



# **UNFPA** 2013 COUNTRY OFFICE **ANNUAL REPORT**

MONGOLIA

## АГУУЛГА

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## FORWARD

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is implementing its 5th Country Programme in Mongolia from 2012 until 2016, working in four key areas: Population and Development, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Youth Development and Gender Equality.

The population and development programme assists the government in the collection, analysis and use of population data for development purposes. The sexual and reproductive health programme strengthens access to 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 throughout the country. The gender programme advocates and generates support for improving gender equity and the empowerment of women.



UNFPA has partnered with Mongolia since the late 1970s, delivering extensive changes in focus areas. Through Government and civil society partnerships, initiatives include technical assistance for the development and revision of government policies, improving sexual and reproductive health services, and supplying medical equipment, materials and contraceptives. These programmes have contributed to more than halving maternal and 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 and youth.

## LETTER FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE



Наоми Китахара

Twenty years ago, in 1994, leaders from 179 countries approved the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, commonly known as ICPD. The primary purpose of the ICPD is supporting individuals to decide freely on when and how many children they would like to have, and meeting reproductive health needs through services and information. At the conference, the world agreed that population is not just about counting people, but about making sure that every person counts.

Mongolia is a strong supporter of the ICPD principles, achieving substantial success in realising its purpose. In 2013, Mongolia strongly expressed its continued commitment to the ICPD at the 6th Asia and Pacific Population Conference.

Mongolia was one of the few countries in the world, which subsequently organized a High-Level National Meeting on Population and Development, bringing together the Government of Mongolia, Parliament, civil society and the international community. This culminated in the Ulaanbaatar Declaration, committing to further advance the ICPD agenda, particularly gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, youth development, ending violence against women and children, civil society engagement and decreasing vulnerabilities in Mongolia.

In the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights, significant results were achieved in 2013. Maternal mortality was further reduced to 42.6 per 100,000 live births, surpassing the Millennium Development Goal target ahead of the deadline of 2015. The government's budget allocation for reproductive health commodities also increased by nearly 50%, with new and modern contraceptives made available through public health service provision. These significantly contributed to increasing the access and quality of reproductive health services for women and men in Mongolia, complemented by UNFPA's partnership with the Government of Luxembourg that delivered the telemedicine network in all aimags. Focusing on adolescent pregnancy, UNFPA's flagship 2013 State of the World Population Report was a foundation for raising awareness of adolescent reproductive health issues in Mongolia, aiming to reverse the growing trend of unmet family planning needs amongst adolescents. 19 youth-friendly health centers were also established in 2013 to address the needs of youth and adolescents.

With regard to gender equality, the Government of Mongolia demonstrated a renewed commitment to improving gender equity and women's empowerment in 2013. The capacity of the National Committee on Gender Equality was strengthened with the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, supported by an effective secretariat. Budget allocation to implement the Gender Equality Law was also approved for the first time in Mongolia's history. In addition, Mongolia's 16 day campaign to end violence against women was extremely successful, raising substantial public and media attention. Directly responding to the 16 Day campaign, on the 20th of December, the President of Mongolia addressed the country, calling for action by Government, civil society and all Mongolians to end domestic violence.

Lastly, UNFPA's first youth development project in Mongolia was launched in 2013 in partnership with the Government of Mongolia, the Swiss agency for Development and Cooperation and the Government of Luxembourg. The first of 15 youth development centers was inaugurated, providing life skills and other services for at-risk youth, while hundreds of youth peer educators were trained. The Y-Peer network now involves approximately 1,100 youth spanning across the country, providing education, outreach, basic counseling and referral services. In its formative year, the youth project also established mechanisms to improve youth involvement in planning, project and policy decision-making processes.

The project will rapidly expand activities in 2014, equipping youth with life skills, addressing gender-based violence and increasing youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health information and services.

Please enjoy an insight into just some of UNFPA's many achievements from the year 2013 in the following pages. Working together, we will ensure that no woman dies giving life, children are born safely, and youth reach their fullest potential!

**NAOMI KITAHARA**

**UNFPA Country Representative**



## ADVANCING REPRODUCTIVE AND SEXUAL HEALTH RIGHTS

The **REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH** component aims at increasing equitable access to and utilisation of quality sexual and reproductive services. UNFPA provides support for increasing the availability of basic reproductive health services and materials, particularly for disadvantaged groups in selected areas, and improving the quality of comprehensive reproductive health services throughout all levels of Mongolia's health care system.



*"MOH Quote to go here"*

### Mongolia reached its Millennium Development Goal to reduce maternal mortality

2013 saw Mongolia reach its Millennium Development Goal target of reducing its maternal mortality rate (MMR) to below 50 per 100,000 live births, ahead of the 2015 deadline: the MMR was 42.6 per 100,000 live births in 2013. Also during the year, we completed the installation of the telemedicine network throughout the country to strengthen health service delivery at aimag and soum levels, in partnership with the Government of Luxembourg. This innovative technological

advancement in the health sector has significantly contributed to the reduction of Mongolia's maternal mortality ratio.

### Mongolian Government increases budget for reproductive health commodities



*National Consultative Meeting on Maternal and Child Health Surveillance Systems and Prenatal Screening*

Working for sustainable changes, UNFPA advocated throughout 2012 and 2013 to the Government of Mongolia to increase the budget for reproductive health commodities. Consequently, the Government budget for reproductive health commodities increased nearly 50% for 2014, from US\$83,000 to US\$124,000 US, vastly improving the capacity of the health system to meet sexual and reproductive health needs. For example, almost 40% of primary health care facilities can now access free contraceptives.

### Five contraceptives are added to the national health insurance

Mongolia's Health Insurance Department added five additional contraceptives to the national health insurance scheme following continued advocacy by UNFPA. Consequently, market prices for contraceptives have been reduced by approximately 57-83%, substantially increasing Mongolian's access to modern contraceptives.

### "Reaching Every District" campaign reaches 11,790 rural women



*UNFPA insures that every child birth is safe*

UNFPA-supported initiative has been successfully launched in three target provinces and one target district of Ulaanbaatar, reaching 11,790 rural women of reproductive age. This family planning intervention witnessed the contraceptive prevalence rate increase from 41.9% (2012) to 48.8% (2013) at these locations. UNFPA's partnership with JICA volunteers in Zavkhan aimag strengthened these results, providing technical reproductive health support in areas with limited capacity.

### Government of Mongolia and UNFPA established 19 youth-friendly health centers

The 19 youth friendly health centers, Future Threshold Adolescent Health Centers, were established in 11 aimags and 5 Ulaanbaatar districts. Stigma and insensitive health services are a common barrier to youth healthcare in Mongolia, whereas youth-friendly services are equipped with staff trained specifically on working with youth, setting an example for the national health system. In 2013, the centres served an estimated 5,600 young people with promising results. For example, adolescent birth rates decreased below the national average in target provinces of Gobi-Altai and Zavkhan. Confidentiality is a primary issue for young people: an area where these centres excel. As trust builds, these centres expanded beyond health, becoming a focal point for dealing with cases of gender-based violence.

## LINKING POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The primary goal of the POPULATION and DEVELOPMENT programme is to support national and local statisticians to ensure that population related statistical data is available and accessible, and planners and policy makers are capable of using data for evidence based planning and results based monitoring and evaluation.

*"This project with UNFPA is important, as it provides Members of Parliament with critical information on social challenges and opportunities to exchange views among themselves and with citizens in the areas of population and development, reproductive health and domestic violence." – Dr. S. Lambaa, former Minister of Health and Advisor to the Speaker of the Parliament*

### Newly established Ministry and UNFPA form close working relationship

During 2012, the government of Mongolia established the Ministry of Population Development and Social Protection. As a key partner, UNFPA has developed a strong, close working relationship with the Ministry. UNFPA provides technical support in analyzing population data and using this evidence to develop population policies and programmes. For example, UNFPA supported the Ministry to analyze existing data and draft the population policy, in addition to the ongoing development of youth and elderly policies, as integrated elements of the overarching national population policy.

### High level advocacy meeting yields Ulaanbaatar Declaration



*Signing of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration*

Following continued UNFPA advocacy, on the 30th of September 2013, a National High Level



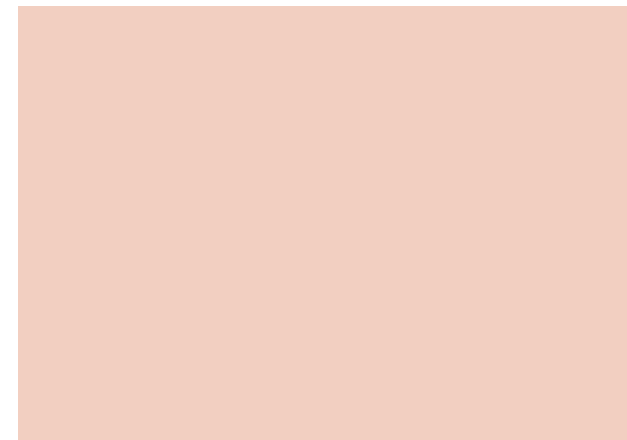
Meeting resulted in the Ulaanbaatar Declaration on Population and Development in Mongolia. Attended by Members of Parliament, policy makers, government officials, heads of civil society organizations and representatives from the international community, the meeting reviewed national population and development progress and took steps to follow-up on the recommendations from the Asia-Pacific Population Conference. The Ulaanbaatar Declaration commits the Government of Mongolia to formulating long-term policies and strategies to address population and development issues, and integrating them into national socio-economic development policies and strategies. The declaration also commits all national and international stakeholders in Mongolia to make greater efforts to link population and sustainable development; increase access to and improve the quality of reproductive health services for all, including adolescents and young people; and eliminate gender discrimination and gender-based violence. The Government of Mongolia is now supporting the further development and full implementation of the national comprehensive population policy (2014-2020).

**UNFPA teams up with UNICEF to launch Social Indicator Sampling Survey**



Equipped with tablets for the first time for comprehensive data collection, statisticians from the National Statistical Office visited households throughout the country to measure social development. The Social Indicator Sampling Survey combined two previously separate surveys: the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey previously supported by UNICEF, and the Reproductive Health Survey previously supported by UNFPA. The survey focused on sexual and reproductive health, maternal health, child health and nutrition, family planning, and adolescent health. Expected to be released in 2014, the report will provide a critical evidence base for policy making.

**GENDER EQUALITY: A CORNERSTONE OF DEVELOPMENT**



The primary goal of the **GENDER** programme is to institutionalise the primary goal is to mainstream gender into all policies and programmes. UNFPA supports politicians and key government entities for capacity development related to gender, advocates for improved gender equity and supporting the implementation of legislations on gender equality and domestic violence.

*“The NCAV (National Center Against Violence) appreciates UNFPA for its long lasting collaboration, especially when many other international funders and organizations have not continued. UNFPA is a sustainable partner for the upstream level lobbying and advocacy to reform the legal environment and institutionalize the state responsibility to provide services to the victims of gender-based violence.”*  
-NCAV Director, Ms. Enkhjargal

**Advancing Gender Equality**

UNFPA’s advocacy and technical support over the past three years has contributed to the establishment of a legal framework on advancing gender equality and reproductive rights at the national level, including the approval and launch of the Gender Equality Law (GEL). This law led to the Operational Framework, i.e. the Results and Resources Framework, while in 2013, the Government of Mongolia allocated a budget for the implementation of the GEL for the first time.

**UNFPA launches One-Stop-Service-Centers for victims of domestic violence and the Government follows suit**

UNFPA supported and launched two One-Stop-Service-Centers for survivors of domestic violence that are open 24 hours a day. At the centers, survivors receive health services, legal advice and counseling, and can also file police reports. Ensuring a sustainable impact, aimag Governments of Zavkhan and Govi-Altai have now dedicated, for the first time, ongoing financial and human resources for the One-Stop-Service-Centers.

**16 Day Campaign Reaches all corners of Mongolia**

The NCAV and UNFPA teamed up to launch the 16 Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women and Girls. Engaging thousands of people through grassroots activism, the campaign used this momentum to target policy makers, advocating for urgent action to end gender-based violence, culminating in the President’s speech calling on all Mongolians to take action to end domestic violence. The campaign was also an instrumental in encouraging the process of amendment of the domestic violence law.

**EMPOWERING YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE IN SOCIETY AND TO CHOOSE HEALTHY LIFE STYLES**

The YOUTH DEVELOPMENT programme aims to empower Mongolia’s young people, reduce their vulnerabilities to rapid socioeconomic changes and encourage a policy environment conducive to youth development. The programme is implemented through a multitude of strong partnerships with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Government of Luxembourg, Government of Mongolia, United States Peace Corps and Australian Volunteers for International Development. Adopting a highly integrated approach, the programme is strengthening youth-friendly health services and life skills education, promoting gender equity, working on youth-related policies and ultimately equipping youth with the skills to effectively engage in Mongolia’s development.

*“PD Ministry Quote to go here”*

**UNFPA brings government and youth representatives to the same table**

Launched in 2013, the youth development programme established the foundations to increase youth involvement in decision-making, including youth monthly meetings with the Ministry of Population Development and Social Protection, a national youth consultation and the establishment of the Mongolian Youth Council. These foundations are vital for the development of the youth policy, ensuring a strong youth voice is heard. Subsequently, the monthly meetings evolved into the establishment of the Mongolian Youth Coalition to advise and advocate the Government of Mongolia on youth issues. The national youth consultation on the other hand, brought together youth from throughout Mongolia to explore the theme of The World We Want, which was submitted for the global discussions on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

**Youth resilience, empowerment and cohesion**

The project's first Youth Development Center (YDC) was established in 2013, providing a focal point for youth development, as part of an integrated suite of services, including life skills halls, youth-friendly health services and peer education. Attracting many youth from Darkhan, the first YDC delivers life skills training, sexual and reproductive health education and many other activities. A total of 15 centers will be established throughout the country by the end of 2014.

**Youth peer education network reaches new heights in 2013**

2013 saw the Youth Peer Education Network expand throughout Mongolia, reaching 15 provinces with a total of 1,100 volunteer peer educators working closely with local youth friendly health service providers. More than just volunteers, the peer educators conduct peer-to-peer sexual and reproductive health trainings, basic counselling and referrals, and educate their peers on reproductive rights. Y-PEER educators are an important linkage between youth friendly services and young people, particularly at-risk youth.

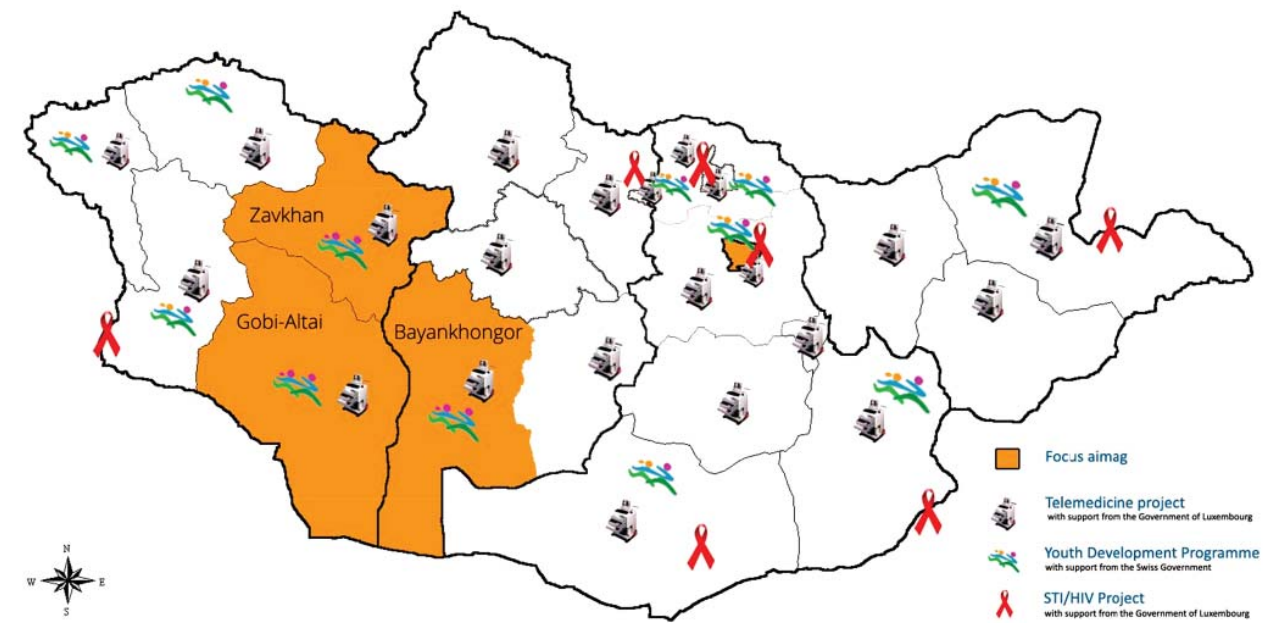
**Reforming curricula for widespread education improvements**



UNFPA supports life skills education among adolescents and youth

UNFPA in collaboration with the Ministry of Education Science and Ministry of Labour embarked on curricula reforms for TVET and university, focusing on life skills, particularly health and communications. The TVET reforms have been integrated into existing curricula to improve TVET students' life skills, while the university reforms focus on equipping future social workers with improved skills and techniques to effectively engage with and support youth. Revisions of existing nation-wide life skills modules are also underway and due to be rolled out in 2014. These curricula reforms will benefit considerable numbers of youth enrolled in the education sector, complementing the youth development centers outreach to marginalized youth.

**GoM/UNFPA 5th Country Programme 2012-2016**



Partners	P & D	RH	Youth	Gender
<b>Government</b>				
Ministry of Health				
Ministry of Education and Science				
Ministry of Population Development and Social Protection				
Ministry of Labour				
National Statistical Office of Mongolia				
Cabinet Secretary of the Government of Mongolia				
Working Group of the Parliament Speaker				
National Centre on Gender Equality				
National Centre for Maternal and Child Health				
<b>NGOs</b>				
Monfemnet				
Mongolian Students Union				
Mongolian Family Welfare Association				
Mongolian Red Cross Society				
Centre for Citizenship Education				
Mongolian Youth Federation				
<b>Educational Institutions</b>				
Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health				
Health Sciences University of Mongolia				
<b>Other Partners</b>				
Y-Peer Network of Mongolia				
United Nations Youth Advisory Panel, Mongolia				



## 2013 Financial Overview

### Summary of Resources Allocations and Expenditures (in USD)

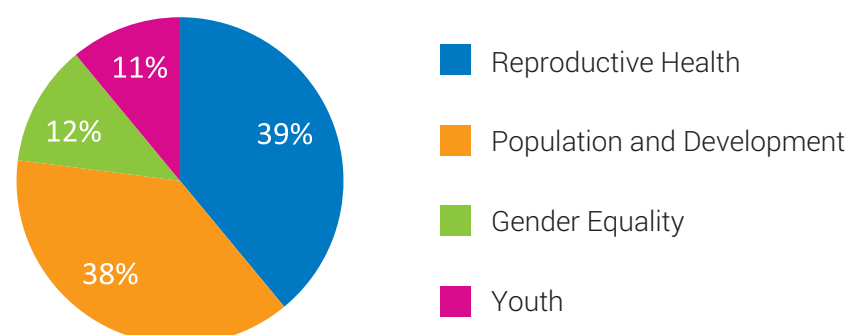
	Budget	Expenditures	Balance	Implementation rate
Regular Resources	2,564,478	2,557,583	6,895	99,7%
Other Resources	2,405,141	2,285,251	122,794	95%
Institutional Support Budget	548,591	524,513	24,078	96%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,521,114</b>	<b>5,367,347</b>	<b>153,767</b>	<b>97%</b>

### Development Partners

Donor	Budget	Expenditures	Balance	Implementation Rate
*Government of Luxembourg (1)	1,073,892	973,615	100,278	91%
*Government of Luxembourg (2)	462,390	455,037	7,353	98%
UNFPA Trust Fund for Reproductive Health Commodity Security	437,488	438,179	691	100%v
Swiss Development Cooperation	363,316	343,336	19,980	95%
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	43,833	43,082	804	98%
Human Security Trust Fund	24,222	24,219	3	100%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,405,141</b>	<b>2,277,414</b>	<b>127,727</b>	<b>95%</b>

\*\*\*Note: (1) Telemedicine Project on Maternal and Newborn Health  
(2) HIV/STI Prevention Among Youth, Mobile and at Risk Populations

### Fund Allocation among Components under Regular Resources 2013



## MAJOR EVENTS

**8 March** International Women's Day: UNFPA Representative spoke on the State's obligation to take responsibility for preventing and responding to violence against women and girls.

**19/ 20 March** UNFPA hosted the Post-2015 National Youth Consultations at UN House in Ulaanbaatar. 80 young people from all over the country came to Ulaanbaatar to share their voices.

**25 April** UNFPA and Ministry of Population Development and Social Protection signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of the Youth Development Programme.

**5 May** International Day of the Midwife UNFPA celebrated the work of midwives in contributing to the miracle of birth.

**20 May** UNFPA Representative spoke to 800 young men and women from across Mongolia in attendance at the National Youth Forum in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

**8 July** World Population Day kicked off with a press conference and the release of a documentary on adolescent pregnancy. The Mongolian Students Union also kicked off their 6 month campaign on Adolescent Teen Pregnancy, with support from UNFPA.

**1 August** The Youth Development Programme won 1st place in the Project Market Place competition hosted by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

**1 August** The Minister of Foreign Affairs, L. Bold, receives credentials of the newly appointed UNFPA Representative, Naomi Kitahara.

**12 August** International Youth Day celebrated in Chinggis Square with NGOs, government organizations and UNFPA, as well as, 2,000 youth. Throughout the day youth were able to visit information tents set up by different organizations and hear live music in the square.

**14 August** Ministry of Population Development, UNFPA and partners open the Youth Development Center in Darkhan-Uul.

**15 August** UNFPA Country Office held a ceremony for the handover of equipment at the Ministry of Health, to expand access to quality maternal and child health services in Mongolia.

**29 August** At UN House, key stakeholders from China and Mongolia meet to strengthen the ongoing China and Mongolia Joint Project on STIs and HIV/AIDS prevention.

**20 September** UNFPA Mongolia held its first Twitter forum with youth on gender equality and reproductive health issues.

**22 September** The HIV/AIDS Train Campaign launched with the Ministry of Population Development and Social Protection, the Red Cross Society and UNFPA.

**30 September** The national High Level Advocacy Meeting took place, resulting in the UB Declaration.

**21 November** The Ministry of Health and UNFPA launch the State of the World Population Report, along with a Mongolia specific summary.

**22 November** UNYAP and UNFPA host a movie talk with youth on Adolescent Teen Pregnancy.

**25 November** The 16 Day Campaign kick off with a press-conference and photo exhibition.

**1 December** World AIDS Day: All UN agencies came together to celebrate and participate in a discussion on HIV/AIDS, including the Vice Minister of Health and State Secretary on Population Development and Social Protection.

**6 December** Together with UBS Music and the National Center Against Violence, UNFPA hosted musicians to raise awareness on gender-based violence in Mongolia.

**7 December** UNFPA, NCAV and UBS Music team up to host a concert to raise awareness on Gender-Based Violence.

**10 December** The 16 Day Campaign concluded on International Human Rights day.

**20 December** The president gives speech calling on civil society, parliament and all Mongolians to end violence against women.



