

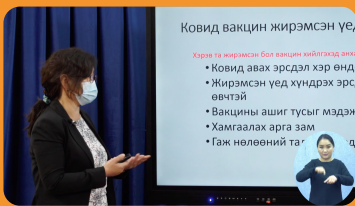
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CGBV PROGRAMME



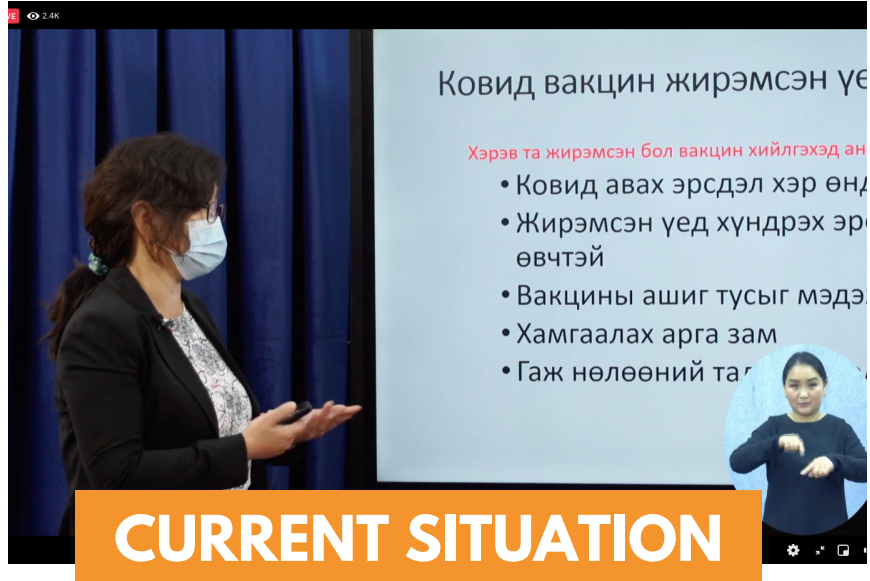
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May and June 2021 have been very tough months in Mongolia, with the number of COVID-19 positive cases rising from 37,285 to 115,478 in just two months. The number of deaths has also increased; rising from five at the end of April to 115 in May and 563 in June.

During this period the vaccination of adults has continued with the vaccination of pregnant women and children aged between 16 to 18 years also starting, as these target groups represent a large share of new infections. As of June 2021, 84 percent of the population eligible for vaccination has been immunized.

No nationwide lockdown has been enforced, but 145 soums in 18 provinces decided to restrict movement based on the decisions of local administrative offices.

COMBATING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PROGRAMME

Trainings on managing GBV in emergencies

In May 2021, 596 domestic violence related crimes were registered by the police in Mongolia, an increase of 27 percent compared to the same period last year. This increase follows an alarming trend in the past months, mainly driven by the COVID-19 response and the associated restrictions on movement. To build the competencies and capacity of frontline workers responsible for supporting survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), the UNFPA Mongolia Country Office (UNFPA CO) conducted trainings on managing GBV in emergencies.

The first training for social workers was organized in coordination with the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection. Around 90 people attended, mostly social workers and psychologists, from Family, Child and Youth Development departments and divisions in 21 provinces and nine districts of Ulaanbaatar. Staff from One Stop Services Centers (OSSCs) and shelters who could not participate in the previous training also joined. The second training was organized on 29 June 2021 for police staff, in collaboration with the National Police Agency.

Around 140 participants attended. A pre and post-test analysis of the trainings showed that participants' knowledge about gender issues, GBV and managing GBV in emergencies increased after the training.



Monitoring checklists developed

A set of monitoring and self-assessment checklists for OSSCs/shelters have been developed and discussed with relevant departments in Government and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The checklists will be used for the joint monitoring of OSSCs and shelters across the country, as well as regular self-monitoring of the services provided by these facilities.



Five aimags and one district selected as pilot sites to extend OSSCs and shelters services

The UNFPA Country Office announced a call for proposals on extending services and improving the facilities for GBV survivors at OSSCs and shelters operating across the country.

Four OSSCs – Zavkhan, Darkhan-Uul, Bayan-Ulgii provinces and Bayanzurkh district – and two shelters, Khovd and Arkhangai, were selected to pilot the survivor reintegration and women’s economic empowerment programme as well as to improve facilities to serve persons with disabilities and elderly people.

The selected OSSCs and shelters will receive technical and financial support from UNFPA and relevant Government Agencies and implement the pilot programme until June 2023.

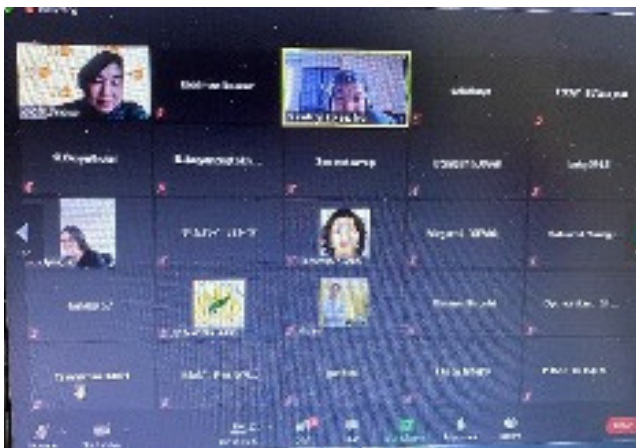
Training on remote services for OSSCs and shelters during COVID-19 pandemic

A training was also organized on 11 June 2021 for OSSC and shelter staff on GBV prevention and response service delivery in the COVID-19 context, based on a new set of guidelines including the Guidelines for Shifting to Remote Services in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Over 120 people attended and the training was well received.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS PROGRAMME

Celebration of the International Day of Midwife

UNFPA provided technical and financial assistance for a virtual international conference: “Midwifery Services during the COVID-19 pandemic” on 2 May 2021, as part of global commemorations to mark International Day of the Midwife (IDM), with the theme “Follow the data: Invest in Midwives”. The virtual event was organized by the Mongolian Midwifery Association and facilitated by national and international speakers with 140 midwives from Ulaanbaatar and outside of the capital participating.



Launch of the SoWMy Report

UNFPA Mongolia’s Head of Office, Ms. Kaori Ishikawa, delivered opening remarks at the virtual conference – along with partners from the Ministry of Health, JICA, and the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM)

- highlighting the importance of investing in a well-trained midwifery force in Mongolia and how their people-centred care is supporting women and families during the COVID-19 pandemic – and beyond.

This year’s IDM coincided with the launch of UNFPA’s flagship report State of the World Midwifery (SoWMy 2021) which highlights the findings of a study published in the Lancet in March 2021 – **Potential impact of midwives in preventing and reducing maternal and neonatal mortality and stillbirths.**



Abstract book of the midwifery conference

As estimated in the study model, a well-supported and equipped midwifery force could potentially save the lives of 4.3 million

mothers and newborns by 2035 with adequate investments in workforce planning, management, and working environment; high-quality education and training; midwife-led improvements to service delivery; and midwifery leadership and governance.

In line with UNFPA's global initiatives, the UNFPA CO is planning a virtual advocacy

meeting on "Midwifery service provision at the primary level" in early July 2021 which will look at the key findings of the SoWMy 2021 and advocate for increased investments in the midwifery force in Mongolia.

Adaptation and printing of Family Planning: A Global Handbook for Providers

Family planning services are experiencing significant challenges globally during the pandemic. The additional costs of procuring personal protective equipment (PPE), the increased workload of service providers, movement restrictions, and women's reluctance to attend health facilities where there is a perception that risks of COVID-19 infection are high are significantly impacting on the utilization of voluntary family planning services. In some countries, the importation of reproductive health commodities, including contraceptives, has also been affected by disruptions to global supply chains and delayed customs clearance.

To address some of these challenges, the UNFPA CO has supported the translation and adaptation of the **Family Planning: A Global Handbook for Providers**, which

supports the training needs of family planning service providers and provides detailed instructions on how to ensure the continuum of family planning services in emergencies. Five hundred copies of the Guidebook have been printed and distributed to service providers nationwide in collaboration with the MoH and Mongolian Federation of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

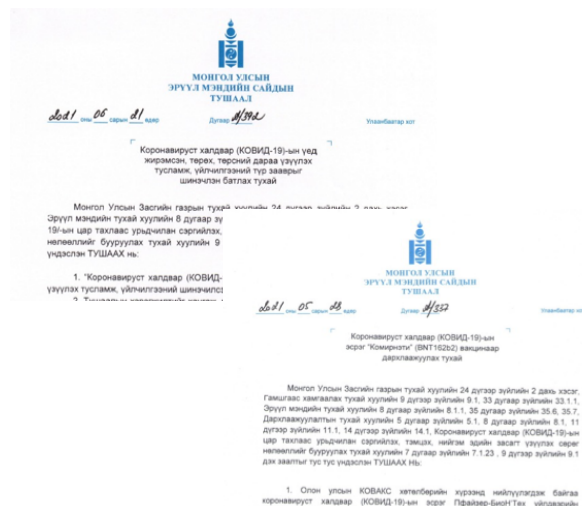


Technical assistance to the Ministry of Health to prioritize pregnant women as part of coordinated COVID-19 response efforts

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve in Mongolia, the UNFPA CO has been providing continuous support to develop new service guidelines for sexual and reproductive health service provision, including maternal health care to ensure that the needs of pregnant women are met. Existing guidelines have also been revised based on the latest international evidence.

During May and June 2021, the following guidelines were approved by the MoH, with technical support from the UNFPA CO:

- Regulation on the vaccination of pregnant and breastfeeding women (MOH decree A/337 of 28 May 21).
- The clinical management of pregnant women with COVID-19 (MOH decree A/392 of 21 June 21).



In late 2020, the UNFPA CO supported the development of guidelines on antenatal care visits in the COVID-19 context; four out of the eight advised antenatal care visits can be conducted online or by phone as a result of the new guidelines.



Animal skin processing drum provided for a start-up business.

UN Joint Project “Social Protection to Herders with Enhanced Shock Responsiveness”

Within the framework of the UN Joint Project Social Protection to Herders with Enhanced Shock Responsiveness UNFPA has supported start-up business proposals for 14 herder communities in five soums of Zavkhan province. The start-ups are supported by the NGO Development Solutions, which provides training for herders and supports the procurement of equipment. The aim is to increase the income of herders through diversification of their sources and to build resilience to natural disasters.

ADOLESCENTS & YOUTH PROGRAMME



БОЛОВСРОЛ,
ШИНОЛЗЭХ УХААНЫ ЯАМ



НЭГДСЭН ҮНДЭСТНИЙ
БАЙГУУЛЛАГА
МОНГОЛ УУЛС



UN COVID-19 Response
and Recovery Fund
Recover Better Together



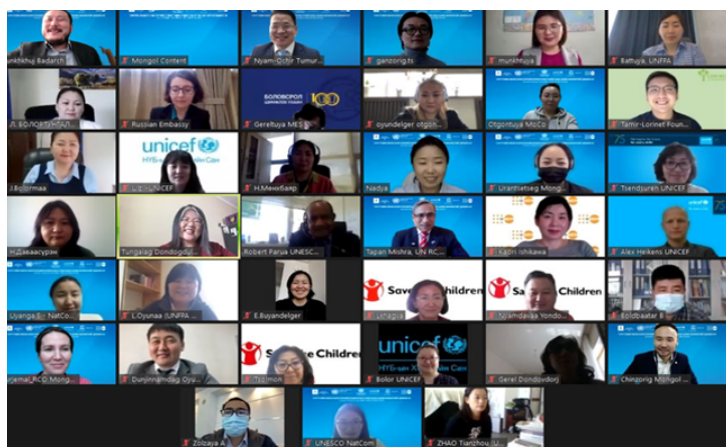
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ЕРӨНХИЙ БОЛОВСРОЛЫН САЛБАР ДАХЬ ЦАХИМ ШИЛЖИЛТИЙГ ДЭМЖИХ НЬ ТАЙЛАНГИЙН ХУРАЛ

Support for the continuation of educational services in Mongolia during the pandemic

High-level decision-makers, including the Minister of Education and Science, ambassadors and partner organizations joined a meeting to learn about the findings of the UN Joint project on “Strengthening the national capacity to suppress transmission and maintain essential services in the COVID-19 pandemic in Mongolia”.



The main findings of the UN joint project include:

- The e-learning system and online learning contents for pre-primary, primary and secondary education have been strengthened.
- In addition to the core subjects, there has been an increased focus on health education due to young people’s heightened vulnerability to early pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and psychological distress, trauma and GBV in the context of the pandemic.
- Some 104 exemplary education contents have been developed and made available on econtent.edu.mn, the main platform of the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES). The contents have reached more than 300,000 children, parents and teachers cumulatively to date.
- All online content has been adapted for sign language, while 60 pre-primary and primary education contents, including health education, have options for the languages of ethnic minorities (Kazakh and Tuvan).



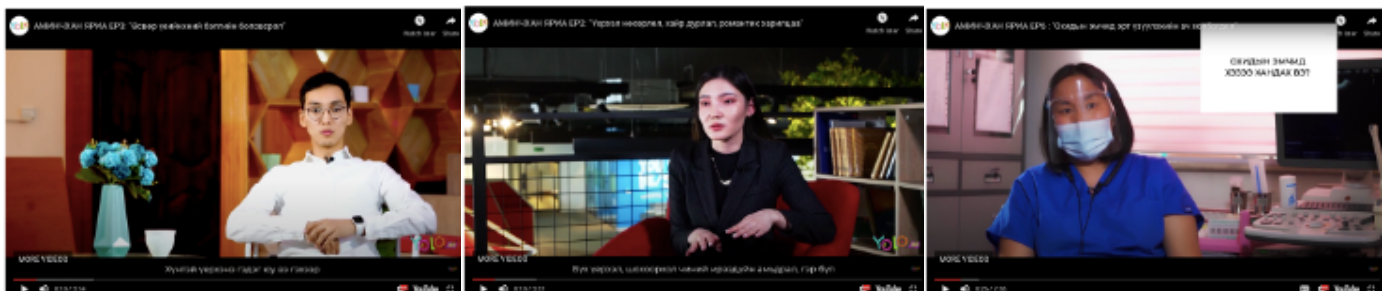
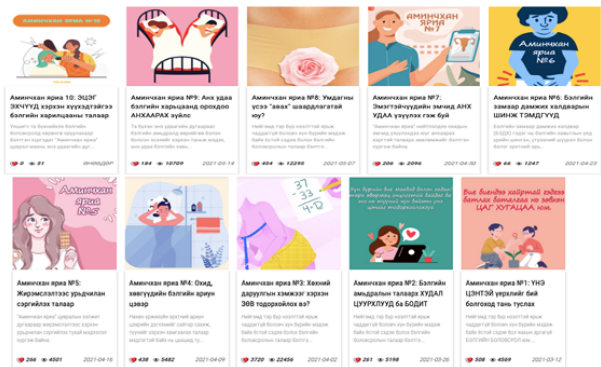
In 2020, the UNFPA CO established a partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and "Advocates for

The adaptation of AMAZE videos in Mongolia

Youth" NGO, an organization specializing in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) videos, to adapt the AMAZE videos for the Mongolian audience. To date a total of 28 factual and age-appropriate videos for children and adolescents up to the age of 14 years have been translated and adapted. Videos are available at: <https://econtent.edu.mn> as an online resource on the e-learning platform for education. The UNFPA Mongolia CO shared its experience of the video adaptation and dissemination in Mongolia with other COs during a webinar for regional UNFPA CO's.

Continuity of adolescent and youth-friendly health services

A series of articles and "private talk" videos on sexual and reproductive health have been developed and shared on a web portal for young people. The content has reached over 70,000 young people.




INTEGRATED SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S HEALTH IN UMNUGOBI PROVINCE 2018-2021





On 27 April 2021, the UNFPA CO marked the third year anniversary of its collaboration in implementing the "Integrated Support Programme for Women and Young People's Health in Umnugobi" - ISP. The ISP has reached 31,000 beneficiaries to date.


The ISP was officially launched on 27 April 2018, with the signing of a co-funding agreement between the Gobi Oyu Development Support Fund and the UNFPA CO, and the signing of the programme document between the MoH, UNFPA CO and the Umnugobi Provincial Government. The ISP is a collaboration between UN agencies (UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO), the Government of Mongolia (through the relevant Ministries), the Umnugobi government, and the Australian Embassy.

The ISP aims to address critical and emerging health and social issues in Umnugobi province through the following six key outcomes:

 *Increased coverage and improved quality of sexual and reproductive health services for women, adolescents and youth*
Outcome 1

 *Reduced incidence of STIs and cervical cancer*
Outcome 2

 *Detection and treatment of non-communicable diseases including cervical cancer and trauma associated with road traffic injuries*
Outcome 3

 *Sub-national level governance and capacity strengthened*
Outcome 4



Adolescent and youth empowerment and participation in youth policy and decision-

Outcome 5 making platforms



Gender-based violence/domestic violence prevention and response strengthened.

Outcome 6



An ISP local Technical Working Group meeting was organized on 19 May 2020 by Umnugobi aimag officials in Dalanzadgad. The meeting aimed to review the implementation of the ISP's 2021 activities and to adapt future programme activities in local settings in line with the prevailing COVID-19 situation. The TWG members agreed to carry out most of the activities between July to December when the situation is expected to improve.



MEET THE STAFF OF UNFPA MONGOLIA

UNFPA Mongolia is able to carry out its mandate thanks to the dedication and hard work of its staff. In this section, we introduce you to the wonderful people that make up UNFPA Mongolia, and the vision they bring to the country office.

In this issue, we meet **Enkhchimeg Dashzeveg**, Assistant to the Head of Office. Enkhchimeg joined UNFPA Mongolia in 2007. Since then, she has been providing ongoing support to the Head of Office (and to all other staff members, let's be honest!) to ensure the smooth and efficient functioning of the CO. She also provides much needed assistance to facilitate effective communications with stakeholders to ensure that the voices of some of the voiceless in Mongolia – women, girls, and vulnerable groups – are heard by policymakers.

How would you describe UNFPA Mongolia in 3 words?

Benevolent as we always support our staff and implementing partners; **Collaborative**, we work together for our common goals despite our differences in race, nationality, religion, and language; **Happy** because we enjoy our work, collaboration, and work-life balance.

In your opinion, why is UNFPA's existence important?

Because we deal with the most sensitive issues that people always avoid talking such as sex, gender-based violence/domestic violence, and maternal deaths.

What made you join UNFPA ?

In 1990 when I was a teenager, our classmate became pregnant when she was trying support her father who was unwell by selling things at the market. She lived with her father and did not have a mother, any sister, or relative that she could consult. There was not any adolescent health clinic, and access to family planning services and contraceptives was extremely limited in Mongolia at that time.

Her situation made me think a lot about how I could help girls in a similar situation. In the beginning, I was thinking of becoming a teacher and setting up a school to empower girls. With this aspiration, the UNFPA mandate and the multicultural work environment attracted me and I decided to join the organization.

Can you share with us a great memory you have from you time at UNFPA Mongolia?

In 2007, Mongolia only had one ultrasound machine for obstetrics and gynecology at the tertiary level maternity hospital in our capital city Ulaanbaatar. The maternity hospitals in all the other 21 provinces did not have a single ultrasound machine, and even if they had, rural obstetricians and gynecologists did not know how to operate the machine or even the computer. Also some rural maternity hospitals did not even have internet access. Therefore, many rural pregnant women with complications had to travel hundreds of kilometres by horse, motorbike, car, or airplane to Ulaanbaatar and spend a significant part of their income to get an ultrasound scan at the tertiary level maternity hospital, where there was always a large number of pregnant women queueing.



Enkhchimeg in action - providing simultaneous interpretation at the 2018 Annual Review Meeting. UN House, 2018

In 2007, UNFPA Mongolia started to implement the Telemedicine Project. Within 10 years under this project, we installed high-quality ultrasound machines, computers and telemedicine networks in maternity hospitals in all provinces; trained all obstetricians, gynecologists and technicians to use and fix the equipment; and even established online training and experience-sharing platforms for all of them.

Thanks to this project, rural pregnant women now have access to ultrasound scans and tertiary level obstetric and gynecology services in their rural hospitals. It significantly reduced maternal mortality in Mongolia, and, during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns, the telemedicine network has played a significant role in delivering high-quality health care to pregnant women and mothers. Therefore, I will always be proud of our Telemedicine Project and thankful to our UNFPA Representatives, colleagues, all of our stakeholders and implementing partners for their tireless efforts.

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY

Монгол улсыг цахим үндэстэн болгох зорилтын хүрээнд боловсролын салбарын цахим шилжилтийг хийнэ, accessible at <https://gogo.mn/r/50yl9>

Өсвөр насныханд бэлгийн боловсрол олгох богино хэмжээний хүүхэлдэйн кино, accessible at <https://gogo.mn/r/4jemk>

Өсвөр насныханд бэлгийн боловсрол олгох богино хэмжээний хүүхэлдэйн кино, accessible at <https://www.yolo.mn/z/6320>

КОВИД-19 цар тахлын үед боловсролын салбарыг дэмжих НҮБ-ын нэгдсэн төсөл, accessible at <https://www.unicef.org/mongolia/mn/campaign/strengthening-the-national-capacity-in-the-covid-19?fbclid=IwAR1IqqjXL7paK-q8V2M1Pme9U7BaqzRInAuU90QeEq7TQ45vTEHKRZ-nEWA>

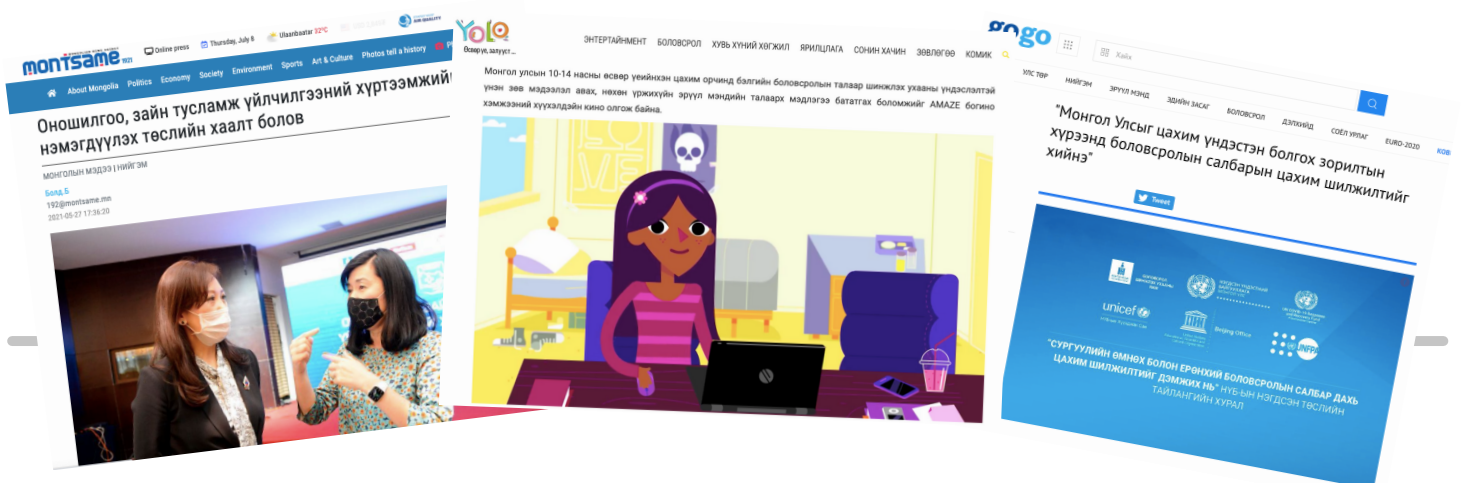
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"РИО ТИНТО" ГРУПП ДӨРВӨН ЭМНЭЛГИЙГ РСР ШИНЖИЛГЭЭНИЙ ЦОГЦ ЛАБОРАТОРИТОЙ БОЛГОЖЭЭ, accessible at: <https://bit.ly/3jEksqR>

Оношилгоо, зайн тусламж үйлчилгээний хүртээмжийг нэмэгдүүлэх төслийн хаалт болов, accessible at: <https://www.montsame.mn/en/read/265264#>

"Рио Тинто" групп дөрвөн эмнэлгийг РСР шинжилгээний цогц лабораторитой болгожээ, accessible at: https://ikon.mn/n/28dn?fbclid=iwar3n-rntkxr1ry6vlehsqpvudtjygu6_ukrf5sdlqufjy_b9b0ropzjto5y

Оношилгоо, зайн тусламж үйлчилгээний хүртээмжийг нэмэгдүүлэх төсөл амжилттай хэрэгжлээ, accessible at https://moh.gov.mn/news/5105Fbclid=iwar1jxayjkm0ysfq3xp8qgywftzcirkl_w8ker0c980yxtrovvsawngy





FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Ms Kaori Ishikawa, Head of Office,
Email: kishikawa@unfpa.org.

Dr. Oyunaa Lkhagvasuren, Assistant Representative,
Email: olkhagvasuren@unfpa.org.

**FOR UPDATES ON COVID-19 IN MONGOLIA,
PLEASE VISIT:**

The MOH daily reporting -
<https://covid19.mohs.mn/p/cat/post/57/?page=2>.

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