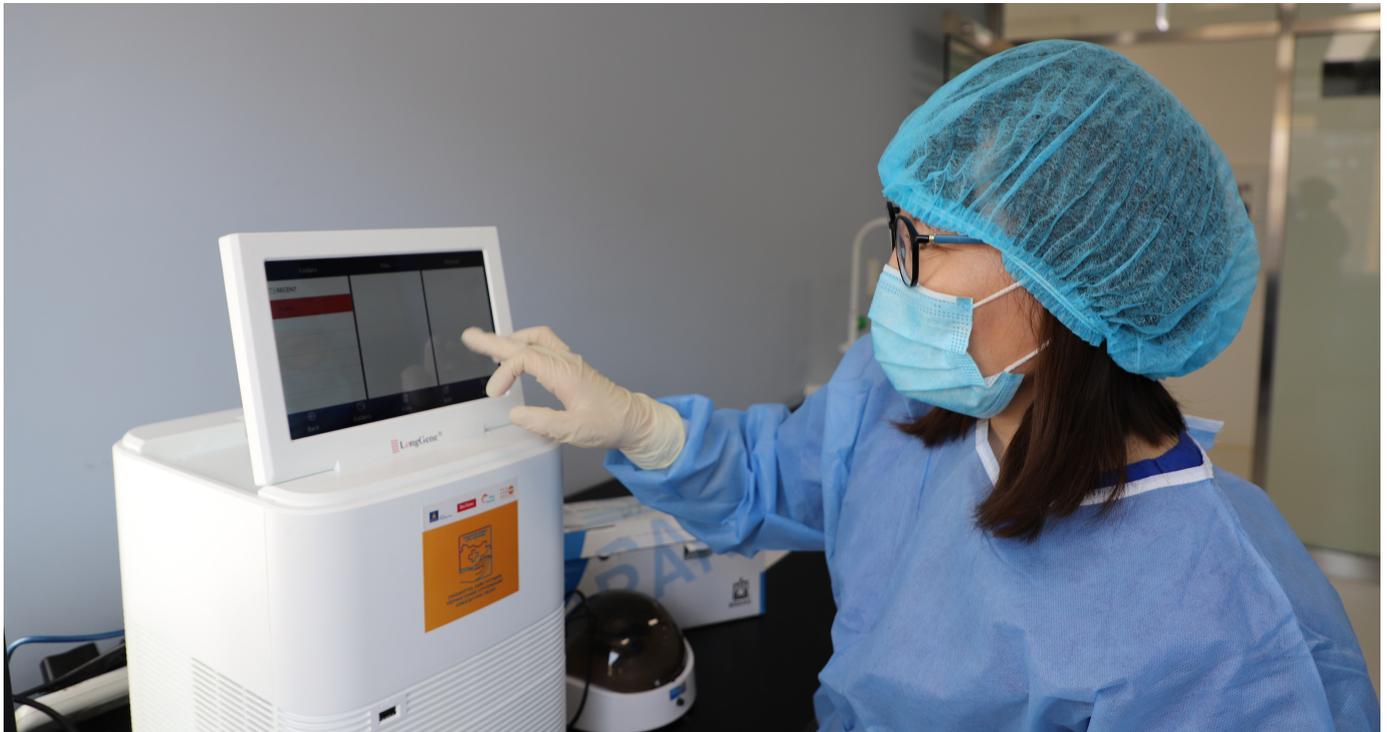


# UNFPA MONGOLIA

## Situation Report #10 on COVID-19 response



### SITUATION OVERVIEW

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ulaanbaatar city has been rapidly increasing since 1 February, requiring the Government to take extreme measures, including a strict lockdown, to control the infection rate in the city. The lockdown in Ulaanbaatar city started at 6am on 11 February and lasted until 6am on 23 February; public celebrations and gatherings for the Lunar New Year were banned. Child protection centres and One Stop Service Centres (OSSCs) were among the list of businesses and services that were allowed to operate during the lockdown.

The State Emergency Commission (SEC) has led one of the largest-ever public health campaigns: "One door - one test", which aimed to test 400,000 people in Ulaanbaatar city for COVID-19 during the lockdown; 33 local epicentres of COVID-19 were detected as well as 122 new cases.

Mongolia's economy declined by 7.3 percent in the first nine months of 2020, the worst contraction the country has experienced since the economic transition in the early 1990s.

### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

 **2,907** confirmed cases

 **2,249** patients recovered

 **2,062** cases in Ulaanbaatar

 **643** patients being treated

**557** with mild symptoms

**73** with moderate symptoms

**8** in severe condition

**1** in critical condition

 **4** deaths

 **1,784,899**  
PCR tests carried out to date

 **46,418**  
contacts in isolation

According to the World Bank Mongolia Economic Update, the country's economy is expected to grow by 4.3 percent in 2021.

The Government of Mongolia has budgeted MNT 1.7 trillion for COVID-19 response efforts, including reducing its adverse socioeconomic impacts.

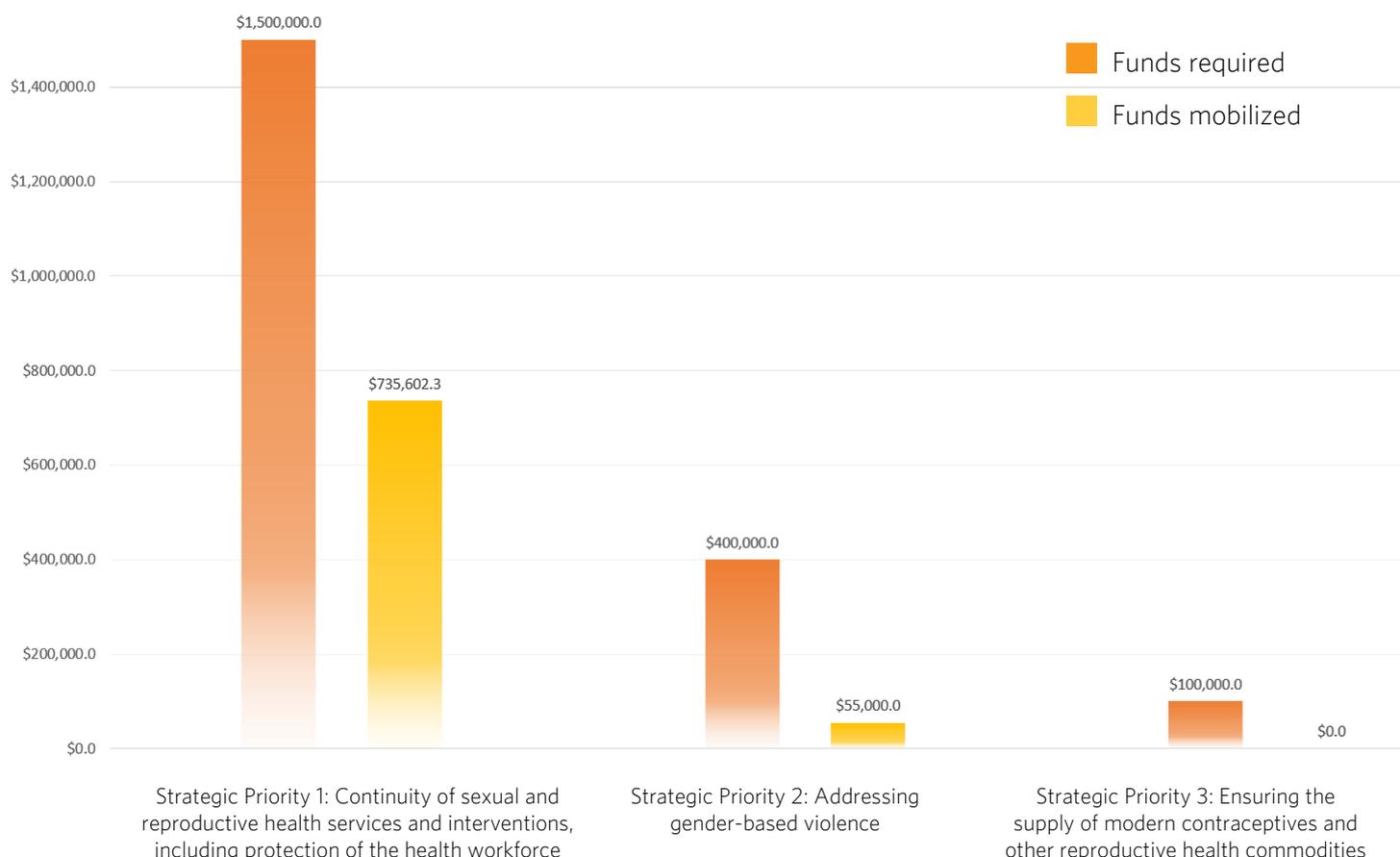
## FUNDING OVERVIEW

Funds that need to be mobilized for 2021: \$2,000,000

Funding gap: \$1,209,397.7

The Country Office estimates that a total of \$2,000,000 is required in 2021 for COVID-19 response and relief efforts. To date, the CO has successfully mobilized a total of \$790,602.3 from non-core resources for the COVID-19 response from the Swiss Development Cooperation's supported project addressing gender-based violence (GBV), rollover funds from the Luxembourg Government and the Rio Tinto Mongolia LLC.

### UNFPA Mongolia Country Office funding needs and resource mobilization by priority areas



## GOVERNMENT, UNITED NATIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS' RESPONSE

The State Emergency Commission (SEC) recommended that TV and online classes continue for one more month beginning from 1 February.

In February, the Government of Mongolia organized three charter flights to repatriate Mongolians. These included two flights from Seoul which returned 422 Mongolians and foreigners, and a charter flight from Istanbul, which repatriated 254 people. All passengers were put into mandatory isolation facilities.

On 14 February, the Cabinet discussed and approved a government plan which aims to protect citizens' health and promote economic recovery beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan, which will cost an estimated MNT 10 trillion, focuses on supporting small and medium enterprises, youth employment, housing programmes, the realization of strategic large-scale projects and programmes, agricultural production, and herders' income and livelihoods.

On 20 February, the SEC decided to extend the suspension of people and traffic movement outside of Ulaanbaatar city until 1 March, as the capital city is the epicentre of COVID-19 infections in the country.

On 21 February, the Government approved a temporary regulation to detect COVID-19 transmission levels. According to the regulation, infection transmission is categorized into four levels: green (no infection), yellow (sporadic cases), orange (cluster infection) and red (community transmission). All national and local organizations are encouraged to assess the transmission level using the approved regulation and take necessary measures to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in their respective settings.

On 24 February, the Cabinet decided to open general education schools, kindergartens and day nurseries in provinces, soums, villages, and baghs from 1 March. Universities, colleges and vocational training centres in rural areas will remain closed as well as all general education schools in Ulaanbaatar city until further notice.

The SEC has revised the isolation period for repatriated citizens and foreigners; on 25 February it approved Temporary Guideline No 20. The total isolation period is now set at 14 days, with a mandatory requirement of 10 days in an isolation facility and four days of home quarantine. Passengers with proof of COVID-19 vaccination are only required to quarantine at home for seven days.

## **COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME**

The government has taken steps to organize the vaccination of its citizens in the coming months. At the beginning of February, the Ministry of Health (MOH) registered the Russian Sputnik V vaccine under the emergency use authorization (EUA) procedure without additional clinical trials. The EUA was obtained by Mongol Emimpex Concern LLC, one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in Mongolia.

On 15 February, the Deputy Prime Minister, Chair of the SEC, Mr. S. Amarsaikhan, held a virtual meeting with COVAX Programme's Senior Manager for Mongolia Ms. Kerry Geen. Within the framework of the COVAX Programme, the Government of Mongolia is planning to receive 25,740 doses of Pfizer and up to 276,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

On 22 February, Mongolia received 150,000 doses of the Covishield AstraZeneca vaccine from the Government of India. On the same day, the Government of China delivered 300,000 doses of the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine (Sinovac) as part of its assistance to Mongolia.

On 23 February, the Prime Minister L. Oyun-Erdene received his first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, launching the nation's vaccination programme.

On 27 February, Mongolia received 10,000 doses of Sputnik V from the Government of Russia. The Government of Mongolia is planning to inoculate around 2 million of its citizens by July 2021.

## PROGRAMME RESPONSE BY UNFPA MONGOLIA

### Continuity of sexual and reproductive health services and interventions, including protection of the health workforce

On 3 February, the UNFPA Country Office (CO) handed over eight respiratory ventilators and five types of personal protection equipment (PPE) worth 365.8 million MNT to the National Center for Maternal and Child Health (NCMCH), three maternity hospitals in Ulaanbaatar city, and four provinces: Dundgobi, Selenge, Darkhan and Bayan-Ulgii.

The respiratory ventilators and PPE were procured with financial support from the Luxembourg Government within the framework of UNFPA's project which aims to enhance the capacity of maternal and child health services and protect frontline health workers as they continue to deliver services in the COVID-19 context. The handing over ceremony was organized at the NCMCH and attended by the Deputy Minister for Health and relevant officials and officers from provincial health departments and general hospitals.



From 23 to 28 February, the CO organized field missions to Dornogobi and Umnugobi provinces to introduce the implementation process for the “Building the Capacity for COVID-19 Diagnosis and Service Delivery for the Most Vulnerable amidst the Pandemic in Mongolia” project to newly-elected governments of these provinces, and to monitor the installation of the PCR equipment and its handover to the General Hospital, Zamiin Uud soum of Dornogobi province, and the Regional Diagnostic and Treatment Center, Umnugobi province. The project is funded through Rio Tinto LLC.

On 24 February – during the mission – the team attended the opening of the fully-equipped PCR laboratory at the General hospital of Zamiin Uud soum, Dornogobi province, and handed over 20 primary health providers’ kits, tablets and laptops. The event was attended by Members of Parliament Mr. Delgersaikhan and Mr. Enkhtuvshin from Dornogobi province, Rio Tinto, and local government officials, including governors, chairpersons of citizens’ representatives, and representatives from the department of health and general hospitals.



On 27 February, the mission team joined MP Mr. Bat-Erdene, from Umnugobi province, and local authorities to monitor the construction work of the PCR laboratory at the Regional Diagnostic and Treatment Center (RDTC), Dalanzadgad, Umnugobi province. On the same day, the CO team attended the handing over ceremony of equipment for the PCR laboratory as well as 52 primary health providers' kits, tablets and laptops to the RDTC. The PCR laboratories will be used beyond the COVID-19 pandemic and will significantly contribute to strengthening diagnostic capacity for all types of viruses, including flu, flu-like viruses, antibiotic-resistant TB, sexually transmitted infections, and hepatitis B and C.

### **Supporting youth development and youth engagement**

On 25 February, the United Nations Sustainable Development Group published a news item: "School in the steppes: In rural Mongolia, keeping kids learning while at home". The article publicized the joint UNESCO, UNFPA and UNICEF project and its focus on providing and improving eLearning content for school children, including health education, and ensuring that the platforms are accessible to underserved populations and persons living with disabilities, ensuring no one is left behind. (The article can be accessed at: <https://unsdg.un.org/latest/stories/school-steppes-rural-mongolia-keeping-kids-learning-while-home>). The CO has supported the production of 16 health education lessons, available at [econtent.edu.mn](http://econtent.edu.mn), and ensured equitable access to education content by ethnic minorities by translating the lessons into Kazakh and Tuva languages, and in sign language.

### **Addressing gender-based violence**

The UNFPA CO has continued social media postings with messaging on the prevention of domestic violence, encouraging the reporting of incidents of domestic violence and sharing details of online psychological and legal counselling services.

In addition, the social media posts include information on phone counselling services that are available to the public, including the hotline service at the National Center Against Violence which is operational 24/7.

According to the National Police Authority eGBV database the number of calls related to domestic violence incidents have increased by 30 percent in February compared to January. The average number of calls per day was approximately 105 in January which increased to 137 calls in February.

The eGBV database shows that the number of calls spiked at 197 and 200 on 11 and 12 February, respectively, on the first two days of the COVID-19 lockdown in Ulaanbaatar, indicating that the lockdown increased the risks of GBV. This data aligns with the results of "The Rapid Assessment on the Impacts of COVID-19 on the GBV/Domestic Violence Situation and Survivor Protection Services in Mongolia", conducted by UNFPA and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MOLSP) in 2020.

On 23 February, the UNFPA CO, together with UNICEF CO Mongolia, submitted a joint letter to SEC to request that staff at domestic violence survivor and child protection facilities throughout the country are included in the priority list for COVID-19 vaccination as emergency service providers. Staff at OSSCs, shelters and child protection facilities have been delivering essential services to people affected by domestic violence and child abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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## Coordination

- Participating in inter-agency coordination mechanisms.
- Leading inter-agency GBV coordination mechanisms.
- UNFPA co-chairs the UN PSEA network with the RC.

## EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY

“School in the steppes: In rural Mongolia, keeping kids learning while at home” accessible at <https://unsdg.un.org/latest/stories/school-steppes-rural-mongolia-keeping-kids-learning-while-home>.

The first comprehensive PCR laboratory, established with Rio Tinto Mongolia’s COVID-19 relief, has been launched - <https://mongolia.unfpa.org/en/news/first-comprehensive-pcr-laboratory-established-rio-tinto-mongolias-covid-19-relief-fund-has>.

National news broadcasting: Opening of the PCR laboratory in Zamiin Uud soum’s general hospital - <http://www.mnb.mn/archive/2021-02-25-20-00-00>.

PCR laboratory is established in Umnugobi aimag - <https://www.facebook.com/www.dbaterdene.mn>.  
The first comprehensive PCR laboratory, established with Rio Tinto Mongolia’s COVID-19 relief fund, has been launched - <https://www.ot.mn/>.

Fully equipped molecular biology laboratory is established - <https://www.ulsturch.mn/article/41968>.  
Fourth comprehensive PCR laboratory handed over to general hospital of Umnugobi province - <https://montsame.mn/en/read/255272?fbclid=IwAR0Hjuc3c30yCsjTjsNWr3u40VCdSecv-ulR8QKlfx2gl480bMY0thLcD8w>.

Fourth comprehensive PCR laboratory handed over to general hospital of Umnugobi province - <https://www.facebook.com/montsame.en/posts/3803410966446337>.

Handing over of primary health care providers’ kits  
-<https://www.montsame.mn/mn/read/255012?fbclid=IwAR3pYOEJ9q9Jxt02uWI8Zzs1Emj-mbWMDil-6YZeU67uJAJIHdqQUmoRTHc>.

Comprehensive PCR laboratory is established at the General hospital, Zamiin Uud soum - <https://www.facebook.com/montsame.agency/posts/3694714987244920>.

Handing over of items for distance diagnosis

- <https://www.facebook.com/montsame.agency/posts/3694125300637222>.

Third comprehensive PCR laboratory handed-over to Zamyn-Uud’s general hospital - [https://montsame.mn/en/read/254740?](https://montsame.mn/en/read/254740?fbclid=IwAR3g7Pvvt5XheQB_Kpab47oqcL_ZIACaMXIZewcNCFqU_jac7TvfZdTtRcl)

[fbclid=IwAR3g7Pvvt5XheQB\\_Kpab47oqcL\\_ZIACaMXIZewcNCFqU\\_jac7TvfZdTtRcl](https://montsame.mn/en/read/254740?fbclid=IwAR3g7Pvvt5XheQB_Kpab47oqcL_ZIACaMXIZewcNCFqU_jac7TvfZdTtRcl).

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### FOR UPDATES OF COVID-19 IN MONGOLIA, PLEASE VISIT:

**The Ministry of Health's Daily reporting**  
<https://covid19.mohs.mn/p/cat/post/57/?page=2>

**The State Emergency Committee's decision**  
<https://nema.gov.mn/c/resolution>