

"OUR BEST YEAR YET!"



MONGOLIA

UNFPA 2017

Annual Report



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FOREWORD

UNFPA and the Government of Mongolia made great strides in 2017, the inaugural year of the 6th Country Programme. In its 19th year of representation in Mongolia, UNFPA continues to strengthen its relationship with the Government of Mongolia in three key areas: Sexual and Reproductive Health, Gender Equality and Youth Development.

In 2017, with UNFPA support, the Law on Youth Development was drafted and passed; the revised Law to Combat Domestic Violence went into effect; and the National Maternal, Child and Reproductive Health Programme was developed and approved by the Government of Mongolia. The National Centre for Maternal and Child Health received a United Nations Public Service Award, taking first place for “Innovation and Excellence in Delivering Health Services” for their work in implementing the Telemedicine Project in Mongolia alongside UNFPA.

UNFPA implements its Country Programme in close cooperation with the Government of Mongolia, civil society organizations, development partners, and the private sector. This work is made possible through the steadfast support and partnership of the Government of Mongolia, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and Oyu Tolgoi LLC.

I. LETTER FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE



By nearly every indicator, 2017 was one of the best years to date for UNFPA Mongolia. UNFPA is committed to fostering a supportive policy environment that leaves no one behind, and this year's success is a testament to the hard work that has been done over recent years. In 2017, I was honored to receive the Order of the Polar Star from the President of Mongolia. This award, the highest honour that can be bestowed on a non-Mongolian national, shows how deeply UNFPA's work is valued by national and international partners.

In 2017, the new National Maternal, Child and Reproductive Health Programme was approved, reflecting the Mongolian Government's continued commitment to sexual and reproductive health and rights. We also celebrated the National Center for Maternal and Child Health's UN Public Service Award for excellence and innovation, recognizing the achievements of the Maternal and Child Health component of the UNFPA-supported telemedicine project.

The year 2017 was also a landmark year for gender in Mongolia, as the Law to Combat Domestic Violence came into force. We were proud to support Mongolia's first nationwide gender-based violence survey using international methodology. This data, planned for release in 2018, will provide the Government with the information it needs to take action to eliminate violence against women and girls.

A new Youth Development Law was approved in 2017, institutionalizing the programmes and initiatives of the UNFPA-supported Youth Development Project (2013-2017). With this new law, all 16 Youth Development Centers and 28 youth clinics are operational and funded by the Government. Now, hundreds of young people around the country can confront the challenges they and their communities are facing through volunteerism and entrepreneurship.

In 2017, we finalized the USD1.8 million exit phase of the Telemedicine Project with the Government of Luxembourg. We also formalized new agreements with the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia, the UB Health Department, the Centre for Health Development, and the National Centre Against Violence. We are so pleased to welcome these organizations as our new partners, and their collaboration is essential to our success.

At the end of 2017, we welcomed the United Nations Board of Audit to review the work of the Country Office. The auditors commended us on our teamwork, and we received the least number of observations compared to the other offices under audit.

These successes do not belong to UNFPA alone, but to all of our partners, donors and friends who work tirelessly to help us to deliver on our mandate. In closing, we take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work and dedication to delivering a Mongolia where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

Naomi Kitahara
Country Representative

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

The SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE Health programme promotes sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) which are fundamental for personal growth and development. UNFPA supports SRHR through the development of policies, strategies and protocols for sexual and reproductive health among youth. UNFPA also promotes innovation to improve the quality of comprehensive SRHR services. Special attention is paid to the health needs of young people through the establishment of youth-friendly services.

New policies to save the lives of mothers and their babies

During 2017, major policy achievements were realized in the areas of sexual and reproductive health and rights. UNFPA supported the development and approval of the new National Maternal, Child and Reproductive Health Programme and the authorization of the Youth Health Service Guideline. To ensure its smooth implementation and sustainability, UNFPA supported the development of a costed two-year action plan, which was approved by Ministerial Order in October 2017.

UNFPA's work to review standards within secondary level hospital led to a new requirement that all hospitals must have a fully equipped adolescent clinic to provide SRHR services for young people.

Just like immunisation saves lives of children, contraception saves the lives of women. Investing in family planning services is essential to avert all preventable maternal deaths.



Moreover, UNFPA supported the development of the Maternal and Child Health Law that will ensure accountability and improved funding mechanisms for maternal and child health services. The Law was drafted in 2017 and will be submitted for review by the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Social Affairs in 2018.

24-hour teleconsultation service launched

In 2017, two new units were established at the National Center for Maternal and Child Health to allow 24-hour teleconsultation service for emergency obstetric care through telemedicine.

These units will also support the distance learning program for OBGYNs, neonatologists and midwives. The units are fully equipped with quality and up-to-date technology that allow experts to conduct real-time teleconsultation and to record modules for distance learning.

Telemedicine continues to build the capacity of duty bearers across the country

42 IT engineers and 34 service providers from maternity wards across Ulaanbaatar were newly trained to use of MnObstetrics software and upload cases for tele-consultation, expanding the reach of telemedicine services.

With the introduction of the new MnObstetrics software in 2017, experts gave 182 remote consultations on the cases of 91 women across the country experiencing complications during pregnancy and childbirth. More than half of these cases (58.2%) were related directly to emergency obstetric care, while 28.4% were for medical conditions during pregnancy (co-morbidities) and 13.0% for neonatal complications. There was a slight decrease in the number of obstetric complications that occurred in 2017 as compared to the previous year. The project introduced extensive training on emergency obstetric care using simulation stations, which may explain this positive reduction.

All 21 provincial hospitals are participating in the Telemedicine Network, which has the potential to reach 40,000 rural pregnant women each year.



Ensuring that every childbirth is safe means that no woman should die or be harmed in anyway while giving life, and her newborn should be given every chance for a healthy start in life.



Strengthening the role of midwifery

With technical and financial support from UNFPA, a revised national job description for midwives was approved by Ministerial Decree in May 2017. This substantially empowered midwives, widening the scope of their work in providing effective maternal health care at community level and preventing any potential maternal death. In 2017, UNFPA also supported an analysis and revision of Mongolia's midwifery curriculum, so that the revised job description of midwives can be effectively and widely applied in the country.

Maternal Mortality Ratio falls

Following a startling increase in maternal mortality in 2016, the maternal mortality ratio was cut in half in 2017 and back down to 2015 levels. The work of UNFPA and partners was critical to this reduction, from 48.8 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2016 and 26.6 in 2017.

In recognition of their important work, the National Center for Maternal and Child Health, one of UNFPA's key implementing partners in Mongolia, won a United Nations Public Service Award for Innovation and Excellence in Delivering Health Services. The award recognized the Center for the implementation of the UNFPA-supported Telemedicine project and their contributions to Mongolia's achievement of Millennium Development Goal 5 to reduce maternal mortality.

SRHR Services for young people

In October 2017, the guidelines and procedural documents for adolescent and youth-friendly services were approved by the Ministerial Order. These documents will ensure the sustainability of adolescent and youth friendly services, along with a name change from "Adolescent and Youth Friendly Health Services" to "Adolescent Cabinets." Adolescent Cabinets provide adolescents and youth with STI screening and treatment services, counseling, and management of general health problems in 11 target provinces and 4 districts of Ulaanbaatar. 33,112 youth visited Adolescent Cabinets in 2017.

YOUNG PEOPLE

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The Youth Development Law is passed

In 2017, for the first time in Mongolia's history, a law which specifically benefits young people was approved. The approval of the Youth Development Law was made possible thanks to the tireless efforts of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, youth-led NGOs, and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Policy, Education, Culture, Science and Sports whose work was supported by UNFPA's Youth Development Programme.

The Law has specific articles for the creation, sustainability and funding of Youth Development Centres (YDCs) at the provincial and district levels; the establishment of a National Council on Youth Development headed by the Prime Minister (with sub-national chapters); the participation of young people in decision and policy making processes; support for youth volunteerism, employment and youth-led initiatives; and many other important initiatives. Sub-national authorities have also increased their commitment and contributions to youth development, as evidenced by the approval of local youth programmes, along with funding. In Uvs province, for instance, the Youth Development sub-programme (2017-2020) was approved by the Citizen's Hural Representative with a budget allocation of MNT 327 million. As a best practice, Uvs province appointed an officer-in-charge of youth issues in each of the Province's 18 soums. Furthermore,

Access to reproductive health services and the ability to claim their reproductive rights will help young people, especially girls, realize their full potential.



More than 45 per cent of the Mongolia's population is under the age of 25 – shaping the country's future and directions.



MNT 220 million was allocated from sub-national budgets for youth programs in Umnugobi, Uvs and Dornod, Zavkhan aimags.

Youth Development Centers reach thousands

In 2017, the 16 YDCs established with UNFPA support reached a collective total of 31,240 young people, including marginalized groups such as youth with disabilities, unemployed youth, and young mothers. More than 10,600 young people participated in life skills education workshops, and more than 1,000 actively engaged in 70+ support groups and interest clubs across the country. Moreover, four of the support groups established within YDCs have spun off to become independent youth-led NGOs (in Dornogobi, Umnugobi, Govi-Altai and Darkhan-Uul provinces).

In 2017, the 16 YDCs continued to receive financial and in-kind support from UNFPA, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Oyu Tolgoi, and ARIG Bank. YDCs also continued to provide referral services to Adolescent Cabinets, local Labor Divisions and One Stop Service Centers for victims of violence, benefitting 811 young people.

Members of the Y-Peer Network in Mongolia are working to end VAW by speaking with their peers about dangerous gender norms.



During the year, the Y-Peer Network Mongolia had 16 local Y-Peers Clubs with 521 peer educators working with YDCs in 11 aimags and 3 districts of UB. Y-Peers conduct peer-to-peer outreach and education on SRH, including family planning, STI/HIV prevention, reproductive rights, and communication skills. Throughout the year, Y-Peers reached more than 19,390 young people in schools and communities.

Government of Mongolia takes ownership of life skills-based health education

UNFPA supported the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports to establish a National Core Group of Experts on life skills-based health education and comprehensive sexuality education. In 2017, 11,209 young people participated in activities and training sessions organized within the Life Skills Education Halls, located at select General Education Schools, Life Long Education Centers, TVETs and Pre-service teacher training colleges. Based on these, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports and the Ministry of Health made a joint decision to re-instate health education in school curriculum.

Young people call for #SexEd

UNFPA supported the youth-led “#SexEd: Let’s talk about Sex!” campaign advocating for comprehensive sexuality education and raising awareness about sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence issues. The campaign reached 2,400 young people in schools, TVETs and universities. The campaign also included “Startup Weekend Women” and “Startup Weekend Sexhack” events where young engineers, entrepreneurs and activists collaborated to develop smart, progressive entrepreneurial solutions for economic empowerment of women, safe sex and sexuality education. 17 entrepreneurial teams participated in the event and 8 innovative solutions were recognized for their potential, viability and value.



GENDER

The main goal of the GENDER Programme is to strengthen national capacity to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and enhance victim protection mechanisms. UNFPA supports experience and knowledge sharing across sectors to ensure a holistic response to gender-based and domestic violence.

Revised Law to Combat Domestic Violence Goes into Force

Mongolia's Parliament approved the revised Law to Combat Domestic Violence in December 2016, criminalizing domestic violence for the first time in the nation's history. With technical and financial support from UNFPA, a two-day National Forum on the multi-sectoral response to gender-based violence hosted more than 150 participants from across the nation for the first time. The Forum solidified a common understanding of the Law among key stakeholders and laid out the roadmap for its effective implementation in line with the UN Essential Service Guideline on Gender-Based Violence. Over the course of the year, a series of follow-up training were conducted throughout the country for the multi-disciplinary teams at one-stop service centers for victims of violence, as well as key staff within the justice, health, and social sectors.

Munkhsarnai believes that we can't achieve the Sustainable Development Goals without first achieving gender equality!



Measuring gender-based violence: From data to action

In 2017, a nation-wide survey on gender-based violence was conducted for the first time in Mongolia's history. UNFPA Mongolia worked collaboratively with the National Statistics Office to provide technical assistance and guidance throughout the study. This data, which will be released in 2018, will provide policy and decision makers with important evidence to develop policies and programs to combat gender-based and domestic violence.

Ensuring effective management of the police database

UNFPA built the capacity of the National Police Agency to generate critical evidence on gender-based and domestic violence across the country. The National Police Agency began using the newly developed and integrated gender-based violence/domestic violence database (eGBV), which is also connected to all One Stop Service Centers and shelters. It is planned in 2018 to establish a connection between eGBV and administrative data collected from various sectors.

A total of 181 police officers, including the deputy heads of the police stations in Ulaanbaatar, the heads of the public discipline units, the heads of the crime prevention units, the heads of the registration of crimes and investigation units and registrars and investigators, were trained on GBV issues as well as on how to use the GBV database management system.

National level coordination and response body established

The Domestic Violence Sub-Council, under the Coordination Council for the Crime Prevention Unit, was established with representatives from all sectors and NGOs by the Ministerial Order from the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs on February 3, 2017. The Council is a national level mechanism to coordinate implementation of the newly approved Law to Combat Domestic Violence.

Alia was one of 100 enumerators who conducted the violence against women survey, which Mongolia conducted for the first time.



*Regardless of age,
UNFPA strives to
achieve gender
equality and a life free
from violence for all.*



Supporting holistic services to victims and survivors of violence

Providing a well-coordinated, multi-sectoral response to victims and survivors of violence is crucial. In 2017, all six One Stop Service Centers and two shelters served more than 2,000 victims, with additional 207 cases handled by the multi-disciplinary teams in their respective communities. UNFPA continues to support and provide training to response teams to ensure that services meet international standards. Moreover, 10 additional sites (3 in Ulaanbbatar and 7 in aimags) were identified for new One Stop Service Centers.

Thousands reached through media and outreach

During the 16 days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, UNFPA supported public campaigns and advocacy projects including art exhibits and the “16 days of blogging campaign” – in total, 3,500 people actively participated and 95,000 people were reached. The blogs, written by journalists, activists, and celebrities, were themed around the topic of consent, reaching more than 75,000 readers.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

In 2017, communications and partnerships strengthened the work of the programme team as UNFPA initiated or reinforced several key private sector partnerships with Oyu Tolgoi, Gurvanbileg LLC, the Press Institute of Mongolia, Junior Chamber International (JCI), and ARIG Bank.

UNFPA and the Government of Luxembourg continue the fight to save the lives of mothers

Since 2007, the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Government of Mongolia, and UNFPA have supported and implemented the Maternal and Child Health Telemedicine Project to promote equitable access to quality maternal and newborn care in Mongolia as part of the overall objective to contribute to better health for the population of Mongolia. The current Exit Phase of the project - valued at US\$2.8 million - runs for two years, from 2017 to 2019, and builds on the previous two phases. The Exit Phase is co-financed by the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (US\$1.8 million) and UNFPA (US\$500,000), with in-kind contributions from the Government of Mongolia (US\$500,000).

SDC and UNFPA continue efforts to empower young people and end violence against women

UNFPA and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation have been partnering to empower young Mongolians since 2013. In the final year of the project, the final youth development center, commonly known as YDC, was launched in 2017 in addition to 15 YDCs established since 2013, and the Law on Youth Development was approved by the Parliament - a significant milestone for the project team.

In the area of violence against women, the National Statistics Office was supported to conduct the first nationwide survey with the aim to uncover the true impact that domestic violence has on women, families and the country's development.

Oyu Tolgoi continues its steadfast support to empower young people

UNFPA's partnership with Oyu Tolgoi (OT) was running at full speed in 2017. With UNFPA and OT support, the Youth Development Centre in Khanbogd hosted the Democracy Carnival to promote the human rights of young people and their participation in civil society. Since the establishment of the Khanbogd Youth Development Center received more than 4,000 young people, while the Adolescent Health center served more than 600 youth on SRHR.

Gurvanbileg LLC committed to supporting survivors of domestic violence

Gurvanbileg LLC's partnership with UNFPA was formalized in December of 2016. Gurvanbileg's in-kind contributions of undergarments went to support survivors of domestic violence. This donation was particularly important as victims of domestic violence often arrive at One Stop Service Centers with little or no resources, and often without a fresh change of clothes.

The Press Institute of Mongolia builds a network of gender-sensitive journalists

In December 2016, the Press Institute of Mongolia and UNFPA partnered to combat gender-based violence by mentoring and training journalists. The year-long partnership focused on several activities to engage journalists and media, encouraging them not only to be more aware of issues surrounding gender-based violence but also to see themselves as agents of change who can build public awareness through sensitive, evocative and compelling story-telling. Activities included a journalism competition, the creation of a gender-based violence-focused media network, and a mentoring programme.

JCI and UNFPA promote active citizenship

In 2016, UNFPA and JCI Progress launched a two year partnership for a youth development initiative entitled 1,000 Active Citizens. In 2017, JCI and UNFPA held a two-day workshop to promote entrepreneurship and leadership skills to young people in underserved communities in Ulaanbaatar. JCI, which is composed of Mongolia's successful young business owners, has also provided coaching, mentoring and other support for youth-led projects at YDCs.

UNFPA and ARIG Bank team-up to support young people and survivors of violence

In May 2017, ARIG Bank and UNFPA formalized their partnership and shared commitment to supporting young people as well as victims of violence in Mongolia. Arig Bank provided financial literacy training to 10 young people from three UNFPA-supported Youth Development Centers in Ulaanbaatar (in Bayangol, Chingeltei and Khan-Uul districts). The training was also open to women and girls who experienced violence to help them gain financial and economic independence. In addition, ARIG Bank supported several UNFPA campaigns throughout the year (16 Days Campaign, #SexEd Campaign, Hope and Possibility Marathon, and Startup Weekend Women).

UNFPA receives international attention for its work in Mongolia

In 2017, UNFPA Mongolia received international media coverage or mentions from the National Public Radio (US), Public Radio International (US), BBC, News Deeply and the New York Times. Reporting ranged from challenges surrounding gender equality and reproductive health, to UNFPA's response in Mongolia.

OPERATIONS PROMOTE EFFICIENCY, PRODUCTIVITY, AND SAFETY

In 2017, the UNFPA Country Office continued to strengthen and streamline its operational response.

The team conducted four training workshops for UNFPA Implementing Partners (IPs), which aimed at higher compliance of IPs to rules and regulations, while increasing their preparedness for the annual project audit exercise, as commissioned by UNFPA HQ. A total of eight IPs were successfully audited by an external audit company, all of which received unqualified audit opinion.

Spot checks were also conducted with IPs during the year for their soundness and accuracy of financial documents against the approved work plans and budgets. Also checked during the exercise was the implementation status of the earlier micro-assessment recommendations.

The micro-assessment of 5 additional IPs was done by a third party, analysing and assessing their financial management capacity, and during the period of implementing various projects, these areas will be closely examined to develop their capacities.

The 2017 UNFPA all-staff retreat gave the Country Office the time to reflect on lessons learned and milestones achieved





The Country Office was one of the pilot countries within the UNFPA corporate system to prepare for the migration to a new application called Global Programming System (GPS). This application, GPS, enables the automation of processes and active involvement of IPs on quick expense reporting and direct payment requests. GPS also facilitates synergy between approved workplans and corresponding expenditures.

Moreover, the Country Office introduced iDocs, a cloud-based storage platform that enables Country Office Staff to access office documents from anywhere and at any time as long as there is an internet connection, while providing sophisticated data security. This facilitates flexible working arrangements, allows staff access office documents while on move, and promotes effective sharing of documents among staff for their reviews and inputs.

2017 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

SUMMARY OF RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS AND EXPENDITURES (USD)

RESOURCES	BUDGET	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE	IMPLEMENTATION RATE
Regular Resources	693,642	678,457	15,185	98%
Other Resources	2,250,045	2,174,574	75,471	97%
Institutional Support Budget	450,236	421,187	29,049	94%
TOTAL	3,393,923	3,274,218	119,705	96%

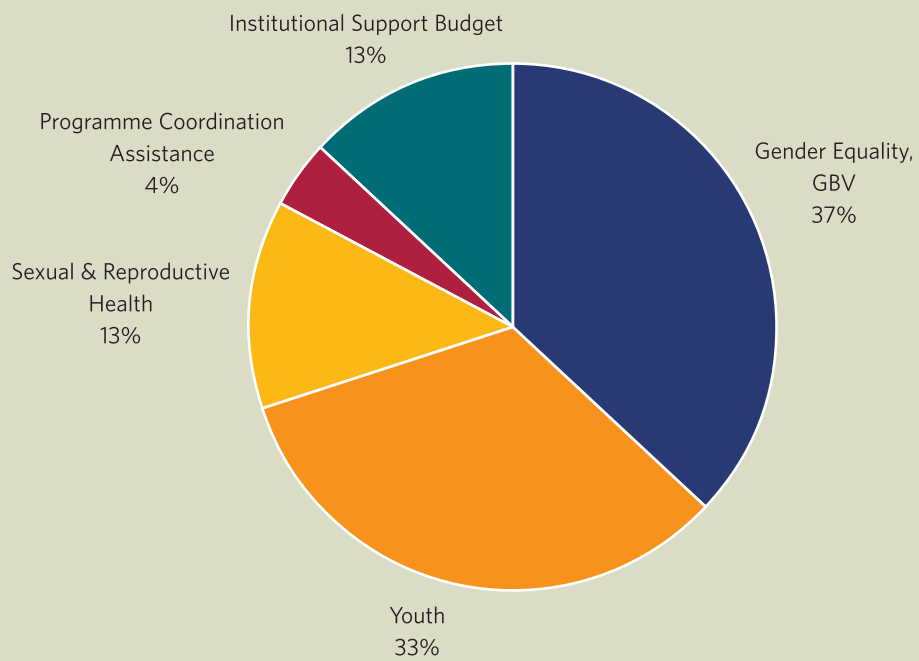
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS (OTHER RESOURCES)

DONOR	BUDGET	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE	IMPLEMENTATION RATE
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (GBV)	1,040,028	1,018,092	21,936	98%
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (Youth development)	829,707	793,498	36,209	96%
Government of Luxembourg (Tele-medicine)	208,289	198,031	10,258	95%
Government of Luxembourg (STI)	58,323	58,172	152	100%
Oyutolgoi LLC	113,698	106,781	6,916	94%
TOTAL	2,250,045	2,174,574	75,471	97%

EXPENDITURES, BY COMPONENTS

	REGULAR RESOURCES & ISB	OTHER RESOURCES	TOTAL EXPENSES, BY COMPONENTS	SHARE IN TOTAL (%)
Gender equality, GBV	182,356	1,025,860	1,208,216	37%
Youth	167,190	904,259	1,071,449	33%
Sexual & Reproductive Health	187,210	244,455	431,665	13%
Programme Coordination Assistance	141,721	-	141,721	4%
Institutional Support Budget	421,187	-	421,187	13%
TOTAL	1,099,664	2,174,574	3,274,238	100%

Total expenses, by components





Healthy women are the backbone of healthy families and communities – when a woman's health suffers, her entire family often suffers too. That's why protecting the lives and health of women accelerates the country's development

Эмэгтэйчүүд эрүүл энх байвал гэр бүл, олон нийт эрүүл саруул байх болно – эмэгтэйчүүд өвчин зовлонд өртвөл айл өрх бүхэлдээ зутардаг. Ийм ч учраас эмэгтэйчүүдийн амь нас, эрүүл мэндийг хамгаалах нь улс орны хөгжлийг хурдасгадаг.