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FORWARD

The Government of Mongolia and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) are implementing its 5th-Country Programme in Mongolia from 2012 until 2016. The programme was adjusted in mid-2014 to align it to Mongolia's priorities as a middle-income country and the UNFPA's new Strategic Plan 2014-2017, based on the results of the independent mid-term review of the programme.

UNFPA is working in four key areas: Population Dynamics, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Youth Development and Gender Equality. The population and development programme assists the Government in the collection, analysis and use of population data for decision and policy-making. The sexual and reproductive health and rights programme strengthens access, utilization and quality of sexual and reproductive health services with the primary goal to reduce maternal and newborn deaths. The youth programme promotes youth empowerment and resilience, particularly through improving the life skills of young people. The gender programme advocates and generates support for improving gender equity and empowerment of women, with a specific focus given on reducing gender-based violence.

UNFPA has partnered with Mongolia since the late 1970's, delivering extensive changes in the focus areas. Through Government, private sector and civil society partnerships, initiatives include technical assistance for the development and revision of government policies, improving sexual and reproductive health services and rights, capacity development, brokerage of partnerships and supplying medical equipment, materials and contraceptives. These programmes have contributed to more than halving maternal and the newborn deaths from 1990's levels and creation of a robust framework for population data collection and effective utilisation, amongst other improvements in the areas of gender equality and youth development.





NAOMI Kitahara UNFPA Representative

LETTER FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE

In 2015 we will celebrate the United Nations 70th anniversary and the conclusion of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Much has changed since the MDGs were launched over a decade ago. With UNFPA's support, Mongolia has made great strides in MDG 3 (Gender Equality), 5 (Improve Maternal Health) and 6 (Combat HIV/AIDS). Take MDG 5, Mongolia successfully improved maternal health and promoted sexual and reproductive health and rights, resulting in significant reductions in the maternal mortality ratio.

The year 2014 saw the re-commitment of the UN member states to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. With Mongolia's strong support and leadership, the UNFPA's focus on individual human lives and rights, specifically that of youth and women, was reconfirmed.

Last year was also the launch of the UNFPA's new strategic plan. With key programmatic adjustments now in place, UNFPA Mongolia is shifting from downstream programme implementation to upstream policy and advocacy. Additionally, UNFPA Mongolia has begun looking to new partnerships development including the private sector.

On gender, 2014 was a historic year in the field of gender equality. The President of Mongolia signed the United Nations "COMMIT" initiative, being the 64th country committing to end violence against women and girls. In addition, UNFPA helped the government to introduce gender sensitive budgeting, and facilitated the establishment of One-Stop-Service-Centres for victims of domestic violence in Ulaanbaatar city and 3 Western aimags, also in partnership with the Government of Japan.

In the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights, the Reproductive Health Commodity Security Strategy was developed by the Ministry of Health and Sports, which will start its implementation from 2015. Also, with the Government of Luxembourg's continued support of the Telemedicine Project, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the National Centre for Maternal and Child Health established functional telemedicine networks in all aimags and developed an online training platform for specialists working in maternal and newborn health. The independent mid-term evaluation documented concrete contributions of the telemedicine networks in reducing maternal and newborn mortality. The Government of Luxembourg has also continued to support the HIV/STI Project. Under this project, UNFPA and partners have educated youth, mobile and at risk populations on HIV and STI's.

UNFPA continues to work closely with partners under the leadership of the Ministry of Population Development and Social Protection to build a more self-reliant and resilient youth population. In partnership with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Government of Luxembourg, the Youth Development Programme launched 7 Youth Development Centres and 7 youth friendly health clinics including in the mining and border areas with China. The very first youth policy is being developed, ensuring extensive national and youth consultations.

Right: All UNFPA staff gathered for a rare group photo in the summer of 2014. The majority of UNFPA staff are located in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar, with some staff also working in selected provinces.



Advancing the ICPD agenda, while continuing to build on the 2013 Ulaanbaatar Declaration, which committed the Government, Parliament, civil society and development partners to formulate long-term policies and strategies to address population and development issues, UNFPA supported the development of the National Comprehensive Population Development Policy. It is aimed at facilitating decision and policy-making based on Mongolia's changing population dynamics and paying much closer attention to vulnerable populations such as youth, women, and the elderly.

Through these efforts, UNFPA Mongolia is promoting equitable and inclusive growth and development by forging new partnerships and promoting innovation within our programmes.

We hope that you enjoy this brief insight into some of UNFPA's many achievements during 2014. In the coming year, UNFPA will continue to promote innovation, champion issues related to youth and women and work to ensure every Mongolian reaches his or her full potential.



"I have been with UNFPA since 2003. I truly enjoy working at UNFPA and have taken great pride in contributing to our many achievements." -N. Jugdersuren



REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH: ENSURING EVERY PREGNANCY IS WANTED AND EVERY CHILDBIRTH IS SAFE

The REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH programme promotes sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) which is fundamental for personal growth and development. UNFPA supports SRHR through the development and implementation of policies, strategies and protocols for sexual and reproductive health with particular attention to Ulaanbaatar City. UNFPA also promotes innovative initiatives to improve the quality of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, i.e. telemedicine network and interventions to reach the most at risk population to STI/HIV. Special attention is paid to the health needs of young people through establishment and functioning of youth friendly services.

CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

Working closely with the Ministry of Health and Sports, UNFPA supported the drafting and implementation of major national policy guidelines: 1) The National Antenatal Care Guideline; 2) the STI/HIV diagnosis and treatment guideline and; 3) the guideline for infertility services. The support to the national counterparts on the development of these strategies and guidelines are concrete examples of UNFPA's shift to upstream advocacy and the Government's increased ownership of the process further facilitates their effective implementation.

CHINA AND MONGOLIA WORK TOGETHER TO COMBAT STI AND HIV IN BORDER AREAS

With the Government of Luxembourg's continued support for the STI/HIV project, UNFPA worked with local NGOs in border areas with China. The NGOs were able to reach female sex workers, truck drivers and youth migrating to mining areas. Reach out activities, as well as provision of SRH services and counselling, were coordinated between the borders of Mongolia and China for the first time.

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO (MMR) CONTINUES TO FALL

In 2014, Mongolia's MMR continued to drop to its lowest level in history - 30.6 per 100,000 live births, based on facility-based statistics. The Government of Luxembourg has been unwavering in its financial support to UNFPA and the Government of Mongolia to reducing maternal deaths through enabling a quality maternal and newborn services via the telemedicine network. With every aimag now connected to the network, women can receive timely and quality life saving consultation, by national and tertiary level experts from the NCMCH, without having to travel all the way to the capital city.

"I am from the Sukhbaatar province. My doctor warned me that with my very high blood pressure, I was at risk of premature birth and other severe complications with my pregnancy. Even with medical support from my provincial hospital, the results were unclear. Then, utilizing the telemedicine network, my doctor sought advice from experts in the capital city [Ulaanbaatar]... Today, I am healthy and happy. I would like to thank all the doctors that saved the life of my child and me."

-Mongolian Mother whose life was saved through the Telemedicine consultation

ONLINE BASED LEARNING PLATFORM IMPROVES THE SKILLS OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY PROFESSIONALS

Utilizing Mongolia's advances in ICT, in partnership with the National Centre for Health Development (NCHD), UNFPA and the Government of Luxembourg supported the development of an E-Learning platform for rural physicians. This initiative was undertaken in order to support access to continuous medical education by rural physicians. The project initiated the development of an E-Learning platform (http://elearning.obgyn-telemedicine.mn/) with a four-week accredited distant learning programme consisting of three obstetrics modules in: (1) obstetrics haemorrhage management; (2) hypertensive disorders during pregnancy and preeclampsia; and (3) obstetrics sepsis. The first session of the program started in early November, and 181 specialists nationwide have already enrolled.

INVESTING IN FAMILY PLANNING AND LIFE-SAVING COMMODITIES TO ENSURE INDIVIDUALS REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED

To safeguard individual's access to reproductive health commodities, UNFPA and the Ministry of Health and Sports supported the expansion of the logistics management CHANNEL system to all Ulaanbaatar districts (in addition to all aimags, all of which introduced the system in the past). This system provides effective and efficient planning that ensures there is no disruption of commodities and that each individual has access to life-saving and family planning commodities. This was UNFPA's response to the Ulaanbaatar's situation where stock-out rates of the reproductive health commodities were increasingly noticeable.

The Reproductive Health Commodity Security Strategy, which promotes access to a reliable supply of contraceptives, life saving maternal and newborn medicines, equipment and tools for family planning, maternal health services and prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, has been developed and awaiting its approval in 2014, and it will start its implementation from 2015.





GENDER MAINSTREAMING: THE KEY TO EQUALITY AND VIOLENCE FREE SOCIETY

The main goal of the Gender Programme is to strengthen the national gender machinery and promote innovation for gender equality and GBV prevention. To achieve this goal, UNFPA supports experience/knowledge sharing of politicians and key government entities to advocate and implement the legislation on gender equality and on domestic violence, and advocate for gender sensitive budgeting.

PRESIDENT OF MONGOLIA COMMITS TO PASS THE REVISED LAW ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

The President of Mongolia Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, continued to build upon his 2013 campaign to "Let's Unite Against Domestic Violence" by signing on to the UN COMMIT Initiative on March 6, 2014. The President of Mongolia made a commitment to end violence against women and girls by joining to the United Nations COMMIT Initiative with the statement:

I, Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, consider domestic violence a crime and commit to holding perpetrators appropriately accountable. I am committed to working with policy makers to create a new, concrete legal system that will provide service and safeguards to domestic violence survivors.

GENDER EQUALITY CHAMPIONS HELP TO TURN THE PARLIAMENT "ORANGE"

Gender Equality Champions, MP Ms L. Erdenechimeg and MP Mr D. Battsogt, marked the December 25th Parliament session as Orange Day to End Violence Against Women and revise the Domestic Violence (DV) Law. Every Member of Parliament donned orange scarves and ties provided by UNFPA Mongolia. UNFPA has supported the champions in promoting gender equality, introducing Gender Sensitive Budgeting (GSB) into the budget reforms, and revising the Law on DV. For the first time in the history of Mongolia, domestic violence is on the verge of being classified as a crime. The revision and submission has been years of work in the making.

THE GOVERNMENT OF MONGOLIA TAKES STEPS TO ADOPT GENDER SENSITIVE BUDGETING

Working closely with the Government, UNFPA was able to train key officials and develop a guideline and training manual on GSB, which are important to make local, state and national budgets responsive to the specific needs of men and women.

UNFPA FACILITATES GOVERNMENT-CIVIL SOCIETY FEEDBACK MECHANISM

With support from UNFPA, a robust mechanism facilitating government and CSO feedback was put into place. MONFEMNET, a network of CSOs working on gender equality and human rights issues, conducted a gender analysis for the National Comprehensive Population Development Policy.

MONFEMNET's thorough review aimed to ensure that an integration of human rights perspectives was weaved into the fabric of the policy document. The recommendations were presented to the President of Mongolia, the Minister of Population Development and Social Protection and the Parliamentary Women's Caucus during the National CSO Forum, "Through Women's Eyes." The recommendations were reflected in the final version of the National Comprehensive Population and Development Policy, which was submitted to the Parliament.



Members of Parliament join the "Unite to End Violence Campaign" by wearing orange scarves during the December 25th Parliament Session. The MPs have been united to put an end to domestic violence in Mongolia.



THREE NEW ONE-STOP-SERVICE-CENTRES (OSSC) IN AIMAGS PROVIDE LIFE SAVING SERVICES

UNFPA supported the establishment of OSSCs in Ulaanbaatar City, as well as Zavkhan, Bayankhongor and Gobi-Altai. At OSSCs, victims of violence receive essential health, physical, psychological, legal, counselling and protection services in an integrated manner. In the second half of 2014 alone, the centres gave services to over 100 survivors. Each centre provides 24-hour shelter and support for survivors of domestic violence, connected to the hotline through one place of contact.

In partnership with UNFPA, the Japanese Government's Grass Roots Grant supported the expansion of the OSSC in Sukhbaatar District. This move improved the centre's capacity to support more clients. Ensuring sustainability, the respective local governments have taken full ownership.

WOMEN LEADERS TRAINED IN COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA

UNFPA and the National Committee on Gender-Equality teamed up with the internationally renowned Centre for Developmental Communication to train Mongolia's 12 female leaders. The leaders included Members of Parliament, Ministers, Vice Ministers and other influential women. The participants received one-on-one coaching and gained invaluable skills in communication and media during the five-day workshop.

MUSICIANS UNITE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

UNFPA Mongolia and local musicians joined together to create a new initiative inspired by the United Nations' "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women" campaign, which is observed on the 25th of every month by wearing orange. The sessions feature both famous and emerging young artists who have captured the attention of Mongolians throughout the country with their musical talent, demonstrating their commitment to a violence-free Mongolia.





7 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTRES AND 7 ADOLESCENT FRIENDLY HEALTH CLINICS OPEN THEIR DOORS IN 2014

In partnership with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Government of Luxembourg, the Ministry of Population Development and Social Protection and UNFPA successfully launched 7 Youth Development Centres (YDC)¹. The centres were established to support a positive learning, career development, life skills education for youth. Another 7 YDCs will open their doors by the end of 2015.

Seven new Adolescent and Youth Friendly Health Clinics (AYFHCs) opened their doors to young people in Ulaanbaatar and target aimags. Equipped with trained personnel and all the necessary equipment and supplies, these clinics create a space for young people to share their health concerns, improve their health knowledge and skills, seek protection when needed, and get assistance with specialised, confidential, respectful and friendly services.

YOUNG MONGOLIANS TAKE ACTION!

What happens when 150 young volunteers are given a platform for innovation and inspiration? An unimaginable impact! Over 1,000 youth participated in the three events TEDx, Startup Weekend and the Social Good Summit. Collectively, the media impact was over 100,000 online impressions, over 30 news outlets covering the events and youth making their voices heard at the highest level.

The results were even more impressive. The Minister of Health committed 2015 to be the year of student health, while the Ulaanbaatar City Mayor promised to grant equitable access to public transportation to the disabled community. The videos and discussions continue to spread among the Mongolian youth.

SAFE SCHOOL INITIATIVE PILOTED

In 2014, UNFPA and MONFEMNET piloted a model for preventing gender-based violence (GBV) in four schools in Bayan-Ulgii, Umnugobi and Zavkhan provinces, and in the Chingeltei district of Ulaanbaatar city. To date, the piloted programme has reached 3,890 students and already showing signs of improvement within classrooms.

With engaging capacity development workshops, awareness raising and GBV prevention activities the staff and student bodies are adopting a violence free environment. As result, the attitude of the school staff and students has improved immensely, creating a more harmonious and productive environment for all.

NEW FRIENDS CAMPAIGN SAVES A LIFE

Throughout Mongolia, being a youth can be challenging; moving to urban centres for education and jobs, leaving families behind, while the country rapidly changes. In this dynamic context, UNFPA's youth peer education program, Y-Peer, reaches out to the most vulnerable and marginalised youth in Mongolia, not just educating youth, but also saving lives.

Y-Peer educators are youth trained in areas such as outreach and counselling, going out into the community to provide support to other youth. Through SDC support, UNFPA initiated an innovative Y-Peer campaign "New Friends". The campaign touched lives of hundreds of young people. Especially that of a young girl living in a rural community, struggling to cope with personal challenges, but a Y-peer member, and new friend, was there to bring her back from the brink.

"Y-PEER SAVED MY LIFE. FOR THAT, I AM SO THANKFUL." -Oyuka

INVESTING IN YOUNG PEOPLE BECOMES A NATIONAL DISCUSSION

To kick off World Population Day 2014, UNFPA supported the production and airing of a Public Service Announcement that called on the Government to invest in a variety of areas that would benefit young people. The PSA, airing on 5 different channels, was broadcast all over the country. The PSA features two members of Parliament and the Minister of Population Development and Social Protection committing to improving health and education services, while also providing a safe and violence free society.

"MONGOLIA IS A COUNTRY OF YOUNG PEOPLE.
THEREFORE, LET'S SUPPORT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE
WHO ARE THE FUTURE OF MONGOLIA AND LET US
PROSPER TOGETHER." – Minister S. Erdene,
Ministry of Population Development and Social
Protection on World Population Day

^{1.} The first two YDCs were opened in 2012 in Dornod and 2013 in Darkhan-Uul





REACHING EVERY CITIZEN THROUGH POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT programme aims at enabling up-to-date and disaggregated data on population, including data on population dynamics, youth, SRH and gender, are analysed and used for policy and decision making. To achieve this goal, UNFPA provides support for development and implementation of national policies as well as on data collection, analysis and use of population data for policy and decision making.

TRUE TO ITS WORD, THE GOVERNMENT SUBMITS THE POPULATION POLICY TO THE PARLIAMENT

Following the 2013 National High Level Meeting that resulted in the Ulaanbaatar Declaration on Population and Development, the Government of Mongolia submitted the National Comprehensive Population Development Policy for the Parliament's approval. The policy will closely analyse Mongolia's changing population dynamics, identifying vulnerable groups such as women, youth and elderly. It will serve as the umbrella policy of the government until 2030.

RELEASED: PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF THE LARGEST HOUSEHOLD SURVEY IN MONGOLIAN HISTORY

Supported jointly by UNFPA and UNICEF, the Social Indicators Sampling Survey (SISS), conducted by NSO, found that adolescent pregnancy has increased to 44 per 1,000 in girls aged 15-19. This vital data allows UNFPA and partners to immediately respond to the rise in adolescent-teen pregnancy. The preliminary findings also found that the fertility rate is the highest it has been in many years — at 3.1 children per household.

In an effort to reduce human error and speedup data collection, tablets were used for the first time. The tablets greatly increased the speed of data collection, while also greatly reducing discrepancies in data and analysis. By combining the 3 traditionally separate surveys, i.e. UNFPA-supported RH survey, the Demographic and Health survey, and the UNICEF-supported Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), the agencies were also able to significantly reduce the cost compared to past years. This was the largest social survey conducted in Mongolia's history. The main and final report will be published in early 2015, and UNFPA will facilitate the process of in-depth studies, providing full opportunities to young researchers.

INTEGRATED DATABASE LAUNCHED

UNFPA supported NSO's initiative to link the population and household database with the database of the General Authority for State Registration. This merger helps to eliminate data discrepancy in civil registration and vital statistics. This robust database will be employed as the main database during the Midterm Census in 2015.

NATIONAL MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM LAUNCHED

With the dedication of the NCMCH's surveillance team and great support from the Ministry of Health and Sports, a nationwide maternal and newborn surveillance system has been established. Each province and soum is home to one of 830 sub-regional health practitioners and statisticians who have been equipped with the skills to provide four types of indicators (maternal mortality, near misses, perinatal mortality and congenital abnormalities) through the surveillance system on regular basis.

- Maternal Mortality
- Near misses
- Perinatal Mortality
- Congenital abnormalities



OPERATIONS TEAM BRINGS INNOVATION TO UNFPA COUNTRY OFFICE

OPERATIONS FACILITATES THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ONLINE BANK DONATION MECHANISM

Working with UNFPA HQ and the Trade and Development Bank of Mongolia, the Country Office became one of the very few UNFPA country offices in the world to establish a web-based crowd sourcing service. This system will help to mobilize resources for UNFPA programmes. (www.unfpa-mn.org).

UNFPA AIMS FOR OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

2014 gave witness to UNFPA Mongolia achieving efficiency in their operations by working towards establishing long term agreements in graphic design, publishing, translation and stationery supply. This not only saves money for UNFPA and other UN agencies, but also improves the quality and lead-time of goods and services delivered.

STRENGTHENING THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS OF IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

The Mongolia Country Office conducted a series of trainings for its implementing partners (IP) in the area of finance, monitoring and evaluation, procurement, asset management and project management. These trainings will ensure that implementing partners are disbursing UNFPA funds in compliance with UNFPA rules and regulations, and Mongolian laws and policies.

DELIVERING AS ONE

With the introduction of the revised framework for the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers, commonly known as HACT, by the United Nations in 2014 and the completion of the macro assessment of the country in 2013, the UN agencies commenced with their micro assessment of existing implementing partners. The objective of the HACT framework is to support a closer alignment of development aid with respect to national priorities and to strengthen national capacities for management and accountability, with a view to gradually shift donor assistance to utilizing national systems as per the Paris Declaration of 2005.



The Mongolia country office staff signed its Office Charter in 2014, as part of its exercise to adjust to the new UNFPA Strategic Plan. The Office Charter is designed to bring all staff together and create a coherent office, by underpinning all aspects of work, conduct, behavior, performance, and professionalism of each staff member.



2014 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

SUMMARY OF RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS AND EXPENDITURES (IN USD)

	Budget	Expenditures	Balance	Implementation Rate
Regular	2,200,550	2,186,234	14,316	99%
Other Resources	3,141,285	2,657,155	484,130	85%
Institutional Support Budget	499,169	497,965	1,204	100%
Total	5,841,004	5,341,672	499,331	91%

OTHER RESOURCES: CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Donor	Budget	Expenditures	Balance	Implementation Rate
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation ¹	2,138,337	1,705,234	433,103	80%
Government of Luxembourg ²	522,304	492,268	30,036	94%
Government of Luxembourg ³	355,603	348,624	6,979	98%
UNFPA Trust Fund for Reproductive Health Commodity Security	125,041	111,028	14,013	89%
Japanese Grass Roots Security Grant Aide ⁴	86,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	3,141,285	2,657,155	484,130	85%

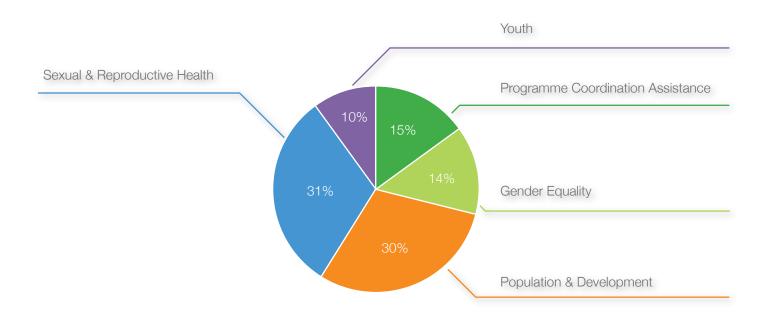
FUND ALLOCATION AMONG COMPONENTS UNDER REGULAR RESOURCES 2014

Gender Equality	325,000	307,078	17,922	94%
Population & Development	676,524	657,768	18,756	97%
Youth	212,611	215,332	(2,721)	101%
Sexual & Reproductive Health	670,534	678,306	(7,772)	101%
Programme Coordination Assistance	312,500	327,750	(15,250)	105%
Total	2,200,550	2,186,234	14,316	99%

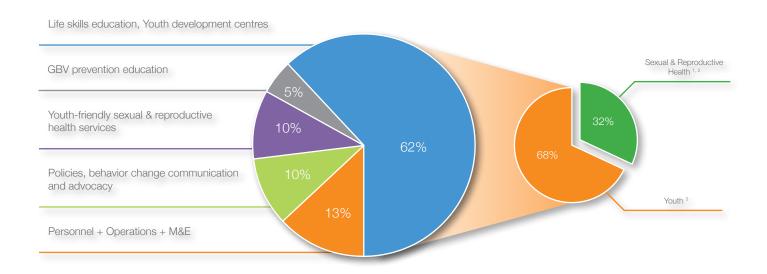
^{***}Note: (1) The Youth Development Project
(2) Telemedicine Project on Maternal and Newborn Health
(3) HIV/STI Prevention Among Youth, Mobile and at Risk Populations
(4) Japanese funding was channeled directly throug the Sukhbaatar District Governor's Office



2014 EXPENDITURES: UNDER REGULAR RESOURCES



2014 EXPENDITURES: OTHER RESOURCES



^{***}Note: (1) Telemedicine Project on Maternal and Newborn Health
(2) HIV/STI Prevention Among Youth, Mobile and at Risk Populations
(3) The Youth Development Project