

Mongolia: Monitoring mobility in Dundgovi Aimag

2022



DTM

IOM DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX



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UN MIGRATION



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This report is part of the outputs under the initiative "Understanding and managing internal migration in Mongolia", which is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and implemented by IOM. The objective of this project is to strengthen the evidence-based formulation and implementation by mainstreaming internal migration and development policy in Mongolia through the use of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). Survey questions and designs were designed with key inputs from National Statistic Office of Mongolia. Survey data was collected and analysed using IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) tool, with technical guidance and support from IOM's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and the Global DTM Support Team.

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2. Summary of key findings

2.1 Population



47,000
Individuals



50.4%
Female



49.6%
Male

2.2 Mobility



585

Arrivals in February 2022

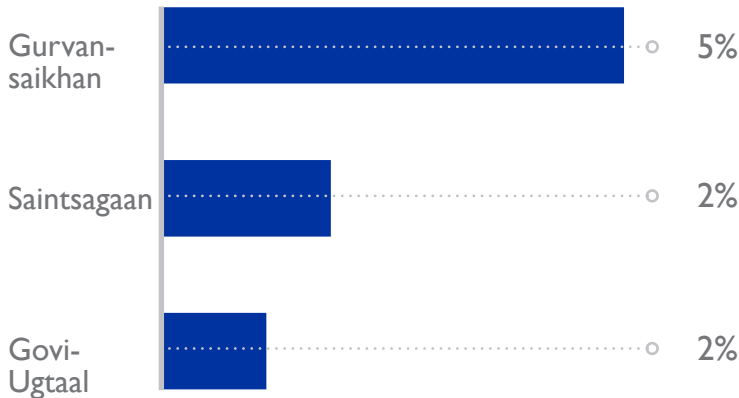


777

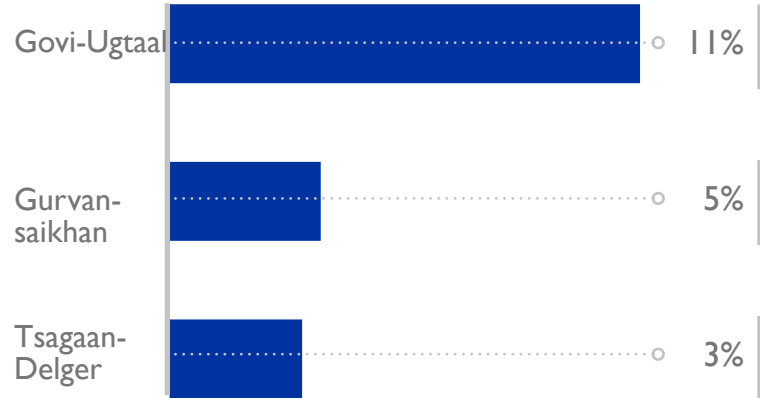
Departures in February 2022

Overall, at the time of the assessment, there were 47,000 individuals living in Dundgovi aimag, and they were more or less equally divided between males (50%) and females (50%). In February 2022, a total of 585 internal migrants arrived in various locations across Dundgovi, while 777 persons left for other locations and relocate either in Dundgovi or in other aimags. Govi-Ugtaal soum had by far the largest inflow of people over the observation period, representing 11 per cent of the soum population. Largest outflow observed in Gurvansaikhan soum with 5 per cent of the soum population. Both in flow and out flow main reasons for migration recorded with the festivity reason. Overall inflow and outflow of the migrants increased in February comparing to January. The January inflow for Dundgovi aimag was 475 and outflow of migrants recorded 643. Migration flow observed during February has 0.50 per cent discrepancy between the registration and Mobility tracking assessment. The average unemployment rate in Dundgovi aimag was 22 per cent highest in Undurshil soum 41 per cent comparatively lowest in Tsagaandelger soum 10 per cent.

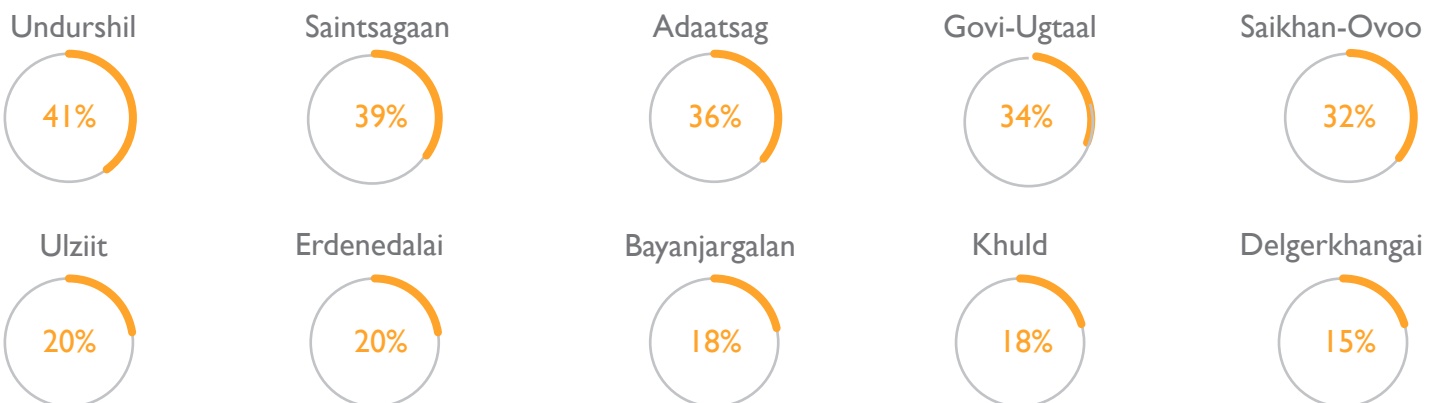
Top 3 soums by arrivals in February 2022 as share of the total soum population



Top 3 soums by departures in February 2022 as share of the total soum population



Top 10 soums by unemployment rate



3. Methodology

3.1 Research background

Previous IOM studies have found that a combination of complex effects including land degradation and climate change are altering traditional livelihood patterns in Mongolia. In a context of increased frequency of droughts and dzuds, the lack of job opportunities, inadequate living conditions, and the dependency of the rural population on livestock reduced the rural population's ability to earn a living. At the same time, this situation increased migration to urban areas and other aimags in unprecedented and unexplored ways. These emerging migration patterns created a large discrepancy between census data, registration data, and actual number of people living in the various baghs in Mongolia. With this study, IOM and NSO intend to use the Mobility Tracking (MT) methodology of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) toolbox to track the real number of people living in the various baghs in Dundgovi aimags.

3.2 Research methodology

The MT methodology developed by the DTM unit of IOM was used to achieve the objectives highlighted above. MT is a tool designed to track mobility, determine numbers and locations of mobile populations, reasons for migrations, places of origin, along with basic demographics as well as vulnerabilities and priority needs. The information is mainly captured through interviews with key informants at the area, sub-area or location level, and cross-referenced with secondary sources where available. The survey tool used in this study has three main components: 1) population numbers, 2) reasons for migration and mobility patterns, and 3) employment. While other studies focus on households or individuals, the unit of analysis of MT is a location, in this case a bagh which is the smallest administrative unit in Mongolia. In this study, bagh governors acted as key informants and provided information about the bagh in which they were working at the time of the assessment. Bagh governors were asked to fill up the data collection form at the best of their knowledge and include all information on what was happening in their bagh. The collected data was entered to the Kobo platform by the bagh governors.

3.3 Limitations

The adopted methodology relies on information provided by key informants and for this reason has limited internal and external validity, and generalization of results should be avoided. The information gathered using this methodology represents the estimates and perceptions provided by key informants rather than the facts, with varying precision depending on the size of the observation unit, and knowledge level of the key informant. In addition, triangulation of results was limited by the usage of only one key informant per assessed location. Data accuracy was still ensured through further assessments and triangulation of information when feasible.

3.4 Definitions

Persons living in a given location: this number includes all residents of the location at the time of the assessment. This number includes all residents, irrespective of place of origin, document status, registration status, age, or any other socio-demographic characteristic.
















Household: persons living under the same roof, sharing expenses and food. **Internal migrant:** everyone who in the four weeks before the assessment moved from one location to another location

3.5 Geographical coverage

This assessment focus on the whole of Dundgovi aimag which is composed by 15 soums and 68 baghs. A total of 68 bagh governors provided information on their bagh (one per bagh). Following, during the data analysis process, bagh level information was aggregated at the soum level, and finally at the aimag level.

All information contained in this report, which is mainly displayed at the soum and aimag level, can be broken down at the bagh level and provide a detailed overview of the situation at the smallest admin level. This type of information is considered key for local development planning and intervention.

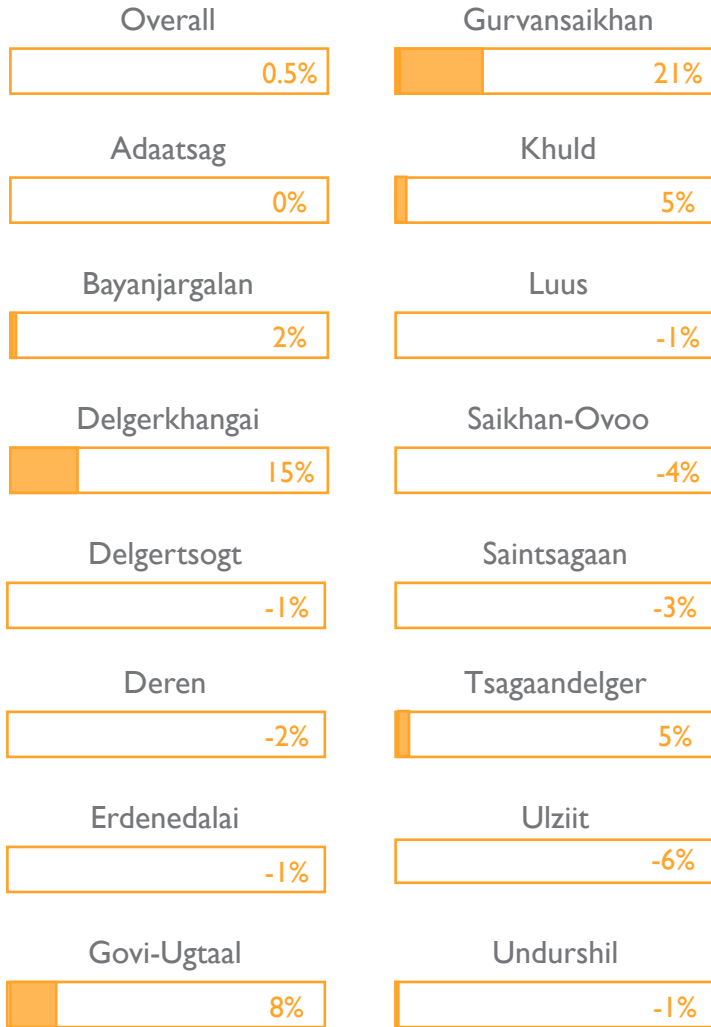
Geographical coverage

Aimag	Soum	Bagh	#	Population*
Dundgovi				
	Adaatsag		5	2,808
	Bayanjargalan		3	1,348
	Delgerkhangai		4	1,993
	Delgertsogt		3	1,659
	Deren		4	2,196
	Erdenedalai		7	5,972
	Govi-Ugtaal		4	1,411
	Gurvansaikhan		5	1,698
	Khuld		4	2,291
	Luus		3	1,937
	Saikhan-Ovoo		4	2,222
	Saintsagaan		9	16,584
	Tsagaandelger		4	997
	Ulziit		6	2,434
	Undurshil		3	1,450

* According to DTM MT data collected in February 2022.

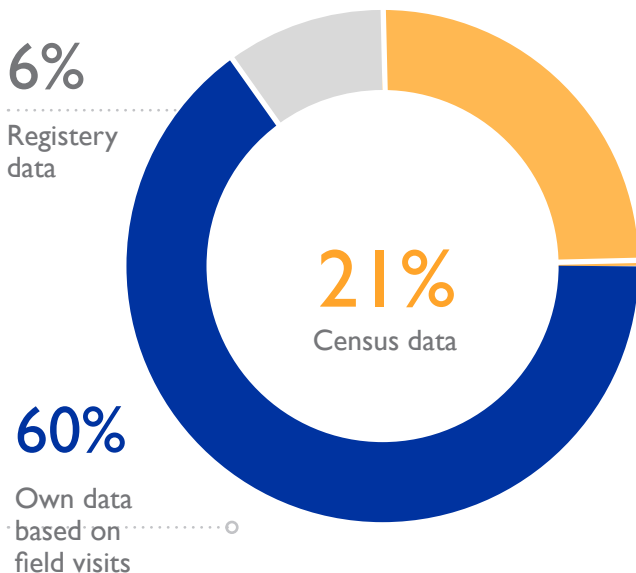
3.6 Data sources

Difference between IOM MT data and registration data in absolute values by soum

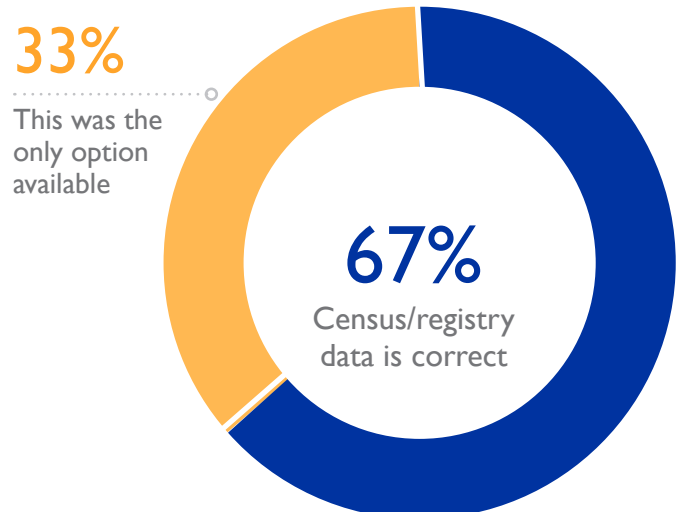


One of the main objectives of this assessment was to estimate the real number of people living in each bagh of Dundgovi. During the key informant training, participants were encouraged to report the real number of people living in each bagh, regardless of registration status. To double check on their data entry, key informants were asked where did they take information on the demographics of the population. In total, 6 per cent of the key informants reported using registration data, while 21 per cent decided to use census data. The largest share of key informants (60%), used their own data based on field observation and personal knowledge. This suggests that this last group of people did not fully trust registration data or other official data sources. Key informants using census or registration data were asked why they preferred that data source over direct observation. Overall, 67 per cent did so because registry or census data is correct, while 33 per cent had no other option but to use that data source. In the data analysis process, population numbers calculated with the DTM MT methodology were compared to these captured in registration data. On average, there is a 0.5 per cent difference between the two data sources, which is largely driven by Gurvansaikhan, Delgerkhangai soums, in which the differences between MT and registration data is 21 in Gurvansaikhan and 15 per cent in Delgerkhangai. Based on this analysis, it seems that, despite for one location, MT data and registration data largely overlap. However, registration data was the least common data source used for estimating population numbers and this might reflect that there are biases or issues linked to this type of data and its collection methodology.

Main data sources used

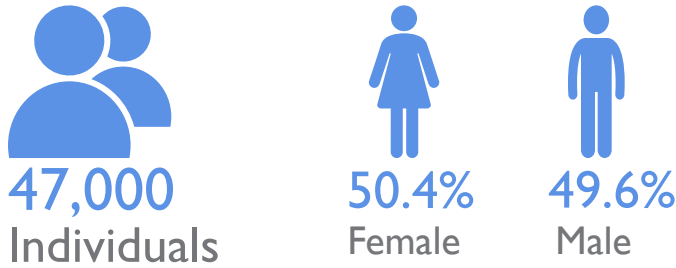


Reasons for using census or registry data

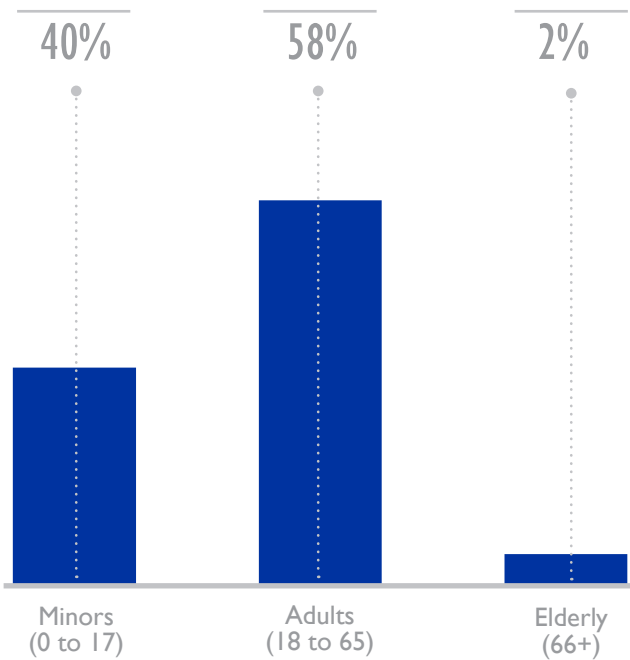


4. Data analysis

4.1 Demographics

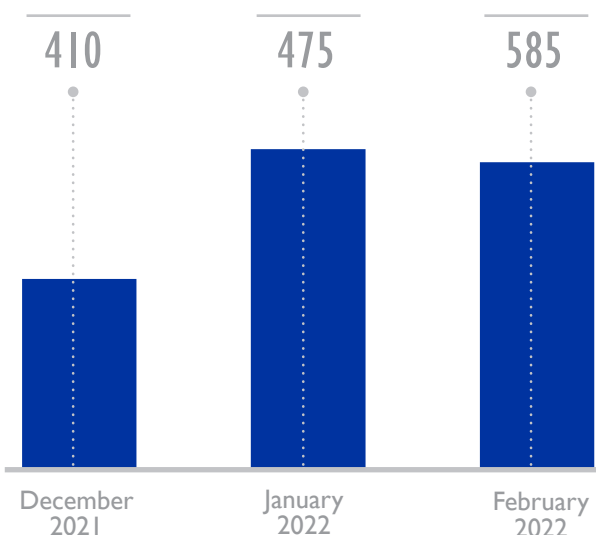


Dundgovi population by age group



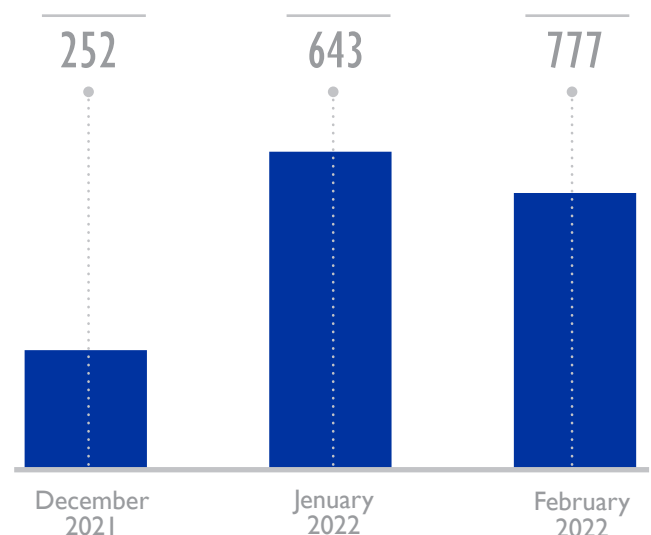
4.2 Internal migration

Monthly arrivals by data collection period



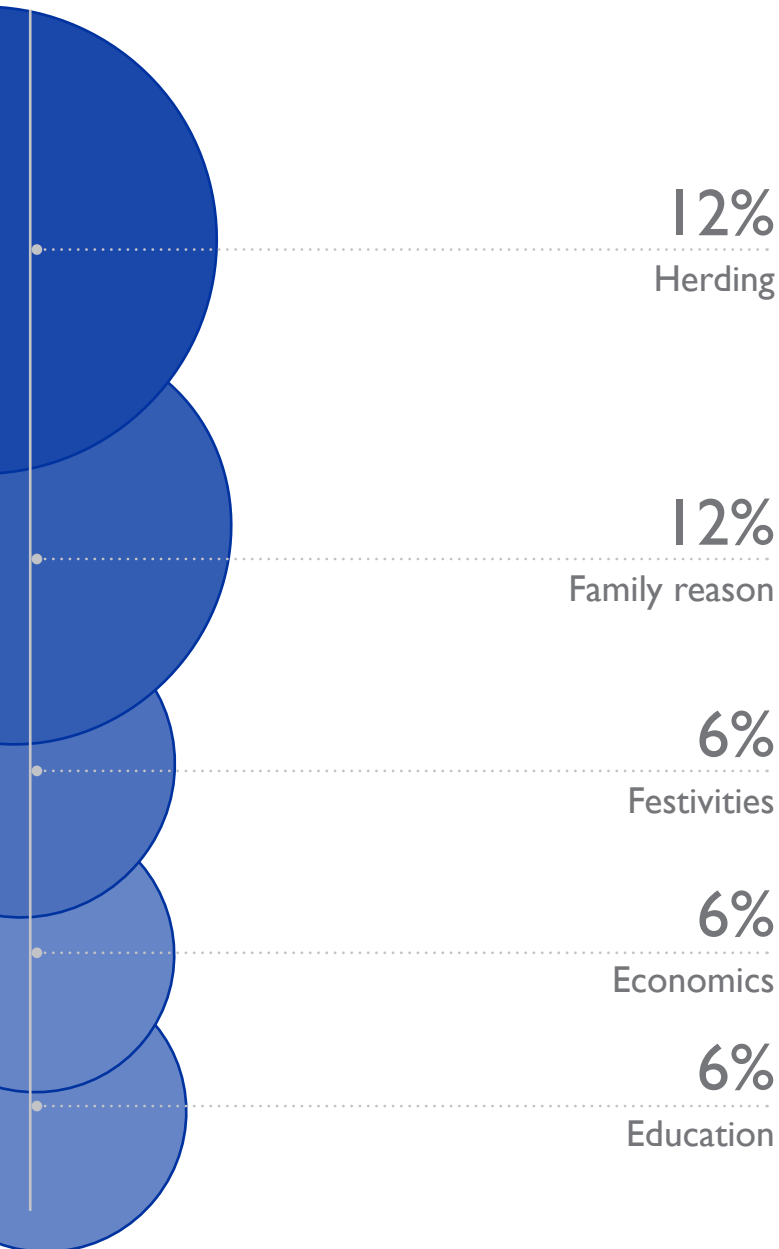
Overall, it's estimated that there were 47,000 persons living in Dundgovi at the time of the assessment. Fifty four per cent of them lived in three soums: Saintsagaan (35%), Erdenedalai (13%), and Adaatsag (6%), and the remaining 46 per cent lived in the other 12 soums of this Aimag. This figure includes all persons living in Dundgovi regardless of their age, legal status, or registration status. At the aimag level, the population was roughly equally divided between males (49.6%) and females (50.4%). In terms of age, minors aged from 0 to 17 years old were 40 per cent of the total Dundgovi population, adults aged from 18 to 65 represented 58 per cent of the population, and 2 per cent of the total were aged 66 or more. Total share of elderly population recorded lowest during this time of the assessment period. At the soum level, the largest share of minors was recorded in Saintsagaan (36%), which is also one of the soums with the highest share of population. According to this estimates, the highest number of elderly was also registered in Saintsagaan (40%). Ulziit soum registration discrepancy with the MT assessment data was -6 per cent. On the other hand Gurvansaikhan soum MT assessment data shows 21 per cent more population counted during the assessment period. Nine soums population numbers were lower than the registry data comparably six soum population were higher. than the state registry data.

Monthly departures by data collection period



Bagh governors were asked to report the number of persons who, in the month (four weeks) before the assessment, left or moved to their bagh from another bagh (location) with the intention to stay for at least one month and more. By looking at the information collected on this type of movement flow from December 2021, to February 2022, it is possible to observe the seasonality of these types of flows. Internal migration was lowest in December, then increased gradually. The data collected in February 2022 indicates that migration flows were recorded in 12 out of 15 soums. The highest inflows proportional to the total population were in Gurvansaikhan (5%), Saintsagaan (2%) and Govi-Ugtaal (2%). The largest outflows were in Govi-Ugtaal (11%), Gurvansaikhan (5%) and Tsagaandelger (3%). In February 2022, the main reasons for moving or arriving to a bagh in Dundgovi were linked to family reasons (12%), herding reasons (12%), or festivities (6%).

Main reasons for moving to Umnogovi



Main reasons for moving to Umnogovi by soum

Adaatsag Family reasons	Gurvan-Saikhan Festivities
Bayanjargalan Herding	Khuld No arrivals in February 2022
Delgerkhangai No arrivals in February 2022	Luus Health
Delgertsogt Family reasons	Saikhan-Ovoo No arrivals in February 2022
Deren Family reasons	Saintsagaan Education
Erdenedalai Family reasons	Tsagaandelger Herding
Govi-Ugtaal Festivities	Ulziit Herding
Undurshil Family reasons	

4.3 Employment

Unemployment rate

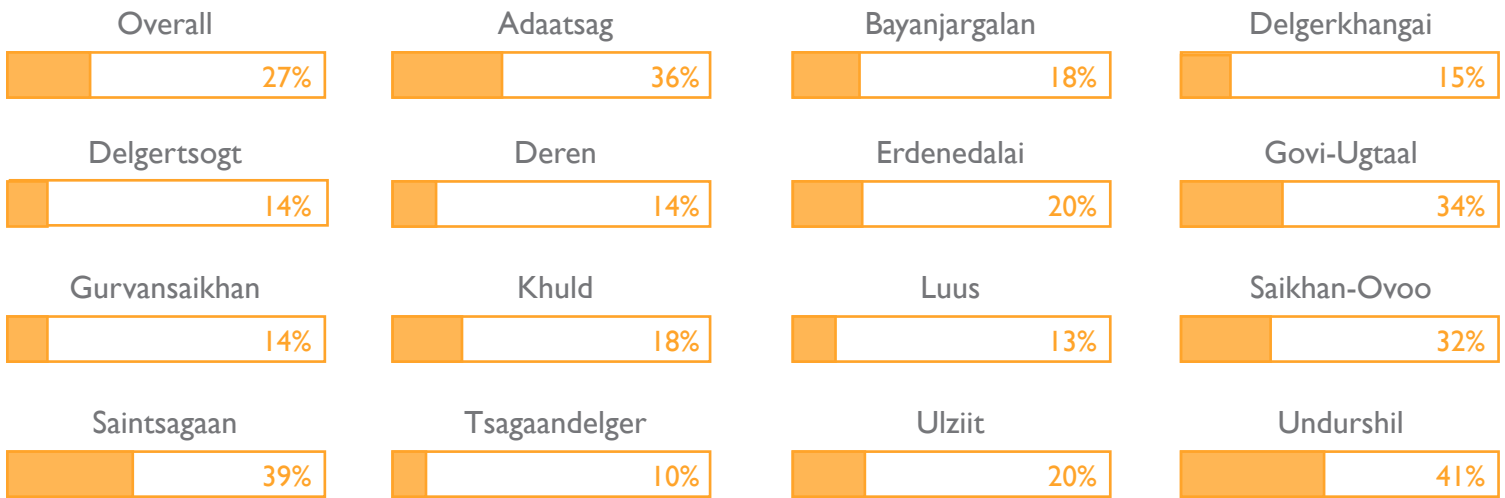


22%

Were unemployed at the time of the assessment

The estimated unemployment rate in Dundgovi was 22 per cent at the time of the assessment. The highest levels of unemployment were recorded in Undurshil (41%), Saintsagaan (39%), and Adaatsag (36%), while the lowest levels were in Tsagaandelger (10%), Luus (13%), and Gurvansaikhan (14%). Being one of the aimags with the biggest internal movement related to Otor, the survey tool also captured the share of persons arrived and left for otor. Data indicates that the Otor related arrival recorded in Tsagaandelger (2%) Bayanjargalan(2%) and Erdenedalai (0.5%) soums. Otor related departures recorded in Gurvansaikhan (9.2%) Bayanjargalan (3.4%) Saintsagaan (2.7%) Tsagaandelger (0.8%) Adaatsag and Luus (0.3%).

Unemployment rate by soum



5. Conclusions

Overall, this assessment was useful in estimating real population numbers, the usage and precision of different data sources, and capture basic information on unemployment levels by location.

5.1 Research recommendations

Expand the DTM MT methodology used in Dundgovi to the whole of rural Mongolia. Given the success of this assessment, it is suggested to expand its geographical scope to the whole of Mongolia. This will provide granular information on various thematic areas that can be used for both: development planning, and as a baseline for additional studies. In addition, it will provide a more exhaustive picture of the registration status in Mongolia, as well as of the areas with particular high population movements or unemployment levels. From a policy perspective, this can be used to prioritize interventions based on real needs.

Use the information collected by the DTM MT to run ad-hoc surveys and studies in specific locations. The information collected by DTM MT can be used to inform IOM, Government, and other stakeholders on data gaps, and needs, and on areas of further intervention.

Include additional survey modules to the existing survey tool to fill data and research gaps as needed. The survey module used for this assessment should be intended as a minimum standard on which is possible to build upon. The survey tool can be expanded in many ways and, for instance, it could include modules on access to services, security situation, financial situation, transportation methods, or income.

5.2 Policy recommendations

Data sources: Despite a limited difference between DTM MT data and registration data, it was noted that the latter data source was rarerly used by key informants to report on population numbers. This finding suggest that registration data does not fully reflect the real number of people who lives in the various baghs of Dundgovi and its frequent changes. For this reason, it is suggested to improve the registration system at the local level and to focus particularly on locations where the Otor movements occure and Govi-Ugtaal and Gurvansaikhan soums, in which the discrepancy was greatest during this reporting period.

Internal Migration: This study finds that internal migration over the reporting period was mostly driven by family and herding reasons.

Employment: Overall unemployment rate was recorded comparatively high in Dundgovi aimag where the highest unemployment rate was recorded in Undurshil, Saintsagaan and Adaatsag, while the lowest unemployment levels were found in Tsagaandelger, Luus and Gurvansaikhan soums. It's suggested to study these two different sets of soums and compare best practices, employment strategies and systems.

