

# Mongolia: Monitoring mobility in Umnugovi Aimag

2022



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IOM DISPLACEMENT  
TRACKING MATRIX



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# I. Summary of key findings

## I.1 Population

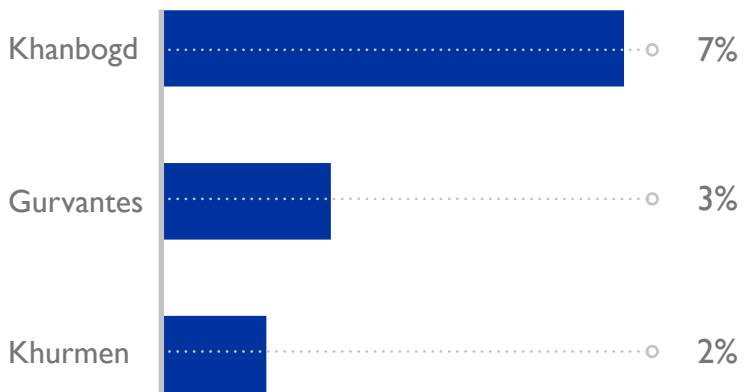


## I.2 Mobility



At the time of the assessment (February, 2022) there were 78,682 individuals living in Umnugovi aimag, and they were more or less equally divided between males (52%) and females (48%). In February 2022, a total of 1,462 internal migrants arrived in various locations across Umnugovi, while 1,367 persons relocated to other locations either in Umnugovi or in other aimags. Khanbogd soum had by far the largest inflow and outflow of people during the observation period, with each flow representing 7 per cent of movements in the soum population. This high mobility may be related to the thriving mining industry of Khanbogd, which reportedly attracts internal seasonal migrant workers for the mining sector, along with other individuals who provide services and other activities. Other main soums of destination for internal migration were Gurvantes and Khurmen. While the average unemployment rate in Umnugovi was 27 per cent, this figure differed substantially across soums. Unemployment rate was highest in Sevrei (40%), Dalanzadgad (36%) and Bayandalai (35%).

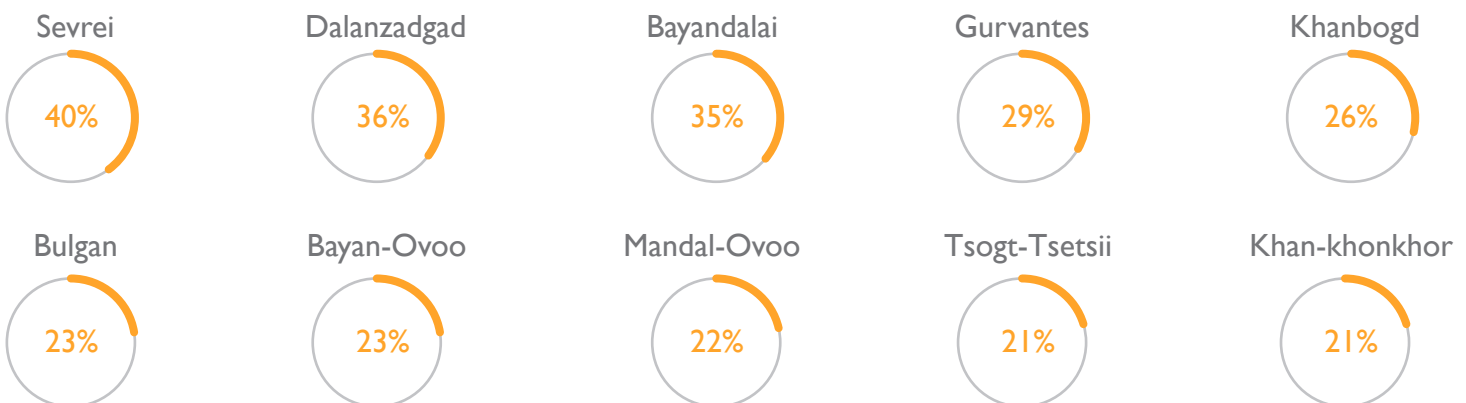
Top 3 soums by arrivals in February 2022 as share of the total soum population



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



Top 10 soums by unemployment rate



## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 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 have 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, DTM and National Statistics Office (NSO) intend to use the Mobility Tracking (MT) methodology of the DTM toolbox to track a more accurate number of people living in the various baghs in Umnugovi and Dundgovi aimags.

### 2.2 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 migration, place of origin, along with basic demographic information as well as vulnerabilities and priority needs. The information is 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 complete the data collection form to the best of their knowledge and include all relevant information on what was happening in their bagh.

### 2.3 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.

### 2.4 Definitions

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

**Household:** Persons living under the same roof, sharing expenses and food, who do not necessarily have to be related.

**Internal migrant:** Anyone who in the four weeks before the assessment moved from one location to another location with the intention to stay for at least four weeks.

**Unemployment:** Estimated share of persons aged 18 to 65 who were not employed at the time of the assessment.

## 2.5 Geographical coverage

This assessment focus on the whole of Umnugovi aimag which is comprised of 15 soums and 59 baghs. A total of 59 bagh governors provided information on their bagh (one per bagh). 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 presented 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.

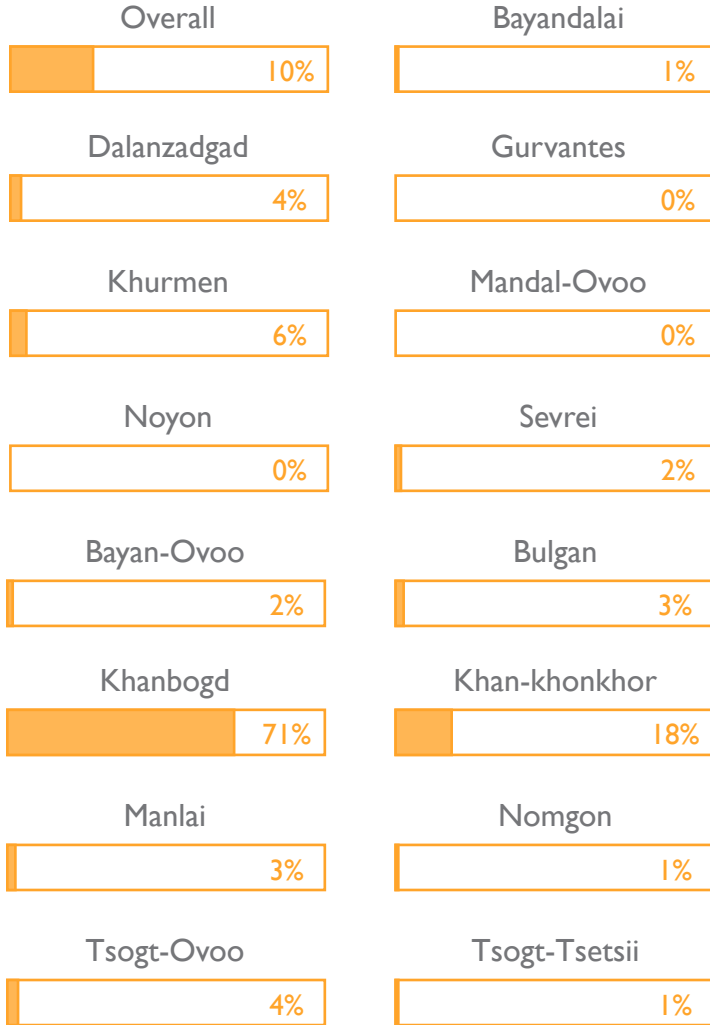
### Geographical coverage

Aimag	Soum	Bagh	#	Population*
<b>Umnugovi</b>				
	Bayandalai	■ ■ ■	3	2,090
	Bayan-Ovoo	■ ■ ■	3	1,809
	Bulgan	■ ■ ■ ■	4	2,098
	Dalanzadgad	■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	8	29,257
	Gurvantes	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	5	5,281
	Khanbogd	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	5	14,329
	Khan-khonkhor	■ ■ ■ ■	4	1,633
	Khurmen	■ ■ ■	3	1,465
	Mandal-Ovoo	■ ■ ■	3	1,627
	Manlai	■ ■ ■ ■	4	2,618
	Nomgon	■ ■ ■ ■ ■	5	2,496
	Noyon	■ ■	2	1,373
	Sevrei	■ ■ ■	3	2,033
	Tsogt-Ovoo	■ ■ ■	3	1,954
	Tsogt-Tsetsii	■ ■ ■ ■	4	8,619

\* According to DTM MT data collected in February 2022.

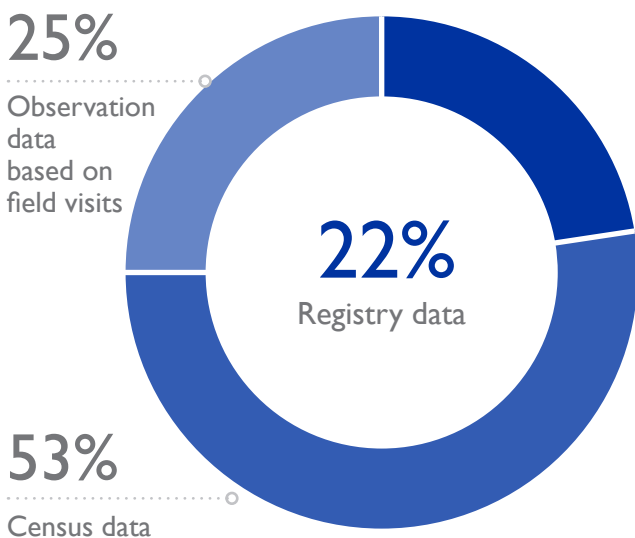
## 2.6 Data sources

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

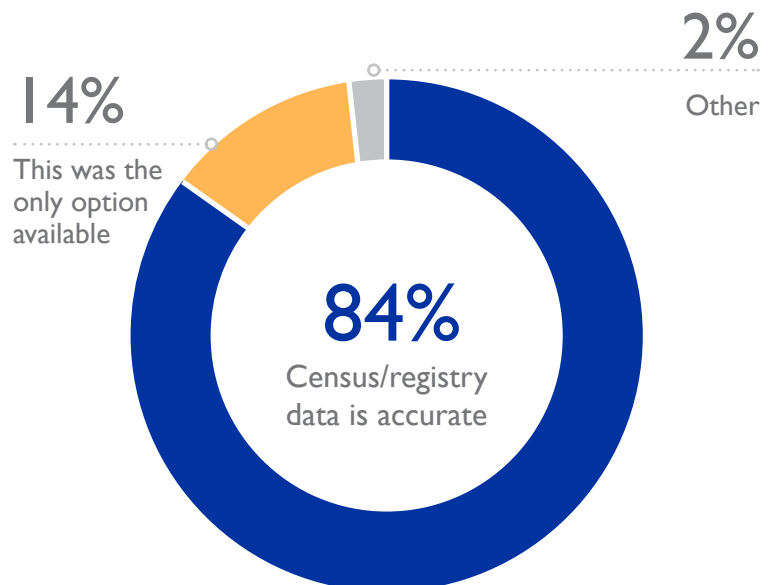


One of the main objectives of this assessment was to estimate the actual number of people living in each bagh of Umnugovi. During the key informant training, participants were encouraged to report the actual number of people living in each bagh, regardless of registration status. To verify the figure provided, key informants were asked to cite the source of their information on the population demographics in their bagh. In total, 22 per cent of the key informants reported using registration data, while 25 per cent stated field observation and personal knowledge. The largest share of key informants (53%), used census data. Key informants using census or registration data were asked why they preferred that data source over direct observation. Overall, 84 per cent did so because registry or census data is accurate, while 14 per cent stated that no other data sources were available. In the data analysis process, population numbers calculated with the DTM MT methodology were compared to those captured in registration and census data. On average, there is a 10 per cent difference between the two data sources, which is largely driven by Khanbogd soum, in which the difference between MT and registration data is 71 per cent. 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.

### Main data sources used

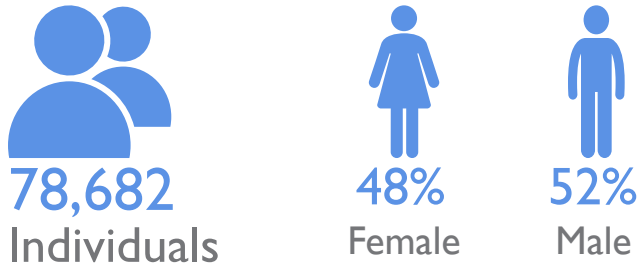


### Reasons for using census or registry data

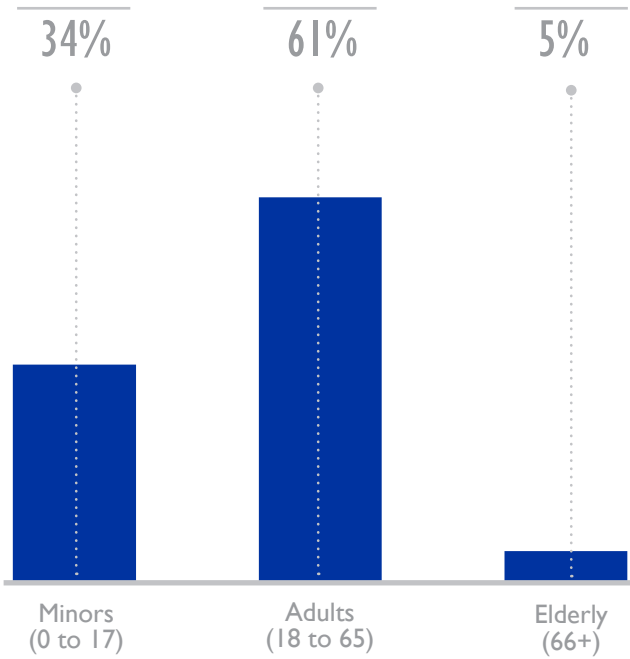


### 3. Data analysis

#### 3.1 Demographics

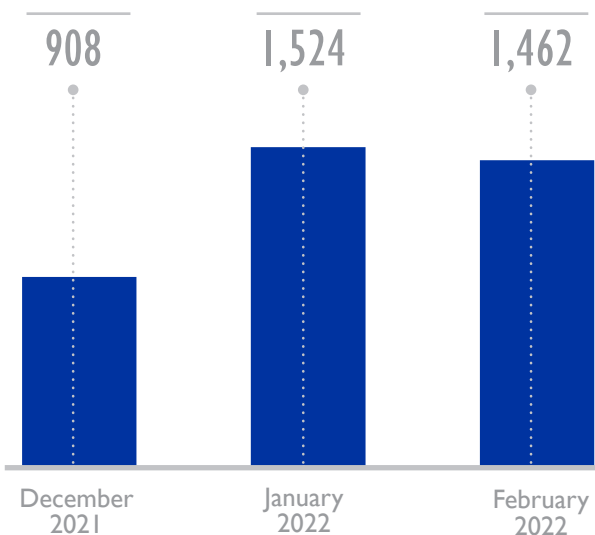


Umnugovi population by age group



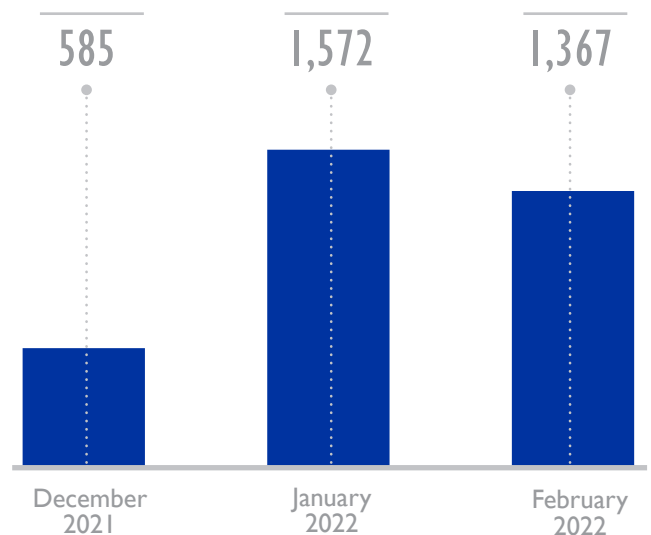
#### 3.2 Internal migration

Monthly arrivals by data collection period



Overall, it is estimated that there were 78,682 persons living in Umnugovi at the time of the assessment. Sixty-six per cent of them lived in three soums: Dalanzadgad (37%), Khanbogd (18%), and Tsogt-Tsetsii (11%), and the remaining 34 per cent lived in the other 12 soums of this Aimag. This figure includes all persons living in Umnugovi regardless of their age, legal status, or registration status. At the aimag level, the population was roughly equally divided between males (52%) and females (48%). However, in Khanbogd soum, the share of females differed substantially from the Umnugovi average and it was 39 per cent of the total population. This might be explained by the highly segmented labour market of Khanbogd soum, in which almost 70 per cent of the employed population works in the mining sector. In terms of age, minors aged from 0 to 17 years old were 34 per cent of the total Umnugovi population, adults aged from 18 to 65 represented 61 per cent of the population, and 5 per cent of the total were aged 66 or more. At the soum level, the largest share of minors was in Tsogt-Tsetsii (44%), which is also one of the soums with the highest share of persons working in the mining industry. According to this estimates, the highest number of older people was in Mandal-Ovoo (18%) and Bayan-Ovoo (10%).

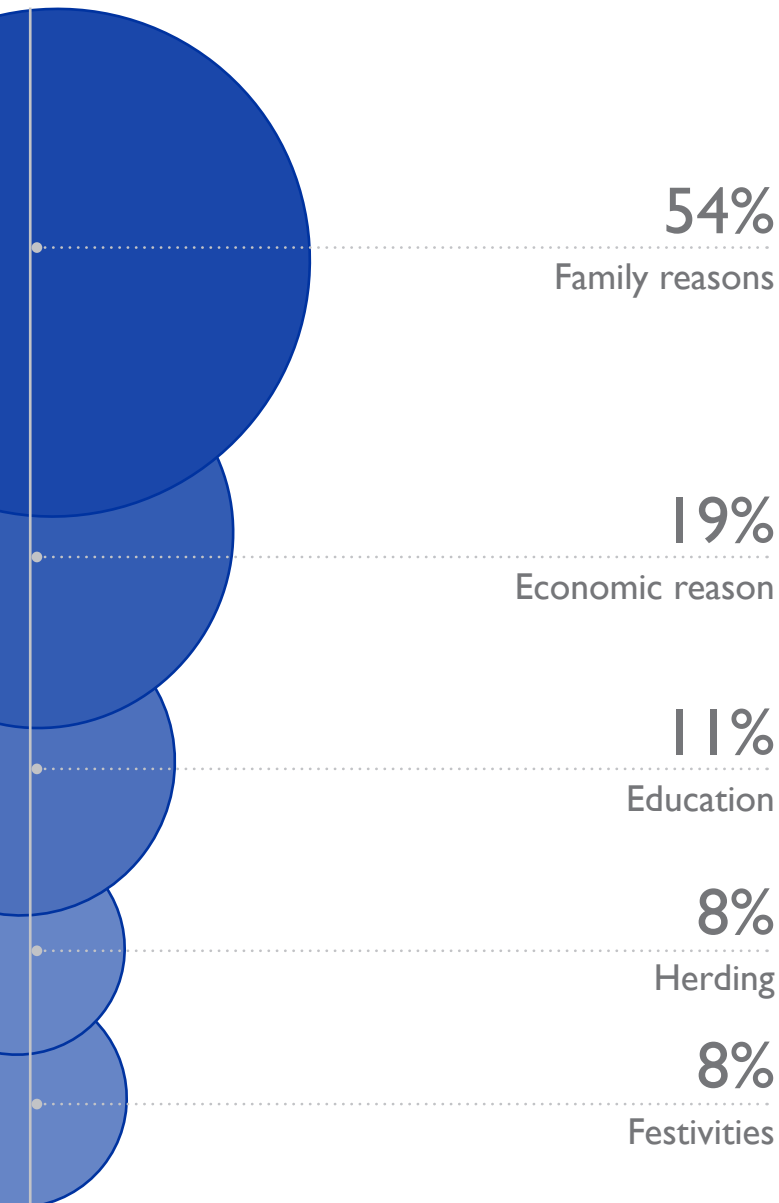
Monthly departures by data collection period





Bagh governors were asked to report the number of persons who, in the month before the assessment, left or moved to their bagh from another bagh with the intention to stay for at least one month. 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 it peaked in January and decreased again in February. The peak in January as compared to the other months might be linked to the advent of the lunar new year and to the festivities happening in January in Mongolia. The data collected in February 2022 indicates that migration flows were recorded in 9 out of 15 soums. The highest inflows proportional to the total population were in Khanbogd (7%), Gurvantes (3%) and Khurmen (2%). The largest outflows were in Khanbogd (7%), Gurvantes (2%) and Manlai (2%). In February 2022, the main reasons for moving or arriving to a bagh in Umnugovi were linked to family reasons (54%), economic reasons (19%), or education (11%). Looking at the sub-set of location in which employment was the main driving force of migration, it was observed that work in the mining sector was the main employment related reason for migration.

Main reasons for moving to Umnugovi

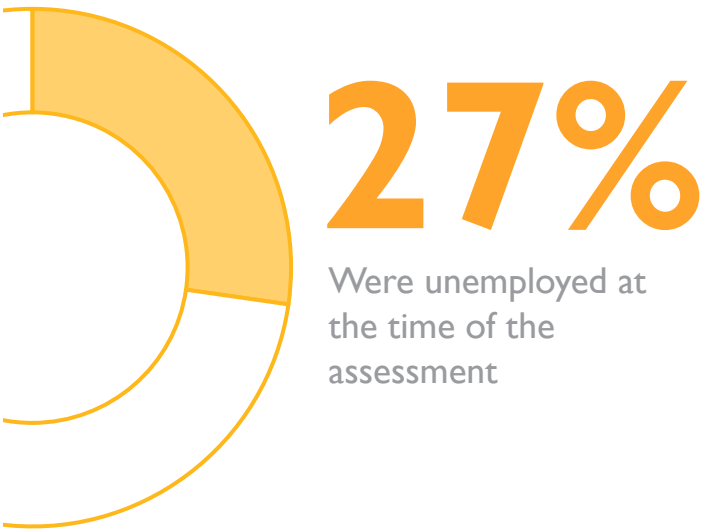


Main reasons for moving to Umnugovi by soum

Bayandalai No arrivals in February 2022	Bayan-Ovoo Family Reasons
Bulgan No arrivals in February 2022	Dalanzadgad Family Reasons
Khanbogd Economic reasons	Khan-khonkhor Family reasons
Khurmen Education	Mandal-Ovoo No arrivals in February 2022
Manlai Festivities	Nomgom Herding
Noyon No arrivals in February 2022	Sevrei No arrivals in February 2022
Tsogt-Ovoo No arrivals in February 2022	Tsogt-Tsetsii Family reasons

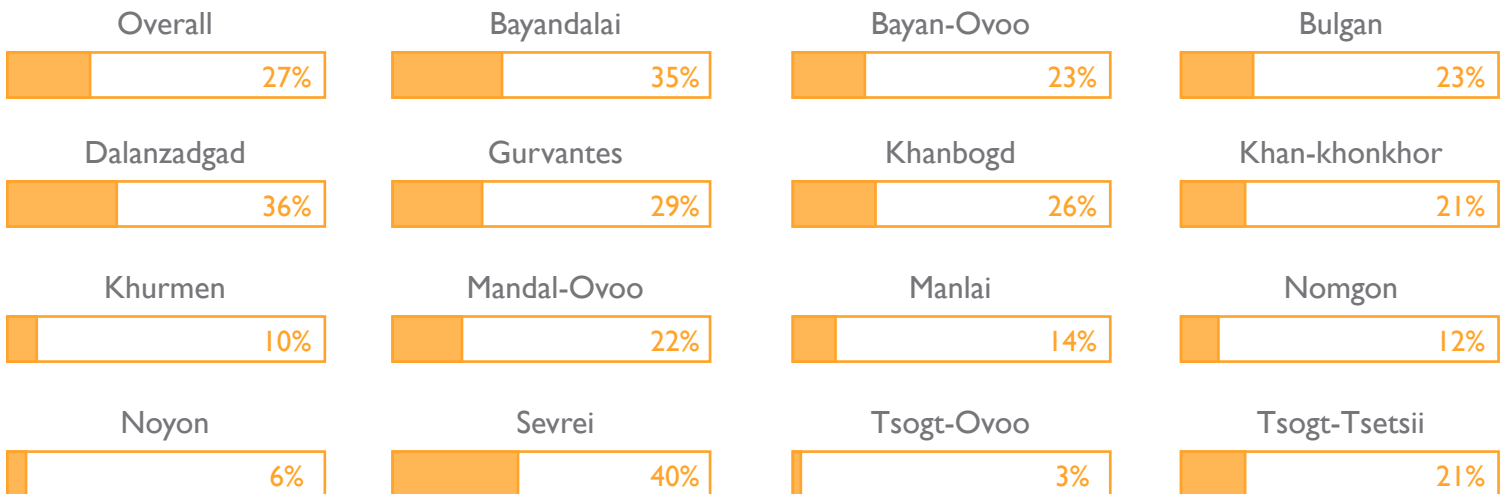
### 3.3 Employment

#### Unemployment rate



The estimated unemployment rate in Umnugovi was 27 per cent at the time of the assessment. The highest levels of unemployment were recorded in Sevrei (40%), Dalanzadgad (36%), and Bayandalai (35%), while the lowest levels were in Tsgot-Ovoo (3%), Noyon (6%), and Khurmen soum (10%). As the mining sector is a key industry in the country, the assessment also captured the share of persons working in mining for each soum. Data indicates that the largest share of persons working in the mining sector as a proportion of the employed population was in Khanbogd (68%), Tsogt-Tsetsii (58%), Dalanzadgad (24%), Gurvantes (13%), and Bayan-Ovoo soum (13%).

#### Unemployment rate by soum



## 4. Conclusions

Overall, this assessment assisted in providing more accurate estimates of population numbers as it considers all persons residing in Umnugovi aimag irrespective of documentation or registration status. Additionally, it provided insight into the inflows and outflows within the aimag, the use and precision of different data sources, and lastly, it captured basic information on unemployment levels by soums.

### 4.1 Research recommendations

**Expand the DTM MT methodology used in Umnugovi to the whole of rural Mongolia.**

Given the success of this assessment, it is suggested to expand the geographical scope to all rural areas in 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 comprehensive picture of the areas with particularly high population movements or unemployment levels. From a policy perspective, this can be used to prioritize interventions based on identified 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 current assessment should be the foundation on which additional surveys are built upon.

The survey tool can be expanded in various ways; for instance, it could include assessments on access to services, perception of security, financial/livelihoods situation or transportation.

### 4.2 Policy recommendations

**Data sources:** Despite a limited difference between DTM MT data and registration data, it is worth noting that the latter data source was rarely used by key informants to report on population numbers. This finding suggests that registration data does not fully reflect accurate figures on the number of people living in various baghs of Umnugovi. For this reason, it is recommended that improvements are made to the registration system at the local level, with a particular focus on Khanbogd and Khan-khonkhor soums as these were the areas with the largest discrepancies.

**Internal Migration:** This study found that internal migration during the reporting period was mostly driven by family reasons. However, the largest inflows and outflows of internal migrants were found in Khanbogd soum due to the mining sector. This suggests that employment in mining is a driving force of internal migration, and understanding how it influences movement flows is key for development planning and response.

**Employment:** The highest unemployment rate was recorded in Sevrei, Dalanzadgad, and Bayandalai, while the lowest unemployment levels were found in Tsogt-Ovoo and Noyon. It is suggested to study these two different sets of soums and compare best practices, employment strategies and systems.

