

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2024**



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**MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF OFFICE** 



Dr Khalid Sharifi, Head of UNFPA Mongolia. @UNFPA

UNFPA collaborated on revising the Standard Operating Procedures for Antenatal and Postpartum Care, incorporating GBV screening in routine maternal care and enhancing quality of care. Joint training on the Minimum Initial Service Package empowered 30 trainers to respond to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) needs in emergencies.

We saw the creation of the Gender Expert Panel which now guides gender-sensitive policymaking, while online gender resources have reached hundreds of policymakers and practitioners.

Over 1.2 million people were reached by our 16 Days of Activism against GBV campaign, in partnership with government, media, development and local partners, culminating in the Mongolia Call to Action to address technology-facilitated GBV through improved legal frameworks and victim support systems.

Using knowledge we generated through the Youth Situation Analysis, the government is strengthening policies supporting young people's health, education and civic engagement.

As part of our emergency response, we successfully distributed dignity kits to over 8700 women and girls affected by dzud, harsh winter condition, across Mongolia. We also established Safe Space for women and girls in eight provinces with the aim of providing psychosocial support during crises.

We are excited to continue this collaborative work in 2025 and beyond, building on the foundations laid in 2024 to ensure a more just, equitable and sustainable future for all.

**SNAPSHOTS OF 2024** 



UNFPA staff is engaging with youth in Khuvsgul province during the field mission. May 2025. @UNFPA

**Coordinated health sector response to GBV:** The Health Sector Action Plan to Combat GBV/DV (2024–2027) has integrated GBV data, improved capacity and care and raised awareness.

**Strengthened capacity to deliver SRH services in emergencies:** Thirty master trainers were certified to cascade the training and **provide essential emergency services** delivery based on the Minimum Initial Service Package.

**In-country care for children with heart conditions:** Renovations, equipment and training enabled local teams to successfully perform open-heart surgery for congenital cardiac abnormalities on 10 children at the National Centre of Maternal Child Health.

**Quality maternal and newborn care:** 160 health workers were trained on life-saving obstetric techniques and survivor-centred GBV survivor care.

**Expanded care in under-served areas:** Doctors built their expertise to perform basic obstetric ultrasounds and provide critical diagnostic services in 12 remote soums.



From left to right: Ms A.Ariunzaya, Member of Parliament; Ms Fiona Blyth, British Ambassador to Mongolia; and Mr T.Andir, UNYAP member, attend



Ms L.Ariunzul, Researcher; Ms Sandra Choufani, Ambassador of Canada to Mongolia; and Ms Kh.Munkhzul, Commissioner of the National

**Tackling technology-facilitated GBV:** A high-level policy dialogue led to the <u>Mongolia</u> <u>Call to Action</u> strengthen legal frameworks, support survivors and collaborate across sectors to address this form of GBV.

**Ensuring future health-care workers are prepared to address GBV:** Six academic hours of GBV content was <u>integrated into the pre-service medical curriculum</u> offered by the Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences.

**Leading the charge for gender equality:** The Gender Expert Panel was established and trained to facilitate gender mainstreaming at the national and sub-national authorities.

**Promoting youth health:** A comprehensive Primary Health Care (PHC) assessment led to an evidence-based action plan, endorsed by the Ministry of Health. This plan integrates child developmental screenings and youth-friendly services into Mongolia's PHC framework, strengthening the accessibility and quality services for children, adolescent and young people.

**Building awareness on supporting youth:** UNFPA installed interactive displays at 32 schools in remote areas to show informational videos on SRH and supported training for health education teachers, school management, social workers and administrators on SHE, mental health and GBV.

**Creating protective school environments:** 33 secondary schools in 10 provinces became Safe Schools and 400 students in remote soums benefited from training on child sexual abuse and mental health provided by 44 national trainers.

# HIGHLIGHTS

## **UN Deputy Secretary-General visits Mongolia**



Ms Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, with H.E. Mr U. Khurelsukh, President of Mongolia, and H.E. Ms B. Battsetseg, Foreign Minister of Mongolia, during the World Women Forum



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Pacific KD, Mr Lapan Misnra, UN Mongolia Resident Coordinator and Dr L.Oyunaa, UNFPA Mongolia Assistant Representative visit an One-Stop Service Centre in Bayanzurkh district, Ulaanbaatar, August 2024. @UNFPA

In August 2024, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina J. Mohammed, <u>visited Mongolia</u> to attend the World Women's Forum at the invitation of the President. At a UNFPA-supported One-Stop Service Centre (OSSC) for GBV survivors in Ulaanbaatar, she met the team of dedicated service providers and a survivor who had regained the confidence to rebuild her life with support from the centre. The Deputy Secretary-General commended the centre's vital role in supporting survivors and ensuring their well-being, and offered her best wishes for its ongoing success.



## **UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Director Visits Mongolia**

Mr Pio Smith, UNFPA Asia-Pacific RD, during the World Women Forum's thematic session on education in Ulaanbaatar, August 2024. @UNFPA



Mr Pio Smith, UNFPA Asia-Pacific RD, visits a soum hospital in Umnugobi province, August 2024. @UNFPA



Picture taken during Mr Pio Smith's visit in Youth Development Centre in Umnugobi province, August 2024. @UNFPA

UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Director, Pio Smith, visited in August to <u>explore the</u> <u>challenges faced by women and girls</u>, especially in rural areas. In Umnugobi province, he <u>engaged with local communities and officials</u> to learn about the success of UNFPA programmes – zero maternal mortality and expanded youth development centres. At the World Women's Forum, he argued for <u>comprehensive sexuality</u> <u>education and STEM as a means to empower women and girls</u>, and contributed to the historic Ulaanbaatar Declaration, a global commitment to gender equality and women's leadership in decision-making and sustainable development.

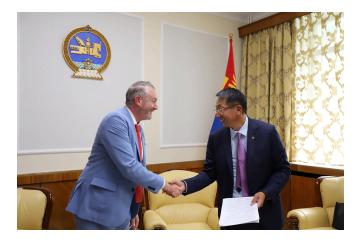
### Empowering Mongolia's youth in the Gobi desert and beyond

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He also met with <u>high-level decision-makers</u> in the new government, using the opportunity to advocate for the advancement of the ICPD Programme of Action in Mongolia and the acceleration of UNFPA's three transformative results: ending preventable maternal deaths, ending the unmet need for family planning, and ending gender-based violence and harmful practices. <u>He also highlighted</u> the need for the second GBV prevalence study and the strengthening of comprehensive sexuality education. Government counterparts expressed strong support for continued collaboration on GBV prevention, youth development, and sexual and reproductive health in their new roles.



Mr L. Enkh-Amgalan, Minister of Family, Labour and Social Protection, and Mr Pio Smith, UNFPA Asia-Pacific RD, meet in Ulaanbaatar, August 2024. @UNFPA



Mr T.Munkhsaikhan, Minister of Health, and Mr Pio Smith, UNFPA Asia-Pacific RD, meet in Ulaanbaatar, August 2024. @UNFPA APRO

## **UNFPA Regional Director's Visit Featured in the Media**



# **SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS**

Making motherhood safer is a human rights imperative.

UNFPA works with the government, health experts and civil society to strengthen health systems, train and educate health workers and midwives, and improve access to quality reproductive health services while ensuring rights and choices for all.



A newborn at the hospital in Khovd province. May 2024. @UNFPA

**women** by introducing goal-oriented visits, standardized GBV screening and improved counselling.

- The Health Sector Action Plan (2024–2027) aims to **provide better care and support for GBV survivors** by integrating GBV data into health statistics, improving care quality, and raising awareness within the health system.
- The MCH/RH Action Plan (2022–2024) was rigorously evaluated to understand its effectiveness in <u>reducing maternal and child mortality</u>. The evaluation highlighted the need for targeted interventions and stronger monitoring, and is now guiding the development of the next action plan.
- Seven maternity health facilities (two in Ulaanbaatar and five in the provinces) enhanced their surveillance capacity to understand how and why deaths of mothers and babies occur around the time of birth and to prevent these deaths in the future.
- The National Centre of Maternal and Child Health, with support from Luxembourg, began introducing open-heart surgery for congenital cardiac abnormalities, offerina hope to families and aiming to reduce the need for costly treatment abroad. In 2024, 10 children successfully underwent lifesaving heart procedures as part of this initiative and are now on the road to good health.



Local surgeons are trained to conduct a successful pediatric cardiac procedure in November 2024. @ NCMCH

Past Issues



Picture taken with regional advisers and participants during the MISP training of trainers on 22 October 2024. @ UNFPA

 <u>30 master trainers were trained</u> on the <u>Minimum Initial Service</u> <u>Package</u>, ensuring the training is further cascaded and that women and girls have access to essential SRH services in emergencies such as dzud.

# "Two Lives": A Short Film Based on a True Story

This poignant short film sheds light on the realities of preventable maternal and perinatal mortality, drawing from a true story that underscores the need for greater awareness and action.



# **GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL NORMS**

Gender equality is the foundation of sustainable development and tackling poverty. UNFPA advocates for women and girls, promotes legal and policy reforms and genderresponsive data collection, and supports initiatives that improve the health of women and girls and expand their choices in life.

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D. Sugarmaa, a youth participant at a consultation meeting on International Youth Day. August 2024. @UNFPA

## **ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024**

 UNFPA collaborated with the National Committee on Gender Equality and the Department of Child and Family Development, which is under the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Protection, to drive social change around gender equality. In <u>11 provinces and three districts</u>, communities participated actively in awareness campaigns and learned about GBV prevention and response.



UNFPA Asia-Pacific RD, Pio Smith, with fellow panel members during the World Women Forum's thematic session on education in Ulaanbaatar, August 2024. @UNFPA

 <u>At the World Women's Forum</u> in August, UNFPA organized a session on Women's Empowerment and Education in partnership with UNICEF, with participants included UNFPA and UNICEF regional directors, members of parliament and representatives from the United Kingdom and Cuba. The event showed how addressing challenges in STEM education for girls requires government investment, empowering women and girls to pursue careers free

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Youth participating in the EU Day event. May 2024. @UNFPA

- A Gender Expert panel was set up through the <u>EU-funded Strengthening</u> <u>National Gender Equality Expertise</u> project. The 30 panel members were trained to mainstream gender-transformative approaches into policies and programmes while 47 focal persons from different provinces and ministries learned to monitor and evaluate progress on gender equality.
- <u>Online gender training resources</u> with modules for managers and decisionmakers expanded access to gender knowledge.

# **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

Gender-based violence knows no social, economic or national boundaries. It undermines the health, dignity, security and autonomy of survivors. Although one of the most prevalent forms of violence worldwide, it is shrouded in a culture of silence, supported by cultural beliefs and values that sustain, justify or dismiss it.



Photo captured during an event at the Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences, part of the nationwide 16 Days of Activism campaign. December 2024. @UNFPA

## Achievements in 2024

UNFPA, in collaboration with the government and development partners, garnered over 1.2 million reach and impressions through the 16 Days of Activism against GBV campaign, raising nationwide awareness of gender-based violence (GBV). Under the theme of <u>"Women and Girls Are Safe Everywhere – #NoExcuse"</u> the <u>campaign called</u> for more accountability, stronger legal frameworks, data-driven approaches, and support for women's rights initiatives. It included high-level policy dialogue, public awareness initiatives and community engagement.



At the launch of the 16 Days of Activism campaign on 22 November 2024, panelists debate action against GBV in Mongolia. From left to right: Mr Tapan Mishra, UN Resident Coordinator; Mr O.Altangerel, Minister of Justice and Home Affairs; Ms A.Ariunzaya, Member of Parliament; Mr D.Dawaadorj, Youth and Sports Advisor to the President; and Ms Ina Marciulionyte, Ambassador of the European Union. @ UNFPA

- With UNFPA support, a <u>training of trainers</u> enhanced the understanding of 100 staff from law enforcement, One-Stop Service Centres and shelters on the **rights** of persons with disabilities and LGBTQ+ individuals. This increased awareness of how to better support these marginalized groups and will lead to more inclusive and equitable service delivery.
- 75 officers from the National Police Agency, at both national and subnational levels <u>were trained</u> on domestic violence data analysis and reporting, enhancing their ability to use the eGBV database to track and record domestic violence cases nationwide, improve data analysis and contribute to more effective response.
- The accessibility and availability of services at OSSCs and shelters for persons with disabilities and LGBTQI+ individuals were evaluated. This forms the basis of UNFPA advocacy to revise the legal framework and improve service accessibility for marginalized people.

# confused and scared of him



New evidence from risk factor analysis of the 2017 National Study on Gender-based Violence in Mongolia



New evidence from risk factor analysis of the 2017 National Study on Gender-Based Violence in Mongolia. @UNFPA

 An <u>in-depth</u> analysis of the national GBV survey and its lessons learned was published and shared with government sectors, diplomatic missions, development partners and civil society organizations. This has laid the foundation for future advocacy and support for a second round of the survey.

# **Gender-Based Violence Public Service Announcement**





UNFPA Mongolia launched a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Public Service Announcement (PSA) as part of the "16 Days of Activisim" campaign, featuring 5 concise pieces of content highlighting GBV challenges in Mongolia. The PSA was shared across UNFPA's social media accounts, websites, and TenGer TV to raise awareness and drive action. The content shared across UNFPA's social media accounts has garnered an impressive <u>50,500</u> total views.

# YOUTH AND ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT

Adolescents and youth shape social and economic development, challenge social norms and values and build the foundation of the world's future.

#### development.



Youth participating in the EU Day event. May 2025. @UNFPA

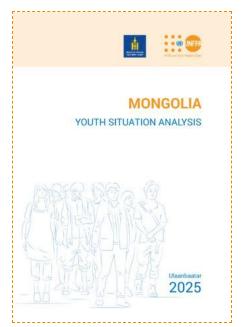
#### Achievements in 2024

- UNFPA supported the government and its partners, together with stakeholders, to discuss how best to support youth at the annual National Youth Council meeting. In 2024, the meeting discussed moving youth affairs to a dedicated ministry, <u>updates to the Youth Development Law</u>, and the need for increased funding for youth-led initiatives.
- Young people participated in national consultations about issues that matter to youth, including one on the Youth Situation Analysis. On International Youth Day, 100 young Mongolians came together to discuss challenges in health, education, employment and civic participation and give actionable recommendations for the UN Summit of the Future.
- The Youth Situation Analysis completed by UNFPA provided **valuable insights** into youth development and their needs and was an important influence on national policy-making.

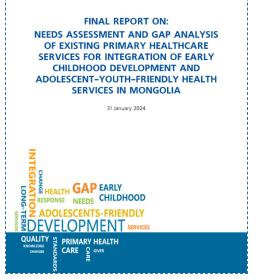


UNYAP members participate in South-South knowledge exchange in Shanghai in December 2024. @ UNFPA

- Stakeholders from Mongolia, China and Kenya learned about issues and solutions in adolescent mental health, climate action and youth leadership from each other through a **knowledge exchange** mission to Shanghai organized by UNFPA Mongolia and China and aligned with the International Conference on Population and Development agenda to address global youth challenges.
- The Youth Situation Analysis completed by UNFPA provided <u>valuable insights</u> into youth development and their needs and was an important influence on national policy-making.



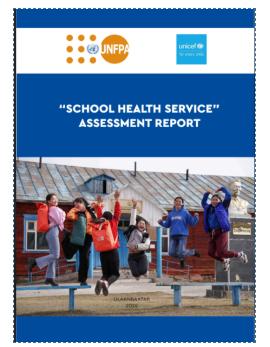
"Mongolia: Youth Situation Analysis". 2025. @UNFPA



"Final Report On: Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis of Existing Primary Healthcare Services for Integration of Early Childhood Development and Adolescent-Youth-Friendly Health Services in Mongolia". 2024. @UNFPA

• An assessment of the school health programme\_resulted in the development of Student Health cards, while the KAP Study on youth health behaviour was completed and will inform a behaviour change communication plan to be developed in 2025.

 UNFPA collaborated with UNICEF to adolescent health improve services, conducting a Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis to identify how to integrate early childhood development and adolescent and youth-friendly health services into the primary health-care system. An action plan was later approved by the Ministry of Health.



"School Health Service" Assessment report. 2024. @UNFPA

# Enkh-Ujin's journey: Finding hope at the Unitel Hub, Khuvsgul

UNFPA's facilitation of a public-private partnership between the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Protection and the Unitel Group led to the establishment of 12 Unitel Hubs that seek to bridge the digital divide and enhance access to education. Looking ahead, Unitel Hubs will be established in every province.



# **HUMANITARIAN ACTION**

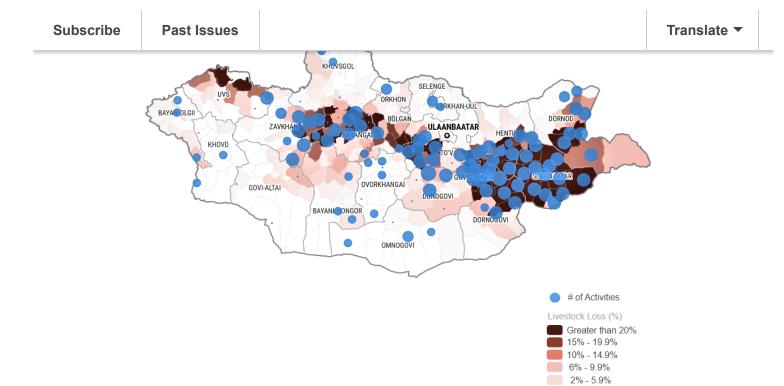


Dignity kits were delivered across the country. July 2024. @UNFPA

### Delivering dignity and support: UNFPA responds to the dzud crisis of 2024

With critical support from UNFPA over <u>8,700 women and girls in 106 soums</u> across 20 provinces received dignity kits and vital hygiene supplies so they could **manage their needs with dignity**. UNFPA also facilitated vulnerable communities to access essential health services, including maternal care, family planning and STI treatment. To address the emotional toll of the dzud, UNFPA trained 544 frontline workers and **offered outreach counselling** to over 2,000 individuals in 576 households. Awareness campaigns on GBV prevention, menstrual health and mental well-being <u>empowered</u> communities to make decisions to protect their health and wellbeing.

### UNFPA support across Mongolia during the 2024 dzud



UNFPA established women <u>safe spaces</u> in eight provinces through which vulnerable women and girls in herder communities accessed psychosocial support during crises. Funded by CERF and UNFPA, these spaces were a <u>supportive environment</u> where women could express themselves, access help and regain security. They offered women and girls in the most challenging circumstances **hope and empowerment**, helping them rebuild their lives during emergencies.

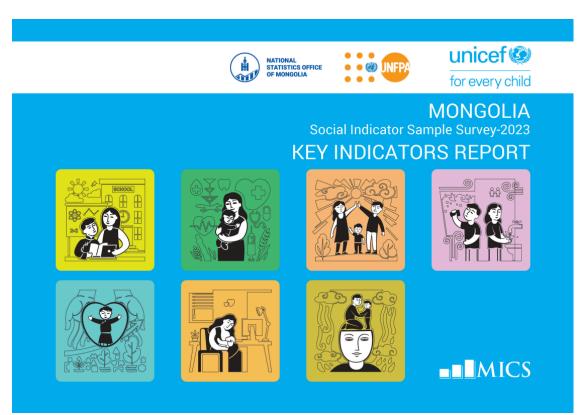


# Voices of Support: People Share Their Thoughts on UNFPA's Response to the 2024

## **Dzud Crisis**



# DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT



#### **Past Issues**

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The National Statistical Office, in collaboration with ONEPA and ONICEF, released key findings from the <u>2023 Social Indicator Sample Survey</u>, providing critical disaggregated data on Mongolia's progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The findings cover 44 SDG indicators, showing progress in areas like access to family planning, and identifying areas where more must be done to achieve the SDGs, as adolescent pregnancy, maternal mortality and GBV. The data are informing the development of targeted interventions and will shape national health strategies for women and girls.



#### WE THANK OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS FOR THEIR CONTINUES SUPPORT TO MAKE A BETTER WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS.







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