Key sustainable development challenges and priority areas for cooperation between the UN and Mongolia

A national workshop on “Building forward better: Securing inclusive, resilient and green development in Mongolia”

21 February 2022
UN RCO in Mongolia
Right to adequate standard of living
Right to work & just conditions of work
Right to land
Right to housing
Right to life & security of the person
Right to participate in public life
Right to access to justice
Right to equality & non-discrimination
Right to food
Right to health
Right to education
Right to social security
Right to health
Right to water
Right to development
Right to development
Right to self-determination
Right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress

Common Country Analysis: Mongolia
UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023-2027): Mongolia
An integrated & multidimensional approach
Underpinned by Human Rights
People

- Education attainment varies by socioeconomic group;
- Preference to hire university graduates over TVET;
- Limited access to pre-primary education, particularly in rural areas;
- 7 in 10 poor people lack access to at least one of the basic infrastructure services.

- Food insecurity and malnutrition;
- Higher in Ulaanbaatar compared to smaller towns and rural areas;
- Good progress in reducing in malnutrition and stunting among children, however, regional disparities remain;
- Overweight and obesity is on rise.

- Maternal, infant and under-five mortalities decreased;
- Increased incidence of NCD - 58.7% of all deaths;
- Adolescents’ health, including reproductive and mental health challenges;
- Out-of-pocket expenditure - 32.3% above the regional average.
Overview of LNOB Groups and Social Exclusion

- Children and Adolescents
- Women and Girls
- Persons with Disabilities
- Unemployed and Unskilled Youth
- Urban Poor and Internal Migrants
- Rural Poor and Herders
- Ethnic Minorities
- Older Persons
- Sexual Minorities
Common Country Analysis: Mongolia

Prosperity

UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023-2027): Mongolia

Main Economic Indicators

Share of mining sector in the Mongolian economy

Prosperity

Change in Sectoral Structure of GDP

Change in Sectoral Structure of Employment

Source: National Statistics Office

Source: World Bank, Mongolia Country Economic Memorandum, September 2020

Prosperity

Offline

Prosperity

Source: World Bank, Mongolia Country Economic Memorandum, September 2020
Common Country Analysis: Mongolia

**Prosperity**

**Trade Openness, 1980-2017**
- Trade/GDP
- Export/GDP
- Imports/GDP

**Export to China and Russia, 1987-2017**
- PRC
- Russian Federation

Mongolia’s LPI in comparison with the region and its top performer (Japan)

Source: World Bank

Source: ADB, Mongolia’s Economic Prospects, June 2020
77% of the total territory degraded, of which 23% of land affected severely...
Climate change threatens Mongolia’s ecosystems and ways of life…

- Increase of 2.24°C in average temperature between 1940 and 2015;
- Registered decrease in frost days of 15 days between 1961-2010 and increase in summer duration of 24 days;
- Increased rate of dryness, numerous rivers, springs, and lakes are receding, and the permafrost and glaciers are drastically melting;
- Shifts in precipitation patterns (severe drought conditions in south, increased snowfalls in north)

Climate change exacerbates existing environmental challenges...

- Increase in extreme wind events (dust- and sandstorms) – transboundary environmental and social (health) issues;
- Extreme weather conditions (severe winters (dzud), dry/hotter summers) – impact on agriculture and livelihoods;
- Increased incidence of other disasters, e.g. earthquakes, floods, forest fires.
Electoral reform has been on the political agenda for several years – voter turnout declining, especially among young people;

Proportion of women in decision-making position remains low (17.3% of women in the parliament; 4 out of 14 ministers);

The average lifetime of the government was approximately 1.5 years in the last 20 years with national policies often disrupted by changes in leadership and personnel reshuffles;

Implementation capacity and coordination between government agencies is weak;

Corruption remains a major challenge (CPI dropped from 72nd in 2015 to 111th in 2020)
Human rights recommendations (2020 UPR) mainly cover:

- Improvement of quality and accessibility of education;
- Combatting gender-based and domestic violence;
- Discrimination and human trafficking;
- Protection of victims;
- Reducing violations of human rights linked to environmental conflicts;
- Verifying the legal status of human rights defenders (Law adopted in April 2021)

According to the 2021 Freedom of Press Index, Mongolia ranked at 68th out of 180 countries.
Common Country Analysis: Mongolia

Composition of the Gross External Debt, quarterly in 2015-2021 (% of GDP)

FDI, ODA and Remittances, 2001-2019 ($ million)

FDI distribution by sectors

Source: Bank of Mongolia

Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators Database
• 82% alignment between Vision-2050 and SDG targets, however, only 8% alignment with the SDG indicators;
• Public Investment Plan envisages MNT 39.6 trillion in 2021-2025, out of which 30% - in mining sector, while investment in human capital, governance and green development accounts only for 8% of total public investments;
• In May 2021, NCSD adopted the national policy targets with benchmarks for the SDG indicators which are pending the Parliament’s approval;
• 45% of SDG indicators needs data, especially environmental data (national statistics reports only on 132 indicators out of global 238 indicators);
• Misalignment between the national planning and budgeting processes
Conclusions

Cross-Cutting Challenges and Opportunities

- Weak Governance;
- Climate Change;
- Availability of decent jobs and industrial and services sector development;
- Underutilization of Human Capital;
- Poor Infrastructure;
- COVID-19 Pandemic

- Agriculture holds a strong promise to a more diversified and resilient economy;
- Reforms in education and health sectors to improve their preparedness for emergencies;
- Opportunities for cross-border cooperation;
- Digitalization process;
- Increased demand for the socialization of risks by the state
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<th>Strategic Priorities</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Human Development and Well-being</td>
<td>By 2027, people in urban and rural areas, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, equally realize their full human potential and benefit from inclusive, rights-based, gender- and shock-responsive health and nutrition, education, social protection, and other services</td>
<td>UNESCAP, FAO, ILO, IOM, UN Habitat, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, WHO, UNESCO</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Green, Inclusive and Sustainable Growth</td>
<td>By 2027, the Mongolian economy is more diversified, innovative, productive, inclusive, green and geographically balanced enabling decent livelihoods, especially for women and youth, building 21st century skills, and promoting low-carbon development</td>
<td>UN ESCAP, FAO, ILO, IOM, UNICEF, UN-Habitat, UNIDO, UNDP, UNCTAD, IAEA, UNEP, WFP, UNFPA</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>People-centred governance, rule of law and human rights</td>
<td>By 2027, policymaking and implementation in Mongolia is more gender-responsive, participatory, coherent, evidence-informed and SDG-aligned; governance institutions at all levels are transparent and accountable; and people, especially the marginalized groups, have access to justice and rule of law for full realization of human rights</td>
<td>UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, IOM, FAO, UNESCAP, UN Environment, ITU, ILO, UN-Habitat, UNESCO</td>
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