

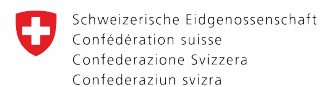


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BAYANGOL DISTRICT

Rapid Assessment on Population, Migration and Needs

September 2022 to February 2023 (Third Phase Data Collection)



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

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INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

This district-level report provides an overview of key thematic areas covered by the Bayangol district rapid assessment on population, migration and needs between September 2022-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 Bayangol 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 kheseq 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 Bayangol district, this study aims to bridge the gap in up-to-date data collection and analysis to inform policies and actions on internal migration.

¹ Kheseq is the smallest administrative unit in Ulaanbaatar. A kheseq leader usually refer to the governance of a kheseq.

² Dzuds are extreme winters characterised 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.

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

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This report utilizes the IOM DTM Mobility Tracking methodology adapted for the Mongolian context. Information is collected at the kheseq level - the smallest administrative unit in Bayangol district through key informant interviews with kheseq leaders. Kheseq 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. Kheseq leaders were asked to fill out the survey tool composed of seven parts - each outlined into separate sections in this report. Kheseq leaders filled in the data collection form on mobile devices after conducting observation within their respective regions checking new arrivals, departures and the registration status. Moreover, kheseq 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 kheseq leaders for clarification. Data analysis was conducted at the kheseq 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 kheseq 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

⁴ A khoroo is an administrative subdivision of Ulaanbaatar.



(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.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE BREAKDOWN

Picture 1. Bayangol district map with khoroo divisions

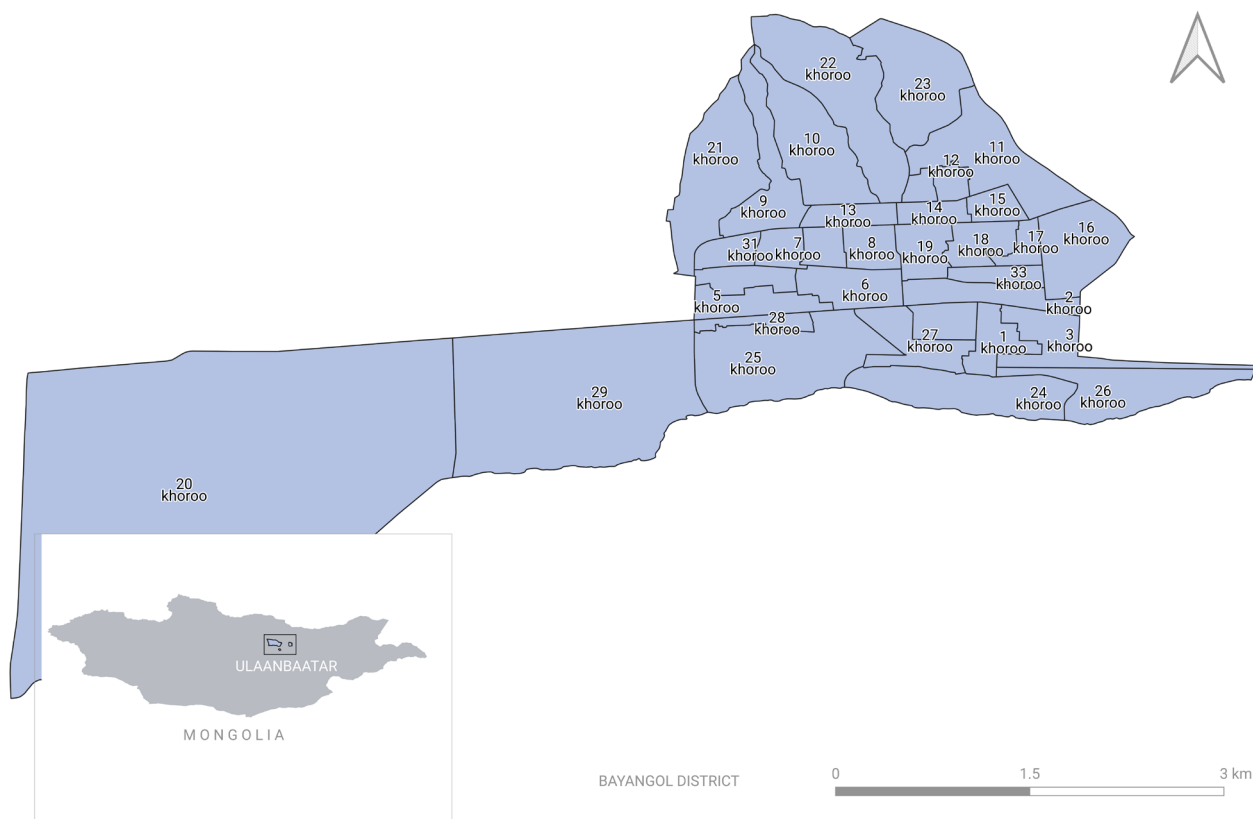


Table 1. Bayangol district population

Districts	Number of Khesegs	Total population (Inclusive of unregistered temporary residents)
Bayangol	268	259,931
Total	268	259,931

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.

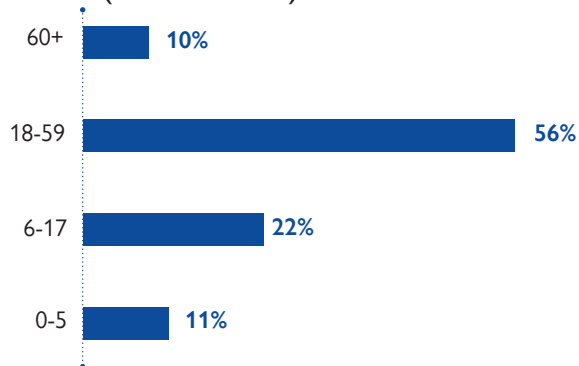
Ger and apartment mix kheseq: Ger areas are the traditional Mongolian living arrangement where state heating and water are not provided. In ger areas, residents mostly use transported water and burn wood and coal for heating. In apartment areas, heating and water are provided by the state. Ger and apartment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

1. DATA ANALYSIS BAYANGOL

1.1 POPULATION BASELINE AND DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW



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



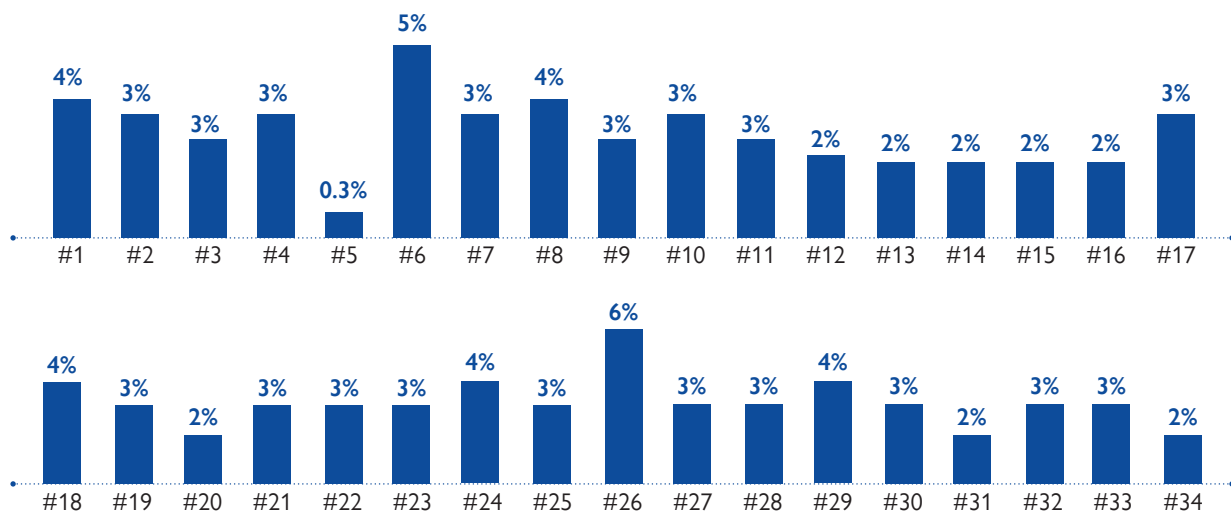
At the time of the assessment — between September 2022 — February 2023 — there were 259,931 individuals and 72,527 households living in Bayangol district, accounting for 16 per cent of the total population in the city. Of all people, 54 per cent were women. A significant 33 per cent of the population registered as minors: 11 per cent aged 0-5 years, and 22 per cent aged 6-17 years. Adults aged 18-59 years accounted for 56 per cent of the population, whereas the elderly aged 60 years and above accounted for 10 per cent.

Overall, 4,113 individuals were reported with disability, accounting for two per cent of the district population. There were 2,424 women reported being pregnant (2% of the female population), 2,106 elderly reported having no caregivers (8% of all elderly aged 60 years and above), and 1,745 children reported being separated from their mother, father, or both (2% of children under 18 years old). Meanwhile, there were 3,103 single-parent and 7,697 elderly-headed households⁵ in

this district, representing four and 11 per cent of all households, respectively.

Bayangol district has 34 khoroos and 268 khesegs. Khoroo #26 were the most populated, hosting six per cent of the district population, followed by khoroo #6, hosting five per cent of the district population.

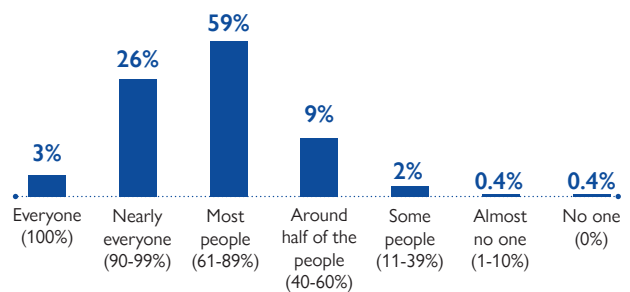
Figure 2. Population by khoroo (% of individuals)



1.2 REGISTRATION

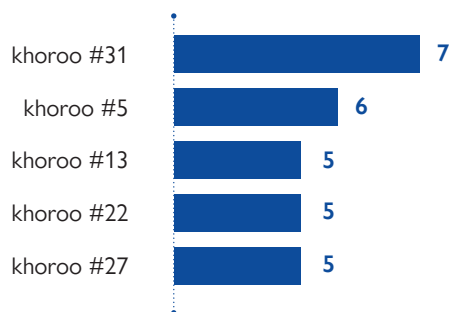
Overall, 30 per cent of khesegs in the district reported that almost all residents were registered (meaning a registration rate higher than 90%), including three per cent (9 khesegs) which reported that all residents were registered. An additional 59 per cent of khesegs reported that most people (61–89% of residents) were registered, nine per cent of khesegs reported around half of the people (40–60% of residents) were registered, and three per cent claimed less than 40 per cent of residents were registered.

Figure 3. Estimated registration (% of khesegs)



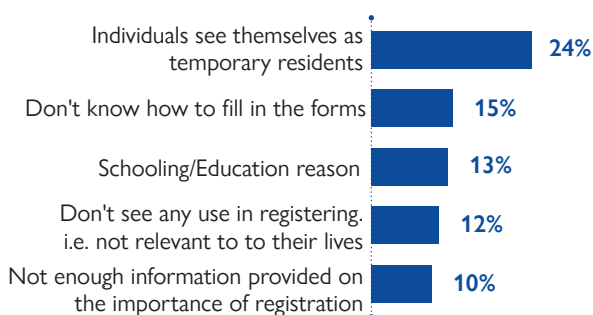
⁵ Households which are headed by a person aged 60 and over.

Figure 4. Top khoroods with more than 90% registration (number of kheseags)



People considering themselves as temporary residents in the kheseeg was the predominant reason for not registering in the district — as 24 per cent of all responses reported this as the driver for non-registration. This phenomenon was especially prevalent in khoroo #1 (as reported in 12 kheseags), followed by khoroo #23 and #26 (each reported in 9 kheseags).

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



1.3 ARRIVAL⁶

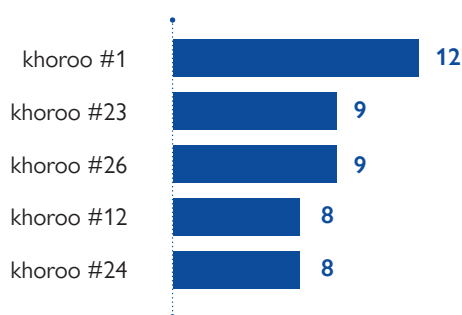
Among those who arrived from Ulaanbaatar area, 71 per cent were from apartment kheseags, 16 per cent from ger kheseags, and 13 per cent from ger⁷ and apartment mixed kheseags. Among those who arrived

Table 2. Khoroods with less than 10% registration (number of kheseags)

Khoroo #8
2 kheseags

Other important reasons for non-registration included not knowing how to fill in the form (15%), schooling and educational reasons (13%), residents considering registration was irrelevant to their lives (12%), and not enough information being provided on the importance of the registration (10%).

Figure 6. Top 5 khoroods for non-registration because people consider themselves as temporary residence (number of kheseags)



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 kheseags are kheseags 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.

Figure 7. Top 5 khorooos of arrivals (% of total arrival)

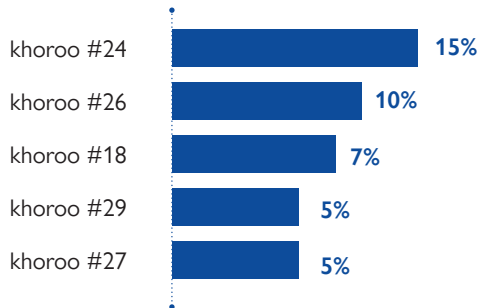


Chart 1. Arrivals coming from (% of total arrivals)

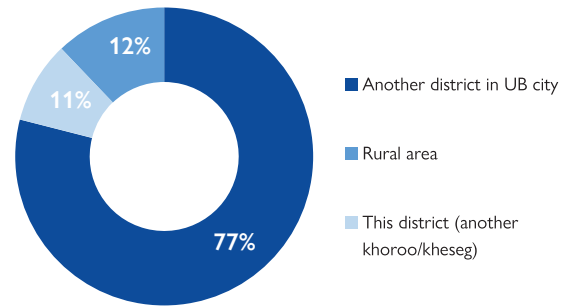


Chart 2. Arrivals coming from (% of total arrivals from Ulaanbaatar area)

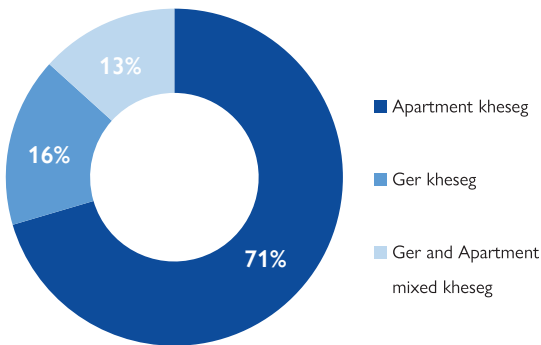
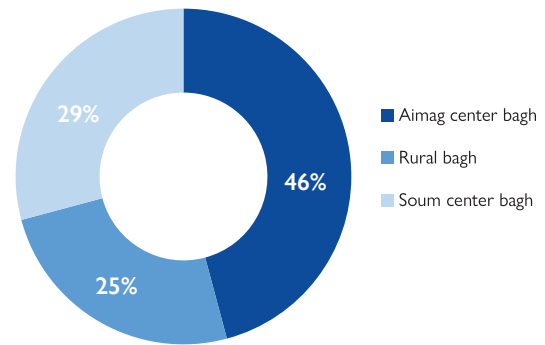


Chart 3. Arrivals coming from (% of total arrivals from rural areas)



Between September 2022 and February 2023, only 37 individuals arrived in Bayangol district for otor reasons.⁹

These otor arrivals were reported in three khorooos, and khoroo #28 received the majority of them (81%). The primary cause for the otor arrivals

was the search for better grazing land in the destination land – as reported in 43 per cent of khesegs which received otor arrivals.

Chart 4. Reasons for otor arrivals

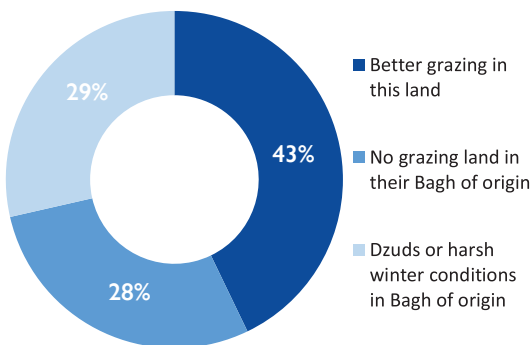
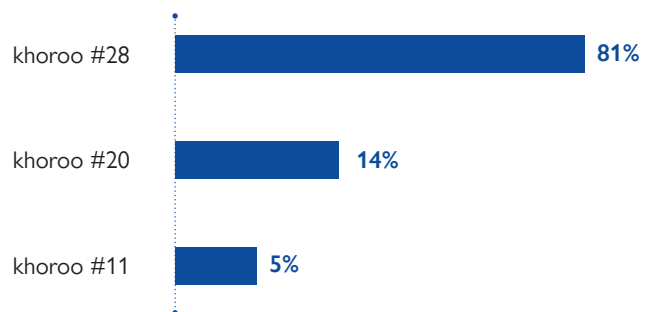


Figure 8. Khorooos with otor arrivals (% of all otor arrivals in the district)



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

For the rest of arrivals in Bayangol district (non-otor arrivals), education continued to be the predominant reason (as reported in 22% of all responses) — a finding that is similar to the phase two findings. Housing, land and property issues was the second major reason for arrivals in the district (19%), followed by employment reasons (18%). For people who arrived in Bayangol for

job opportunities, their employment was concentrated in wholesale and retail (19%), social work (18%), and construction sectors (17%). Moreover, there has been increasing trend of people arriving in Bayangol district for access to basic services — the share of such arrivals increased from 11% previously to 16%.

Figure 9. Primary reasons for arrival (non-otor reasons)

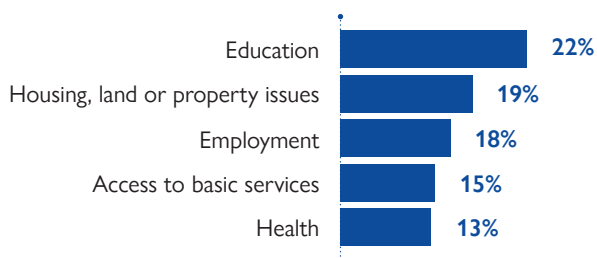


Figure 10. Main sectors of employment for those who arrived for employment reasons (% of responses)



1.4 DEPARTURE¹⁰

A total of 3,701 people departed from Bayangol in the last six months prior to the interview, accounting for 15 per cent of all departures in Ulaanbaatar. The highest share of departures was reported in khoroo #18 (10% of all departures in the district). Most people (83%) departed for another district in Ulaanbaatar city, 13 per cent for another khoroo/kheseg in the same district, and the remaining four per cent for rural areas.

Among those who departed for Ulaanbaatar areas, 77 per cent left for apartment khesegs, 14 per cent to ger and apartment mix khesegs, and nine per cent for ger khesegs. Meanwhile, among those who departed for rural areas, the majority (63%) left for aimag center baghs, and the rest 37 per cent to rural baghs.

Figure 11. Top khoroo of departures (% of total departed)

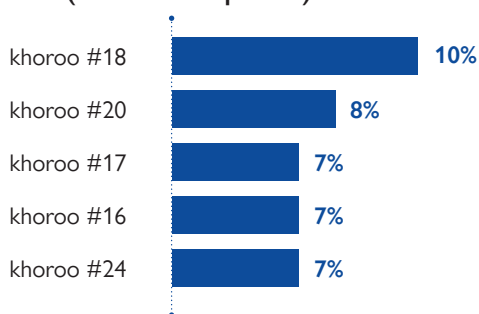
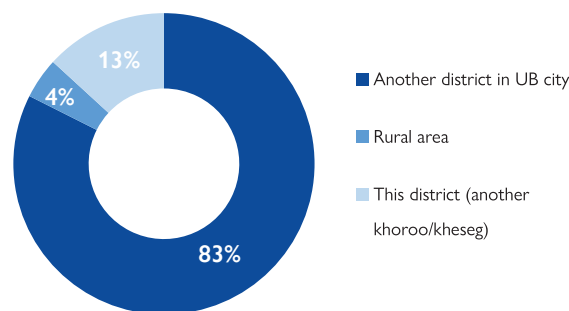


Chart 5. Departed for (% of total departures)



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

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

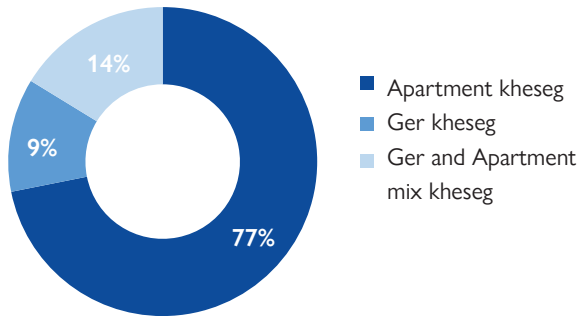
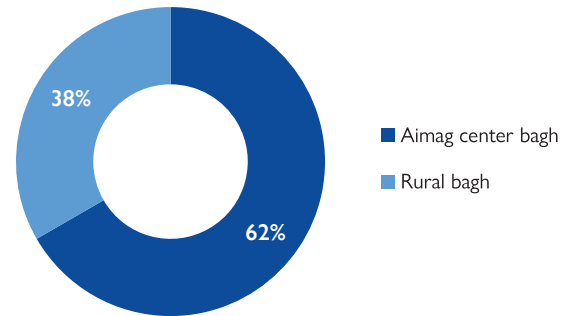
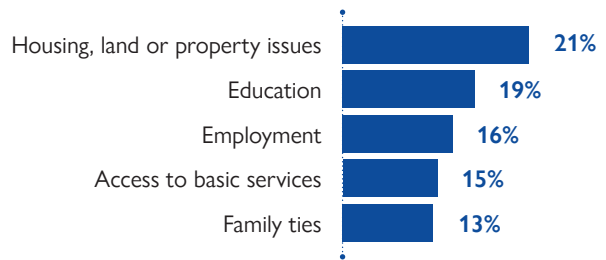


Chart 7. Departed for
(% of total departures to rural areas)



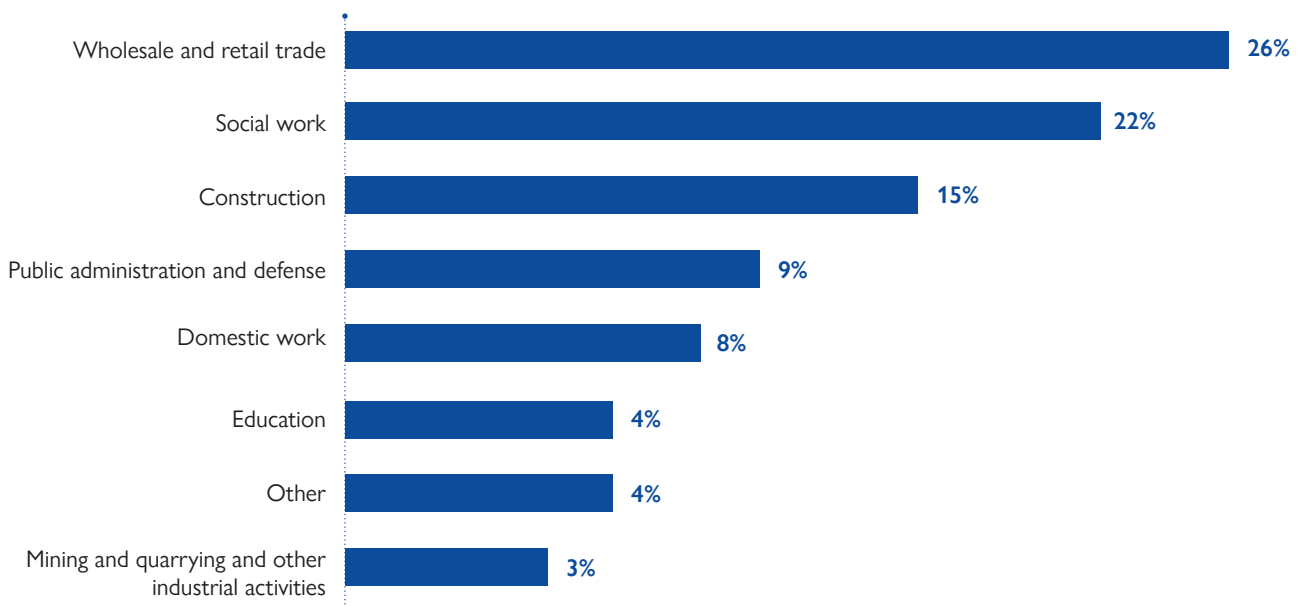
Housing, land and property issues was the predominant reason for departures in Bayangol district (as reported by 21% of responses), followed by education-related reasons (19%), employment (16%), access to basic services (15%), and family ties (13%). These reasons were also reported as the key drivers for departures in the previous assessment.

Figure 12. Primary reasons for departure
(% of responses)



1.5 EMPLOYMENT

Figure 13. Primary sector of employment (% of khesegs)



Overall, the dynamic of employment sectors was similar to previous findings. The wholesale and trade sector continued to be the predominant sector of employment in Bayangol district (as reported in 26% of

khesegs). Social work, however, has become the second largest sector in the districted, accounting for 22 per cent of the kheseg.

1.6 FINANCIAL SITUATION

In Bayangol district, employment was the most important source of income, dominating in 88 per cent of khesegs. Additionally, six per cent of khesegs reported pensions as the predominant source of income, and three per cent reported rent received from housing or land as the main source of income.

Significant food consumption reduction had been reported in 58 per cent of khesegs in the last six months

(a slight decrease from 60% in the previous assessment). In 15 khesegs (or 6% of khesegs), food consumption reduction was frequently reported, impacting more than 18,000 people (7% of the district population). Khoroo #8, #27 and #34 were the most affected — each reported three khesegs with frequent significant food consumption reduction, followed by khoros #26 and #19 (2 khesegs).

Figure 14. Primary source of income (% of khesegs)

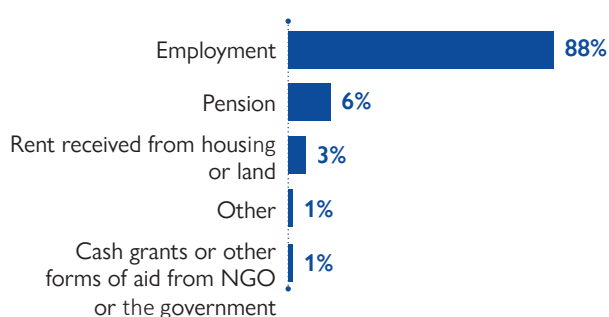


Figure 15. Reduced food consumption (% of khesegs)

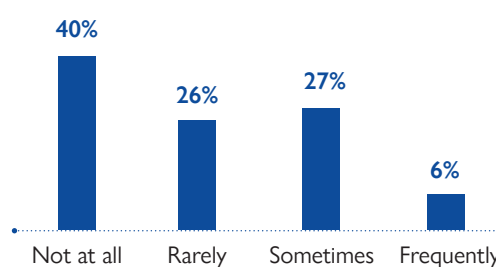


Table 3. Top khoros with frequent food consumption reduction

Overall	Khoroo #8	Khoroo #27
13 khesegs	3 khesegs	3 khesegs
Khoroo #34	Khoroo #26	Khoroo #19
3 khesegs	2 khesegs	2 khesegs

1.7 MOBILITY-RELATED CHALLENGES

More than three-quarters (78%) of khesegs in Bayangol district reported that they have at least one type of mobility-related challenges. The limited access to educational services remained the most pressing challenge (as 25% of responses reported such a challenge), affecting more than 71,000 people (27% of the district population). The strain on health services was reported by 22 per cent of responses, affecting nearly 61,000 people (23% of the district population). Traffic problems and environmental pollution continued to be two other major mobility-related challenges — each was reported by 15 per cent of total responses.

Chart 8. Khesegs reporting mobility-related challenges (% of khesegs)

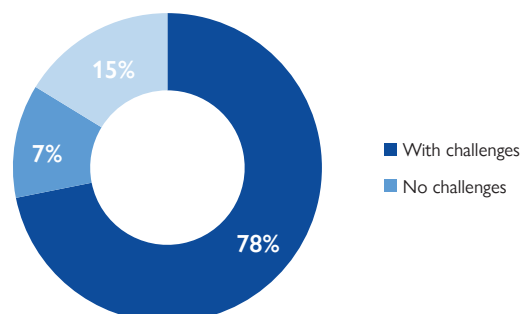


Figure 16. Mobility-related challenges (% of responses)

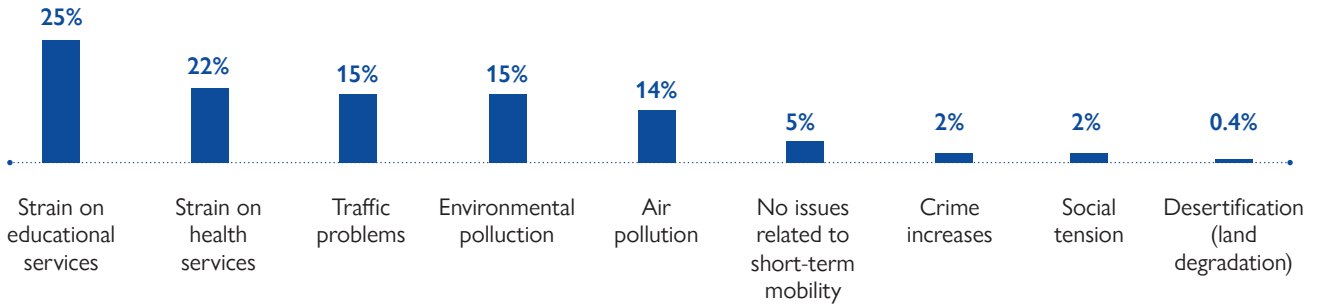


Table 4. Top khoros reported strains on educational services

Overall	Khoroo #24	Khoroo #4
34 khesegs	9 khesegs	5 khesegs
Khoroo #13	Khoroo #17	Khoroo #29
5 khesegs	5 khesegs	5 khesegs
		Khoroo #31
		5 khesegs

Of all khesegs that reported mobility-related challenges, 78 per cent confirmed that their administrative unit had taken actions to tackle those challenges, while 22 per cent claimed there was no action taken. Apart from measures which were currently taken by the administration, more than

half (58%) of key informants believed that creating a favorable legal environment for migration registration should be considered by authorities, followed by improving the control of traffic to and from the centralized areas (24%).

Chart 9. Actions taken by administrative (% of khesegs)

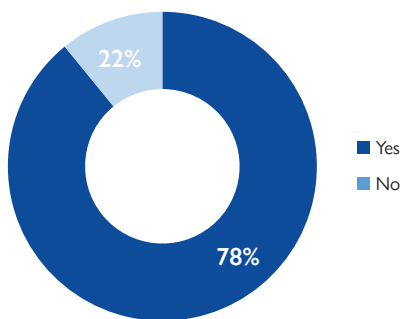
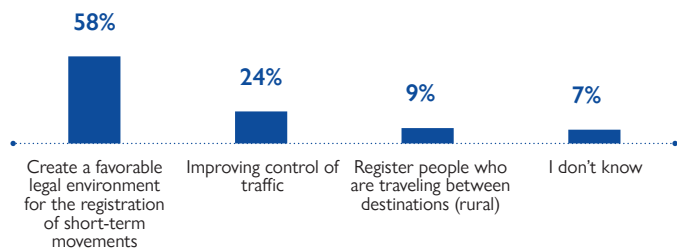


Figure 17. Other measures to address mobility-related challenges (% responses)



1.8 SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

In Bayangol district, car parking was the top one facility that people had the most difficulties in accessing to (as reported by 21% of responses). Furthermore, 19 per cent

of responses reported lack of access to income-generating opportunities, followed by strains on healthcare (18%) and educational services (16%).

Figure 18. Services that people have difficulties accessing (% of responses)

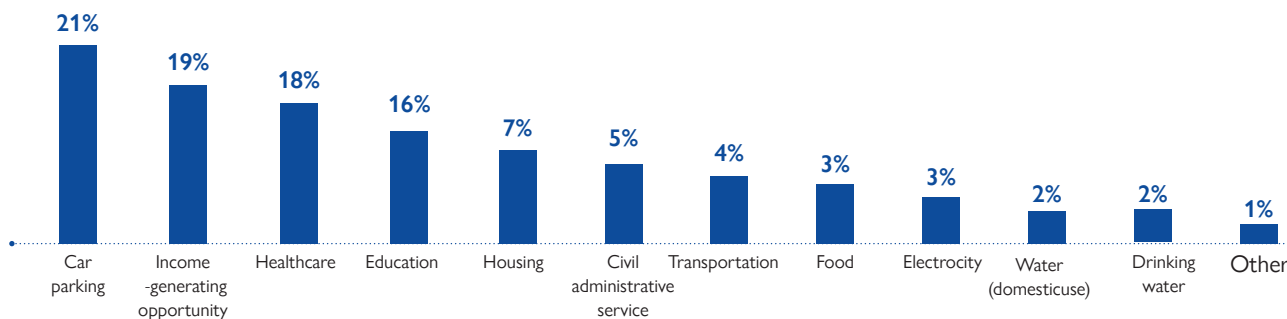


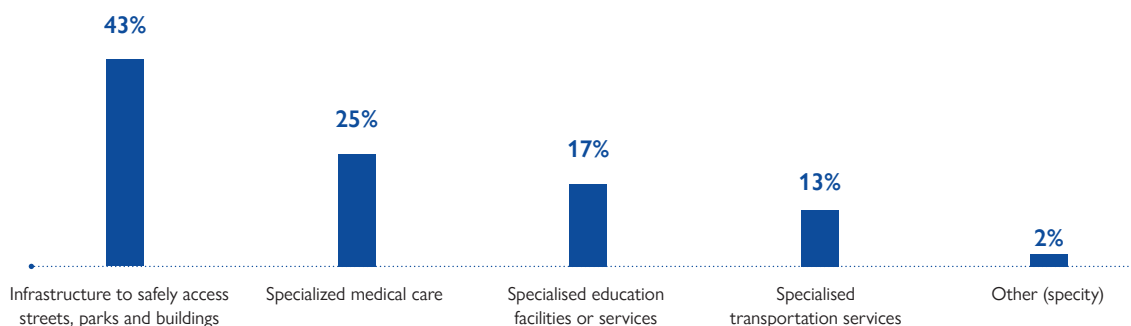
Table 5. Top khoros reporting difficulties in accessing income-generating opportunities

Overall 33 khesegs		Khoroo #22 10 khesegs	
Khoroo #11 8 khesegs	Khoroo #1 8 khesegs	Khoroo #21 7 khesegs	

For people living with disability, the primary challenges were found to be the lack of infrastructure to safely access public areas — as reported by 43 per cent of

all responses, followed by the lack of specialized medical care (25%) and the lack of specialized education facilities (17%).

Figure 19. Challenges for people living with disability (% of responses)



CONCLUSION



The key findings of the current assessment are corroborative to the previous findings, especially with regards to migration trends and socioeconomic challenges in Bayangol district. The limited access to educational services and facilities were among the most important challenges in this district, yet education-related reasons were the predominant reason for people moving in and out of the district. The underlying connections between the limited resources for education and its impacts on migration trends and challenges are worth further investigation.

The lack of access to income-generating opportunities is another key challenge which has been reported in

the 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 58 per cent of kheseqs in the district, and the majority of those kheseqs also reported challenges to accessing income-generating opportunities.

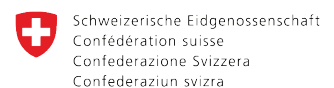


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This report is part of the outputs under the initiative “Understanding and managing internal migration in Mongolia”, which is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and implemented by IOM. The objective of this project is to strengthen 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.



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC