AGEING AND DEVELOPMENT: VIEWS OF THE MONGOLIAN ELDERLY

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Overview of Mongolian ageing trend
National policy on ageing and development
Study results among the older people
Gaps and cross-cutting issues
WHO IS OLDER PERSON IN MONGOLIA?

According to the Mongolian Law on Social Protection for the Elderly:

- A woman 55 < y.o.
- A man 60 < y.o.

In general, a person who is above 50 y.o. considers himself/herself “in old age” and tries to behave age-appropriately.
Mongolian older population 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>55-59</th>
<th>60-64</th>
<th>65-69</th>
<th>70+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of older persons</td>
<td>72698</td>
<td>49757</td>
<td>38394</td>
<td>63641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older men</td>
<td>33653</td>
<td>22223</td>
<td>17316</td>
<td>25493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older women</td>
<td>39045</td>
<td>27534</td>
<td>21078</td>
<td>38148</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Social and demographic data on older population

- Older population is 7% of the total population
- Sex ratio - 79
- Age dependency ratio –
  - 1989  7.5  (84.9)
  - 2000  5.7  (64.6)
  - 2010  5.4  (45)
- Life expectancy at birth woman 69 y.o. man 63 y.o.
- Increasing oldest old (80+)population
  - 0.5%  2007
  - 1.0%  2025
  - 3.4%  2050
- Malnutrition 31% of elderly
- Illiterate older people 11.7%
- Priority to poor elderly and veterans improving housing conditions
- Allocation of share of mining sector through Human development fund
- Community based care is priority
- Health promotion approach to ageing
Mongolia: 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base.
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Proportion in older age categories

Mongolia (1950, 1975, 2000, 2025, 2050)

Table 2: Gender differences in the situation of older persons

Source: NSO (2002)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of older persons who are literate</td>
<td>96.3</td>
<td>86.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of older persons who are single</td>
<td>29.2</td>
<td>66.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of 60-64 economically active</td>
<td>26.4</td>
<td>12.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of 65-69 economically active</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of 70+ economically active</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3: Gender differences in the situation of older persons  

*Source: NSO (2010)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of older persons who are literate</th>
<th>88.3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of 60-64 economically active</td>
<td>58.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of 65-69 economically active</td>
<td>25.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of 70+ economically active</td>
<td>16.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Country context

- Human development index 0.727
- Poverty indicator – 35.2
- Increasing demand for health and social systems
- Weak primary health care (32.1% of total health expenditure)
- Health expenditure % of GDP - 3.2
- Higher prevalence of noncommunicable disease: liver cancer, cerebrovascular disease
- Priority to social welfare issues of elderly
National policies on ageing and development

- National policy on Population development 2004
- National policy on Family development 2003
- Revision of 1998 National Program on Health and Social Protection of Older People 2003
- Social security sector master plan 2003
- Health Sector Strategic master plan 2005
- National strategy on Population Ageing 2009
- Policy revisions on employment promotion and social welfare 2010
Publications

- Advocacy brochure on ageing.
- Study report: Assuring income security in old age: Views of the Mongolian elderly
- Newsletters
MIPAA Priority areas

- Older people and development
- Advancing health and well-being into old age
- Ensuring enabling and supportive environments

- Research findings from older people themselves and stakeholders
Purpose of the field research:

To gather information for assessing the impact of social pensions on improving income security in old age and reducing poverty at the individual and family levels.
Research methodology

A participatory study conducted as part of a UNFPA regional level study in 2007.

Older people
- Recipients of contributory social pensions
- Recipients of non-contributory social pensions
- Who do not receive any pensions

Interviews with
- Family members,
- Key informants from the communities
- Government officials
Views of Mongolian elder people

- By comparing their social, economic, and health status before and after their retirement they commented on
  - Increasing risks of falling into poverty
  - Important role of the government to guarantee income security in old age.
  - Family is the main structure to support older people
  - Older people contribute to family and society in many ways
Poverty and Old age

- Older people are mostly categorized as average poor since they have income sources like possessing properties and receiving monthly pension (NSO, ADB & WB 2006).
- Most of the older people who are single or having no children and relatives to help them are reckoned as “very poor”.
- Older people living only on their pension live near poverty line.
Factors contributing poverty in old age

- Lack of assets
- Out migration and unemployment
- Poor health
- Lack of access to credit loans
- Lack of pensions
Study findings

- Both contributory and non-contributory pensions are an important source of income in old age.
- The risk and incidence of poverty increase with age.
- A pension helps to prevent and eradicate poverty and contributes to the quality of life of the older person.
Older people and development

- Work mainly in informal sector, family entrepreneurship
- Older people are eligible for receiving loans and credits from the banks using their pensions.
- Intergenerational contribution by older people by raising grandchildren, investing children’s education, etc
- Social pension impacts greater self esteem
- Limited with household activities
Advancing health and well-being into old age

- State health insurance premium
- Discounted health treatments at resorts
- Some mobile health services
- Not satisfied with health services
- Greater concern for increasing health expenses
- Older people receiving contributory pension have more access to health services than those who receive social pensions.
Ensuring enabling and supportive environments

- 80% of services and assistance are provided by family members.
- The elderly living with children or relatives have better lives than those living alone.
- Former work places provide support
- Elderly clubs and senior centers in every administrative unit
- Elderly Day celebration
- Although policies in place the enforcement and implementation were not adequate.
Gaps and cross-cutting issues

- Reducing age discrimination especially in employment
- Reducing health care cost by family and out of pocket
- Need for specialized and long term care
- Training on geriatric care
- Increasing awareness on ageing and development
- Coordination of sectoral programs and integrated response to health care
- Improving data and research on ageing
Thank you for your attention