

UNFPA MONGOLIA

Situation Report #6 on COVID-19 response



SITUATION OVERVIEW

Since 15 November, the State Emergency Commission (SEC) has identified a total of eight clusters of COVID-19 transmission: two in Ulaanbaatar City and one in Selenge, Darkhan-Uul, Gobisumber, Orkhon, Dornogobi and Arkhangai provinces respectively. The clusters are linked with close and secondary contacts of an index case of COVID-19. The government has taken swift action including contact tracing, the immediate testing of identified contacts, the isolation of contacts, quarantine, and treatment of positive cases.

A state of all-out readiness, with lockdown measures, was in place until 6am, 1 December. Movements were controlled in the city and only employees in 13 priority sectors were allowed to travel to and from their place of work.

To mitigate the spread of the virus, the government has organized random and targeted surveillance testing at various sites to determine whether there is wider community transmission; it has concluded that Mongolia is dealing with cluster transmission.

The Prime Minister addressed citizens requesting that they follow the government and SEC's directives and urged everyone to stay at home, wear masks, maintain physical distancing if going outside for essential services, and to wash their hands.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS



791 confirmed cases



383 cases among repatriates



408 cases from local clusters

77 Ulaanbaatar city

179 Selenge province

44 Darkhan-Uul province

3 Gobisumber province

22 Orkhon province

21 Dornogobi province

2 Arkhangai province

60 Quarantine cluster



354 patients recovered



428 patients being treated



0 deaths

Parliament, the government, SEC, and other state organizations are using online platforms for sessions and meetings, and maintaining safe distancing when meeting in-person.

On 30 November, through the Cabinet's ad-hoc meeting, it was decided to extend lockdown measures in Ulaanbaatar City, Arkhangai and Selenge provinces until 11 December. The decision was based on the recommendations of SEC and the risk assessment of COVID-19 transmission.

SEC holds regular meetings every day and updates the public with its decisions through selected media channels. The COVID-19 Emergency Responses Headquarter issues daily briefs on the COVID-19 situation in Mongolia.

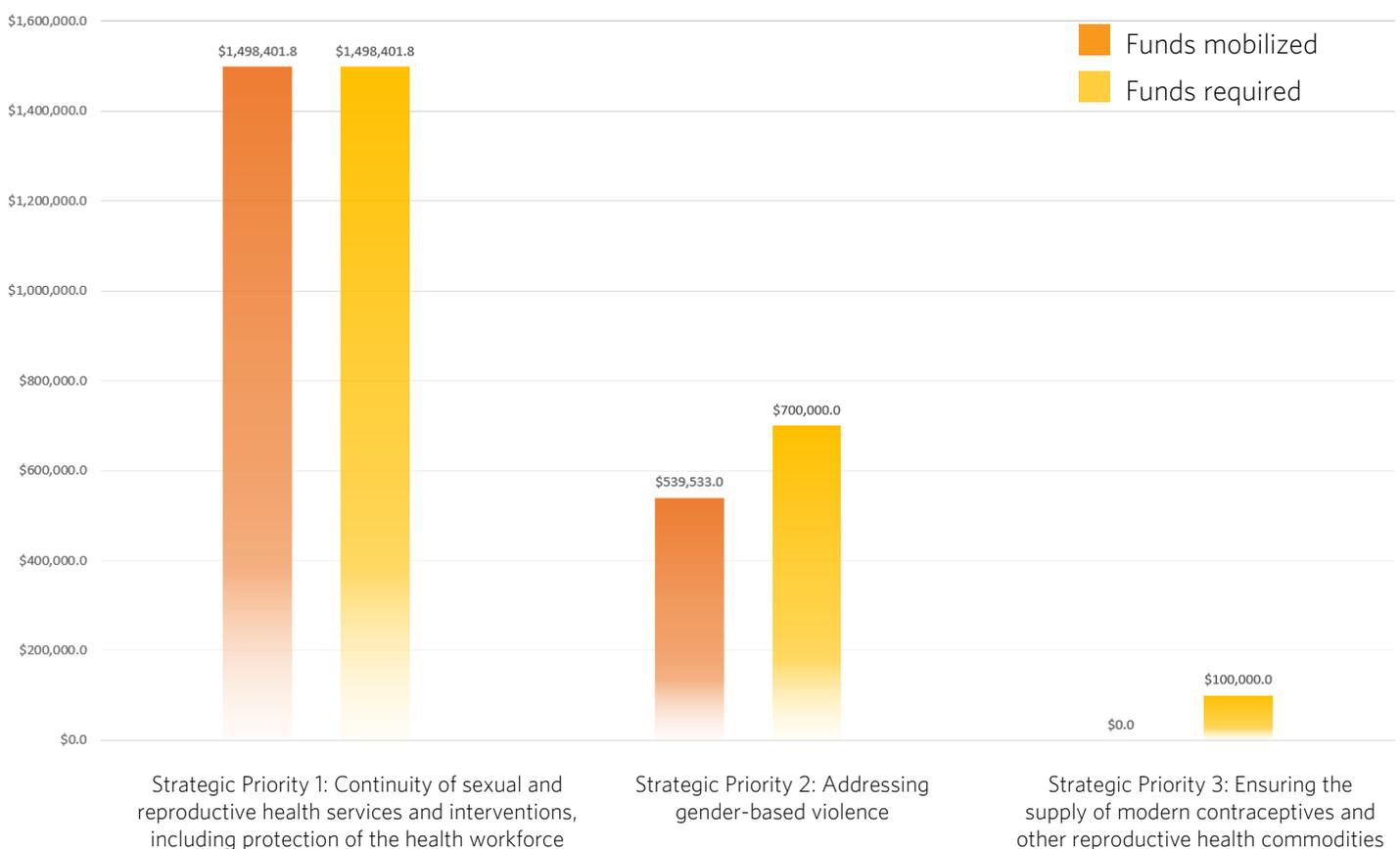
FUNDING OVERVIEW

Funds required for 2020: \$2,037,935.5 / Funds mobilized for 2020: \$2,037,935.5 / Funding gap: \$0

UNFPA Mongolia Country Office's (CO) estimated funds required for the COVID-19 response for 2020 total \$2,037,935.5. To date, the CO has successfully mobilized a total of \$2,037,935.5 from core and non-core resources for the COVID-19 response. Funds from non-core resources include funding from the Luxembourg Cooperation (\$392,547.47), Rio Tinto LLC (\$602,000), the Government of Japan (as part of the agreement between UNFPA and UNICEF: \$80,000), UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund (\$100,000), the Swiss Development Cooperation (\$100,000), UNFPA Regular Resources (\$60,000), and UNESCO (\$ 10,000) for the adaptation of the AMAZE videos in Mongolia.

Reprogrammed funding for the COVID-19 response includes UNFPA Regular Resources (\$114,389.3), the private sector (\$79,465), the Gobi Oyu Development Support Fund (\$10,000), and the Swiss Development Cooperation (\$499,533.75).

UNFPA Mongolia Country Office funding needs and resource mobilization by priority areas



GOVERNMENT, UNITED NATIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS' RESPONSE

As of 16 November, the Government had distributed food stamps worth 4.8 billion MNT (\$1,684,647) to 242,000 people nationwide.

On 19 November, the Cabinet approved a resolution with 23 measures to respond to COVID-19. Actions include:

- Organize the distribution of monthly child and social welfare allowances and services to recipients without disruption.
- Organize a joint taskforce of companies from the food industry for the regular production, packaging, delivery, distribution, and sale of food products.
- Promote the Law on the Customs tax and VAT exemption for imports of COVID-19 test kits, medical devices, equipment, disinfectants, and face masks.

By the end of November, the National Center for Communicable Diseases (NCCD) had prepared a cost estimate for COVID-19 patient treatment, using the medical records of over 200 patients. The treatment of one confirmed COVID-19 patient requires the attendance of five to six medical personnel including a doctor, nurse, laboratory professional, service and disinfection specialist. These staff wear at least three full sets of personal protection equipment (PPE) daily. According to these estimates, the cost of the treatment of a COVID-19 patient with mild symptoms for an average of 27.5 days is 6,962,164 MNT (\$2,443) while the cost of the treatment of a patient with severe symptoms for an average of 32.2 days is 12,598,630 MNT (\$4,422).

According to T. Munkhsaikhan, the Minister for Health, as of 29 November, there are 23 ventilators at the NCDD; 12 at the Central Military Hospital; 50 at the Capital City Maternal and Child Health Center; 50 at district and provincial level hospitals; and 20 portable breathing apparatus ready to use. In addition, the Capital City Maternal and Child Health Center in Yarmag, Ulaanbaatar, has the capacity to receive up to 1,000 COVID-19 patients and is fully equipped with the necessary medical equipment and skilled health care workers.

UNFPA PROGRAMME RESPONSE

UNFPA CO has supported the work of SEC's personnel by providing 500 N95 masks. On 30 November, UNFPA CO handed over phone cards for various cell phone providers for an amount of \$4,500 to support them to effectively communicate with each other in emergency situations, as well as 100 personal care packages to staff at the COVID-19 Emergency Response Headquarter.

Continuity of sexual and reproductive health services and interventions, including protection of the health workforce



With support from the Government of Luxembourg, PPE worth MNT 14,950,000 (\$5,246) was provided to the Umnugobi provincial government to protect health workers in the maternity ward at the Regional Diagnostic and Treatment Center and to ensure the continuity of essential health services during the pandemic.

On 17 November, UNFPA handed over 1,000 N95 masks, 5,900 disposable masks, 180 protection goggles, 148 disposable coveralls, and 152 hand sanitizers to the Department of Health, Dornogobi province.

Supporting youth development and youth engagement

Due to lockdown, all schools are using online modes of teaching. Tele-sessions on health education, including comprehensive sexuality education, are broadcast through TV stations and online media. Health education is included in the list of key subjects to be taught during the lockdown. Public health professionals from the National Center for Public Health and education specialists from the Mongolian Institute for Educational Research have strongly advocated on the importance of health education during interviews with various TV channels.



The Ministry of Education and Science has made TV lesson content available on a website (<https://econtent.edu.mn/>) so that those who miss the sessions on the TV can access this platform. However, as an online resource rather than an interactive platform it does not promote self-learning. UNFPA, with UNICEF and UNESCO, is developing exemplary e-content for core subjects, including health education, and using creative approaches to attract students' attention and increase their learning interest.

A total of 16 exemplary interactive content modules on health education for students from Grade 4 through to Grade 12 will be produced and accessible at <https://econtent.edu.mn/>.



UNFPA CO has supplied personal care hygiene kits to over 850 TVET students who are quarantined in 15 dormitories in Ulaanbaatar. A further 10,000 university students who are quarantined in dormitories will also receive the kits.

UNFPA CO is currently adapting the AMAZE Consortium videos which contain comprehensive, age-appropriate, and accurate sexual and reproductive health information for adolescents in the Mongolian context.

Through the partnership with the AMAZE Consortium, the Youth Programme is focusing on delivering comprehensive sexuality e-education for youth aged 10 to 14 in Mongolia. The videos will be included as an online resource in the e-learning platform for education that the UNFPA CO has established as part of its activities under the ongoing UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Programme.

The Adolescent Cabinets continue to provide much-needed counselling services on adolescents' health and COVID-19 through the e-platform. Information on the availability of the e-counselling services and the work of youth-friendly health services has been posted on the teen web-portal Yolo.mn, one of the most popular news platforms among adolescents and young people.

Addressing gender-based violence



On 25 November, the annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) campaign was launched in Mongolia by the Prime Minister with online messages from the Ministers of Labour and Social Protection, Education and Science, as well as the UN Resident Coordinator, SDC Director, and the Director of the National Centre against Violence (NCAV). UNFPA led the coordination of the event with UN agencies, government agencies, development partners, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

The campaign calls for an end to all forms of gender-based violence (GBV) under the national theme: “No more violence: End violence at home, in the workplace and in public places.” / **Өрх гэр, ажлын байр, олон нийтийн газарт ЯГ ОДОО: Жендэрт суурилсан Хүчирхийллийг цэглээ**”. In addition to raising awareness about GBV, as well as the services available, including access to legal services, content was also created to address the challenges around the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown measures that may exacerbate the GBV situation in the country. Methods of dissemination were also modified to ensure a wide reach during the lockdown, including through investing more in social and traditional media and placing posters on buildings, ger district household fences, in supermarkets and pharmacies and other places where people are still allowed to go. The campaign garnered support from multiple organizations in the international community, civil society and government, with high level officials (Minister of Finance, Members of Parliament, Provincial Governors’ Office) expressing their commitment to the advocacy messages disseminated through social and mass media. The campaign will run until 10 December 2020.

Coordination

- Participating in inter-agency coordination mechanisms.
- Leading inter-agency GBV coordination mechanism.
- UNFPA co-chairs the UN PSEA network along with RC.

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY

Prime Minister of Mongolia declares the cabinet joins 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence - <https://ikon.mn/n/21t3>.

16 days’ campaign with the theme No More Violence at Home, in the Workplace and in Public Places starts today - <http://www.mnb.mn/i/223399>.

16 days’ campaign with the theme No More Violence at Home, in the Workplace and in Public Places starts - https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=1060383797768140&ref=watch_permalink

How I work: UNFPA’s Head of Office in Mongolia – UNFPA’s response to COVID-19 and the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence - <https://unread.today/c/howiwork-kaoriishikawa>

16 Days' of Activism Against Violence starts - <https://montsame.mn/mn/read/244465>

16 days' campaign against gender-based violence starts today -
<https://www.montsame.mn/en/read/244502>

Mongolian Government stands against violence - <https://gogo.mn/r/5d6yy>

Khurelsukh Ukhanaa: We will combat violence against women and children - <http://eagle.mn/r/79416>

UNFPA's Head of Office in Mongolia's statement on COVID-19 and gender-based violence -
<https://fb.watch/2dCwPokkkg/>

UNFPA hands over dignity kits, including essential health and hygiene items, to TVET students staying in dorms during lockdown - <https://www.facebook.com/mlsp.gov.mn/posts/4707976145940456>

UNFPA hands over masks and hand sanitizers to protection centres for survivors of violence -
<https://www.facebook.com/UNFPA.Mongolia/posts/2299087853568478>

UNFPA hands over personal protective equipment (PPE) to frontline workers -
<https://www.facebook.com/UNFPA.Mongolia/posts/2297638613713402>

Adolescent health cabinets are providing online counselling during lockdown -
<https://www.facebook.com/UNFPA.Mongolia/posts/2293946380749292>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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FOR UPDATES OF COVID-19 IN MONGOLIA, PLEASE VISIT:

The Ministry of Health's Daily reporting
<https://covid19.mohs.mn/p/cat/post/57/?page=2>

The State Emergency Committee's decision
<https://nema.gov.mn/c/resolution>