

Mongolia

Part 1: Situation update in the country

Mongolia is recovering from an economic crisis. The country has been under the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Programme since 2017 and continues to make satisfactory progress, according to a recent IMF review. Mongolia Human Development Index reported as 0.741, ranking 92 out of 189 in 2017. In 2018, Mongolia's economy as measured by the GDP grew by 6.4 per cent. As of September 2018, external debt stood at US\$27.9 billion and government revenues accounted for US\$3 billion. Mongolia's economy remains vulnerable as it depends mostly on the extractive sector and has high public and external debt. In 2018, the political situation was unstable, which contributed to uncertainties and delays in approval of the state budget. To sustain economic growth and sustainable development objectives, Mongolia will need to address a number of serious environmental challenges such as pollution, water scarcity, degradation of grassland and climate change.

The Mongolia 2019 budget sustained its allocations for the social sectors: health (US\$302 million, representing 7 per cent of total state budget), education (US\$670 million, representing 16 per cent) and social protection (US\$606 million, representing 14 per cent). More needs to be done to improve the efficiency of budget allocations, translating them into positive results for children and communities and strengthening the equity focus.

In response to pressure from medical workers and teachers, the Government took a step-by-step approach to increase salaries by 12-30 per cent in 2018. The recent fuel price rise, combined with the strengthening of the dollar, affected people's purchasing power.

Monetary poverty is one of the main obstacles for children to reach their potential and benefit from development. Analysis conducted by UNICEF in 2018 confirmed that children are significantly over-represented in income poverty. While the national poverty rate was 28.9 per cent according to the Household Socioeconomic Survey 2016, that rate was considerably higher among children, at 38.5 per cent. Even an increase of the national poverty line by 20 per cent would result in more than half of the children in Mongolia still living in poor households.

Although Mongolia sustained its progress in reducing child mortality rates, respiratory diseases remained the leading cause of morbidity among children. Trend analysis indicates respiratory diseases are on the rise, associated with severe air pollution caused by burning coal in urban settings during the cold weather season. In 2018, public concerns about the impacts of such diseases on maternal and child health rose rapidly, especially with increasing evidence that air pollution can affect cognitive development during pregnancy, with life-long implications. Ulaanbaatar remained the most polluted city in the world during the winter. While there is currently a lack of data about air pollution in other Mongolian cities and villages, reports are emerging indicating serious pollution levels.

The Government recognize that adolescents face stress, leading to mental health issues. According to the National Health Statistics Report (Ministry Of Health 2018), every fourth adolescent death of age 10-14 and every fifth adolescent death among 15-19 years old is due to suicide.

Findings of the National Nutrition Survey presented in 2018 highlight a drastic reduction in stunting. However, micronutrient deficiency was stagnant and in recent years overweight and obesity have increased at a worrying rate.

Mongolia sustained high rates of basic education enrolment, at 99 per cent. School preparedness was reported as 64.6 per cent, magnifying the importance of sustaining the continuum of educational services and importance of increasing pre-school education coverage. The national percentage of attendance in early childhood education programmes by children aged 2 to 5 years old increased slightly over the last year, from 81.5 per cent to 82.7 per cent. More progress needs to be made with the quality dimension (learning outcomes) of education. Analysis undertaken in 2018 showed that 74 per cent of schools had basic drinking water facilities and 63 per cent of schools had basic sanitation facilities, and that rural schools were more disadvantaged than urban schools.

With the operationalization of the Child Protection Law in 2018, multi-disciplinary teams became increasingly active, resulting in an increased trust by children and communities, as reflected by increased disclosure and reporting of child abuse. The enforcement of the Law also translated into substantive state budget allocations for child protection services, with an increase from MNT 5.0 billion in 2018 to MNT 8.0 billion planned for 2019. This is expected to improve the operational capacities of child protection services. In 2018, child sexual exploitation and abuse online was flagged as an emerging issue. Further analysis and action in this area will be required in 2019.

In 2018, a gender based violence survey was conducted for the first time in Mongolia. It was carried out by the National Statistical Office with support from UNFPA. The survey disclosed striking statistics on violence. More than half (57.9 percent) of Mongolian women have experienced violence in their lifetime. Mongolia ranked fifty-third in the Global Gender Gap Report in 2017, which highlighted a widening gender gap among legislators, senior officials and managers. Women's participation in the labour market was 55.2 per cent (vs. 67.5 per cent for men). The number of women holding decision-making positions was very low. Progress toward gender equality, particularly in politics and the workplace, remained stagnant.

Part 2: Major results including in humanitarian action and gender, against the results in the Country Programme Documents

UNICEF Mongolia, in cooperation with the Government of Mongolia, continued to emphasize equity and investment in the youngest members of society to ensure that the basic needs of boys and girls were met, including in humanitarian situations. Results are contributing to the country's Sustainable Development Vision 2030, are in full alignment with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2017-2021, the UNICEF Country Programme Document (CPD) 2017-2021 and the goals set by the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018-2021.

Goal area 1 : Every child survives and thrives

An in-depth assessment of immunization services in urban settings completed in 2018 revealed persistent issues ranging from improvement of civil registration to quality of service utilization reports and to providers' capacity and care-seekers' misconceptions. Those issues require

comprehensive response. The assessment found lower levels of actual service coverage than reported in the administrative reporting system, consistent with findings from the previous national surveys such as the Multiple Indicators Cluster Surveys (MICS). This prompted the Government of Mongolia, with support from UNICEF, the World Health Organization and the GAVI Alliance, to further strengthen monitoring and reporting systems by introducing electronic immunization records, interpersonal communication modules and supportive supervision mechanisms for vaccine practitioners. An electronic birth registration system at point of delivery was launched to ensure data reliability and quality of services by enabling accuracy in registration of live births.

The Government revised per capita budgeting schemes and health insurance coverage to accommodate more home visits, outpatient day-care and increased outreach services, including antenatal care and nutritional counselling. UNICEF provided technical support to strengthen financing mechanisms of maternal, newborn and child health services and primary healthcare. This will increase access to basic health services, including the newly introduced community-based approach in health promotion, early prevention and management of childhood illness.

In May 2018, the Parliament of Mongolia endorsed the Law on Fortified Food, enabling the legal environment to address micronutrient deficiencies at scale. UNICEF contributed to this endorsement via evidence-based policy advocacy and technical assistance. As a result, fortification of both domestically produced and imported flour has become mandatory in Mongolia.

Building on the momentum of the Infant and Young Child Food Act enforced in 2017, UNICEF continued to provide technical assistance in development of tools and job-aides. UNICEF strengthened the capacity of the General Agency for Specialized Inspection and the Ministry of Health in terms of oversight and monitoring of marketing, food labelling, use of unauthorized means of promotion in healthcare facilities, and advertising in public space and retail outlets. This was done in partnership with the International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN)/International Code Documentation Centre (ICDC).

UNICEF provided training to strengthen the technical capacity of health workers and improve management of acute malnutrition. As a result, essential nutrition services, including infant and young child feeding counselling and micronutrient supplementation were enhanced. Acute malnutrition management reached 19,300 children aged 0-2 years old and 5,600 pregnant and lactating women. Fifty-seven (57) children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) received adequate life-saving treatment in 2018 in focus areas, with a cure rate of 88 per cent. Findings from a national survey demonstrated that a very limited number of the children suffering from severe acute malnutrition had access to adequate treatment. To bridge the gap and to further strengthen these life-saving care services, national capacities were enhanced to enable health services to provide standardized approaches on integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM).

UNICEF continued to promote adolescent mental health. A multi-sectoral approach was tested in Govi-Altai province. This led to the development of a provincial-level action plan on addressing adolescent mental health for the next three years aimed at raising awareness of professionals in contact with adolescents, such as school doctors, social workers, adolescent doctors, and lower administrative level (soum) doctors. The action plan also will help in strengthening case management skills, specifically on early identification of mental health

problems among adolescents, counselling and referral services.

The life skills programme 'My Family' that was launched in 2017 reached all adolescents in secondary schools in Zavkhan province (6,035 adolescents aged 10-14). The life skills program 'My World' reached 3,001 adolescents aged 15-17 and equipped them with social and emotional skills to increase their self-awareness and effective communication with their families, communities and peers. UNICEF advocated MECSS to increase sustainability of the programme implementation in schools and to look into the possibility of using this programme as guidance for out-of-school activity.

A development assets profile baseline survey was conducted in Zavkhan province by the Search Institute to measure life skills of adolescents and support provided to them. The survey involved 7,732 adolescents (52 per cent of them girls). The survey data indicated that adolescents in the province lacked social competencies and had fewer possibilities for constructive use of time. Discrepancies between lower administrative levels (soums) were observed, with data indicating that most remote soums located in the western and southern parts of the province had worse scores in terms of constructive use of time, positive values and social skills. The survey will be repeated in 2020 to assess changes in the skills and support adolescent receive.

UNICEF continued to invest in new and innovative approaches to deliver reproductive health education by empowering and engaging youth in the development process. For example, girls were consulted on a menstrual tracker application. Young people were involved with developing content for a smartphone application game, 'Lifehack,' which they can provide feedback on while playing. This initiative will complement health education in schools and can be used as additional tool to expand extracurricular learning. The game was developed by RENEW company, established by youth and supported by UB City Department of Child and Family Development. This will ensure sustainability of the game and enable possible changes and adaptations as needed. UNICEF will further support the game by hiring an IT company for code writing.

Goal area 2: Every child learns

UNICEF Mongolia focused on strengthening the efficiency in planning and financing of the education sector to have explicit provisions on equitable access for every child both to pre-school and basic education. Technical assistance improved the scope and quality of the data on children with disabilities and the SDGs in the EMIS. Operational service delivery interventions also focused on improving safety and security in educational settings and on parents' participation.

In 2018, the Government of Mongolia hosted the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. UNICEF and partners supported bringing the voices of children and youth on school safety to the attention of the participating Ministers. This resulted in the Government adopting recommendations on prioritization of comprehensive school emergency prevention programmes and continuation of education services during emergencies.

Planning, delivery and evaluation of early childhood development services for children were improved at the community level via successful collaboration among health, nutrition, education, child protection and community development efforts. This translated into a strategic plan for integrated early childhood development services approved by the local sub-committee.

A new approach was initiated in assessment of student performance in basic education. The approach included building the technical capacity of teachers, development of new tools and performing better analyses of assessment results. Native language reading and multilingual teaching methodology and guidance were developed in partnership with the World Bank and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

In 2018, Mongolia made progress in improving health education in secondary schools. Starting with the academic year 2018/2019, health education became a stand-alone subject in secondary education, as per Order A/467, approved by the Minister of Education, Culture, Science and Sports. The newly developed curriculum includes comprehensive sexuality education, mental health, gender based violence prevention and nutrition. UNICEF and UNFPA provided support to implement the new curriculum nationwide through training of 19 national master trainers and 90 sub-national trainers tasked with disseminating the curriculum throughout the country.

Local governments, communities, kindergartens and schools continued to play vital roles for piloting and testing innovative approaches in the education sector. Building on the experience and lessons learned from the previous programme in Khuvsgul province and Nalaikh district, the new target geographic areas started replicating inclusive education models in centres for children with disabilities and in the following schools: Zag soum school - Bayankhongor province; School #3, Yosonbulagsoum and Bayan-Uulsoum school - Gobi-Altai province - School #4, Uliastaisoum and Shiluusteisoum school - Zavkhan province. The initiative included extensive capacity building for school staff, students and community members and has resulted in improved understanding of inclusive education among decision makers, parents and communities. A total of 740 people, including parents, community members, decision makers and children, participated in trainings resulting in important changes in attitudes toward inclusive education. This translated to allocation of local budget in Govi-Altai, operationalization of 20 parents' groups, 77 new partner organizations working with schools and 19 new provisions in school policies and plans in support of children with disabilities.

To support the Government in its efforts to improve access for children with disabilities to regular schools, UNICEF Mongolia built partnerships with various NGOs, including the Mongolian Education Alliance, the Mongolian Association of Sign Language Interpreters, the Deaf Education Association, the Association of Parents with Differently-abled Children and the Mongolian National Association for Wheelchair Users. UNICEF Mongolia collaborated with NGOs, including 'All4Education' National Coalition and Save the Children-Japan, to improve their policy advocacy and initiate inclusive education projects in line with CPRD General Comment 4: Inclusive Education (2016). To raise public awareness of the value of inclusive education, videos and books were produced and shared widely through television and social media channels and were distributed to schools and kindergartens nationwide.

UNICEF continued to advocate and provide technical assistance so that the most disadvantaged children in Mongolia benefit from increased access to and utilization of educational services in a healthy, inclusive and quality learning environment. With technical support from UNICEF, MECSS reviewed the integrated early childhood development policy adopted in 2005 and made recommendations to strengthen it in line with the latest developments in the field. As part of implementing the policy, an integrated ECD service strategic plan for a sub-district level was developed for 2018-2020. This plan elaborates how to achieve better results in planning, delivering and evaluating ECD services for children through

a wider, closer collaboration between health, nutrition, education, child protection and community development.

To increase access to services with much better and healthier conditions, Ger-Kindergarten model with WASH facilities was tested in two districts of Ulaanbaatar and in three of UNICEF's geographic focus areas. As a result, 450 more children were enrolled in early childhood education in 2018 than in 2017. There also were slight increases in enrolment rates for Bayankhongor and BanGobi-Altai, from 89 per cent to 90 per cent and from 90.2 per cent to 91.2 per cent, respectively.

Goal area 3: Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

In 2018, as a result of UNICEF's continuous advocacy, the Government joined the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, and committed to achieving all associated SDG targets that address violence against children. A multi-stakeholder permanent working group, led by the Deputy Minister for Labour and Social Protection, was established. This working group will engage both senior and technical level officials and professionals to ensure coordination across sectors and to support child protection systems through standards, procedures and accountability mechanisms. The Government launched a number of national awareness campaigns, including on positive disciplining and on protecting children online. The budget allocated for child protection services increased from MNT 5.0 billion in 2018 to MNT 8.0 billion for 2019.

With joint support from UNICEF, Save the Children and 23 accredited national NGOs, the Government strengthened mechanisms for identification, referral and follow up for children who are at risk and/or who experience violence. As a result of this effort, disclosure, reporting, and help-seeking increased in 2018. As of the end of third quarter of 2018, the number of calls received by the Child Helpline increased by 3,000 per month compared with the same period in 2017. Cases referred to the multi-disciplinary teams increased from 396 to 657 and the number of abused children requiring immediate removal who were placed in child protection shelters increased from 596 to 998 per month.

UNICEF provided technical assistance for the development of a tool to monitor child protection services provided by multi-disciplinary teams. This monitoring tool was approved by the Government on 30 October 2018. It focuses not only on the number of children served by the multi-disciplinary teams, but also on the quality and intensity of the services provided. Monitoring reports from UNICEF's geographic focus areas to inform about quality of the response services provided are expected by March 2019.

The Government and UNICEF co-organized a national consultation on 'Online child sexual exploitation and abuse' with technical support from the East Asia Pacific Regional Office, International Telecommunications Union, Interpol and Child Helpline International. The consultation brought together representatives from the Government, ICT private sector and civil society. The key national stakeholders were able to better understand the risks and opportunities for children in the digital world, and to increase their knowledge on global best practice, international norms and industry standards. This consultation also provided a forum during which the stakeholders discussed how to strengthen multi-sectoral responses for implementation of the Model National Response to child sexual exploitation and abuse.

In 2018, child road safety issues received unprecedented public attention and extremely wide

social mobilization. According to statistics from the Traffic Police Agency, a notable decrease occurred in child-related road traffic injuries and deaths. At the end of the third quarter of 2018, road accidents involving children decreased by 20 per cent compared with the same period in 2017. The number of injured children decreased by 26 per cent and the number of child deaths decreased by 41 percent. This was the result of joint efforts by UNICEF and the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs (MoJHA) and the Traffic Police. Financial support was provided by FIA. The initiative included organizing two national campaigns and advocacy and public awareness raising initiatives that focused on a wider range of issues, including speed limits, safety of pedestrian children, use of car seats and seat belts and use of helmets. These efforts also resulted in revisions to the traffic rules and regulations, which went into effect on 1 November 2018.

Goal area 4. Every child lives in a safe and clean environment

Analysis and advocacy undertaken by UNICEF and the National Center for Public Health (NCPH), with financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), resulted in a clear call to action to better protect mothers and children from air pollution. Key advocacy messages included calls to: reduce air pollution; reduce exposure to air pollution; and strengthen health services. The Government took up some of the recommendations, such as taking action to improve indoor air quality in kindergartens. There is still a need for comprehensive action, combined with close monitoring and evaluation of the results, and adjusting interventions when results do not meet expectations. UNICEF, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Government agreed to significantly step up their collaboration on air pollution and maternal and child health for 2018 - 2021. This collaboration will focus on protecting mothers and children from exposure to air pollution, strengthening capacity of health workers to better manage air pollution-related diseases and raising public awareness about the health consequences of air pollution.

In the winter of 2017/2018, UNICEF partnered with the Scout Association of Mongolia on an initiative to mobilize its adolescent members, who participated in air pollution monitoring in 20 schools and community areas of Bayanzurkh district. Their contribution was tremendously valuable for awareness-raising among the general public. Information on reducing exposure to air pollution was disseminated among school students and community members.

Cross cutting advocacy, communication and partnerships involving social media also played an important role in awareness raising and advocacy on air pollution. UNICEF Mongolia and the UNICEF Office of Innovation started an innovation challenge to reduce air pollution caused by the burning of coal in traditional homes (“gers”) by improving their energy efficiency. Partnerships were established with international and local partners, including Gerhub, Arc’teryx, The North Face, University of Pennsylvania and KieranTimberlake Architects. Based on analysis and stakeholder consultations, UNICEF and partners developed and constructed prototypes. Gers were fitted with a range of devices to monitor the performance of the prototypes in real-time throughout the winter of 2018 – 2019.

To support equitable access to safe and clean water, with technical support from UNICEF Mongolia, a new methodology for setting water tariffs was developed and approved by the Government to guide the National Water Service Regulatory Commission. The methodology is being implemented in the Capital City of Ulaanbaatar, to provide drinking water at a more affordable price for approximately 1.4 million people (including .74 million females). Many water and sewage utility companies started to introduce new automatic water supply points (Smart

Water Kiosks) to reduce operation and maintenance costs and increase access to safely managed water supply services. UNICEF provided technical and financial support for replication of Smart Water Kiosks in Gobi-Altai province.

With technical support from UNICEF, the Ministry of Health updated and developed operational guidelines and strengthened WASH working groups. This resulted in improved overall coordination of the WASH sector and better implementation of relevant national policies.

To reduce waterborne diseases in a holistic and sustainable manner, with UNICEF support, three provinces embarked on climate resilient water safety planning. Information campaigns focusing on household water treatment, safe storage and sanitation reached the targeted communities. UNICEF and the Korea International Cooperation Agency agreed to significantly scale up action for climate resilient WASH programmes in remote communities.

Capacities of education authorities to implement the national norms and requirements for WASH in kindergartens, schools and dormitories (WinS) were enhanced through establishment of WASH in Schools partnership networking involving the Government, donors, NGOs and the private sector. A 'Three-Star Assessment Methodology' for certification of schools and kindergartens against the national norms and requirements for WinS was developed with technical support from UNICEF. The methodology covers three-level criteria for water supply, handwashing and sanitation facilities, hygiene education and solid waste management practices.

With support from UNICEF, an online training module on WASH in schools, dormitories and kindergartens was developed. A special website on menstrual hygiene management in schools was developed and maintained in cooperation with the 'WASH Action' NGO. Hygiene promotion campaigns and capacity building training programmes were regularly organized.

In July 2018, UNICEF responded to a flood that affected the remote Bayan Ulgii province. UNICEF assistance reached 665 children, of which 240 accessed early childhood development services and improved WASH facilities in eight Ger kindergartens. In three provinces, UNICEF raised awareness on climate change and disaster risk reduction and the need to integrate it into short-, medium- and long-term planning.

Goal area 5. Every child has an equitable chance in life

Real time monitoring of the impact of changes in social protection measures on children and their communities was conducted throughout the year in order to create solid evidence of changes in social protection measures. The monitoring focused on the impact of shifting the child money programme for poor households from universal to targeted. The study found that the welfare benefits and cash transfers were useful for children and their families when they were predictable and delivered in a timely manner. The study also confirmed that the monthly cash transfers were an important source of nutritious food for families with children. The study findings and recommendations will be used in policy advocacy and debates on social protection measures and to help achieve meaningful impacts on poverty and inequality.

UNICEF Mongolia recognized that funding social protection measures at appropriate levels is key to addressing poverty among children and prioritized child friendly budget planning and spending. The work was carried out jointly by the UN and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), as a follow up to the MAPS mission conducted in early 2018 and to implement its

recommendation aimed at linking country's long-term SDG goals with annual budget and planning. The allocation of US\$530 million for nationwide multiple micronutrient supplementation programmes for infant children and pregnant women in the Government's 2019 budget was a significant achievement that resulted from UNICEF's evidence and pilot programmes implemented in select provinces and districts. This investment is expected to significantly reduce child morbidity.

Cross-cutting: Child-friendly community

Mongolia accelerated implementation of child-friendly strategies in four geographic focus areas and continued efforts to replicate successful practices of the child-friendly communities strategies at national level.

In 2018, child-friendly communities initiatives spread throughout the provinces as a result of UNICEF Mongolia's strategic partnership with local governments, departments, civil society, the private sector, community members and children. This resulted in improved cross-sectoral coordination, increased participation of all relevant stakeholders for children and stronger strategic partnerships between departments, all of which are essential for building a child-friendly community in geographic focus areas.

UNICEF Mongolia continued to provide technical assistance to local governments in geographic focus areas to foster an environment in which children can express their opinions on specific issues related to them in local development planning, budgeting and monitoring of local governments' performance on establishing child friendly communities. In all four geographic focus areas, children's groups meaningfully participated in successfully advocating for the allocation of a portion of the Local Development Fund (LDF) to be invested in child-related programmes. This resulted in an increase in the LDF of 14 to 33 per cent over the 2017 levels. Projects to be funded from the LDF are prioritized and selected in consultation with community members. UNICEF supported children's participation in that process.

To support wider replication of child-friendly communities initiatives nationwide, UNICEF Mongolia collaborated with the Cabinet of Secretariat and successfully advocated for inclusion of a number of key child-specific indicators in the annual performance contract of governors of all 21 provinces and 9 districts of Ulaanbaatar. In 2018, it became mandatory for all provincial governors to implement key building blocks of child-friendly communities. This requirement included allocating a minimum of 10 per cent of Local Development Fund for children and ensuring child participation in local decision making, with a particular focus on children with disabilities and prioritizing child rights in the local development plans. As noted above, UNICEF advocated for prioritizing children's rights as one of the priority areas for Local Development Funds. In 2018, the average amount of LDF per province was approximately US\$1.5 million. Four geographic focus areas spent approximately 30 per cent of LDF on child-specific projects. For example, in Bayankhongor province, LDF-funded, child-specific projects focused on child development, which resulted in children's increased access to improved WASH facilities in schools, dormitories and recreational child development facilities such as sports halls and playgrounds. The provinces are finalizing a final report on the utilization of the LDF fund. UNICEF Mongolia provided technical support to local governors in geographic focus areas to implement the above-mentioned indicators. In all four geographic focus areas, this resulted in an average 30 per cent allocation of LDF for children in 2018.

As a result UNICEF Mongolia's ongoing advocacy, the Authority for Family, Children and Youth Development (AFCYD) began replicating child-friendly communities strategies in six provinces

beyond the UNICEF's geographic focus areas. UNICEF Mongolia provided technical support to the Authority in providing comprehensive guidance to local governments and key stakeholders in those six provinces.

Cross-cutting: Child rights and business principles

UNICEF Mongolia's engagement with the private sector (mining, services, technologies, textiles) intensified in 2018. The private sector was encouraged to leverage its resources for the well-being of children and to ensure that children's rights and business principles (CRBP) were taken into account. For example, in partnership with Wagner Asia, a learning and recreational centre was established in a school of Gobi-Altai province. Resources of Arig and ING bank were mobilized to establish a ger kindergarten in Bayanzurkh district.

A baseline study of the legal environment of business practices in relation to CRBP was published. The study informed government policies and procedures that regulate private sector operations by providing a clear set of recommendations for the Government to implement the Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment # 16 on State Obligations regarding the Impact of the Business Sector on Children's Rights.

As a result of advocacy and capacity building interventions undertaken by UNICEF Mongolia and the Authority for Family, Children and Youth Development, five private companies funded programmes related to issues that have consequences for children, such as air pollution, access to early childhood development, WASH, child protection and safe internet. A national partnership with the private sector, Mobicom and World Vision improved WASH facilities in peri-urban and rural schools, dormitories and kindergartens. Indoor WASH facilities using discarded shipping containers as the basis were installed in kindergartens and schools in Bayankhongor, Gobi-Altai and Zavkhan provinces. Approximately 800 children (420 girls, 380 boys) and approximately 80 teachers and staff now have access to improved facilities. Such initiatives are gaining attention among other businesses. Three more businesses have shown strong interest in supporting similar initiatives in their communities.

Cross-cutting: Advocacy, communication and partnership

The persistent crisis caused by air pollution seriously endangers children and pregnant women in Mongolia. UNICEF Mongolia continued to work closely with the Government and other partners to highlight the need to protect children. Communication events, youth engagement initiatives, child-focused audiovisual content and increased international and local media coverage helped UNICEF Mongolia raise awareness and call for action around this issue. UNICEF Mongolia supported international media visits to further strengthen the advocacy and awareness-raising on air pollution. A powerful article and a video by Time magazine and an 'Unreported World' series episode titled 'Dying to breathe: Mongolia's polluted air' went viral and generated increased visibility of the issue, particularly among the general public and decision-makers. Engagement with young people on the issue through the youth consultation event 'Unworn Masks' and the youth mappers initiative helped to further raise awareness.

On World Children's Day, UNICEF launched two compelling 3D videos "What does air pollution do inside children's body and brain and pregnant women?" informing about individual protective measures and calling on key stakeholders for immediate action. By 31 December 2018, the videos received more than 600,000 views and reached more than 1.5 million people. UNICEF also disseminated information materials on personal protection against air pollution, reaching 20,000 households across the country.

Global priorities such as Father's Day and World Breastfeeding Week were promoted and implemented through digital and traditional media, raising awareness around those subjects. A powerful series of animations on child online protection and road safety helped to boost the national campaigns on the subjects and increase visibility of the issues. The animation videos reached more than 400,000 people.

Part 3: Lessons learned and constraints

Working at scale

Across all sectors within UNICEF's mandate, it was acknowledged that programming for at-scale results secured better visibility and respective buy-ins from national and local partners, which eventually contributed to better programme positioning and delivery. Examples include UNICEF's engagement in the air pollution and health agenda, approval of the Food Fortification Law, and local policies and water safety plans, all of which helped win support from broader, non-traditional partners and decision-makers at various levels, including at the community level.

Replication of child-friendly communities

The lessons learned from the implementation of the child-friendly community model in the geographic focus areas indicate that the model can serve as a catalytic strategy to bring together relevant stakeholders (duty-bearers and duty holders) in analyzing the situation, planning integrated interventions and monitoring the progress for children at the sub-national level. The model provides a unifying focus for all stakeholders and enhances their commitment for children. Those commitments were evidenced in major steps taken by local governments in the geographic focus areas, including approval and implementation of the provincial sub-programmes for children and increase in investment for children. The Authority for Family, Children and Youth Development and UNICEF will continue joint efforts toward the institutionalization of the child-friendly community model for national-level replication, thus ensuring the sustainability of interventions.

PFM for children

UNICEF's continuous advocacy for financing of child protection services resulted in an increased allocation, from 5 billion MNT in 2018 to 8 billion MNT in the 2019 budget. UNICEF supported costing of child protection services that provided estimates on expenditures required for implementation of the law on child protection. This costing exercise was combined with capacity building of relevant government officials, which generated support from the Ministry of Finance at the budget planning stage and helped policy makers take informed decisions on budgeting. Year-end reports indicated that the budget was extensively used for capacity building activities for child protection service providers and that UNICEF should continue providing technical support in the area of expenditure tracking of the allocated budget. UNICEF is discussing such plans with the Ministry of Finance for the next year.

UNICEF, in collaboration with SDC, also successfully advocated to the Government of Ulaanbaatar to allocate approximately US\$230,000 in the local 2019 budget for measures to mitigate the impacts of air pollution on maternal and child health. This showcased that working closely with development partners and local government can result in significant additional public finances for children.

Sustainability

Khuvsgul province (one of UNICEF's geographic target areas in the previous country programme 2012-2016), with UNICEF Mongolia's technical support, developed and approved a Child Friendly Province sub-programme to ensure sustainability of the joint programme for children. The provincial sub-programme was implemented in 2018.

A monitoring trip conducted by UNICEF Mongolia to assess the sustainability of the programme concluded that the sustainability plan was implemented well and local government remained highly committed to ensuring sustainability of the results achieved. This was evidenced by the increased investment for children, prioritization of child rights in the province's long-term plan until 2030, and inclusion of UNICEF-supported facilities' maintenance and operation costs in local budgets.

There were a few areas where the local government struggled to ensure sustainability of programmes. For example, the Reach Every District and Sub-district Strategy (REDSS strategy) in the health sector could not be maintained due to lack of local budget. For some UNICEF-supported WASH facilities in schools and dormitories at sub-district level, local governments faced a number of challenges to properly maintain waste management. The most important lesson UNICEF Mongolia learned from this experience was that any intervention it develops and pilots needs to be designed as a full package that includes all important aspects of sustainability for it to be replicated at larger scale.

End/