SDG to “develop leaving no one behind” to reduce inequality within the country and provide equally the benefits of development, prosperity, participation and social welfare. Therefore, focus on ensuring implementation of each target of SDG-10 is very significant. Target 1 of SDG-10: “progressively achieve

and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population<sup>23</sup> at a rate higher than the national average” addresses to significantly increase income of the lowest income population. It also acknowledges that the poverty is the problem of social structure and system and in order to correct it the target 10-2 provides empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status, target 10-3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard; target 10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality; by 2030 reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent which are all clear targets to eliminate inequalities in the countries.

**INCLUSION IN THE POLICY**

The MSDV-2030 restricted the target 1 of SDG-10 as “reduce income inequality and expand the middle classes in the society to 80 percent of the population” failing to include targets such as eliminate discrimination, execute budget, finance, salary and social protection policies, reduce cash transfer payments. Therefore, there is a risk to not only unmeet implementation of SDG-10, but also to directly and indirectly impact to decelerate implementation of 60 targets of remaining 16 goals and to restrict implementation of all SDGs. The following table also shows that SDG-10 is not reflected in the 2016-2020 Government platform and its action plan, Three pillar development policy which is the main source of investment program 2018-2020 of Mongolia.

The superlative form is left out in the translation and bein translated as “ensure income growth of 40 per cent of low income population” instead of “lowest”, the MSDV set a target “to reduce income inequalities and to expand the middle classes in the society to 80 percent of the population”. Furthermore, the Government’s 2016-2020 platform 3.3.2 provides “advance indicators and methodology to determine income and spending of households, poverty rate to comply with life realities”. Action plan 3.3.2 to execute the Government platform provides “to revise methodology to estimate core indicators of poverty and determine livelihood levels of households, conduct studies in 2018-2020. MNT 14.4 billion is said to be allocated for this activity. The three pillar policy includes only execution of a policy to outreach poor households and citizens.”

*Inclusion of SDG-10 and its targets in the MSDV-2030, Government platform, Action plan to execute the platform, Three pillar development policy and plan:*

SDG-10	Related provision in the MSDV	Government platform 2016-2020	Action plan for Government platform	Three pillar development policy
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<sup>23</sup> We added the superlative form of low. This form cannot be left out as it shall degrade the results of activities to be executed.

10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average	4. to reduce income inequalities and to expand the middle classes in the society to 80 percent of the population	3.3.2 to advance indicators and methodology to determine income and spending of households, poverty rate to comply with life realities	3.3.2 to revise methodology to estimate core indicators of poverty and determine livelihood levels of households, conduct studies /2018-2020/ MNT14.4 billion.	To execute policies outreaching poor households and citizens
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“Reduce income inequality, expand 80 per cent of total population to average and above average levels.

The income inequality indicator is included as “to reduce poverty baseline rate from 36.5 to 30.0” in the objective 1 to end all types of poverty in the 2.2 Sustainable social development, 2.2.1 Accessible growth and social equality of MSDV-2030.

The activities to meet the objectives cannot be observed.

Lack of definition of “middle class” allows us to conclude unclear situation: where we are.

## PROPOSALS, RECOMMENDATIONS

- Reducation of inequalities is one of the challenges for our country
- High rates of financial discrimination, inaccessible loans, low salaries
- Results of social protection and welfare programs cannot be observed, programs do not reach the targeted audience
- Need for salary increase, elimination of discrimination, execute policies defining appropriate measures in order to reduce inequalities

## SDG-11. Friendly city, support public participation

### CURRENT SITUATION, CHALLENGES

46 per cent of total population of Mongolia<sup>24</sup> resides in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar. The city resides in the river valley. The city faces very extreme temperature fluctuations. The volume of waste in the air significantly increases during hot seasons which makes highly populated Ulaanbaatar to be an unreliable city with high rates of air pollution.

Ulaanbaatar covers only 0.3 per cent or 4704.4 sq.km of Mongolia’s total territory. 60.9 per cent of all transportation vehicles are registered in the capital city<sup>25</sup>.

### *SDG-11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities*

<sup>24</sup><http://www.1212.mn/>

<sup>25</sup><http://1212.mn/> National Statistics Office

Composition of passengers is defined based on the categories of passenger cards used for public transports (buses and trolley-buses only). No details on passengers’ sex, age groups, and the comfort of a ride cannot be expressed.

Table - 4. Trolley-bus and bus passengers, in percents, 2018

Passenger structure	Percentage in total
Adult	50.8
Elder	19.8
Persons with disabilities	7.3
Students	7.1
Children	15.0

No conditions are met so far to provide safe, cheap, accessible and reliable transportation systems by 2030 to vulnerable population, women, children, citizens with disabilities and elders considering their needs through expanding and improving public transportation. For instance, the city still lacks of infrastructure which is favorable for citizens with disabilities.

*SDG-11.3.2 Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically*

Migration of rural citizens to the urban areas had significantly increased due to distinction between urban and rural development, gaps of livelihood levels of the population as well as the natural disasters, droughts and dzuds. Activities of large mining projects also contribute to relocation. Minimum requirements such as legal rights to own and possess land, accessibility and safety of housing, provision of education and health services, expansion of infrastructure access are not met yet.

The city is challenged to resolve management issues faced by large cities including apartment districts being constructed without social infrastructure (schools, kindergartens), traffic jams in apartment districts, clean water and sanitation. International standards and norms to ensure public participation, act in accordance with the laws, provide full compensation are not complied for redevelopment.

*SDG-11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population*

The first monitoring report on the Sendai Framework was developed and submitted in October of 2018 using data of 2015, 2016 and 2017 in accordance with the digital method developed by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk.

Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population
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2015	2016	2017
1106.4	2811.5	274.3

*SDG-11.6.1 Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities*

40 per cent of the waste consists of recyclable paper, plastic containers, aluminum cans and glass bottles. 26 tons of waste was processed and exported as raw materials in 2017.

*SDG-11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)*

Study confirmed that particulate matters in the air of Ulaanbaatar city have caused mortality due to cardio-pulmonary disease (28.8%), lung cancer (39.9%), and mortality of total mortality of Ulaanbaatar population (9.2%)<sup>26</sup>.

Air pollution reached the dangerous level and the population of the capital city are polluted by 25 times more with the annual average particulate matters (PM2.5) average specified in the international standards of the WHO. Air pollution in soum provincial centers is at the high levels too.

Content of particulate matters in the air in Ulaanbaatar city is increasing continuously from the accepted levels for 237 days in 2011 to 338 days in 2018<sup>27</sup>.

*SDG-11.7.2 Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months*

According to the information provided by the General Prosecutor Office of Mongolia, 298 were sexually abused in 2015-2016 at country level. This is the only number of sexual abuse cases registered and inspected by the law organizations, however, there is no study on children who experienced psychological abuses. 48% of the children were abused by family members and relatives and left with physical and psychological trauma.

*SDG-11.b.1 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*

National policy documents including the State policy to prevent from disasters (2011), National programme to strengthen disaster protection capacities (2011), Law of Mongolia on Disaster protection (2017) are in force. The National Emergency Management Agency ratified and enforces midterm strategy plan for 2015-2020.

<sup>26</sup> Baseline study of master plan to reduce air pollution in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar, 2018  
<http://mnts.ub.gov.mn/p/wp-content/uploads/master-plan-2018.06.21-1-boti-tolowlogoonii-suuri.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> Air pollution and health in Ulaanbaatar, 2018, NSO



Report on reduction of disaster risks is submitted in accordance with Sendai Framework<sup>28</sup>.

### INCLUSION IN THE POLICY

*Objective 2.1.5.5 of MSDV-2030* can be considered to completely reflect SDG-11.3.2, objective 2.3.3.2 is in line with the SDG-11.6, however, the Phase I(2016-2020): increase proportion of green facilities of urban areas to 15%, expand proportion of recycled waste to 20%, eliminate smog of Ulaanbaatar city are still remain to not meet the satisfactory level in 2019 which clearly demonstrates the failure of actual implementation of policies and programmes.

*Objective 2.89 of the activities to be implemented in construction and urban development area in the Government action plan for 2016-2020* provided replanning and development of Ulaanbaatar and other urban cities, to renovate buildings and facilities within the scope of development policy, execute projects and programmes on ger area redevelopment, ensure conditions to reduce air pollution. However, the provision failed to include **to deliver decisions with public participation** specified in SDG -11.3.2 which demonstrates the lack of integration and connections between projects and programmes. Grounds and objectives to implement SDG-11.7.2, SDG-11.6.1, SDG-11.6 are clearly defined, but yet no actual results are observed.

The Government pays a special attention to implement the objectives of the **“National Program to reduce air and environment pollution” ratified by the Parliament in March of 2017.**

The National program to reduce air and environment pollution includes significant objectives such as:

- Accelerate housing activities building infrastructure for construction of houses in ger districts,
- Connect customers unable to be connected to the centralized infrastructure system to the partial engineering systems, establish sub-centers ,
- Dismiss heating furnaces in Ulaanbaatar city and connect customers to the centralized and partial engineering supply in stages.

First phase measures on redevelopment of ger district areas included in the document **“Amendment to the master plan to develop Ulaanbaatar until 2020 and development vision of 2030”** can see considered as the project which supports the indicators of SDG-11.3 and 11.6 targets.

The above-mentioned programmes claimed to address air pollution have adverse consequences which reject the implementation of the NDCs on the climate change as doubling heating and energy capacities through construction of housing, significantly increase air pollution, increasing burdens of debt as excessive loans are expected to be received from the ADB, Green Climate fund, World bank for the purposes to construct housing for 64 per cent of the population to reside in Ulaanbaatar by 2040.

### PROPOSALS, RECOMMENDATIONS

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<sup>28</sup> Directive A/184 of May 28, 2018 of the director of National Emergency Management Agency

Majority of the state policy documents are focused on construction development only with materialistic properties which leads to a concern of leaving out the human development.

Provision 3.3.1 to enact policies to improve value, competitiveness of a Mongolian citizens of the 2016-2020 action plan of the Government of Mongolia can be concluded as it fails to take actions on the development of citizens.

Only once the economy provides an environment to invest, run business, create jobs and improve sustainable livelihood of the population, an opportunity to eliminate poverty shall be opened. The principal method to eliminate the poverty are the jobs and employment.

Future actions:

- Define the indicators to measure the implementation of SDGs as national, stimulate integration of understandings and definitions,
- Define the term for the citizens to comfortably travel on public transportation, replace the definition “district of poors”,
- Ensure direct participation of the civil society in the city planning, improve implementation of the policies and programmes,
- Focus on education of citizens of the capital city, develop citizens.

### SDG-12. Supporting responsible consumption

#### CURRENT SITUATION, CHALLENGES

Various actions and measures were executed to create responsible and sustainable consumption, specifically, policies and plans to maintain food and fuel reserves, yield per person, consumption of materials per GDP, policies on hazardous waste, chemical substances, agreements and deals on environment, exchange of information. The Government allocates funds with loans and bonds to execute the policies and plans and reports the performance<sup>29</sup>. However, profit obsessed businesses brainwash public with advertisements promoting products such as soda drinks. Lack of understanding and knowledge about sustainable eco-consumption among public and failure of execution of laws and procedures leads us to a conclusion that eco-consumption yet to take some time to be developed and instilled.

For example, meat and fuel prices are too high, unfriendly banking and financial environment, low quality construction and infrastructure, hazardous smog, air, soil and water pollution, consumption, service and loans per person are in excess of permitted rates.

**Consumer** is in the falsified debt facing pollutions.

Mercury, cyanide is used for gold mining causes water pollution and lack of reporting of such hazardous substances leads to poisoning. There are no official waste disposal sites for hazardous substance and materials which causes various diseases. MNT 19 billion worth nine thousand tons of plastic bags were imported from China in the last two years. Only 8% of plastic bags are recycled and the remaining 92% are remaining in the soil,

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<sup>29</sup><https://www.legalinfo.mn/annex/details/7499?lawid=12308>

water and air polluting the environment. Some of plastic bags are burned for firing fireplaces<sup>30</sup>.

Scientists had already confirmed that PP containers not designated for food contain over 4000 hazardous substances harmful for human body along with emissions. Wide consumption of uncontrolled plastic, PP materials demonstrates unsatisfactory performance of SDG 12.

Mongolian Children: initiative of participants of first discussion on "Sustainable Development Goals-2030", World Vision International:

Challenges, problems	Solution
Inappropriate energy consumption	Stop watching TV while doing homework
Inappropriate use of water	Use water containers instead of buying bottled water on daily basis
Procurement of unnecessary and excess materials	Pour water into glass to wash teeth
	Provide family finance education to every child
	Make wasteless choice when buying products, ensure recycling and re-use

*SDG-12.5 by 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse*

2.3 million tons of waste was collected in 371 designated waste disposal sites in 2015 at the country level and 104 thousand tons of waste were disposed of in non-designated places. 68 waste disposal sites out of 357 designated waste sites in the countryside are apply landfill methods, the rest remains in open areas. Approximately 3586 hectares of land are under waste disposal sites and 242 hectares of land are under designated accumulated waste. Ger district of Ulaanbaatar city burns 81 thousand tons or a single family burns 450 kgs of waste in the cold season contributing to the air pollution (Ministry of Environment and Toursim). 2000-2500 tons of household waste is delivered to the waste disposal sites of Narangiin enger, Moringiin Davaa and Tsagaan Davaa. Landfill method is applied to dispose the waste.

Waste composition depends types of housing and seasons.

57.7 per cent of total Ulaanbaatar households reside in ger district and 43.3. per centin apartments. Majority of waste of get districts in winter season consists of ash. Number of households residing in apartments increase by 6600 and number of households in ger districts by around 8000. Therefore, the volume of waste is increasing each year. 850 thousand tons of waste is collected annually in Ulaanbaatar, including 750 thousand tons of household waste, 80 thousand tons are construction waste. In 2016, waste volume

<sup>30</sup> Initiatives, new solutions, new ideas of individuals and entities are required for reduction of PP container use <http://mofa.gov.mn/exp/article/entry/1440>

equaled to 800 tons which has increased to 1.4 tons in 2018. About 50 per cent of all waste is recyclable, however, collected, recycled and exported waste is less than 1 per cent /statistics of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, 2017/.

According to the statistics of the Customs General Administration of Mongolia, the country annually imports 3.5 million kgs of plastic, 44 million units of bottles and similar products in average. 1.2 tons of plastic and 382 thousand units of glass bottles in average are developed into waste annually. As this number may increase in the future, we need to provide support to waste recycling entities and encourage entities which use recycled waste with certain policies.

**Hazardous waste.** Ulaanbaatar produced 10 thousand tons of hazardous waste in 2007 which increased up to 29-58 thousand this year. The data of 2011 survey determined 75 entities of six districts of Ulaanbaatar use approximately 871 tons of chemical substances of 400 categories. But it's unclear how the waste was neutralized and disposed, how much waste was removed to where. 2014 register revealed 396 tons and 69 thousand liters of expired and unqualified chemical substances which were possessed by 297 entities of 137 soums of Ulaanbaatar and 21 provinces.

Majority of hazardous materials are disposed along with the general waste at waste disposal sites, some are disposed in soil and waters and the remaining are stored in non-designated places due to lack of a facility to dispose hazardous waste with environment friendly methods. Mongolia still has no a facility to neutralize and dispose hazardous chemical waste. The country also lacks of clear regulation on electric and digital waste included in the hazardous waste classification. All such materials are required to be re-used and recycled. 2014 study conducted by the "Environment and health center" NGO revealed that each household use 15-17 batteries for electric appliances, which is equivalent to consumption of developed European households. European countries separately collect the used batteries and send to recycling plants, meanwhile, our consumers dispose various types of batteries with the general waste.

Infectious waste of hospitals and treatment centers are collected separately and transported to incinerators. However, some incinerators, specifically in the countryside are not suitably located, and some use inappropriate incinerators which may have serious adverse impact on human health and environment.

*Issues to resolve waste in appropriate ways:*

- Lack of financial capacities to systematically resolve waste collection, transportation, storage, re-use, recycling, disposal;
- Insufficient detailed information and studies on volume and composition of waste
  
- Failure to dispose hazardous waste in compliance with proper procedures;
- Improve engagement of state and private entities, ensure human resources, capacities and funding to execute the cooperation and partnership;
- No hygiene landfill to finally dispose waste;
- Lacking experience to neutralize and dispose hazardous waste;
- No trainings and promotions on waste disposal.

INCLUSION IN THE POLICY

MSDV-2030 2.3.3.2 proposed an objective to improve waste management and determined stages of recycling volumes.

Disposal of waste in environment friendly means and methods are included in the Government platforms, however, no appropriate actions were taken to implement.

Legal documents including Law on Waste, National program to improve waste management were revised in 2012-2013 and sufficient procedures, guidelines to execute the legislation were issued. But the execution and implementation are unsatisfactory.

A decision was made to ensure detailed registry of waste to re-use, recover and recycle under the National program to improve waste management in 2014. The decision also reflects mobilizing resources of private companies. It will be more beneficial to our country to ensure legal partnership of the state and private companies at certain levels.

### PROPOSALS, RECOMMENDATIONS

There is no program which adequately addresses the sustainable consumption to be meet the daily needs. All planned activities are remaining on the paper without tangible results.

85-90 percent of public employees, pensioners and herders have high-interest loans and lack of access to state, health and education services fail to support responsible and sustainable consumption.

#### **Recommendations**

- Ensure execution and compliance of legislation which prohibits and restricts consumption with adverse impact on human health, lives and environment;
- Provide trainings to consumers on public consumption, improve knowledge and information,
- Prohibit and restrict import of old and used equipment and technologies from other countries,
- The state, private sector and NGOs to jointly organize and conduct activities to provide education, knowledge on waste in accordance with the developed plans and methodology,
- Ensure private entites to be on charge of collection, transportation, storage, re-use, recover and recycle waste depending on the volume, composition and properties; state to organize activities to commercialize the waste,
- attract and increase interests to be engaged in waste business, develop and support small and medium enterprises;
- Organize various activities to realize international principles “generator to be responsible”, “polluter to pay”,
- Get support and learn experiences from other countries to effectively organize measures to dispose hazardous waste in environment friendly methods,
- Ensure producers and importers to be responsible for reclaiming, re-using and recycling waste and packaging of chemical substance and some imported products.

*SDG-13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning*

## CURRENT SITUATION, CHALLENGES

Performance of goals to reduce impact of climate change are only at the starting point with more focus on improvement of the legal environment. This report provided highlights assessment of the SDG-13 legal status and inclusion in the national policies and programs.

## INCLUSION IN THE POLICY

MSDV-2030-2.3.2.1 provides establish national capacity to cope with climate change, 2.3.2.2 support with renewable energy. The document failed to include main idea to reduce adverse impact of climate change, ascertain impact in advance and prevent from climate change.

The document includes provisions only to cope with disasters once occurred and to protect from disasters, register and establish a fund. As the state makes the life-long education system to be responsible for an improvement of knowledge, education and human and institution capacities only, we see the state to fail to take a responsibility. The state fails to include it in the the annual socio-economic development framework and relies on donor organizations without allocating and spending funds.

Measuring reduction of greenhouse emissions to impact climate changed as provided in MSDV-2030-2.3.2.2 with the number of entities which introduced MNS ISO14001 package standards gives an impression of a voluntary activity dependent on motivation and initiatives of the business sector relying on natural resources, failing to be a mandatory responsibility.

The concept to take **immediate** actions to reduce the adverse impact on climate change provided in the global SDG-13 is left out.

4.1.5 of the *Government action plan for 2016-2020 activities* provides five measures, however, no concept to reduce adverse impact to contribute to climate change, activities to determine impact in advance, prevent and cope is reflected.

Despite of the Parliament resolution to join Paris Accord on climate change in September of 2016<sup>31</sup>, the resolution has no date for execution and exact number of the resolution.

Provision 4.2.6 of the plan proposes six measures to be implemented. Although the state is responsible to develop policies and ensure revision and compliance of standards, no activities are included in the plan to request compensation from special license holders who failed to make environmental rehabilitation, hold them accountable, to allocate funds from the special fund of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. Instead of the above, the state relied on the tax and international projects and programs.

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<sup>31</sup><https://www.legalinfo.mn/law/details/12109>

The execution of the action plan does not provide any progress as 2016 baseline indicators are not reflected.

### *National Programme on Climate change, 2011-2021*

The program is under implementation for the 8<sup>th</sup> year in two phases. However, the progress report is not accessible and transparent. Due to lack of financial and methodological support, incentive plans, responsibility system and participation of stakeholders to execute the national plan in the local communities, the expected results are not met.

### *National plan to combat desertification, 2010-2020*

The plan is being carried for the 9<sup>th</sup> year in two phases. The National committee to combat desertification is chaired by the Minister of Environment and Tourism. The Government is obliged to submit the report on the execution of the national plan as the part of UN's 10-year strategy to combat desertification, however, it remains unclear whether the Government submitted its report.

### *Green development policy of Mongolia, 2014-2030*

Objectives and concept of SDG-13.2 and 13.3 are fully integrated in the Green Development policy.

### *State policy on Industrialization, 2015-2030*

The policy to be carried for five years in three phases to develop the industrial sector into a sector to ensure sustainable development of Mongolia is in place. However, no plans for reduction of impact to climate change, participation of stakeholders are included, for example, no representation of the CSOs and Science organization on the Policy council on industrialization.

### *State policy in minerals sector, 2014-2025*

Concept of SDG-13 is not reflected in the policy document of the most significant sector.

### NATIONAL PROGRAM "GOLD-2" (2017-2020)

The document was developed to implement objectives to upscale economic capacities and ensure sustainable growth of the country through advancing gold production reflected in the State policy in Minerals sector, MSDV-2030, Government action plan for 2016-2020 and Programme on economic recovery.

Despite the GOLD-2 program includes provisions to be environmental friendly, improvement of responsibilities on rehabilitation, it leaves out impact on climate change, elimination of consequences on a longterm along with the clear definition of business responsibilities and accountabilities. Control of policy execution is restricted with the Ministries of Mining and Heavy Industry and Environment and Tourism only.

### *State policy on development of petroleum sector, 2018-2027*



The policy document has no planned actions to reduce adverse impact on climate change through development of petroleum sector and construction of processing plant, but clause 2.3.5.1 provides introduction of advanced technologies, equipment, international best practices and standards with less impact and to support green development.

### *Plan of activities for 2016-2020 of Ulaanbaatar city Mayor and Governor*

No activities are included in the plan to raise awareness among public on climate change and ensure participation of stakeholders as Ulaanbaatar city, the administrative unit with the significant population has the most impact on climate change.

### *“WE ARE TOGETHER” program of the Umnugovi aimag Governor to develop the province in 2016-2020*

121. To execute new management to decelerate desertification, increase participation of cooperatives and citizens, 122. Execute a policy to protect water reserves, 109. Establish mining information center. No activities on climate change are planned.

## PROPOSALS, RECOMMENDATIONS

Analysis of SDG concept inclusion in over 10 national policy papers, sectoral and local policies showed insufficient inclusion of SDG-2030 in the documents developed by the Parliament, Government and other state central administrative organizations with higher capacities and in activities plan of local administration in 2016-2020.

The Green Development policy of Mongolia based on the global SDG-2030, MSDV-2030 is the best policy, however, the performance since 2014 is not satisfactory with no achieved levels as specified. Three pillar development policy and GOLD-2 program indicates that the Ministry of Environment and Tourism leaves out the link of the policy document with policies of other sectors.

We see that the common inaccuracies on inclusion of the concept, content of SDGs in the approved policies of the Government of Mongolia and poor association and links of the documents demonstrate insufficient knowledge and capacities. Factors to influence climate change, execution means and methods to reduce, decelerate and cope with climate change are restricted with the environmental protection, introduction of new technologies and innovation, prevent and overcome from disasters, create database to register information, inform the public only.

Issues required “**Immediate**” actions specifically proposed in the global SDG-2030 are not included in the policies and platforms in the MSDV-2030 and policies and platforms developed since the acceptance.

The Parliament and the Government formed with the election results of 2016 consists of representatives of one party which ensure political advantages and opportunities to ensure performance to fully integrate the global SDG-2030 and MSDV-2030 objectives in 2016-2020 platform and plan budgets. However, the bodies failed to utilize the global SDG-2030 objectives as the national foundation and demonstrated lack of political will during the negotiations with development stakeholders. For example, we believe that



Mongolia could not accept terms of the IMF in the course of negotiations and not approve GOLD-2 program to carry out its responsibility for international community.

Parliament and Government policies developed since 2016 do not well connected and planned with the responsibilities of Mongolia to reduce climate change. Even one policy contradicts with others instead to support each other. This could be seen from the measures planned to be carried within the scope of the state policies on Minerals sector (2015), Industrialization (2015), Development of petroleum sector (2018), national program GOLD-2 (2017) to ensure execution of Green Development policy (2014). Opportunities to execute policies which failed to reflect SDG concepts are tarnished through issuance of administrative acts contradicting with national policies, principles of legislation and planned policies. For instance, the arrangement to issue special license on mining under the resolution #239 of 2014 of the Government was temporarily suspended with the Government resolution which provides selection of licence holders based on the payments. This new arrangement eliminated participation and control of citizens as well as it restricts execution of Green Development policy and local sustainable development policies.

The Laws on Development policy planning and Legislation ratified by the Parliament and the Government determines the phases and methodology to draft legislation and development policy papers. However, the Parliament and the Government approving policies and laws without complying with the above mentioned laws, conducting situational and impact assessments, considering studies and analysis and consulting with other development stakeholders. Therefore, the reflection of the global SDG-2030 13.2 on climate change in National policies, strategies and planning is unsatisfactory.

Sectoral policies could be claimed to be an action plan to secure financial sources rather than economic development despite no action to engage with international arrangements on development are reflected in national policies. Economic sources created by Mongolia in climate change are not reflected in the sectoral policies, how the funds shall be spent for social sector and for reduction of poverty.

As the sectoral ministries had developed their sector related MSDV-2030 taking an account economic development based on the mining and own accountabilities, no links were observed between sectors. The policies created unequal public access, no opportunities to be developed free of corruption.

The commonly faced issues for Mongolia are reduction of adverse impact of human activities, protection of natural resources, use of natural resources with less harms to the environment, eliminate climate change through rehabilitation, environmental pollution, prompt change of land surface, soil deterioration, water-air pollution, excessive exploitation of resources.

Lessons learnt by Mongolia in the last 20 years requires to immediately change the production and consumption behavior on economy growth based on mining and growth of agriculture and animal husbandry without economic returns and transition into environmental friendly model.

### **Recommendation**

- Instill practices to comply with the Law on development policy planning and Legislation, ensure engagement of multistakeholders such as state, science and research organizations, CSOs, entities to develop policies and programs, execute policies and programs in all sectors in association.
- Include objectives to take **prompt and special** measures to reduce factors to influence to climate change specified in the global SDG-13 in the MSDV-2030 and determine indicators.
- Include the promises to reduce climate change through ensuring compliance and links of other relevant policies based on the green development policy

### SDG-14. Protecting resources of seas and oceans

MSDV proposed an objective to protect water reserves and prevent from water shortfalls.

### SDG-15. Protect terrestrial ecosystem

SDG-15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

SDG-15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world

## CURRENT SITUATION, CHALLENGES

Following the ratification of the Law on “To prohibit mineral exploration and mining operations at the headwaters of rivers, protected some of water reservoirs” by the State Great Khural (Parliament) of Mongolia on July 16, 2005, over 240 special licenses were terminated which created a legal environment to protect headwaters. No information is available as of today how many special licenses were invalidated, how much land was rehabilitated and submitted. In addition to that it remains unclear which organization, including Special Inspection Agency, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, MRPAM, is in charge, no database, report on inspection and investigation is available. Decisions including 14 resolutions of the Government, two decrees of the Ministers were issued to grant land within the legal scope to fail to execute the primary purpose of the law.

The Law on Water pollution fees was ratified in 2012, however, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism failed to develop and enforce the procedure. By end of 2018, the law hasn't been enforced. Therefore, no progress was made towards implementation of National Water programme, enforcement of Water Law, protection ecology balance of fresh waters, including protection, rehabilitation and sustainable exploitation of forests,

marshes, mountains and dry land subject of international agreements. MNT 9 billion to be paid for water pollution fees is not collected by the state budget.

Mongolia established 21 administration units for 29 water basins but due to lack of experience and research resources, training of administration staff is important for the implementation of SDGs<sup>32</sup>. For example, according to 17.2 of Article 17 of the Water Law, prior of granting special license on mining, a final decision should be made based on the recommendation of the Water basin administration but it lacks of database, research and capacities to provide such recommendation. There are no cases to grant special license based on the law provision by the MRPAM.

The water census conducted every four years according to the Water Law of Mongolia, 12% of surface water dries out in average annually. 8% of rivers, 11% of springs, 18% of lakes dried out in the last 13 years.

Mongolia registered 47 million hectares or 29.9 per cent of total territory under the protection between early 1990-ees to 2017<sup>33</sup> at various administrative levels. Region (corridor) for migration of wild animals with significant importance for the region and world remain in the 70 per cent “unprotected” part. The current regional division fails to protect environment for wild animals even in the protected areas<sup>34</sup>.

The Government proposed considerable objectives in relations to SDG-15.3 such as to rehabilitate 70 per cent of regressed land at minimum, reduce desertified land to 60% by 2030. The policy targeted to reduce land regression fails to ensure participation of stakeholders. Inaccessibility of information, lack of cooperation and regulations, the implementation of the policy hasn't reach any success.

76.8 per cent of the total territory had regressed at certain levels as of 2015. 24.1 per cent of regressed land is evaluated as slight, 29.8 per cent as average, 16.8 per cent as heavy and 6.1 per cent as very heavy. Heavy and very heavy regressed land is observed in Uvs lake basin, Great Lake depression, dry and desert areas of Dundgovi and Dornogovi<sup>35</sup>.

Majority of regressed land is in the territories of agriculture. Pastureland was covering 123.6 million hectares of land in 1987, but it was declined down to 112.2 million hectares in 2016. During the above-mentioned period number of livestock increased 2.7 times from 22.7 million in 1987 to 61.5 million in 2018. Due to this rapid growth, density of livestock measured to be 54 heads per 100 hectares in 2016 against 18 heads per 100 hectares in 1987. This increase had heavily impacted on pastureland overburden. 63 per cent of total pastureland was overgrazed by end of 2015<sup>36</sup>.

Along with the overgrazed pastures, special mining licenses are granted on the agricultural land. 3074 special licenses for minerals are valid as of February 4, 2019, including 1681 mining, 1393 exploration licenses, 24 lots for petroleum and around 20

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<sup>32</sup> Environmental performance report of Mongolia, 2018. UN European economic committee

<sup>33</sup> Report on State of the Environment of Mongolia, 2015-2016

<sup>34</sup> Environmental performance report of Mongolia, 2018, UN European economic committee

<sup>35</sup> Report on State of the Environment of Mongolia, 2015-2016, Ministry of Environment and Tourism

<sup>36</sup> National assessment report on gender of Mongolia, 2019, National Gender Committee

special licenses for processing plants<sup>37</sup>. Transportation without paved roads, failure to do technical and biological rehabilitation for mineral processing, irresponsibility of state control and inspection, weaknesses, high risks of corruption and bribery are heavily impacting on the pastureland. Mongolia still lacks of legal environment on rehabilitation and protection of regressed land and coordination of pastureland exploitation. This law is being under discussions for many years, yet remains as draft only.

Mining activities had increased significantly in the last 20 years which have heavy influence on citizens in surrounding communities. Mining also impacts air, soil, water and animal husbandry. The accrued impact of mining activities has adverse impact on health of citizens of local communities. Diseases which impact health due to mining activities include respiratory diseases caused by dust and poisoning with chemical substances. No assessments have been done on accrued and health and social impacts under the Law on Environmental impact assessment. The Ministries of Environment and Tourism and Health which are in charge of the impact assessments do not actively engaged in the process.

The Minerals Law restricts selective mining of high grade minerals, however, it's common for the mining companies to mine the high grade minerals and avoid from environmental responsibilities. The Minister of Environment and Tourism in his interview in 2011 had mentioned that 46.8% of land under mining activities are left without ownership. The 2018 census of the left out areas reported 59 thousand hectares of land require rehabilitation. The state is said to provide funding for land rehabilitation. According to the 2016 environmental report, MNT 200 million is required to rehabilitate one hectare of land.

According to the Law on the environmental impact assessment and the Law on Minerals, a company must place 50 per cent of total costs in the special account of the state fund of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism as a guarantee to do rehabilitation and to claim back the funds upon completion of rehabilitation. In case of a company's failure to do rehabilitation, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism shall contract a professional organization to do rehabilitation and required funds for rehabilitation shall be irrevocably paid by the company. However, the companies estimate the rehabilitation budget at low rates and place MNT100.000-2.5 million tugrugs and didn't claim back as well as the ministry requests the rehabilitation. According to the EITI report, the special fund for rehabilitation deposit of the Ministry of the Environment didn't allocate any funds as designated. The fund is estimated to have over MNT 50 billion, but it maintains only MNT 10 billion<sup>38</sup>. No information is publicly available and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism conceals information. Therefore, it's unclear whether the funds are properly spent, and funds are collected from the companies and whether the Ministry implements the Green development policy.

Law on water pollution fee was ratified in 2012. The law is not being enforced for seven continuous years as the Ministry of Environment and Tourism hasn't yet approved the methodology and procedure to calculate the pollution. Entities acknowledge the environmental issues which should be immediately addressed. 86 per cent of the entities accepted the arrangement that a polluting party should pay the fees and 90 per cent of entities admitted that the environmental issues should be addressed from now on which

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<sup>37</sup> <https://mrpam.gov.mn/public/pages/133/2019.01.pdf>

<sup>38</sup> Monitoring report of Steps without borders NGO, 2017

is greatly appreciated. The stakeholders conduct demonstrates the need of proper and integrated policy<sup>39</sup>.

### INCLUSION IN THE POLICY

*MSDV-2030* proposed objectives including to become one of the first 30 countries to ensure ecological balance and lead with green economy indicators; to be listed on the 90<sup>th</sup> place with the package indicators on environmental performance from current 111; reduce the land affected by desertification from 78.2 per cent down to 68 per cent; increase land under special protection from 17.4 to 30 per cent; 100 per cent supply petroleum demand from domestic sources.

MSDV-2030-2.3.1.1. To protect water reserves, prevent from shortages. Phase I (2016-2020): to get not less than 60 per cent of water reserves, river headwaters under special protection, establish not less than two large scale water reservoirs to collect surface water, develop hydrogeology mid-scale mapping for 30 per cent of the territory.

MSDV-2030-2.3.3.1. To protect native nature, biological diversity, preserve sustainability of the ecosystem. Phase I (2016-2020): decelerate desertification, increase land under special protection to 25 per cent; forests to 8.5 of the total territories. All these objectives are planned to be executed in 2020.

*Government action plan for 2016-2020*: the Government action plan for 2016-2020 and the plan of activities to implement the action plan encloses the concept of SDG-2030. Activities better than the platform objectives are planned to be executed, but no results were observed in 2018.

*Local SDGs*: Arkhangai province developed and approved a policy until 2026 including the local SDGs with 44 targets, 70 sub-targets. The policy was developed in line with the platform for 2016-2020 of the Governor of Arkhangai province and the green development policy of Mongolia reflecting concepts of global SDG-2030.

With regards of the indicators to measure the implementation, the province proposed to increase area under special protection to 35 per cent of the total territory of the province by 2020, rehabilitation to 40 per cent, forests to 18.5 per cent to have higher performance from the country level which we see a great progress.

### PROPOSALS, RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Conclusion

We appreciate the inclusion of policies and programmes on water ecology system, its scope, for example, to protect, rehabilitate and sustainably exploit forests, marshes, mountains, dry land under its responsibilities to the international agreements in the policy documents of Mongolia. These policies include contents of international agreements and global SDG-15.1 at satisfactory levels. Data is available for the measuring indicators.

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<sup>39</sup> Baseline study to determine understandings, knowledge and trends on environment of economic entities, 2016, "Association of Mongolian marketing study" NGO

Clear policies to combat desertification, reduce disaster risks, rehabilitate regressed land are planned to be developed and included in the MSDV-2030.

Despite the policies, execution of the responsibilities under agreements, policy documents, specifically implementation of national programmes and legislation are extremely unacceptable. Global SDG-15 target is within the responsibilities of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, however, arrangements between other sectors and coordination of activities are not satisfactory. The activities could be deemed as for reporting purpose only implementing projects within the scopes of foreign projects and programs.

The legislation enforcement is also unsatisfactory as the legislation is changed regularly. Particularly the change of political conditions changes the “legislation on mining and environment”. For example, under the Minerals Law, an exploration license is granted once applied (to be granted in order of application submission), however, public wealth is being granted in accordance with the Government procedure since 2016 (auction) which is the arrangement under the administrative act disregarding the legislation. In such situation, local administration and public participation is fully restricted.

The state and economic entities are not held accountable (15.1, 15.2) for the environment in the business sector. No measures are taken to hold accountable the responsible parties, the arrangement fails to perform. For instance, the UNDP Environmental Governance study highlighted that 60 per cent of crimes against the environment were discarded, only five per cent of such crimes were resolved by the courts.

### **Proposal**

- Conduct study on impact of documents such as Gold 2 and Three pillar development policy which are implemented by the Government of Mongolia and to amend the documents in compliance with the global SDG-6, 13, 15 targets, indicators, cease implementation of some policies with adverse impact,
- Immediately address the implementation of the Law on “To prohibit mineral exploration and mining operations at the headwaters of rivers, protected some of water reservoirs”. Ministry of Environment and Tourism to be the main responsible party to improve water governance,
- Define public role in EIA,
- Include representatives of CSOs in the professional council on EIA, disclose activities, MoM of sessions, decisions to public,
- Conduct mandatory accrued and strategic impact assessments specified in the Law on EIA of the Government projects,
- Environment audit activities are carried as the voluntary duty or at the requests of the investors rather than under the laws, therefore, audit economic entities with state ownership and Government projects,
- Introduce new category of “landscape reserve area” for matching protection purposes to rehabilitate regressed area covered by the State special protected area region. Create new legal arrangement to take certain area for this purpose under the state protection, improve ecological returns of the matching protected area,

- Create new legal arrangement to determine extent of ecosystem of the area to be registered under the state protection, no land shall be granted to businesses except traditional animal husbandry.,
- Create a mechanism to support citizens and NGOs
- Create a mechanism to ensure registration of crimes against environment reported by individuals and NGOs to the state environmental inspectors and police, support their actions, provide financial remuneration to informants, keep confidentiality.
- Create an arrangement for consultative meetings to share and exchange information, ensure cooperation of the Ministry of Mining and Heavy Industry, MRPAM, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, SSIA,
- State to provide funds to reduce desertification, restore and rehabilitate regressed land, protect biological diversity; expend fees for natural resources for environmental rehabilitation as specified in the Law on royalties; allocate funds of international projects and programmes to rehabilitation rather than for capacity building purposes.
- To develop data on hay areas, places for wintering and spending springs, livestock, people, springs and waters affected by mining projects.

SDG-16. Build peace and justice

CURRENT SITUATION, CHALLENGES

SDG-16.1. Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

Over ten individuals lose their lives due to violence annually<sup>40</sup>, which demonstrate that gender-based violence remains as one of the problems.

Picture 10. Domestic violence crime occurrence in Mongolia, 2010-2017



SDG-16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months

<sup>40</sup> Statistics of General Police Department, 2017

0.9 per cent of total cases of physical violence or sexual abuse were officially registered by the General Police Department as domestic violence crimes<sup>41</sup>. This number demonstrates that the domestic violence is secretly committed which may continue and get repeated with a risk of death.

One year and ten months had passed since the enforcement of the pre-emptive law to combat domestic violence in Mongolia on February 1, 2017.

Unless the state shall allocate required funds to enforce the law on domestic violence, we will fail to combat the violence.

Majority of violence victims are youth ages 20-44 and their children. As girls and women experienced domestic and sexual abuse are left out or in the risk of being left, the policy makers must address their conditions.

#### *SDG-16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month*

World Vision International conducted the program baseline survey in December of 2018 to evaluate the performance quality on child protection program. The survey covered 36 khoroos of 6 districts of Ulaanbaatar, 52 soums of 11 aimags<sup>42</sup>. We reviewed the information relevant to SDG-16.2.1.

#### CURRENT SITUATION, CHALLENGES

Teenagers were asked a question “**Do you feel safe at home without being afraid?**” in order to determine whether children are provided good environment as the parents and guardians are major responsible parties. 69.4 per cent of teenage children, 65.7 per cent of target group children responded positively.

50.9 per cent of teenage children (n=3412) and 62 per cent of parents (n=3511) responded the question on disciplinary methods of parents that a negative disciplinary method was used in the period of past month. The following tables demonstrate negative disciplinary means applied by parents and guardians.

Table 7: Disciplinary methods applied for children (results of adult survey)

N	Parents' response	11 categories of negative disciplinary methods		6 categories of physical punishment	
		#	%	#	%
1	Parents, guardians who didn't use negative disciplinary methods	2152	38.0	4422	78.1
2	Parents, guardians who used negative methods 1-3 times	2691	47.5	1149	20.3

<sup>41</sup> Study of gender based violence, 2017, NSO

<sup>42</sup> World Vision International, program baseline study, 2018



3	Parents, guardians who used negative methods more than 4 times	820	14.5	92	1.6
	Total	5663	100.0	5663	100.0

Experience to discipline children: 48.1% of all children, 48.8% of parents and guardians participated in the survey accepted beating children.

Mongolian Children: initiative of the participants of first discussion on "Sustainable Development Goal -2030", World Vision International:

Challenge	Solution
High rate of violence in the family, school environment High rate of discrimination in online environment Adults fail to listen to opinions of children Insufficient understanding about violence	Children to attend trainings on violence with their parents, guardians Every school to have a counsellor Conduct regular trainings on positive disciplinary methods Schools to have a system to regularly provide various information on science, technology

*Qualitative study: during the interviews with citizens in local communities, they said that physical punishment is a common thing in the course of discipline children. They believe that traditions and customs of Mongolia discipline children and children did a wrong thing, parents and guardians can physically punish children in order to discipline them. Children believe that their parents do the best for them, so they accept everything from them.*

### INCLUSION IN THE POLICY

Chapter on crimes against children was added in 2015 during the new revision of the Criminal Code. Ratification of the Law on the Protection of Child Rights in 2016 prohibited any types of child abuse and specifically ensured rights of children to be free of any physical punishment in any environment. Mongolia ensured strengthening of child protection mechanism at national level and legal and financial guarantee to provide child protection service at local level along with the Law on the Protection of Child Rights. The National Programme on Child Development and Protection was ratified by the Resolution 270 of the Government in 2017.

Mongolia joined the global partnership to end violence against children.

### PROPOSALS, RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ensure full performance of the mechanism on child protection in accordance with its responsibilities and focus on development of joint teams' capacities to strictly execute the Law on the Protection of Child Rights, Law on Child protection;
- Ensure safety of children in life and online environment, directly provide understanding, knowledge and skills on risk prevention to parents and guardians through unofficial trainings;
- Instill conducts based on children's rights to police staff, prosecutor, judges engaged in violations of child's rights, child right inspectors, other state employees through continuous refreshment trainings at professional level;
- Private sector to develop and execute flexible employment policies allowing employees to allocate time for their children to support children's rights;
- Improve staffing, financial and technical resources of child helpline 108.

### *TX3-16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation*

Only the number of victims is included in the SDG database based on the data of the General Police Department, no detailed information such as sex, age group, types of exploitation. This may relate to incomplete translation.

The official statistics are based on the information provided by the General Police Department. However, the real life registry and studies show that each of two victims served by the Gender Equality Center NGO had appealed the police. If to consider the remaining victims as non-official, we can estimate the official number of victims acknowledged at the international level.

Significant gap can be observed between numbers of NGOs and state organizations for assessment of SDG-16.2.2 indicator. For example, 29 victims were admitted to the Gender Equality Center and provided assistance in 2016, but the Criminal Police Department filed 14 criminal cases, sent three cases for investigation and the Mongolian court resolved nine cases<sup>43</sup>.

### *SDG-16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18*

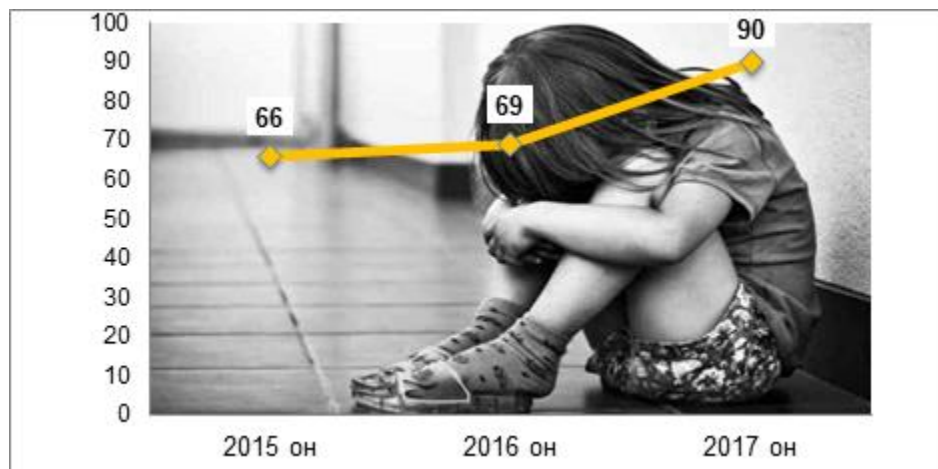
Rights of 225 children were violated in the period of 2015-2018 who became the victims due to crimes of domestic violence. 132 of victims of domestic violence were children of young age. 65% of victims in 2015, 53.6% in 2016 and 57.7% in 2016 were children under age of 14<sup>44</sup>.

*Picture 14. Number of children victims of domestic violence, 2015-2017*

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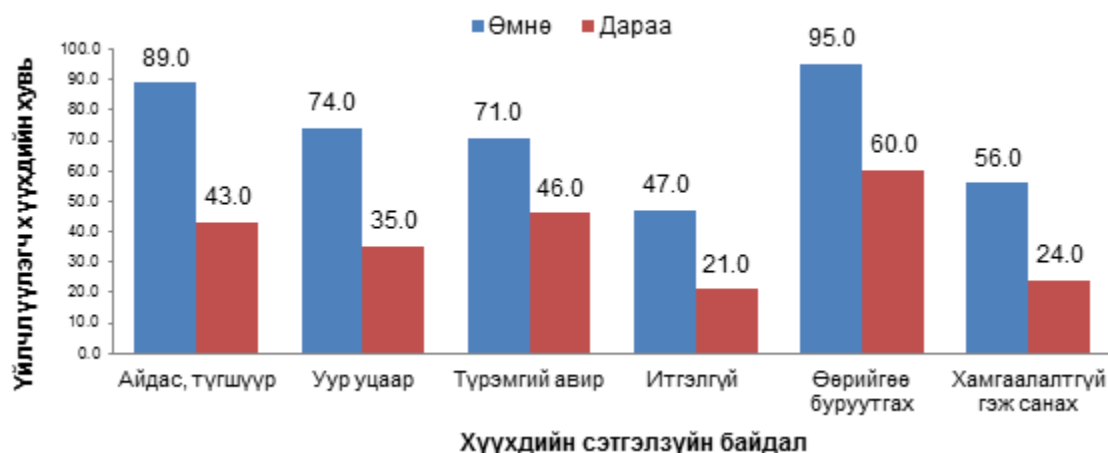
<sup>43</sup> Statistics on crime, General Police Department, 2015-2017

<sup>44</sup> General Police Department



Majority of 163 children received individual and group psychological counselling from the National Center Against Violence in 2016-2018 had been experiencing fear (43%), quick temper (35%), aggression (46%), failure to communicate with others (21%), self-accusing (60%), feeling themselves unprotected (24%). Psychological counselling helped children to calm down and restore their psychological balance.

Picture 15. Psychological behavior of children faced domestic violence, before and after service, in per cents



Partner of 1 in 3 women served by the National Center Against Violence had been born to and raised in families with domestic violence. **Mongolia needs to start practicing mid and longterm psychological counselling for children** as becoming a victim of violence at young age and growing to see violence develops into one factor to commit violence.<sup>45</sup>

One in 10 women participated in Gender based violence study, 2017 was sexually abused, abusers were family members (29.5%), friends (19.0%), strangers (18.7%). According to the study of police, 37 rape cases involving minors were registered in the first 10 months of 2012, 54 cases in the first ten months of 2013, 298 cases in 2015-2016. Girls experienced sexual abuse become victims.

<sup>45</sup> G.Tuvshinjargal, B.Suvd. Psychology of abused children. Modern issues of child development. International conference, 2018. p.520

There is no special mechanism, standard to provide protection for children, psychological and social counselling for the girl victims considering their risks. (ЭБЭЭНН, 2018). Girls not only being sexually abused, but also deliver babies at teen ages, suffer from STDs. Children are double suffering in addition to the abuse due to lack of proper training for physicians to provide medical report as physicians avoid from writing medical report; expensive unaffordable legal fees, fees for diagnosing and treating STDs and other diseases, failure to determine psychological loss under the law.

### *SDG-16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms*

#### *Case: Issue of ethics and corruption in education service*

Significant amount of the state budget, foreign loans and assistance was spent for education in the last years, however, the conditions and results of the sector do not meet the public expectations. Civil society organizations believe that one of the reasons of such failure is the corruption and bribery.

Transparency International concluded degradation of education quality, inaccessibility, loss of equality which negatively impacts on the country's development. Parents participated in the the latest study "Transparency, ethics and corruption issues in Mongolia's education sector" conducted by the Asia Foundation rated the bribery and conflict of interest in the education sector as "average" or 2.65. Teachers, employees and researchers were more critical and rated as "high" or 3.7. Around 50 per cent of all respondents answered that it's common to pay, use powers and relations to enroll children to schools and kindergarten, change classes, upgrade marks and rates. The qualitative analysis data revealed that amount paid for bribery and corruption is measured in millions of tugrugs. 50 per cent of respondents' have a perception that "significant" corruption and conflicts of interest are involved in human resource selection, staff appointments, provision of remunerations. Teachers and staff strongly criticize leadership of the education sector, specifically in relations to ethics of school principles, unlawful influence of political parties and officials. For example, 13 per cent of teachers and staff participated in the qualitative study mentioned that they had given gifts and money to get a job and secure appointments. 46 per cent of respondents have a perception of corruption involved in the procurement process. Private sector acknowledged own observations and cases of corruption in procurement process. Vast majority of procurement cases are related to mid and high level officials. The amount of bribery equals to 5-10 per cent of total contract value. Six of 13 entities participated in the qualitative study answered their involvement to influence the procurement process. The law provision to provide general education for free is not fully implemented in the Mongolian education system. For example, parents have to for school uniforms, textbooks, class fund, costs for school and classroom repair. Over 50 per cent of individuals participated in the study said they had given donations and paid money to schools and kindergartens. The consequences include discrimination among school students, change of teacher's behavior toward students and even to drop out from schools.

### *SDG-16.10.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information*

Access to information is the indicator for progress.

Mongolia ratified the Law on information transparency and right to information in 2011 and joined the Open Governance partnership in 2013 which demonstrates the country's political will to strengthen the right to information. Although the law and the legal framework to validate the rights is comparatively good and covers wide scope, due to lack of law knowledge of state organizations, it's a challenge for the Government to ensure full enforcement. We regret that the Government and the state organizations have restrictions on information to be publicly disclosed.

MSDV-2030-2.1.5.7 proposed an objective to digitize no less than 85 percent of public services. In order to implement the SDG-16.10.2, the state and government organizations should publish information in open and transparent way available online, the public organizations should appoint staff to be in charge of information and have a mechanism in place to process requests from citizens to obtain information.

One of the key indicators of global SDG-2030 program is to ensure multistakeholder participation. Any process aimed to be changed and replaced cannot be managed and executed solely by the Government or representatives of the civil society. Complete picture should be aimed to be developed to measure and evaluate execution of rights to information. Organizations such as the National Statistics Office of Mongolia, National Development Agency should collect information on execution of rights to information, integrate at the state level which could be used for development and planning of any national policies. Collection and gathering of data and information applying various methods to evaluate the execution of rights to information is the first significant step and it's important to continuously conduct this evaluation.

NGOs conducted an independent assessment on execution of rights to information in Mongolia in 2019 applying methodology developed by FOIANet or the Freedom of Information Advocates Network. Mongolia was evaluated as yellow from three rates of red, yellow and green with 39.8 points out of possible 100. The researchers concluded that Mongolia does not have an independent, special organization in charge of execution of right to information. Public employee in charge of information has no full knowledge of the law and wasn't provided an official training on this subject. No certain procedure on confidential information of the organization exists, however, the organizations still maintain strong culture on secrets and confidential information.

The current conditions ensuring right to information is not perfect, however, there is a potential to significantly advance the SDG-16.10.2 indicator. The future progress shall be not only the achievement and success to implement SDGs, but it also shall fast-track the implementation of national development policy of Mongolia.

## INCLUSION IN THE POLICY

The second item in the list of measures to be implemented on family, children, youth development of the Government platform for 2016-2020 of Mongolia includes to strengthen family values, reduce violence, protect individuals affected by violence, improve responsibilities of the family members, to create legally friendly environment ensuring children to be property owner since birth.

The objective 2.2.5 of the National program to ensure gender equality for 2017-2021 includes measures such as to combat and prevent from violence and discrimination, however, the reporting is not transparent, no financial, methodological support is provided to rural areas to implement the national program and participation of development parties is weak. The program is planned to be completed in 2021, but no measures to prevent from violence have been carried.

3.7.1.14 of the Three pillar development policy of Mongolia provides to combat with child violence such as to prevent children from any risks and violence, improve detection of crimes on this subject.

### PROPOSALS, RECOMMENDATIONS

Violence against women is the most shameful human right violation, however, it's the most common violation. No progress can be achieved to secure equality, development and peace when violence exists. The SDG targets 5.2, 5.3, 16.1 and 16.2 specify to end and eliminate all types of violence against women and girls and significantly reduce related death rates. As these targets are not included in the MSDV-2030 and included in other policy documents in the form of declaration, we regard that the Government of Mongolia pays little attention to this serious violation of human rights.

#### Recommendation:

- Allocate required budget for measures to enforce the Law on Domestic violence, to create full opportunities to significantly reduce all types of violence, related deaths specified in the SDG target 16.1,
- Train professional staff to provide assistance and service to victims of violence with disabilities, operate free 24-hour hotline with accessible video call, establish national level shelters and one-point service centers for people with disabilities,
- Coordinate cooperation of the Government, CSOs, international organizations to end violence,
- For the purpose to end hereditary violence, make an arrangement to cover costs for recovery services provided by professional organizations and counsellor to a child experienced domestic and sexual violence by the health insurance fund and child protection program funds.
- Retain the provision on service to be provided to children, women, elders and citizens with disabilities whose life, health and safety were exposed to risks and who require protection in the draft revision of Law on Social Care,
- The Law on Human trafficking includes provisions to provide some services to victims of human trafficking. No details are provided to deliver such service. Therefore, to specify delivery of such service by the related laws and regulations including who, how to provide service, how the service shall be financed,
- No regulation on psychological compensation exists for victims of human trafficking, take certain actions to resolve this matter,
- To develop methodology to use unofficial number or registry of NGOs to define the actual situation of victims of human trafficking.

SDG 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

CURRENT SITUATION, CHALLENGES

SDG-17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress

The NSOs reported that the total volume of foreign direct investment (FDI) and official development assistance (ODA) in the total central budget of Mongolia in 2017 was 65.8 percent.

Official development assistance (ODA) is the major economic force for Mongolia. Mongolia has been receiving soft loans, assistance from partner countries and international organizations since 1991. ODA received by the country from foreign countries and international organizations in the early years of transition into market economy reached surpassed the GDP by 1.6 fold. ODA played an important role to overcome economic challenges during the period of transition.

ODA equaled 8 per cent of GDP in 2007, reduced to 3 per cent in 2014 and reached 4 per cent in 2016. Total assistance provided by development partners to Mongolia is USD 3.2 billion. Most of the assistance is provided by JICA, the Japanese international cooperation agency, PRC, ADB, WB, MCC (Millennium Challenge Corporation)<sup>46</sup> reported the Development Finance Assessment in Mongolia.

As of 2017, WB provided USD213.5 million<sup>47</sup>, ADB USD 1.95 government loan, USD USD 237.21 assistance, USD 149.4 million technical assistance<sup>48</sup>, Japan USD 1.191.35 assistance, USD 1.579.44 soft loan, USD 496.86 technical cooperation assistance (total of USD3,267.65 m or JPY100 million)<sup>49</sup>.

Sectors received foreign loans and assistance:

Ministry of Construction and Urban Development USD 174,450,000 and EUR9,535,000 projects in 2016, Ministry of Road and Transportation USD 422.2 million, JPY 65,6 billion loan for 10 projects in 2017, Ministry of Health MNT 545 billion for 20 ongoing projects.

MNT 941.7 billion was spent in total for 127 projects to be implemented with the foreign loans and assistance in 2018. Significant money was spent for some projects without actual results. One of such examples is the projects on reducing the air pollution in

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<sup>46</sup>Development Finance Assessment for Mongolia: Тогтвортой хөгжлийн санхүүжилтийн төрөлжүүлэх нь 2018

<sup>47</sup>World Bank

<sup>48</sup>Asian Development Bank

<sup>49</sup>Website of Embassy of Japan, Japan ODA to Mongolia.2017.04.05



Ulaanbaatar. Many projects had been carried to address the air pollution issue and the Government had received MNT 147 billion (approximately USD 60 million), additional USD 60 m from donors to reduce air pollution in 2008-2016. UN and ADB mentioned in the “Policy recommendations for Mongolia on accelerating SDG implementation” MNT 68 billion in total was spent to distribute 175 thousand improved household stoves. The project reached 97.6 per cent of total ger district households of Ulaanbaatar city. Despite such measures, the air pollution wasn’t reduced reaching the disaster level.

The Minister of Health highlighted “Various activities have been carried to reduce the air pollution in Ulaanbaatar without actual results. Cases of sickness have been increased. Cases of respiratory diseases had doubled in 2016 to 1647 per 10,000 people against 791 cases in 2000”.

The following inadequacies still exist in the implementation of projects funded by foreign loans and assistance. For example: the report on performance audit on the Government’s debt management execution conducted in 2017 reported that some ministries and state administrative organizations failed to efficiently plan backgrounds and needs of the projects under implementation, develop clear feasibility studies (including study on current condition, risks, needs), regularly conduct project monitoring-assessment, evaluation along with unsatisfactory control on project and programme execution which have negative impact on project results and returns.

Foreign loans and assistance received by our country is the debt to be paid back. As of December 30, 2017, the debt of the Mongolian government was MNT 22.7 trillion. MNT 773.6 billion was paid for foreign loan service fee, including MNT 582.7 billion for loan and MNT 190.9 billion for interest.

Mongolia has been receiving soft loans and assistance within ODA framework from partner countries and international organizations since 1991 and many projects and programmes were implemented in all sectors. Some projects and programmes have been not implemented within the deadline, some projects have no actual results. S.Byambatsogt, Member of the Great State Khural (Parliament) said during the discussions on the results of the projects and programmes on the plenary session of the Parliament in October of 2018:

“47 projects with foreign and domestic loans and assistance are ongoing in our country. Over 400 people are working on this projects. It’s true that a project unit is established, but the project is not being implemented. For example, the Eg river hydropower station. The project unit was established with significant funds, but until now there are no results. USD 50 million soft loan was received from Germany to develop ger district, the funds are gone, but smog remains. No clear policies to develop ger districts were developed. A project was carried by Germany to improve energy. 55 per cent of the project funds was spent for advisory services. We can’t see the results. Good things are said before the start of projects. But no results are observed in practice. A project to support export is under implementation with USD 80 million soft loan from Japan. But how many of 5700 products are now being exported without taxes? Is there any control on project units to evaluate the performance?”



The state has a responsibility to create favorable economic conditions and opportunities. The state hasn't yet developed structured policies and proposed goals to protect the financial rights of the state and citizens whose rights are seriously violated.

Mongolia cooperates with 24 embassies and four honorary consulates of foreign countries, UN organizations, bilateral and multilateral cooperation organizations, international aid organizations with representative offices in Mongolia. According to official information, 1219 projects had been implemented and under implementation within the ODA framework as of today. Despite the projects and programs, the livelihoods of citizens and the country's development gets worse. Every citizen of Mongolia, even an infant to be born after 2050 has a debt. No state regulation exists

Every citizens of Mongolia, even a child to be born after 2050 has a debt. There is no state policies and regulations on debt management. The Law on Debt management is not executed and debt management is lost. Investment are spent for repayment of previous loans which leads to increase of the country's debt. Burden on taxpayers is increasing with investments and the debt ceiling escalates. No decent jobs, no labor rates, no agreements, no mechanisms to protect labor rights, no court decisions are being implemented. Significant amounts of money are spent inefficiently to provide small cash to the public. Political promises had damaged trust of citizens.

### INCLUSION IN THE POLICY

2.1.6.3 of MSDV-2030 provides only "Establish a sound development finance system, restructure and settle debts without adversely affecting the economy and the balance of payments, ensure that the foreign debt is less than 58.6 percent of the Gross Domestic Product, and maintain proper debt and other financial thresholds by 2020, 50 per cent by 2025, 40 per cent by 2030 and ensure proper rates of debt".

*The Government platform for 2016-2020* includes a statement "Establish policy cooperation, legal stability, favorable environment for foreign investors, improve execution of international agreements, treaties, national legislation related to their interests, ensure transparency of all projects and bids in infrastructure, other sectors, execute *Glass tender selection* policy".

No clear provisions on foreign loans and assistance are included in the *Three pillar development policy*.

The documents do not include particular provisions to improve activities on soft loans and assistance, to increase efficiency and returns of loans and assistance within ODA.

The outcomes of the loans and assistance are not transparent and open. The state audit inspections and monitoring conducted by some NGOs revealed deficiencies in the implementation of projects and programs carried with the foreign investment. Therefore, actions to improve the activities and outcome of foreign loan and assistance should be included in the MSDV.

### PROPOSALS, RECOMMENDATIONS

Foreign loans and assistance pay an important role in the sustainable development of Mongolia. However, control on the implementation and returns of loans and assistances is not stable, the activities are not transparent.

Plants and equipment of old technologies are imported to Mongolia as technology and innovation technologies.

High level officials, members of the Parliament are given full authorities for development of environment friendly technologies along with price discounts. Lack of knowledge, skills and commitment are observed in the international free trade.

Documents such as Doha Investment for development is not introduced for public. National producers risk their businesses in the competition with world's large business.

CSOs participation in the implementation of projects financed with foreign funds and acceleration of responsible cooperation shall eliminate various violations, ensure transparent activities and improve returns of the loans and assistance.

### Recommendation

- Include a new indicator in MSDV-2030 to measure foreign loans and assistance, returns of ODA in all sectors;
- Implement the promise to partner with CSOs within the scope of Paris declaration, Accra program, Busan partnership initiative;
- Ensure participation of CSO representation and multistakeholders in all level consultations on cooperation and other activities;
- Ensure financial access and establish related infrastructure, disclose confidential agreements on investment with strict terms;
- Disclose agreements of commercial banks which created self-advantages to public (TIKA-5, 1510-MON-SF projects to improve banking system),
- End confiscation of properties for unpaid high interest (24-96 and more) loans of 24-96 and more without court decision, ensure compensation,
- Ensure fair taxation on small and large entities,
- Establish democratic ownership, decent jobs, common and fair remuneration created by funds utilized under ODA,
- Stop increase of debt ceiling placing debt burden on ordinary citizens and taxpayers for repayments of previous debt,
- Stop political promises such as distribute cash, smokeless stoves, money laundry under the name of development of small and medium enterprise (chemical plants) and thermal power station,
- Widely use brand name "Made in Mongolia", export wasteless and value added products,
- Refuse from unnecessary imports, protect the domestic market and national producers with border and customs policies,
- Refuse from old equipment, PP and plastic materials to be procured under the name of international investment and Government procurement,
- Openly grant rights to international banks and financial institutions to operate in Mongolia, create fair competition for financial services.

## V. AIR POLLUTION: DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

### CURRENT SITUATION, CHALLENGES

In 2016, Ulaanbaatar with the population of half of total Mongolian population is named as the most polluted city in the world. Now the city became the city with the most PM 2.5 particles.

The MSDV outlined air pollution as one of the development problems and CSO network report endeavored to highlight the issue from the perspective of the health of mothers and infants. MONFEMNET national network organized XIII forum on **Through eyes of women: Air pollution and the health of mothers and children** in May of 2019. The forum is the significant contribution to the reporting of SDG implementation. The forum aimed to:

- ✓ delineate challenges faced to implement objectives and meet indicators reflected in the MSDV-2030;
- ✓ Discuss whether the policies and measures on reduction of air pollution and financing are targeted to reduce impacts and risk on mothers and children, conduct an assessment on the implementation;
- ✓ Discuss needs to develop policies and strategies required to eliminate risks and negative impacts on health of mothers and children, determine possible measures and policy advocacy guidelines to be implemented;
- ✓ Share initiatives, best practices, innovations and outcomes on reduction of air pollution risks and negative impacts on mothers and children, ensure reproductive health and rights;
- ✓ Discuss state policies, decisions, measures, financing priorities, advocacy guidelines, joint objectives and strategies on reduction of air pollution

Based on the discussions, the participants developed the solutions and recommendations expressing their opinions and positions.

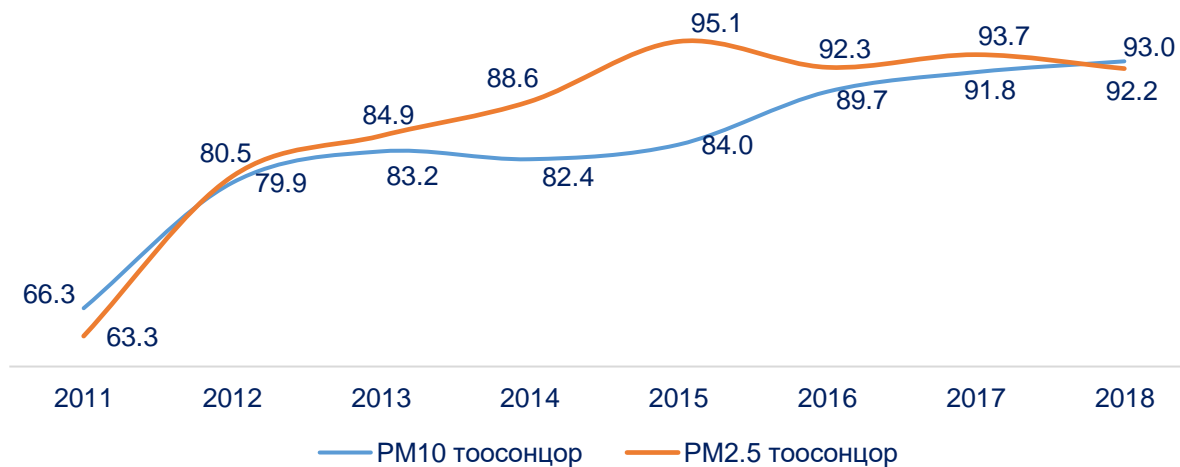
This chapter includes excerpts of presentations and speeches delivered during the forum.

Picture 15 demonstrates the official statistics on coarse PM<sub>10</sub><sup>50</sup> and fine PM<sub>2.5</sub> particles which exceed the accepted standards.

Picture 15. Proportion of days in a year with excessive particle levels, 2011-2018

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<sup>50</sup> Coarse particle of 10 microns are mostly created by mechanical activities such as construction, street cleaning, winds and storms, movements of humans and vehicles. Bacteria, ash, grime are included in the coarse particles.



Average concentration mean of particles exceeded 237 days in average in 2011 which increased to 338 in 2018<sup>51</sup>.

Ulaanbaatar air pollution reached the levels to risk children and pregnant women, specifically children and pregnant women in ger district in the highest risk. These risks are beyond stillbirth, miscarriage, low weight birth, pneumonia, bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and child mortality. They have restricted access to health service in existing conditions<sup>52</sup>.

### 1. Perinatal mortality

Air pollution is one of the main causes of perinatal or fetal mortality negatively impacting on foetus or neonate since the development. Toxic air impacts lungs and tracheolaryngeal airway and leads to premature birth, intrauterine growth restriction and miscarriage.

The gap between winter and summer mortality is 3.5 fold<sup>53</sup>. It means that 3.5 times more foetuses die in the winter season than in other seasons.

Once S<sub>2</sub>O (sulfur dioxide) levels increase in the mid and last trimesters of pregnancy and content of coarse particulate matters during the whole pregnancy exceeds the accepted level, the infant's weight at delivery is reduced by 138 grams in average. When the concentration of coarse particulate matters and S<sub>2</sub>O is doubled from accepted levels during the mid and last trimesters of pregnancy, it doubles increases of preterm birth and foetus is born at 26-30 weeks. Once the content of coarse particulate matters and nitrogen

<sup>51</sup> Ministry of Environment and Tourism

<sup>52</sup> Danger alarm: Air pollution and child health, National Center for Public Health, UNICEF, February, 2018

<sup>53</sup>D.Enkhmaa et al, Seasonal ambient air pollution correlates strongly with spontaneous abortion in Mongolia, BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth, 2014, 14, (1), 146

dioxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) exceeds the accepted level by 10 points in the first trimester of pregnancy, there is a risk of stillbirth<sup>54</sup>.

## 2. Infant mortality<sup>55</sup>

79 thousand babies were born in 2018 at country level, including 1465 (1.9%) being born abroad. 77.1 thousand mothers delivered 77.5 thousand babies which is the increase by 4.3% (3174 mothers) and 4.3% (3200) of liveborn babies from the previous year.

1307 infants died in 2018 across the country, 2.8% (28) increase from previous year. Infant or neonatal mortality rate was 13 per 1000 liveborn in 2018 reducing by one infant from previous year.

## 3. Child mortality under the age of five<sup>56</sup>

Child mortality under the age of five was 1310, increasing by 66 (5.3%) from previous year. Child mortality under age of five per 1000 liveborn was 17 remaining at the same level. MSDV-2030 targets to reduce the child mortality under the age of five to 15.0 by 2020. However, due to air pollution this target may not be met.

One of the main causes of child mortality under the age of five is the pneumonia. 1244 children under the age of five died in 2017, decreasing by 384 or 4.1% per 1000 liveborn in the previous year. 86.4 per cent of children under the age of five died of diseases, 13.6 per cent of accidents and injuries. 72.6 per cent died in the hospital, 27.4 outside of hospitals<sup>57</sup>.

Mortality of children under the age of five was 121 in December, however, it increased by 21 (21.0%) only within a month<sup>58</sup>.

## 4. Medical disorders of infants and children under the age of five

Respiratory infection increased by 27 per cent in the last 10 years in Ulaanbaatar. The UNICEF report<sup>59</sup> mentioned lungs of children of the capital city are vulnerable to diseases by 40 per cent versus children living in the countryside.

Respiratory disease is the main cause of medical orders of infants and children under the age of five in urban and rural areas. Pneumonia accounts 25.4 per cent, acute respiratory disease 21.0 per cent, influenza 10.9 per cent in respiratory disorders among infants and children under the age of five<sup>59</sup>.

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<sup>54</sup> Impact of air pollution on foetus and small children, MD.Ph.D, D.Gantuya, Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences, National Center for Public Health

<sup>55</sup> Social and economic situation of Mongolia 2018, NSO

<sup>56</sup> Social and economic situation of Mongolia 2018, NSO

<sup>57</sup> Health Development Center

<sup>58</sup> Social and economic situation of Mongolia 2018, NSO

**Хүснэгт 3.6.3 Нялхас болон 5 хүртэлх насны хүүхдийн өвчлөлийн шалтгаан, хувиар**  
/хот, хөдөө/, 2017 он

	1 хүртэлх насны		5 хүртэлх насны	
	Хот	Хөдөө	Хот	Хөдөө
Амьсгалын тогтолцооны өвчин	37.3	66.7	42.8	66.6
Хоол боловсруулах тогтолцооны өвчин	10.3	10.1	12.0	13.7
Перинаталь үед үүссэн зарим эмгэг	12.5	4.1	6.9	2.2
Гэмтэл, хордлого ба гадны шалтгаант бусад тодорхой эмгэг	2.0	0.7	8.3	1.8
Халдварт ба шимэгчит зарим өвчин	3.8	0.9	8.3	2.9
Арьс ба арьсан доорх эслэгийн өвчин	8.2	4.3	10.5	5.3

■ Тэргүүлэх шалтгаан  
■ Хоёрдугаар шалтгаан  
■ Гуравдугаар шалтгаан

10 thousand children were reported to have pneumonia in 2016, it increased to 14 thousand in 2018, reported the NSO. Number of children under age of five serviced by OPD in 2018 had increased by 76.8 per cent from the previous year or was 67 thousand.

The recent study data demonstrates that air pollution has adverse impact on foetus in the womb as well as on infant's brain and cognitive functions development after birth. UNICEF's paper "Danger in the air: How air pollution can affect brain development in young children" confirms that toxic substances with fine particulate matters in the air injure brain cells of children, adversely impact to cognitive functions development and leads to development delay and have lifelong adverse consequences. *The most critical development takes place in the first 1,000 days of life during of which the neural system matures.* Pia Rebello Britto, Global Chief and Senior Advisor, Early Childhood Development, UNICEF had said that brain of infant and young age child has very vital and vulnerable and sensitive neural connections shaped before the birth. "Those neural connections form child skills to think, learn, memorize and capacities of language and cognitive functions. Adverse environment, specifically toxic air impact makes a child more vulnerable during the growth and development and restricts brain to be fully developed".

According to the UNICEF report, adverse impact of air pollution on brain development of young children has same negative consequences which are observed on children lacking of nutrition, love and care or abused child. Specifically, this vulnerability is at the highest level for 1000 days from conception to 24 months, including:

- As the air polluting substance have ultrafine particles it is directly absorbed to the child's blood, reaches brain and causes neural tissue inflammation crossing barriers between blood vessels and brain.
- Pollutants such as magnetite or magnetic iron ore in Mongolian enters to body through olfactory system and digestive track creating oxidation stress with its magnetic property and becomes one of the causes of unrestorable diseases of neural system.
- Pollutants such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons formed from burning of coal, fuel, dust, waste, tobacco damages neural connection cells of brain which is the foundation to learn and develop.
- As size of the brain of young children is small then adults', it is very sensitive. Even small amount of toxic substance poisons child's brain more dangerously. Child

breaths more frequent than adult and immune system is weak, so they are exposed to air pollution more than adults.

## MEDICAL COSTS OF CHILD DISORDERS RELATED TO AIR POLLUTION AND FINANCING

### **Economic burden on health and medical service facilities of Ulaanbaatar**

Costs for health and medical services provided to patients with disorders caused by air pollution in Ulaanbaatar had significantly increased in the last five years. Costs for children had almost doubled.

If the Government of Mongolia shall not resolve the issue of the air pollution in the near future, economic burden on health and medical facilities of Ulaanbaatar related to children of age of 0-18 shall reach MNT24.8 billion (USD9.8 million) by 2025. It means additional MNT24.8 billion (USD9.8 million) shall be required to treat children's disorders related to air pollution if the air quality level, population structure, health service system shall remain the same<sup>59</sup>.

2/3 of costs of measures on reduction of air pollution of Ulaanbaatar shall be related to children by 2025. The largest share of non-action costs to be spent for children of age of 0-18 shall be carried by inpatient facilities of districts. This can be seen from the overloaded hospitals treating influenza even the Ministry of Health made arrangements adding 700 beds and organizing all adult treatment facilities to treat children.

### **Burden on families and lost efficiency of parent and guardians**

Direct costs spent by families to overcome risks and disorders related to air pollution is increasing. Costs related to lost efficiency of parents and guardians taking care of their children is significantly increasing.

Mothers cannot work to take care of sick children. 110,800 mothers took care of children in three quarters of 2018.

The number of mothers taking care of children who are considered to be economically inactive is increasing. This number was 10.8% in four quarters of 2013 versus 13.3% in three quarters of 2018<sup>60</sup>.

Mongolia's poverty rate reached 29.6 per cent, 907.5 thousand out of three million are living below the poverty line. In such conditions<sup>61</sup>, children's disorders have been increasing which adds burden on the family budget and some families cannot afford required treatments.

*Case: Excerpt from the presentation "Burden on families and lost opportunities" presented during the Forum Through eyes of women.*

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<sup>59</sup> Danger alarm: Air pollution and child health, National Center for Public Health, UNICEF, February, 2018

<sup>60</sup> Statistical database, 1212.mn, economically inactive population of ages 15 and above, by reasons, quarters, annually 2018

<sup>61</sup> Poverty profile -2016 study, NSO

Frequency of children to have infections and disorders during smog months: results of survey collected from 800 respondents. Answering the question how many times your child is infected with respiratory disease in the smog months, 62.9 per cent of 768 respondents said 0-5 times, 30% 5-10 times.

How much does the fresh air cost?



*Young mother: I am so afraid of growing children to make them feel smog risk dangers. There were nights when bronchitis couldn't be treated with the best antibiotics which I could smell from sweat and I was thinking why I delivered this baby to make him suffer. I have two kids of ages of 1-3. They got infected with influenza at least five times between November and May. The influenza develops into bronchitis, larynx, pneumonia within a night and we go to hospital. This is not the childhood they want. I was free from violence and abuse when I was a child, and I am lucky that I haven't lived by life with dangers of smog as today.*

**Lost efficiency of parents and guardians due to air pollution**

Everyone takes measures within their characyers, financial capacities to protect families and children from air pollution. This burden is carried by the families only. Air pollution started to influence on family planning. Mostly women, mothers, grandmothers, sisters are taking care of children who got sick from air pollution. On the other hand, financial burden comes to other family members. More burden comes on vulnerable families and single mothers and fathers are getting more vulnerable because of additional burden.

Air pollution impacts on quality of life. "Breating fresh air" is now considered to be "luxury life" expanding inequality in the society. More and more people started to think that ger



district is the main causer of air pollution creating discrimination. Air pollution creates more economic burden on families with young children.

No opportunities to enjoy rights to work, study, develop, to have secured housing, have savings, be healthy. Many physical and psychological losses are faced such as health, time, opportunities to rest, expected child, stillborn babies and more. Loss caused by smog cannot be estimated and we are carrying irreparable losses.

Participants of the survey “Frequency of children’s disorders during smog months” were asked a question: Have you ever enjoyed reliefs provided by the health insurance fund to receive treatment and services for your child? 74.7 per cent of 774 respondents answered NO. The reasons included: no knowledge on the medicine in the preferential list of drugs, the medicine is not included in the list and a lot of time is spent to get it.

According to the speech presented on the forum Through eyes of women<sup>62</sup>, money accrued in the health insurance fund is the revenue created by an employer, insurer and citizens. The funds are expressed to be designated for provision of discounted prices and free treatment for children.

Hospitals comply with MNS 4621-2008 general standard and provide inpatient care for 5-7 days. It is explained with excessive number of patients and no financing is provided from the insurance fund. 50 per cent of drugs provided to elders and citizens at discounted price from the health insurance fund are non-prescription medicine. Drugs sold internationally at MNT1 is sold at MNT10 by pharmaceutical companies and health insurance fund discounts MNT3.

The decision to support financing of for profit entities through providing discounts for services of resorts, fitnesses and sport clubs which is claimed to prevent from disorders should be revised. Citizens and public has limited access to such services.

The funds of the health insurance fund should be spent for provision of free medicine to elders and all services and treatments required for children. In order to resolve all these issues, the Law on Health Insurance should be revised and amended.

### **Probability of school dropout and decline of personal income**

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<sup>62</sup>Through eyes of women forum: principle and access of health insurance, EMDKh NGO, 2019

Air pollution causes severe illnesses such as bronchitis, tracheal disease forcing children to dropout, learn, develop and restricting other opportunities and has long term adverse impact on child's growth and development through deterioration of lung activities, capacities and functions, to develop chronic respiratory diseases. Air pollution also impacts on child's psychology to develop anxiety and fear, depression, to become unattentive. Researchers tried to estimate indirect costs of dropout. There are various research studies on estimation of economic returns of studying in schools. For example, Montenegro and Patrinos done Comparable estimates of returns to schooling around the world (2014). In Mongolia, the future income is considered to increase by 9.1 annually for every year of study. Returns of primary, secondary and tertiary education is 13.4, 4.2 and 10.1 per cents accordingly. The return levels of Asia Pacific region are same. The evidences collected from high income countries, the consequence of 10 per cent non-attendance for academic year is dropout, it is also creating a risk of reeducation of personal income.

Researchers determined that the impact of school environment on child health and learning capacities is 20-70 per cent, for example, hygiene conditions such as air quality, micro climate, cleaning of the school facilities also have adverse impact along with other factors. Studies of Prabjit Barn et al., revealed the efficiency of HEPA filter is 15-40 per cent.

"Ulaanbaatar-Fresh Air" project, Mongolian University of Medical Sciences and Social Health school conducted a study on air pollution in kindergarten classrooms in which children spent 8-10 hours. The study had taken place in February of 2017 in the kindergartens #150, 51 of Sukhbaatar district, #43 and #31 of Chingeltei district. Study revealed that the installation of air purifiers in the classrooms of kindergartens reduced inside air pollution 3.2-fold and extended sleeping hours of children.

The Government of Mongolia resolved to equip educational facilities with air purifiers with HEPA filters. The "Ulaanbaatar-Fresh Air" project selected 50 kindergartens located in the most populated and polluted ger districts of Ulaanbaatar and is organizing installation of 200 air purifiers. All 83 kindergartens in the ger district shall be provided with air purifiers in the next phase. It is planned to increase the quantity of air purifiers per kindergarten. Laser meters shall be provided with the air purifier which shall measure the reduction of air pollution levels.

The State Special Inspection Agency (SSIA) conducted a research on air purifiers supplied to general education schools, kindergartens, medical facilities within the inspection scope of National program on reeducation of air and environmental pollution.

### **Conclusion and recommendations on selected issues**

Policies and measures implemented by the Government on air and environmental pollution is more mid and long term focused addressing only energy sector and introducing environmental friendly equipment. Although it plays a role in reduction of air pollution but it should also consider thousands of children and pregnant women living in high risks. A strategy should be developed on immediate actions to protect from such risks.

Increase of respiratory diseases in urban areas is directly related to the increase of air pollution during cold seasons. The 2018 report of UN and ADB joint working group to provide policy recommendation on the acceleration of SDG implementation mentioned high risks of adverse impact on children, pregnant women to develop respiratory diseases and foetus development which should be addressed.

Many projects had been carried to reduce air pollution in Ulaanbaatar. Government had spent MNT147 billion (appr. USD60 million) to reduce the air pollution in 2008-2016. Additional USD60 million was spent with donors financing. 175 thousand improved stoves were allocated to households of Ulaanbaatar city ger districts. MNT 68 billion was spent to cover 97.6 per cent of all households. Despite all these actions and measures, the air pollution increased to disaster level.

### PROPOSALS, RECOMMENDATIONS

- Immediately take protection actions to eliminate the adverse impact of air pollution along with the mid and longterm objectives to reduce air pollution;
- Consider the current situation as an emergency, give high priority on health protection of pregnant mothers and children who are mostly affected by air pollution;
- See the whole picture of consequences and solutions of air pollution, consider different needs and factors of affected people, ensure implementation of a strategy to provide full support;
- Ensure opportunities to provide emergency primary medical treatment regardless of economic capacities in case of sickness of young age child;
- Provide high quality medicine to treat acute
- Provide high-quality medicine to treat acute and chronic respiratory diseases to children of vulnerable families for free from the health insurance or at discounted prices;
- Health insurance to provide compensation to certified private hospitals for prenatal diagnosis, analysis;
- Review the legal regulation which allows citizens to go to fitness gyms with health insurance;
- Determine package measures to reduce impact of air pollution on pregnant women and infants residing in ger districts, make cost estimates.

### VI. PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE ACTIONS

- Have **official translation** of Sustainable Development Goal document, ensure full compliance,
  - Inform the local communities about SDG, reflect in the local development policies and plans; assess and report the implementation, ensure voluntary participation of citizens,
  - **On creating and improving quality and scope of information:**
- ✓ Include an objective on gender equality as the separate objective in the MSDV-2030 in order to provide opportunities of equal participation and equal benefits in the development progress through studying demands of men and women and social groups, reflect in the policies and plans and allocate funds,

- ✓ Specifically develop target and indicator on sexual and reproductive health and include in the Sustainable development vision;
- ✓ adapt definitions, terms, methodology such as relace the term “district of poors”, “stray people” and have common position,
- ✓ How to measure shortage? To create an unique definition of poor,
- ✓ Conduct an observation study at country level to determine risk behavior and use of narcotics, psychotropic substances,
- ✓ Ensure implementation of the principle to leave no one behind and include a question in the Social Indicator Sample Survey to have data on women with disabilities and other target groups,
- ✓ Make the number of specially trained teachers to teach subject on health as an indicator for SDG 3.7,
- ✓ Make the number of target group obtained modern contraceptives as an indicator for SDG 3.8,
- ✓ SDG-8: create detailed data on jobs, professions,
- ✓ Create new indicators for population, livestock, areas for hay, places for winter and spring seasons, waters and springs,
- ✓ Specially develop and include targets and indicators for sexual and reproductive health in MSDV-2030;
- ✓ Make the number of teachers specially trained to teach subject on health (to provide information on implementation of sexual and reproductive health right) as an indicator for SDG 3.7
- ✓ Make the number of target group obtained modern contraceptives as an indicator for SDG 3.8 (financial risk protection, ensure accessibility of immediate and high quality health service);
- ✓ Шалгуур үзүүлэлтийн орчуулгатай холбоотой зарим санал:

Global SDG option	Currently used options	Amendments and changes proposed by the CSOs
16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children	16.2 End and eliminate all types of violence against children such as torture, exploitation and trafficking (1212.mn)  16.2.Доромжлол, мөлжлөг, хүн худалдаалах, хүүхдийн эсрэг бүх хэлбэрийн хүчирхийллийг таслан зогсоох (UNDP)	<b>16.2:</b> End all types of violence against children such as abuse, exploitation, illegal trafficking and torture (chapter in the report)
16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation	<b>16.2.2</b> Proportion of human trafficking victims per 100,000	<b>16.2.2</b> Proportion of human trafficking victims per 100,000, <b>by sex, age group, type of exploitation</b>
10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average	<b>10.1</b> by 2030, expand and maintain proportion of <b>low income</b> population of 40 per cent smoothly to the levels above average	... <b>lowest</b> income...  Superlative form cannot be misplaced to reduce the results of implementation.

