International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

DTM

MOBILITY MONITORING FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IN MONGOLIA

BASELINE ASSESSMENT REPORT: UMNUGOBI AIMAG

Round 2 2018

IOM Development Fund
DEVELOPING CAPACITIES IN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

Photo: Yondonjamts Nyamdavaa

UMNUGOBI AIMAG BASELINE ASSESSMENT

April - June 2018

INTRODUCTION

Short and long term internal migration has a long-standing tradition in Mongolia. However, data on short term movements (< 3 months) is not systematically collected. In addition, recent trends indicate that rural to urban migration, particularly towards Ulaanbaatar, has been fostered by a number of factors principally related to better employment opportunities, healthcare, education and climate change[1].

Mongolia's unique geographical location, as well as the rural population's dependence on animal husbandry, make the country particularly vulnerable to environmental changes and severe weather events. The increasing trend of rural to urban migration in Mongolia has been linked to factors resulting from climate change, such as declining livelihood opportunities in rural areas that have been amplified by increasing incidences of severe droughts and winter storms (*dzuds*[2]).

If the trends continue, the increasing incidences of disasters will drive higher rates of rural to urban migration into Ulaanbaatar where government officials are already facing significant challenges to accommodate new arrivals. In order to prepare for coming disasters and respond accordingly, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) will need to have precise information on population mobility and the number of people at different sites.

In response to the increased occurrence of severe weather events in the country, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) began implementing its Mobility Monitoring for Disaster Preparedness in Mongolia through the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) with the objective to support the Government of Mongolia in establishing a comprehensive system to collect data on displacement caused by climate change and in the event of a natural disaster in the country. DTM will also provide a unique set of data, as for the first time information on short term movements will be collected and analyzed.

METHODOLOGY

The data collection tools and strategy implemented by NEMA are based on the DTM global methodology and have been adapted to the context and the displacement patterns in the country. The information collected will contribute to the creation of a comprehensive profile of the population in Mongolia.

For this baseline assessment, IOM distinguishes between two types of populations: residents (any person living at the given location/site) and mobile population (individuals who moved in/out of the soum within 1-3 months).

NEMA and IOM define population mobility as the movement of people from one place to another, temporarily, seasonally or permanently for either voluntary or involuntary reasons. It describes the full range of mobility from short term movement (e.g. herders) to longer term or permanent relocation.

The location assessment was conducted at the secondary subdivision of the administrative level (soum) outside of Ulaanbaatar. Information was collected through interviews with key informants, identified by NEMA, in consultation with IOM. The collected data includes basic information about the residents and the displaced population (number of individuals, time of arrival, origin, reason for mobility, etc.).

While the assessment was be carried out in all 330 soums across the country (except in Ulaanbaatar city), this report presents analysis of just the population movements of the Umnugobi aimag.

1 National University of Mongolia (NUM), United Nations University – Merit, and International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2018). Understanding and Managing Internal Migration in Mongolia.

2 A dzud is a cyclical, slow onset disaster unique to Mongolia. It consists of a summer drought followed by a deterioration of the weather conditions in winter and spring during which the shortage of pasture and water leads to the large-scale death of livestock.

Photo: Yondonjamts Nyamdavaa

OVERVIEW

Umnugobi is an aimag (province) of Mongolia, located in the South of the country, in the Gobi Desert. Umnugobi is Mongolia's largest aimag. The capital is Dalanzadgad, and the total area is 165,380 km2. At the administrative level the aimag is further divided into 15 soums. The aimag is rich in mineral deposits, including gold, copper and coal. Agriculture is of minor importance. Oyu Tolgoi, the largest copper mine, is located in the Khanbogd soum, and Tavan Tolgoi, a coal mining site, is in the Tsogttsetsii soum.

KEY FINDINGS

In total, 967 individuals left Umnugobi between April and June 2018.

Half of all individuals who left Umnugobi moved from three soums: Dalanzadgad, Tsogttsetsii and Tsogt-Ovoo.

The number of individuals leaving Umnugobi increased steadily from April to June. In April, 27 per cent of all individuals left, while in June the percentage increased to 38 per cent.

In total, 35 per cent of all the individuals who left went to the Tsogttsetsii or Khanbogd soums.

The Tsogttsetsii and Khanbogd soums, located in the Gobi desert, are historical mining areas in the Umnugobi aimag that have increased operations substantially.

Oyu Tolgoi, the biggest copper mine is located in the Khanbogd soum, and Tavan Tolgoi, a coal mining site, is in the Tsogttsetsii soum. These mines have become some of the biggest mining operations in the world. The findings suggest that these mines could be pull factors for population movements from Umnugobi, with temporary job-seekers flowing towards the mines.

INTRODUCTION

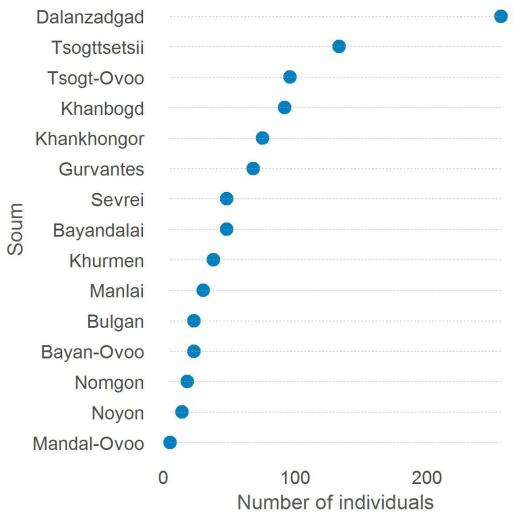
A total number of 967 individuals left Umnugobi between April and June 2018.

Half of all individuals who left Umnugobi moved from three soums: Dalanzadgad, Tsogttsetsii and Tsogt-Ovoo.

The lowest number of individuals left from Mandal-Ovoo and Noyon soums.

The map below shows the distribution of individuals who left Umnugobi by soum.

Figure 1: Number of individuals who left Umnugobi between April and June 2018, by soum.



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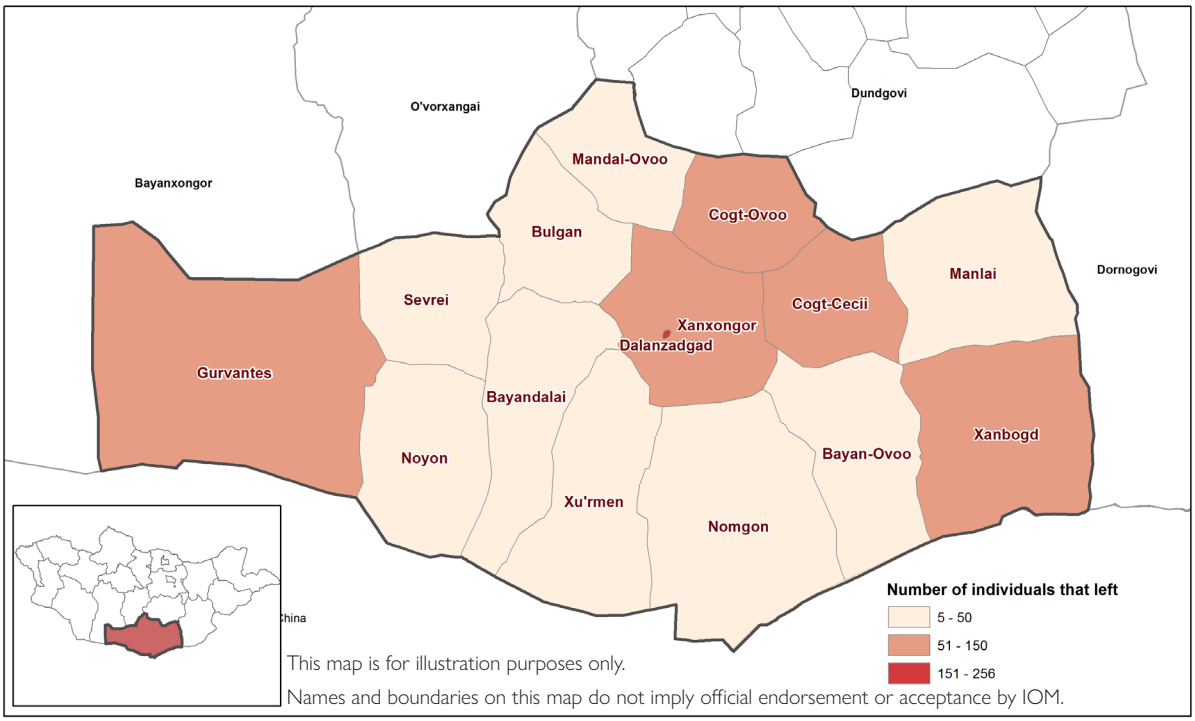
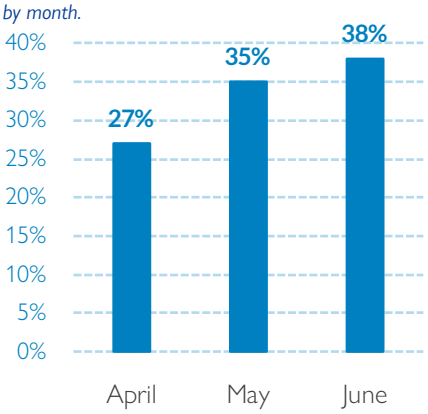


WHERE AND WHEN DID THE INDIVIDUALS MOVE?

The number of individuals who left Umnugobi increased steadily from April to June. In April, 27 per cent of all individuals left, while in June the percentage increased to 38 per cent.

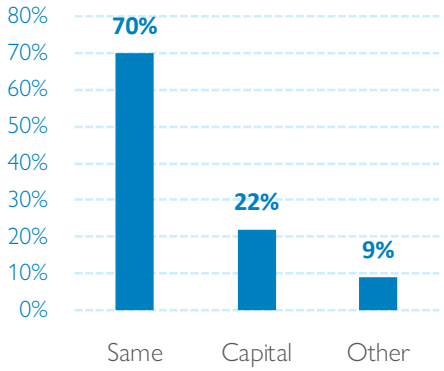
Figure 1: Percentage of individuals who left Umnugobi, by month.



Individuals who left Umnugobi tend to move more frequently to the different soums within Umnugobi rather than move to other aimags or to Ulaanbaatar.

In total, 70 per cent of individuals went to other soums in Umnugobi, while 22 per cent left to Ulaanbatar and the remaining 9 per cent went to other aimags (Dornogobi and Dundgobi, mostly).

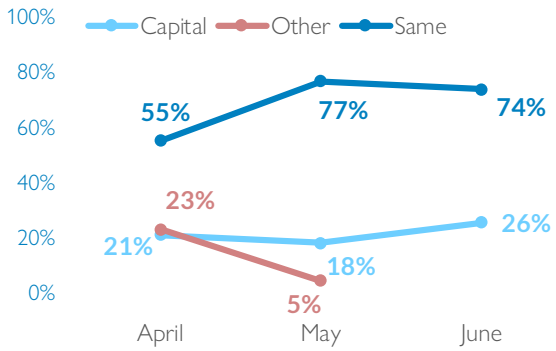
Figure 2: Percentage of individuals who left Umnugobii to the capital/other aimag/other soums in Umnugobi between April and June 2018.



In May and June, there was an increase in the share of individuals who left to other soums within Umnugobi.

Fifty-five per cent of all respondents who left Umnugobi in April and June left to different soums in Umnugobi, and the percentage increased to 74 per cent in June.

Figure 3: Percentage of individuals who left for the capital/other aimag/ other soums in Umnugobi, by month of departure.



There were variations in terms of destinations based on which soums individuals left from.

Individuals who left from Tsogttsetsii went to Ulaanbaatar.

Those who left Tsogt-Ovoo soum went to Mandakhs soum in the Dornogobi aimag (in April) or to the Dalanzadgad soum (in May and June).

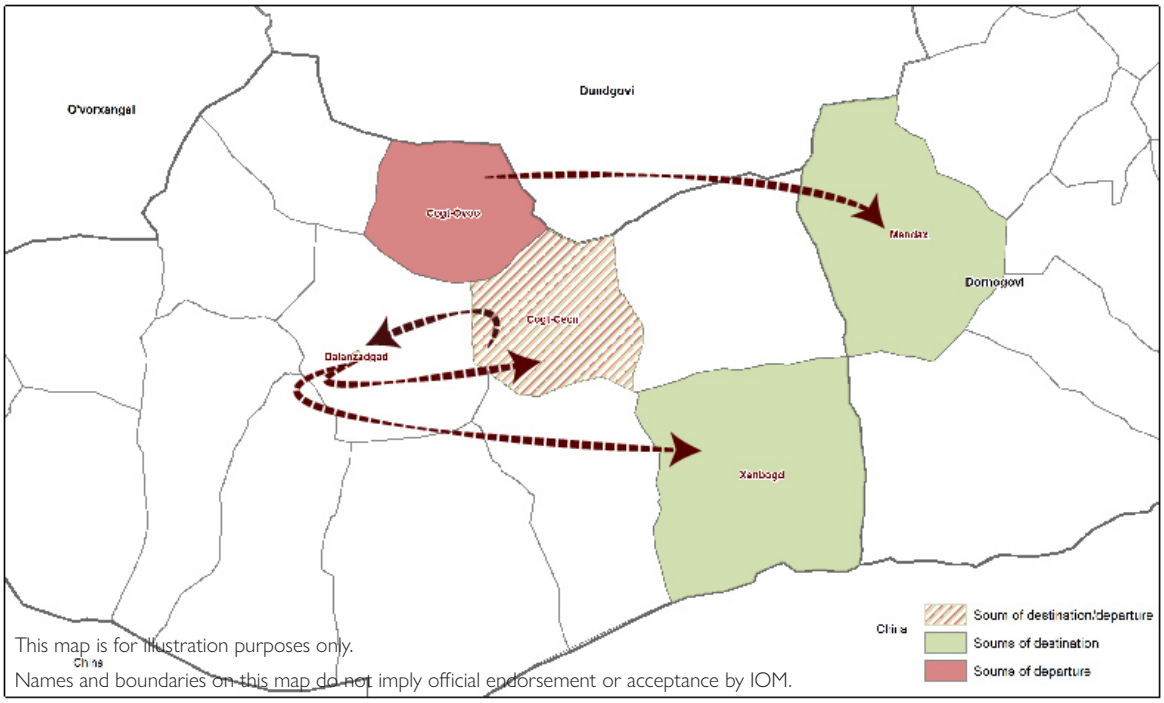
Those who left the aimag capital Dalanzadgad, tended to go to the Tsogttsetsii soum (in May) or the Khanbogd soum(in April and June).

In total, approximately half of all individuals who went to other soums went to the Tsogttsetsii or Khanbogd soums.

The Tsogttsetsii and Khanbogd soums, located in the Gobi desert, are historical mining areas in the Umnugobi aimag that have increased operations substantially.

Oyu Tolgoi, the biggest copper mine is located in the Khanbogd soum and Tavan Tolgoi, a coal mining site is in the Tsogttsetsii soum. These mines have become some of the biggest mining operations in the world. The findings suggest that these mines could be pull factors for population movements from Umnugobi, with temporary job-seekers flowing towards the mines.

Map 2: Destination of individuals who left Dalanzadgad, Tsogttsetsii, and Tsogt-Ovoo soums.



This map is for illustration purposes only.
Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.