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NALAIKH DISTRICT

Rapid Assessment on Population, Migration and Needs

September 2022 to February 2023 (Third Phase Data Collection)



CONTENTS

Introduction and Methodology.....	1
1. Data Analysis Nalaikh district.....	3
1.1 Population baseline and demographic overview.....	3
1.2 Registration.....	4
1.3 Arrival.....	5
1.4 Departure.....	7
1.5 Employment.....	8
1.6 Financial situation.....	8
1.7 Mobility-related challenges.....	9
1.8 Services and infrastructure.....	10
Conclusion.....	11

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

This district-level report provides an overview of key thematic areas covered by the Nalaikh district rapid assessment on population, migration and needs between September 2022 and February 2023. Current data collection is the third phase of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Mobility tracking assessment done by IOM Mongolia in Ulaanbaatar.

Similar to phase one, this study explores eight primary themes across Nalaikh district, namely, population baseline figures, registration, internal arrivals and departures (migration), employment, financial situation, mobility-related challenges, and services and infrastructure. Data are collected through key informant interviews with kheseg leaders,¹ who are well-informed about their communities, resources and local context.

Previous IOM studies have found that a combination of complex factors, including land degradation and climate change, are altering traditional migration patterns in Mongolia. More frequent drought and dzuds,² insufficient job opportunities, inadequate living conditions, and rural population's livestock dependency has directly increased the level of migration to urban areas and other aimags.³

Understanding the nature of these migration patterns has been hindered by discrepancies between census data, registration data, and the reality of people living in and migrating between different locations across Mongolia. By obtaining data on population and internal migration in within the Nalaikh district, this study aims to bridge the gap in up-to-date data collection and analysis to inform policies and actions on internal migration.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This report utilizes the IOM DTM Mobility Tracking methodology adapted for the Mongolian context. Information is collected at the kheseg level – the smallest administrative unit in Nalaikh district through key informant interviews with kheseg leaders. Kheseg.

¹ Kheseg is the smallest administrative unit in Ulaanbaatar. Kheseg leader usually refer to the governor of a kheseg.

² Dzuds are extreme winters characterized by freezing temperatures, heavy snow, and frozen ground, with temperatures reaching far below the average. While herders and animals living in Mongolia are resilient to environmental hazards, and are used to hot summers and cold winters, dzuds put an additional strain on the lives of herders.

leaders were chosen as key informants due to their in-depth knowledge of their communities, as well as the resources and contacts in their possession and duties providing essential public services to the population. Kheseg leaders were asked to fill out the survey tool composed of seven parts – each outlined into separate sections in this report. Kheseg leaders filled in the data collection form on mobile devices after conducting observation within their respective regions checking new arrivals and departures and the registration status. Moreover, kheseg leaders were thoroughly trained on the survey tool prior to its implementation to ensure accurate and reliable data collection and entry.

After the data entry process, the DTM team conducted a series of quality assurance checks to identify any potential data entry errors, discrepancies or duplicates, and followed up with kheseg leaders for clarification. Data analysis was conducted at the kheseg level and then aggregated at the khoroo,⁴ district and city-wide levels. Notably, findings presented in this report at the district or city level are also available at the kheseg level.

LIMITATIONS

The adopted methodology relies on information provided by key informants and is intended to serve as one data source for triangulation with other available sources.

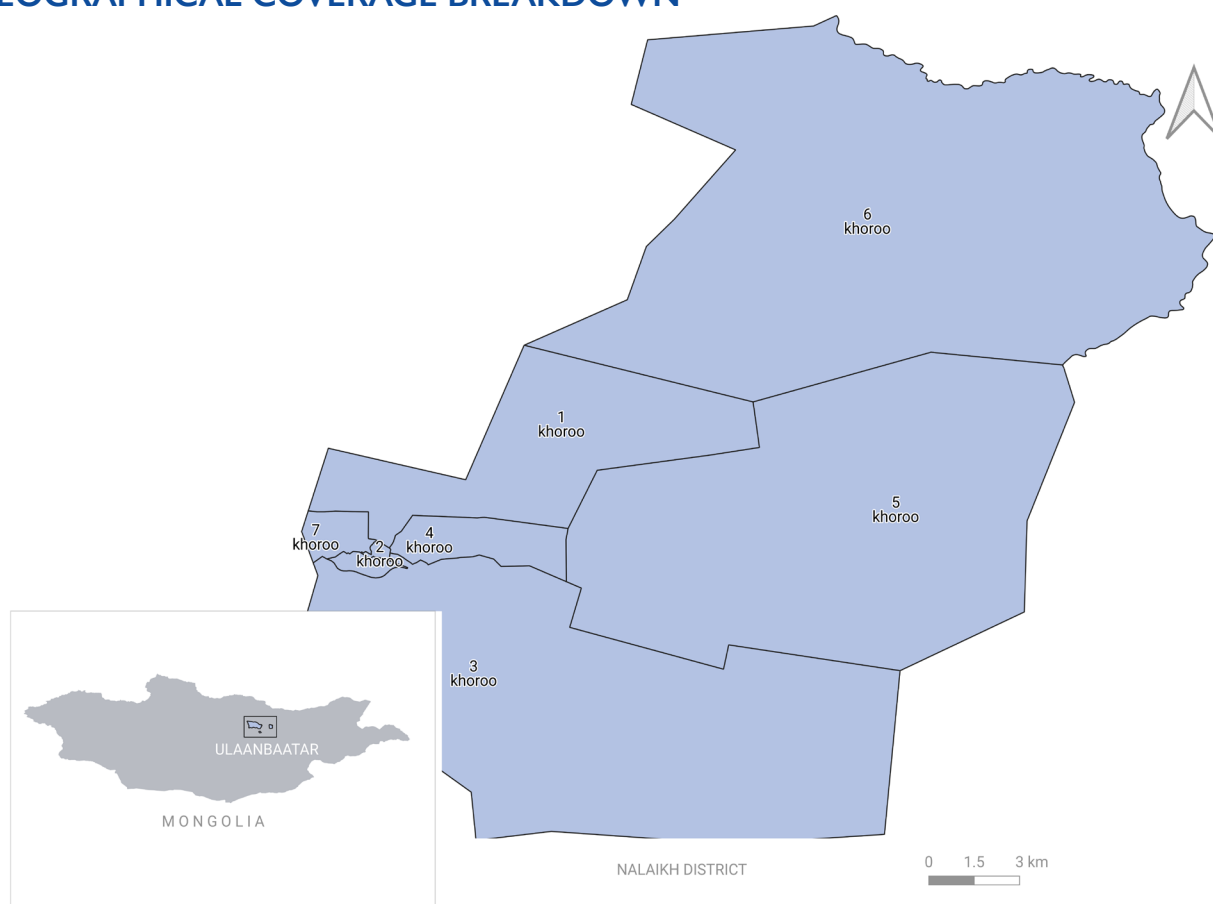
The data collected shows the estimates and perceptions of key informants, which are often subjective. Therefore, the data has limited external and internal validity since the reliability of the data will vary in line with a number of factors, including the size of the observational unit (i.e. the size and population of the kheseg) and the knowledge of the specific key informant, which might depend on the extent to which he or she is engaged with the community.

Additionally, the triangulation of results, which could otherwise serve as a useful counterbalance against biases, was limited by the usage of only one key informant per assessed location.

³ An aimag is a Mongolian province-level administrative subdivision.

⁴ A khoroo is an administrative subdivision of Ulaanbaatar.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE BREAKDOWN



Districts	Number of Khesegs	Total population (Inclusive of unregistered temporary residents)
Nalaikh	50	42,406
Total	50	42,406

DEFINITIONS

Baseline population figures: All residents of the location at the time of the assessment, irrespective of place of origin, document status, registration status, age, or any other socio-demographic characteristic.

Household: A group of individuals living under the same roof, sharing expenses and food.

Arrivals: Individuals who have arrived at a location (both registered and unregistered) with the intention of staying for at least four weeks, regardless of whether they arrived from another location within the same city or outside the city.

Departures: Individuals who have left a location and who do not intend to return for at least four weeks,

regardless of whether they left for another location within the same city or outside the city.

Key informant: An expert source of information, which in this case refers to the kheseq leaders.

Enumerator: An individual who collects data. In this assessment the data collection is completed by the key informant, therefore the two terms overlap.

Ger and apartment mix kheseq: Ger areas are the traditional Mongolian living arrangement where state heating and water are not provided. In ger areas, residents mostly use transported water and burn wood and coal for heating. In apartment areas, heating and water are provided by the state. Ger and apartment mix kheseqs are kheseqs where both living arrangements co-exist.

1. DATA ANALYSIS NALAIKH DISTRICT

1.1 POPULATION BASELINE AND DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW



11,551
Households



42,406
Individuals



51%
Adults



35%
Minors



1,348
Individuals with disability



529
Elderly individuals without caregivers



219
Pregnant women



717
Children separated from at least one parent

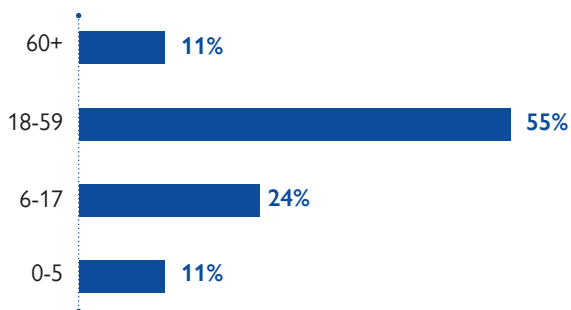


1,424
Single-parent households



1,706
Elderly-headed households

Graph 1. Population disaggregated by age groups (% of individuals)



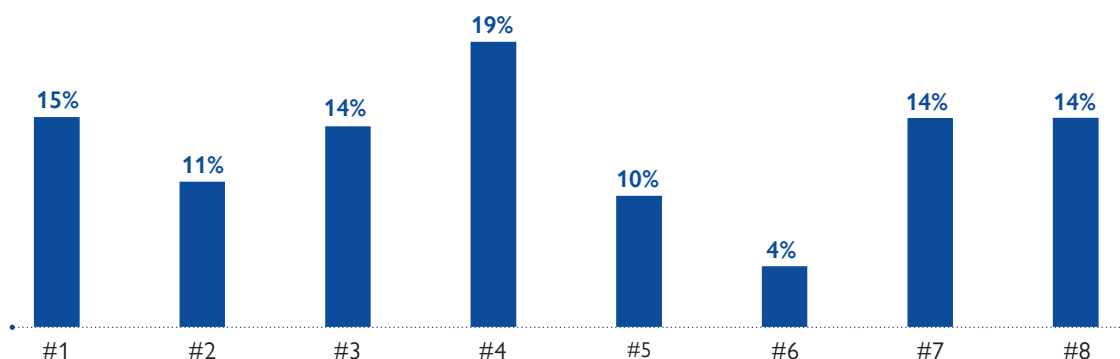
At the time of the assessment — between September 2022 and February 2023 — there were 42,406 individuals and 11,551 households living in Nalaikh district, accounting for three per cent of the total population in the city. Of all people, 51 per cent were women. A significant 35 per cent of the population registered as minors: 11 per cent aged 0–5 years, and 24 per cent aged 6–17 years. Adults aged 18–59 years accounted for 55 per cent of the population, whereas the elderly aged 60 years and above accounted for 11 per cent.

Overall, 1,348 individuals were reported with disability, accounting for three per cent of the district population. There were 219 women reported being pregnant (1% of the female population), 529 elderly reported having no caregivers (12% of all elderly aged 60 years and above), and 717 children reported being separated from their mother, father, or both (5% of children under 18 years old). Meanwhile, there were 1,424

single-parent and 1,706 elderly-headed households⁵ in this district, representing 12 and 15 per cent of all households, respectively.

Nalaiikh district has eight khorooos and 50 khesegs. Khoroo #4 was the most populated, hosting 19 per cent of the district population, followed by khoroo #1, hosting 15 per cent of the district population.

Graph 2. Population by khoroo (% of individuals)

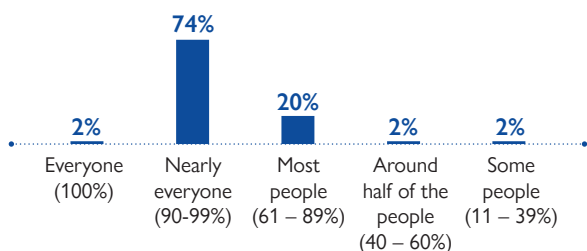


1.2 REGISTRATION

Overall, 76 per cent of khesegs in Nalaiikh district reported that almost all residents were registered (meaning a registration rate higher than 90%), including two per cent (1 khesegs) reported that all residents

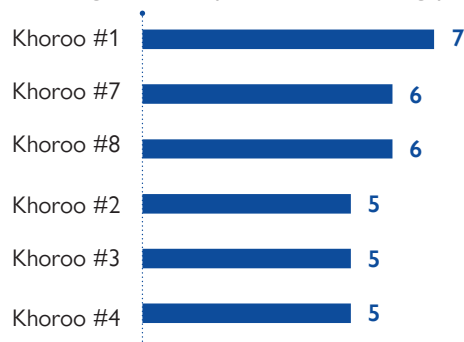
were registered. An additional 20 per cent of khesegs reported that most people (61–89% of residents) were registered, two per cent of khesegs reported around half of the people (40–60% of residents) were registered, and two per cent claimed less than 40 per cent of residents were registered.

Graph 3. Estimated registration (% of khesegs)



People considering themselves as temporary residents in the kheseg was the predominant reason for not registering in the district — as 30 per cent of all responses reported this as the driver for non-registration. This phenomenon was especially prevalent in khoroo #1 (as reported in 7 khesegs).

Figure 4. Top khorooos with more than 90% registration (number of khesegs)



Other important reasons for non-registration included residents considering registration irrelevant to their lives (20%), schooling and educational reasons (14%), and not enough information being provided on the importance of registration (9%).

⁵ Households which are headed by a person aged 60 and over.

Figure 5. Primary reasons for non-registration (% of responses)

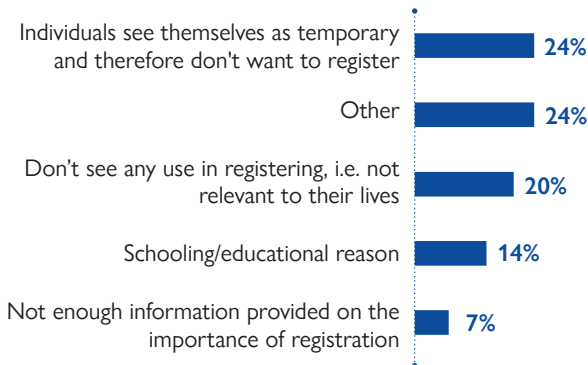
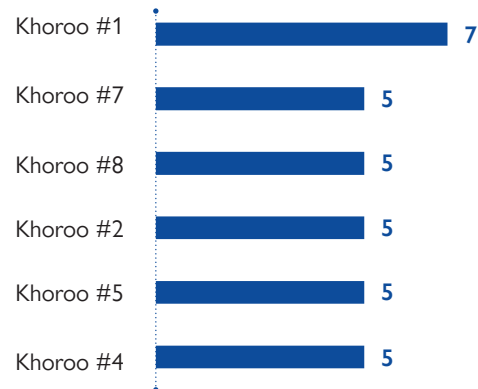


Figure 6. Primary reasons for non-registration (number of kheseqs)



1.3 ARRIVAL⁶

A total of 845 people arrived in Nalaikh district in the last six months prior to the interview, accounting for two per cent of all arrivals across the city. The highest share of arrivals was reported in khoroo #1 (accounting for 31% of all arrivals in the district). The majority (62%) of arrivals came from another khoroo/kheseq in the same district, 28 per cent from another district in Ulaanbaatar city, and 10 per cent from rural areas.

Among those who arrived from Ulaanbaatar area, 61 per cent came from ger kheseqs, 20 per cent from apartment kheseqs, and 19 per cent from ger and apartment mixed kheseqs.⁷ Among those who arrived from rural areas, 50 per cent were from soum center baghs, 25 per cent from aimag center baghs, and 25 per cent from rural baghs.⁸

Graph 7. Top khoroo of arrivals (% of total arrival)

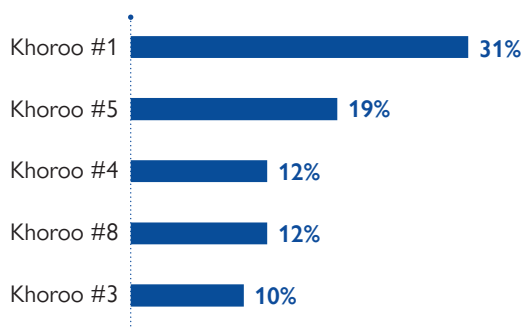
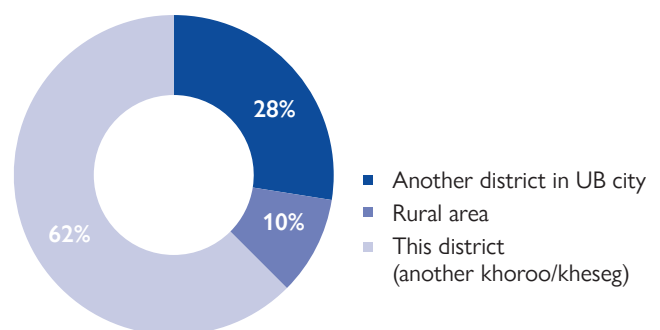


Chart 1. Arrivals coming from (% of total arrivals)



⁶ Arrivals refer to all individuals or households who arrived to a location in this district, regardless of whether they arrived from another location within or outside this district.
⁷ Ger areas are the traditional Mongolian living arrangement where state heating and water are not provided. In ger areas, residents mostly use transported water and burn wood and coal for heating. In apartment areas, heating and water are provided by the state. Ger and apartment mix kheseqs are kheseqs where both living arrangements co-exist.
⁸ Bagh is the smallest administrative unit in the rural provincial area of Mongolia. Aimag center bagh is the smallest administrative unit located in the center of aimag, while soum center bagh is the second smallest administrative unit in rural Mongolia.

Chart 2. Arrivals coming from (% of total arrivals from Ulaanbaatar area)

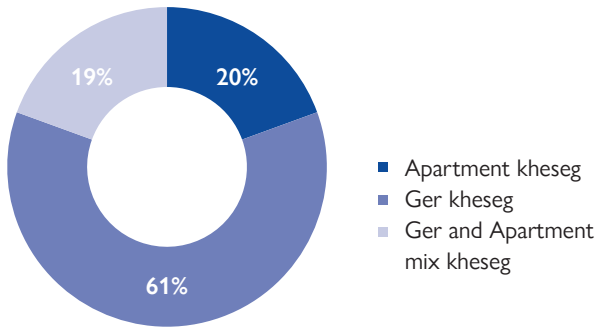
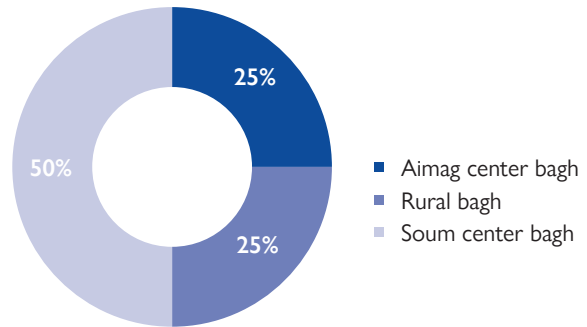


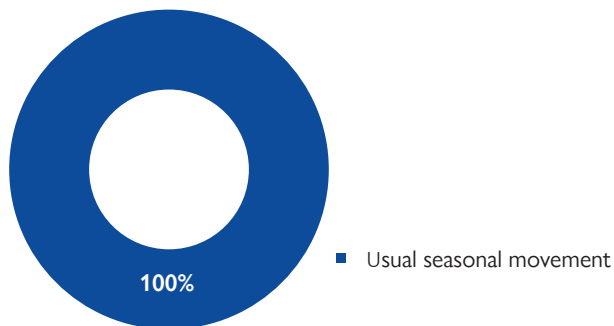
Chart 3. Arrivals coming from (% of total arrivals from rural areas)



There was one person who arrived in Nalaikh district for otor reasons.⁹ More specifically, the arrival of this

person was driven by usual seasonal movement. This arrival was reported in Khoroo #1.

Chart 4. Reasons for otor arrivals



Picture 1. Khoroo with otor arrivals



For the rest of the arrivals in Nalaikh district (non-otor arrivals), employment continued to be the predominant reason (as reported in 25% of all responses). Of all those who arrived for job opportunities, their employment was concentrated in education (41%), social work (17%), and construction sector (14%). Furthermore, education was the second most

important reason for arrivals, and was reported by 23 per cent of responses – a finding that is similar to the finding from the previous assessment. Meanwhile, health-related reasons have become more important factor for arrivals, accounting for 14 per cent of arrivals, compared to 4 percent previously.

Figure 8. Primary reasons for arrivals (Non otor arrivals)

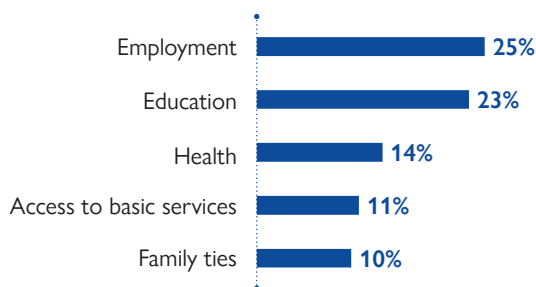
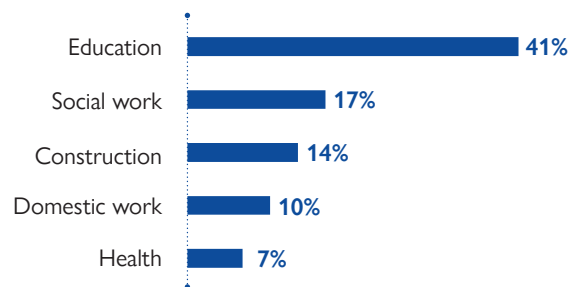


Figure 9. Main sectors of employment for those who arrived for employment reasons (% of responses)



⁹ Otor movement is a traditional mobility strategy developed by Mongolian herders when herders follow their livestock to different locations for better grazing land.

1.4 DEPARTURE¹⁰

A total of 565 people departed from Nalaikh in the last six months prior to the interview, accounted for two per cent of all departures in Ulaanbaatar. The highest share of departure was reported in khoroo #1 (22% of all departures in the district). More than half (52%) of the people departed for another district in Ulaanbaatar

Figure 10. Top khoroods of departures
(% of total departed)

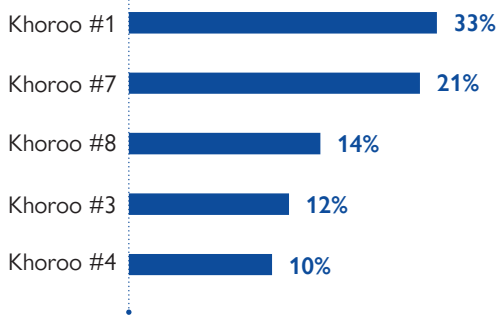
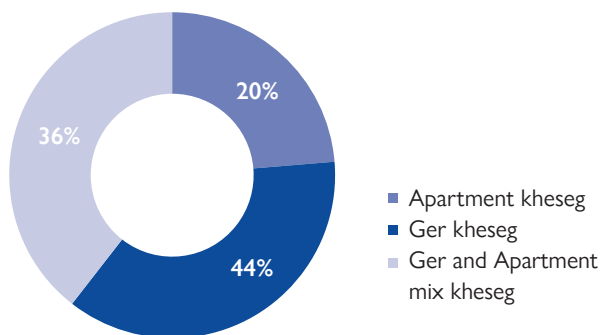


Chart 6. Departed for
(% of total departures to Ulaanbaatar area)



Employment became to be the most important reason for departures, as reported by 2 per cent of responses. Education, which was the predominant driver for departures during the previous assessment, accounted for 21 per cent of departures (a decrease from 26%). Other major reasons included housing, land and property issues (18%), health-related reasons (16%), and family ties (7%), and these findings are comparable to findings from the previous assessment.

city, 45 per cent to another khoroo/kheseg in the same district, and three per cent to rural areas.

Among those who departed for Ulaanbaatar areas, 44 per cent left for ger and apartment mix khesegs, 36 per cent to ger khesegs, and 20 per cent to apartment khesegs. Meanwhile, among those who departed for rural areas, all of them left for soum center baghs.

Chart 5. Departed for (% of total departures)

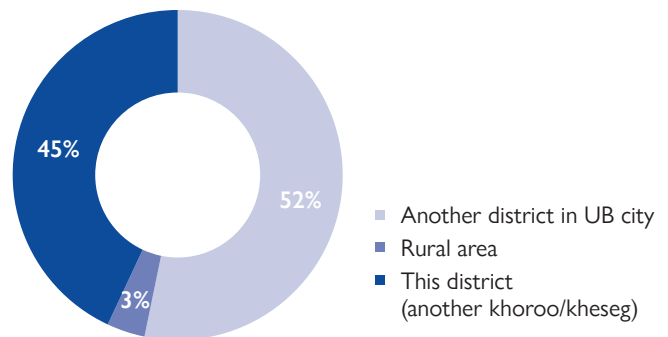


Chart 7. Departed for
(% of total departures to rural areas)

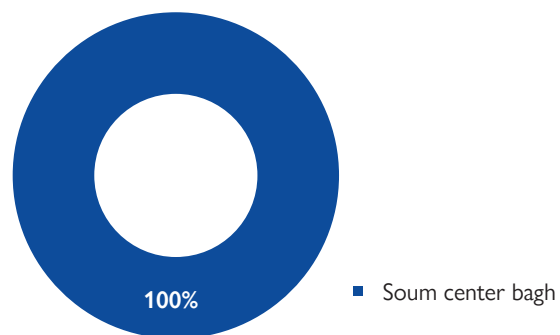
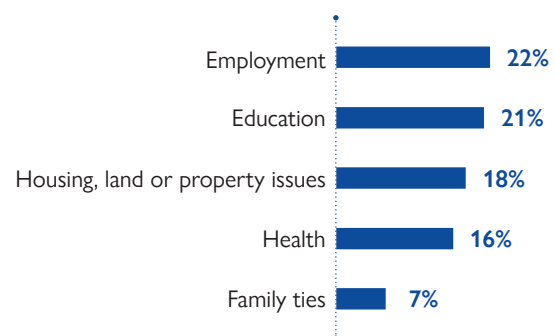


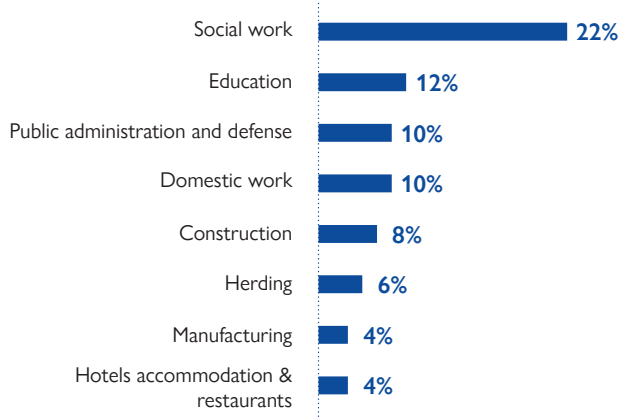
Figure 11. Primary reasons for departure
(% of responses)



¹⁰ Departures refer to all individuals or households who left a location in Ulaanbaatar city, regardless of whether they left to another location within or outside this district. The number of departures was computed based on the estimate of kheseg leaders who were aware of such information. As such this number is likely underestimated as some of responses could not provide an estimated number of departures in their khesegs

1.5 EMPLOYMENT

Figure 12. Primary sector of employment (% of kheseqs),



Social work was the predominant sector of employment in Nalaikh district – as reported by 34 per cent of responses. The sharp increase (from previously 6%) of social work was driven by the data collection duration increasing from 3 months to 6 months. Education sector became increasingly more important, dominating in 12 per cent of kheseqs, compared to 8 per cent from the previous assessment. By contrast, the construction sector only dominated in eight per cent of kheseqs according to the current assessment, a sharp decrease from 16 per cent in the previous assessment.

1.6 FINANCIAL SITUATION

In Nalaikh district, employment was the most important source of income, dominating in 89 per cent of kheseqs. Additionally, six per cent of kheseqs reported cash or other forms of aid from NGOs or government as the predominant source of income, and four per cent reported loans from banks and other money lenders as the main source of income.

Significant food consumption reduction had been reported in 50 per cent of kheseqs in the last six months (decreased from 66% in the previous assessment). In three kheseqs (or 6% of kheseqs), food consumption reduction was frequently reported, impacting nearly 3,000 people (6% of the district population). Khoroo #4 was most affected with two kheseqs reporting frequent significant food consumption reduction.

Figure 13. Primary source of income (% of kheseqs)

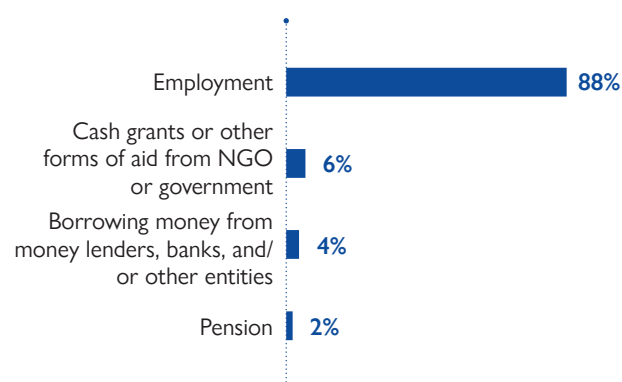


Figure 14. Reduced food consumption (% of kheseqs)

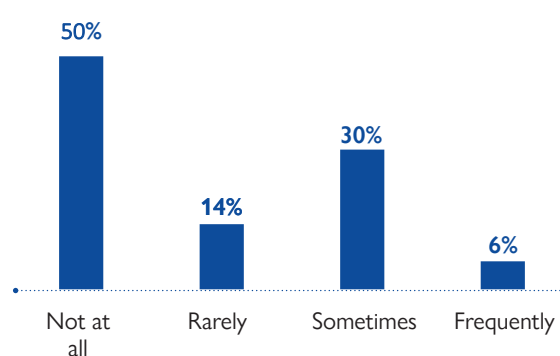


Table 1. Top khoros with frequent food consumption reduction

Overall	Khoroo #4	Khoroo #5
3 kheseqs	2 kheseqs	1 kheseq

1.7 MOBILITY-RELATED CHALLENGES

More than half (64%) of the kheseqs in Nalaikh district reported that they have at least one type of mobility-related challenges. The limited access to educational services remained to be the most pressing challenge (as 23% of responses reported such challenge), affecting more than 10,000 people (25% of the district population). Meanwhile, environmental pollution, air pollution, and strains on health services have become more severe. Respectively, these were reported by 21, 19, and 17 per cent of responses, compared to 15, 9 and 9 per cent, respectively, in the previous assessment.

Chart 8. Kheseqs reported mobility-related challenges (% of kheseqs)

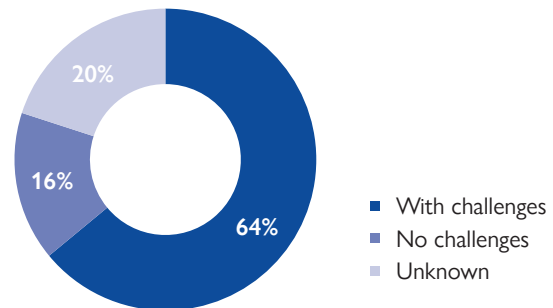


Figure 15. Mobility-related challenges (% of responses)

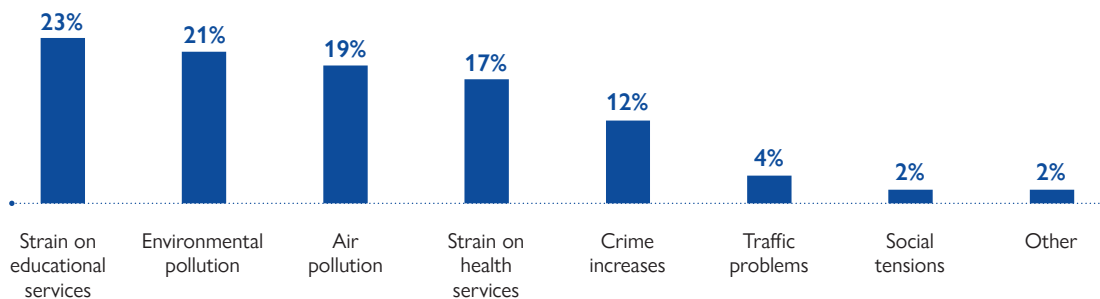


Table 2. Top khoros reported strains on educational services

Overall	Khoroo #1	Khoroo #7
12 kheseqs	4 kheseqs	3 kheseqs
Khoroo #5	Khoroo #8	Khoroo #3
2 kheseqs	2 kheseqs	1 kheseq

Of all kheseqs that reported mobility-related challenges, 94 per cent confirmed that their administrative unit had taken actions to tackle those challenges, while six per cent claimed there was no action taken. Apart from measures which were currently taken by the

administration, the majority (85%) of key informants believed that creating favorable legal environment for the migration registration should be considered by authorities, followed by improving the control of traffic to and from the centralized areas (6%).

Chart 9. Actions taken by administrative unit (% of kheseqs)

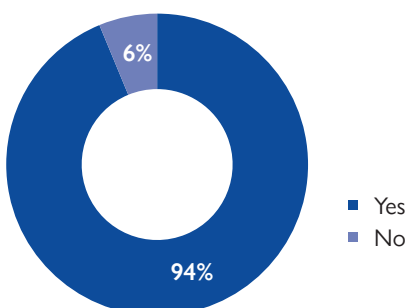
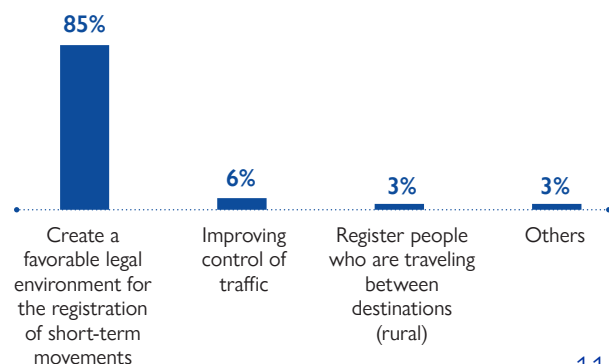


Figure 16. Other measures to address mobility related challenges (% responses)



1.8 SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

In Nalaikh district, people had the most difficulties accessing income generating opportunities, as reported by 22 per cent of responses, followed by the lack

of access to healthcare (15%) — these findings were comparable to the previous assessment.

Figure 17. Services that people have difficulties accessing (% of responses)

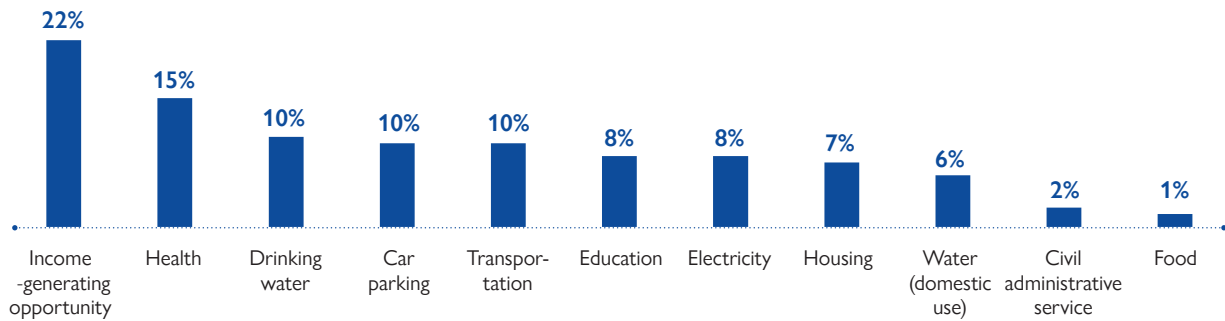


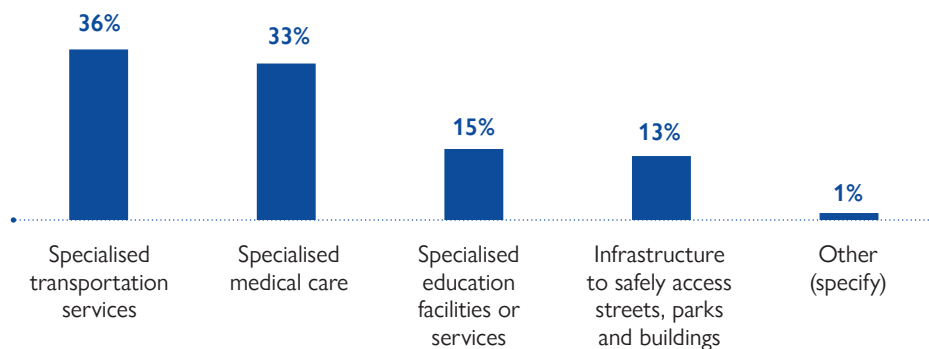
Table 3. Top khoros reported difficulties to access income-generating opportunities

Overall 29 kheseags	Khoroo #1 6 kheseags	Khoroo #7 5 kheseags	Khoroo #3 5 kheseags
Khoroo #8 4 kheseags	Khoroo #2 3 kheseags	Khoroo #6 3 kheseags	

For people living with disability, the primary challenges were found to be the lack of specialized transportation services — as reported by 36 per cent of all responses,

followed by the lack of specialized medical care (33%) and the lack of specialized educational facilities and services (15%).

Figure 18. Challenges for people living with disability (% of responses)



CONCLUSION



The key findings of the current assessment are corroborative of the previous findings, especially with regards to migration trends and socioeconomic challenges in Nalaikh district. The lack of access to income-generating opportunities is a key challenge which has reported in current assessment, as well as the previous assessment. This challenge has significant negative impacts on food security – a finding

that is reflected by the data, despite a decreasing trend, significant food consumption reduction was reported in half of the khesegs in the district, and the majority of those khesegs also reported the challenges to accessing income-generating opportunities. Further investigation is required in order to understand the barriers which prevent people from accessing income-generating opportunities.



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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). The report was designed by Yamei Du, with support from National consultant Gereltogtokh Ganbat. Survey questions and designs were designed with key inputs from DTM team and Municipality of Ulaanbaatar. 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.

