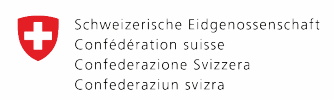


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KHAN-UUL DISTRICT

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 Khan-Uul 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 Khan-Uul 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 Khan-Uul 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 Mongolian context. Information is collected at the kheseg level – the smallest administrative unit in Khan-Uul district through key informant interviews with kheseg leaders. Kheseg

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 arrival, departures and 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.

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

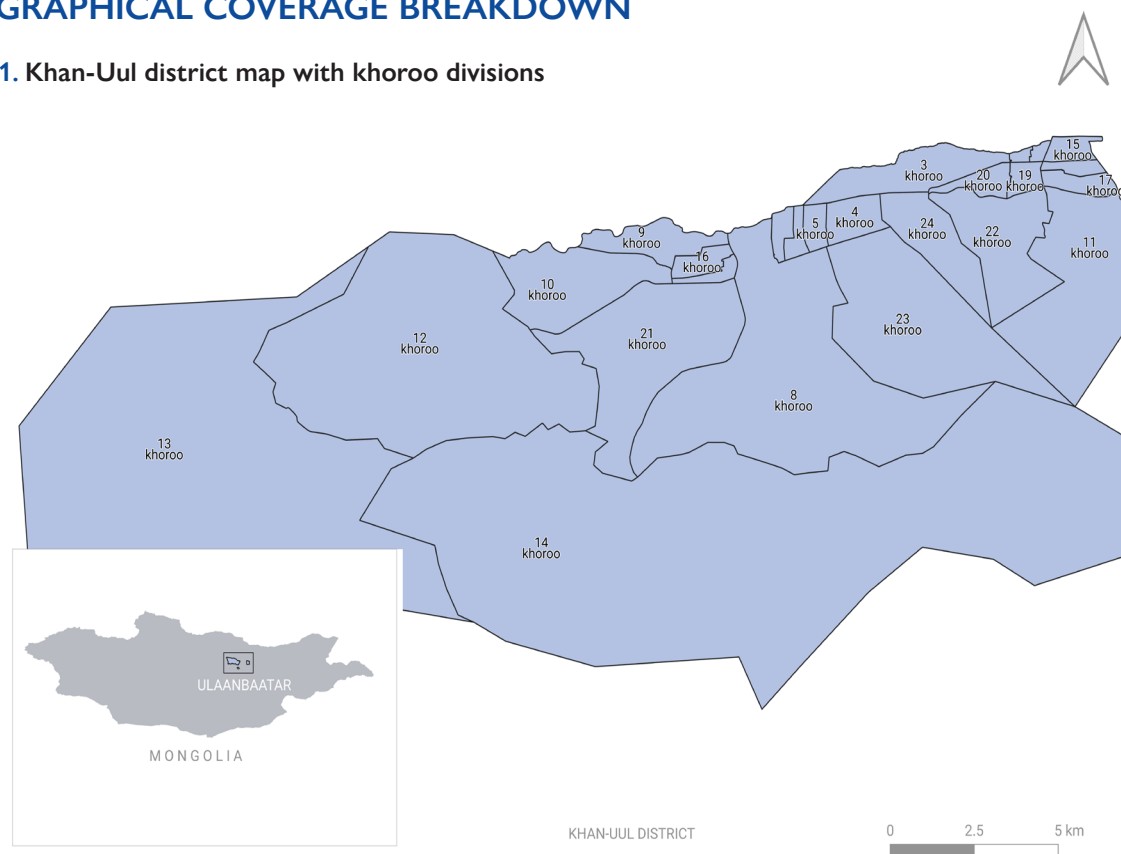
² Dzuds are extreme winters characterised by freezing temperatures, heavy snow, and frozen ground, with temperatures reaching far below the average. While herders and animals living in Mongolia are resilient to environmental hazards, and are used to hot summers and cold winters, dzuds put an additional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

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

⁴ A khoroo is an administrative subdivision of Ulaanbaatar.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE BREAKDOWN

Figure 1. Khan-Uul district map with khoroo divisions



Districts	Number of Khesegs	Total population <i>(Inclusive of unregistered temporary residents)</i>
Khan-Uul	230	249,172
Total	230	249,172

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 kheseg 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 kheseg: Ger areas are the traditional Mongolian living arrangement where state hearing 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 khesegs are khesegs where both living arrangements co-exist.

I. DATA ANALYSIS KHAN-UUL

1.1 POPULATION BASELINE AND DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

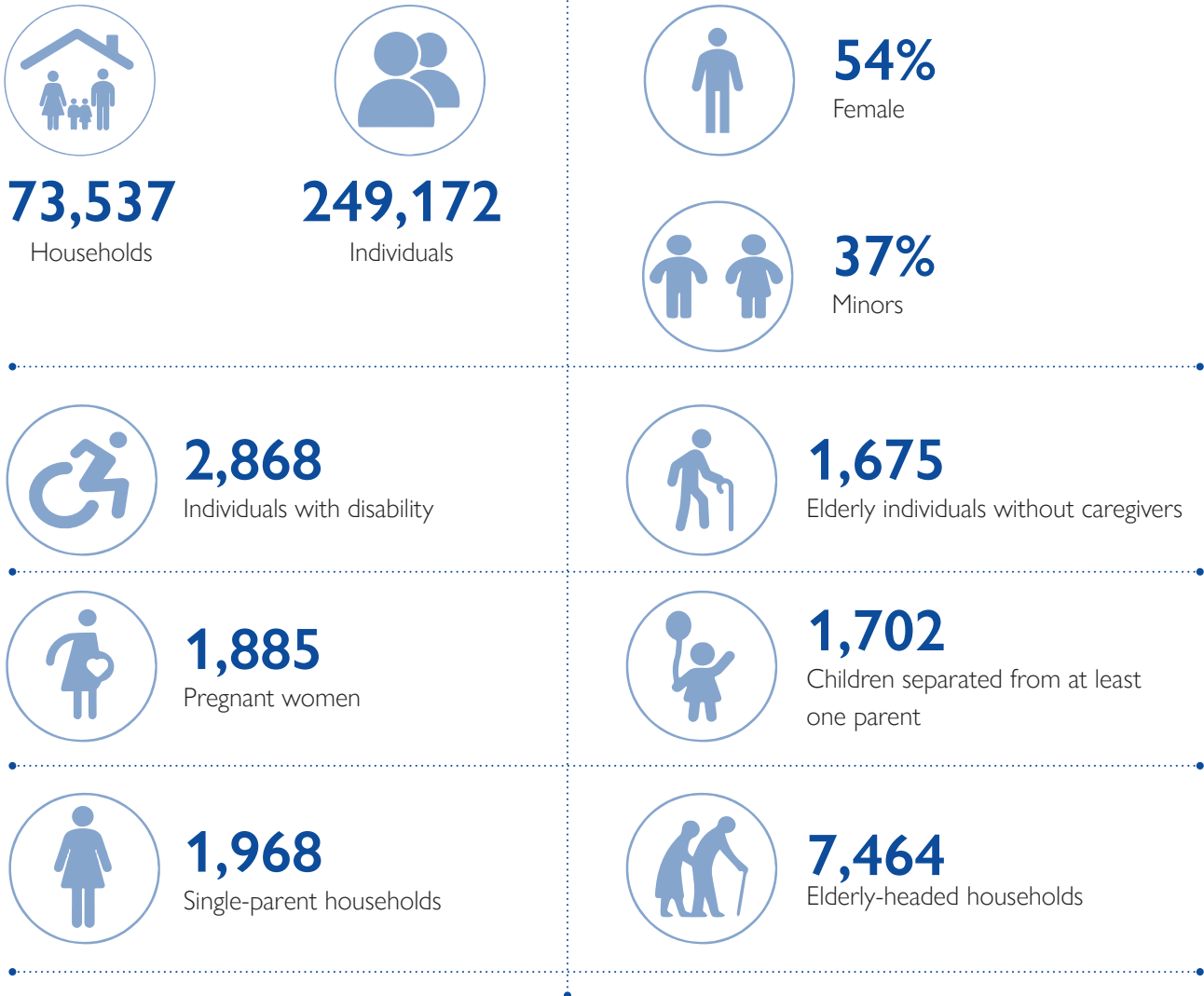
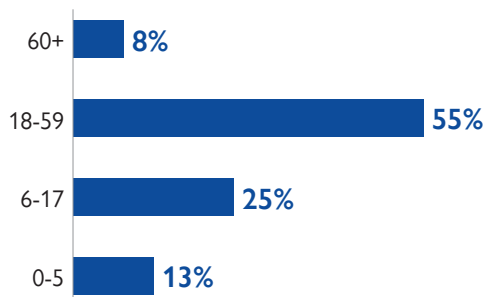


Figure 1. Population disaggregate by age groups (% of individuals)



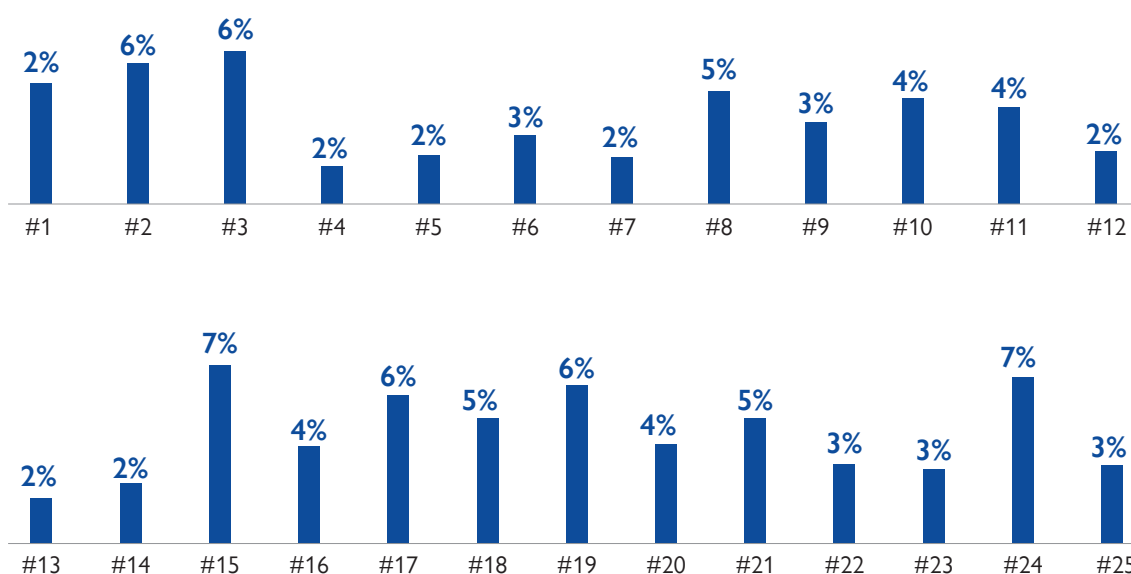
At the time of the assessment — between September 2022 and February 2023 — there were 249,172 individuals and 73,537 households living in Khan-Uul district, accounting for 16 per cent of the total population in the city. Of all people, 54 per cent were women. A significant 37 per cent of the population registered as minors: 13 per cent aged 0–5 years, and 25 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 eight per cent.

Overall, 2,868 individuals were reported with disability, accounting for one per cent of the district population. There were 1,885 women reported being pregnant (1% of the female population), 1,675 elderly reported having no caregivers (8% of all elderly aged 60 years and above), and 1,702 children reported being separated from their mother, father, or both (2% of children under 18 years old). Meanwhile, there were 1,968

single-parent and 7,464 elderly-headed households⁵ in this district, representing three and 10 per cent of all households, respectively.

Khan-Uul district has 25 khoroo and 230 kheseqs. Khoroo #15 and #24 were the most populated, each hosting seven per cent of the district population, followed by khoroo #3, #19, #2, and #17, each hosting six per cent of the district population.

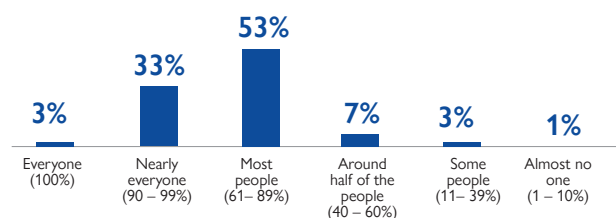
Figure 2. Population by khoroo (% of individuals)



1.2 REGISTRATION

Overall, 33 per cent of kheseqs in the district reported that almost all residents were registered (meaning a registration rate higher than 90%), including three per cent (7 kheseqs) reporting that all residents were registered. An additional 53 per cent of kheseqs reported that most people (61–89% of residents) were registered, seven per cent of kheseqs reported around half of the people (40–60% of residents) were registered, and one per cent claimed less than 40 per cent of residents were registered.

Figure 3. Estimated registration (% of kheseqs)



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

Figure 4. Top 5 khorooos with more than 90% registration (number of khesegs)

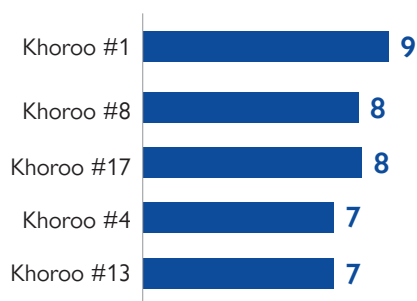


Figure 7. Top khorooos for non-registration because people consider themselves temporary residents (number of khesegs)

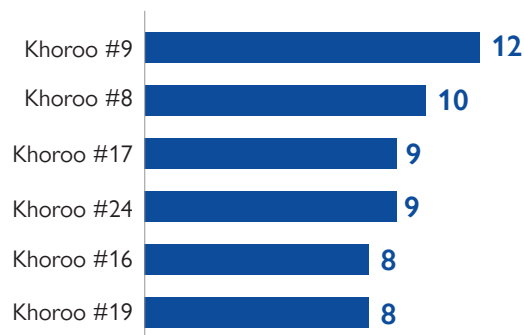


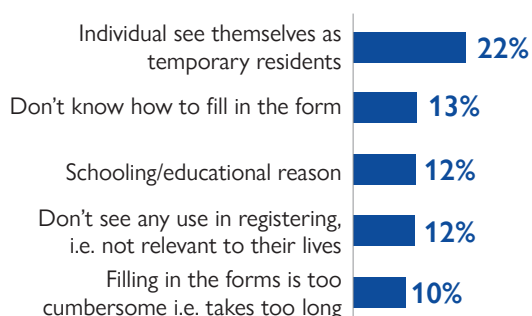
Table 2. Khorooos with less than 10% registration (number of khesegs)

Khoroo #15
3 khesegs

People considering themselves as temporary residents in the kheseg was the predominant reason for not registering in the district — as 22 per cent of all responses reported this as the driver for non-registration. This phenomenon was especially prevalent in khoroo #9 (as reported in 12 khesegs), followed by khoroo #8 (10 khesegs).

Other important reasons for non-registration included not knowing how to fill in the form (13%), schooling and educational reasons (12%), residents considering registration irrelevant to their lives (12%) and people considering filling in the form is too cumbersome (10%).

Figure 6. Primary reasons for non-registration (% of responses)



1.3 ARRIVAL⁶

Khan-Uul district reported the highest number of arrivals in the city — in total, 11,589 people arrived in the district in the last six months prior to the interview, accounting for 26 per cent of all arrivals. The highest share of the arrivals was reported in khoroo #22 (16% of all arrivals in the district). More than half (86%) of the all arrivals came from another district in Ulaanbaatar city, 9 per cent were from another khoroo/kheseg in the same district, while 5 per cent came from rural areas.

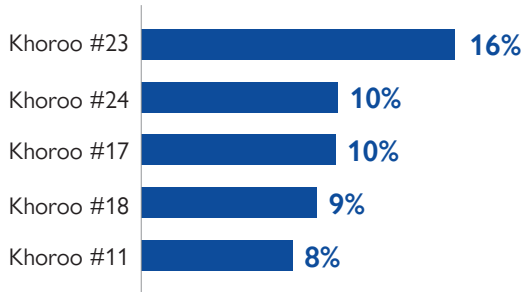
Among those who arrived from Ulaanbaatar area, 59 per cent were from apartment khesegs, 27 per cent people from ger khesegs, and 14 per cent from ger and apartment mix khesegs.⁷ Among those who arrived from rural areas, half (50%) people arrived from soum center baghs, followed by 40 per cent from aimag center baghs and 10 per cent from rural baghs.⁸

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 khesegs are khesegs 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 8. Top 5 khorooos of arrivals (% of total arrival)



Between September 2022 and February 2023, only 32 individuals arrived in Khan-Uul district for otor reasons.⁹ These otor arrivals were reported in two khorooos, and khoroo #14 received the majority of them (94%). The primary cause otor arrivals was linked to usual seasonal movement — as reported in two-third of khesegs which received otor arrivals.

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

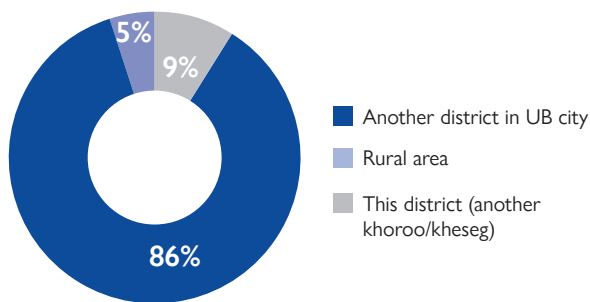


Chart 4. Reasons for otor arrivals

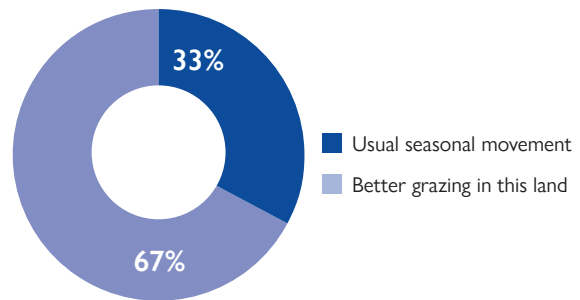


Chart 2. Arrivals coming from (% of total arrivals from Ulaanbaatar area)

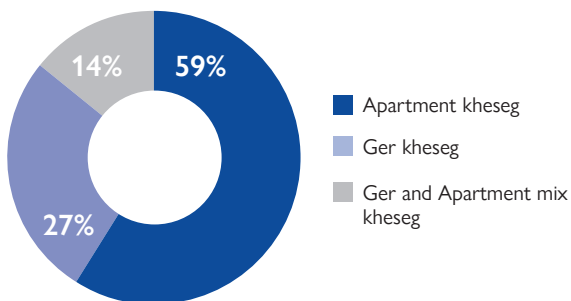


Figure 8. Khorooos with otor arrivals (% of all otor arrivals in the district)

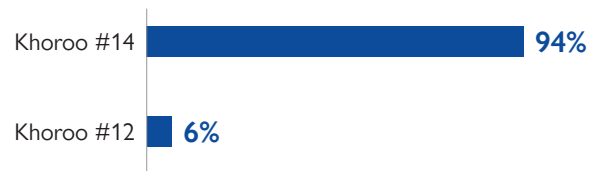
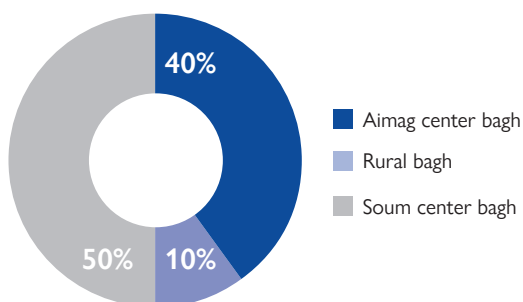


Chart 3. Arrivals coming from rural areas (% of total arrivals)



For the rest of arrivals in Khan-Uul district (non-otor arrivals), education continued to be the predominant reason (as reported in 20% of all responses). Housing and property issues was the second major reason for arrivals in the district, counting for 18 per cent of all arrivals. Noticeably, access to basic services has become more important for arrivals in this district — the share of such arrivals has increased from previously 12 per cent to 17 per cent, making it the third most important reason. Moreover, 15 per cent of arrivals were due to employment, and their employment was concentrated in construction sector (28%), social work (18%), and education sector (15%).

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

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

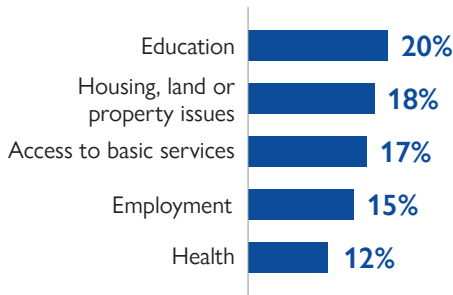


Figure 11. Primary reasons for arrival (non-otor reasons)

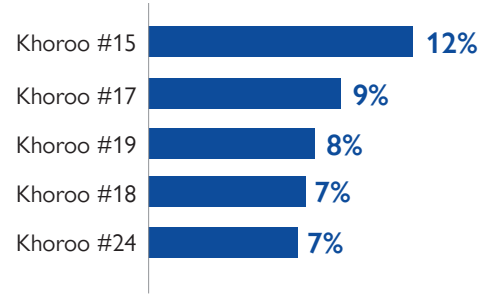


Figure 10. Main sectors of employment for those who arrived for employment reasons (% of responses)

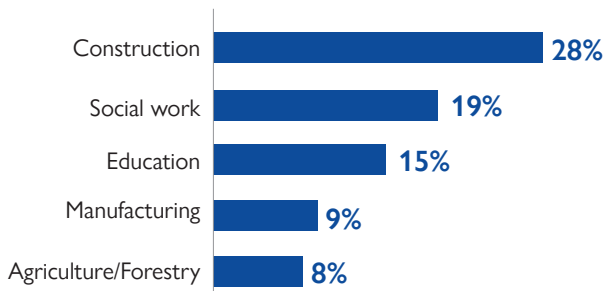


Chart 5. Departed to (% of total departures)

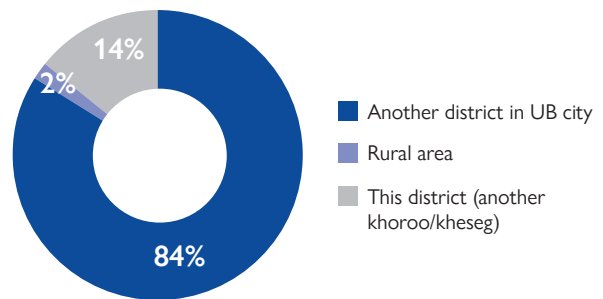
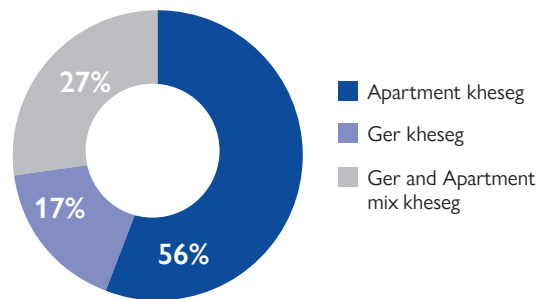


Chart 6. Departed for (% of total departures to Ulaanbaatar area)

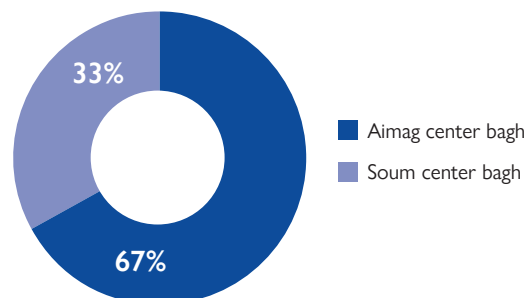


1.4 DEPARTURE¹

A total of 3,665 people departed from Khan-Uul in the last six months prior to the interview, accounted for 15 per cent of all departures in Ulaanbaatar. The highest share of departure was reported in khoroo #15 (12% of all departures in the district). Most (84%) people departed to another district in Ulaanbaatar city, 14 per cent for another khoroo/kheseg in the same district, and the remaining two per cent to rural areas.

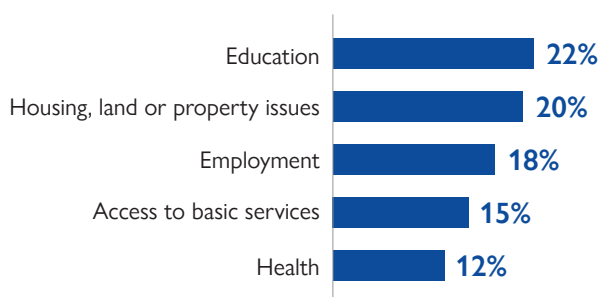
Among those who departed for Ulaanbaatar areas, 56 per cent left to apartment khesegs, 27 per cent for ger and apartment mix khesegs, and 17 per cent for ger khesegs. Meanwhile, among those who departed for rural areas, the two-third left for aimag center baghs, and the remaining one-third for soum center baghs.

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



¹ 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

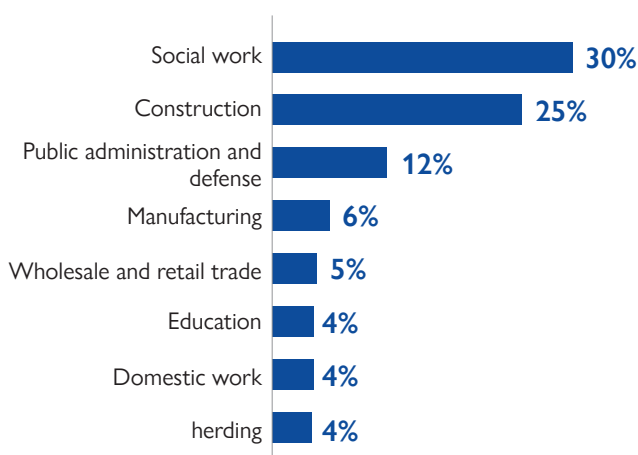
Figure 12. Primary reasons for departure (% of responses)



Findings on drivers for departures in Khan-Uul district was identical to previous study. Education remaining the predominant factor for departures (as reported by 22% of responses), followed by housing and property issues (20%), employment (18%), access to basic services (15%), and health-related reasons (12%).

1.5 EMPLOYMENT

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



Social work was the predominant sector of employment in Khan-Uul district — as reported by 30 per cent of responses. The construction sector continued to be one of the most important sectors of employment, dominating in 25 per cent of khesegs, followed by public administration and defense sector (12%).

1.6 FINANCIAL SITUATION

In Khan-Uul district, employment was the most important source of income, dominating in 88 per cent of khesegs. Additionally, six per cent of the khesegs reported pension as the predominant source of income, and two per cent reported rent received from house or land was the main source of income.

Significant food consumption reduction reported in 65 per cent of khesegs in the last six months (a slight increase from the previous assessment at 62%). In 15 khesegs (or 7% of khesegs), food consumption reduction was frequently reported, impacting nearly 15,000 people (6% of the district population). Khoroo #5 was the most affected with three khesegs reported frequent significant food consumption reduction.

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

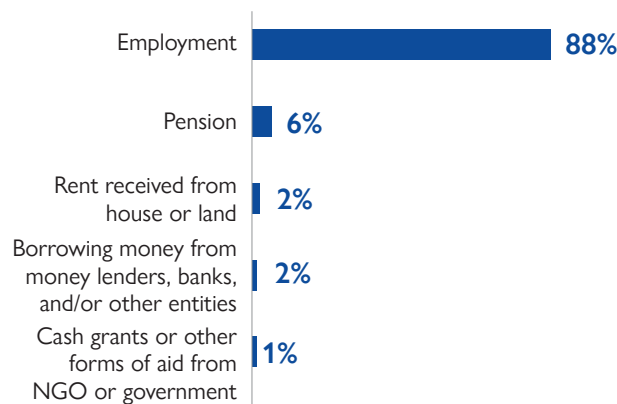


Figure 15. Reduced food consumption (% of khesegs)

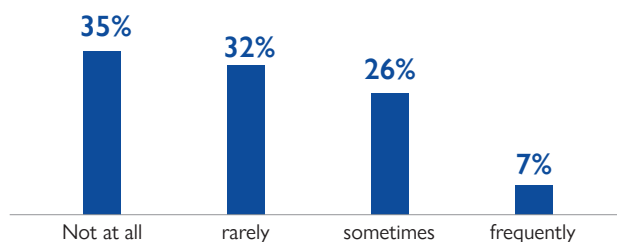


Table 3. Top khoroods with frequent food consumption reduction

Overall 15 khesegs	Khoroo #5 3 khesegs	Khoroo #1 2 khesegs
Khoroo #8 2 khesegs	Khoroo #20 2 khesegs	Khoroo #23 2 khesegs

1.7 MOBILITY-RELATED CHALLENGES

More than three-quarter (78%) of khesegs in Khan-Uul district reported that they have at least one type of mobility-related challenges. The limited access to educational services remaining the most pressing challenge (as 27% of responses reported such challenge), affecting more than 84,000 people (34% of the district population). Air pollution and traffic problems were another two major challenges, and both challenges have been intensified since previous assessment. Respectively, they were reported by 24 and 21 per cent of responses during current assessment, compared to 18 and 16 per cent from the phase two assessment.

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

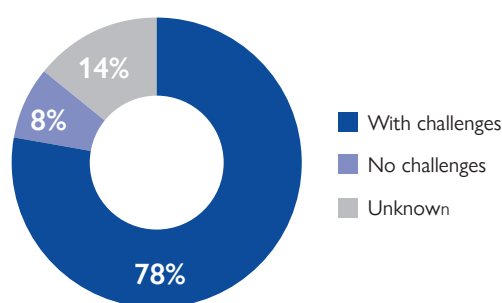


Figure 16. Mobility-related challenges (% of responses)

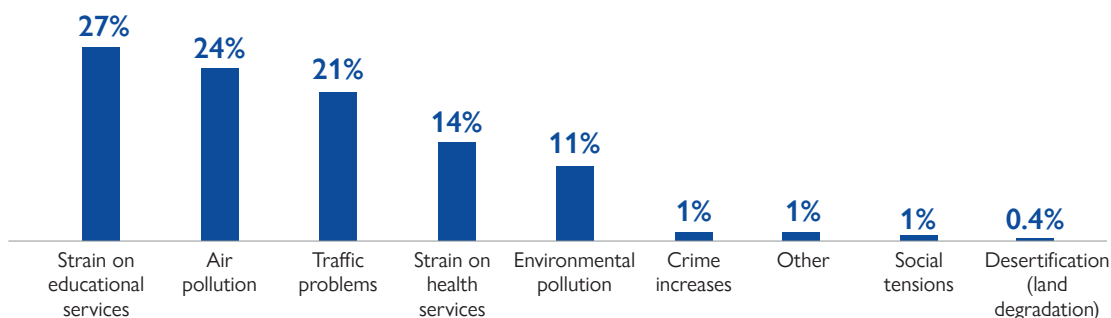


Table 4. Top khoroods reported strains on educational services

Overall 65 khesegs	Khoroo #7 9 khesegs	Khoroo #17 9 khesegs
Khoroo #1 8 khesegs	Khoroo #2 5 khesegs	Khoroo #21 5 khesegs

Of all kheseqs that reported mobility-related challenges, 90 per cent confirmed that their administrative unit had taken actions to tackle those challenges, while 10 per cent claimed there was no actions taken. Apart from measures which were currently taken by the administration, more than half (57%) of the 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 centralised areas (28%).

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

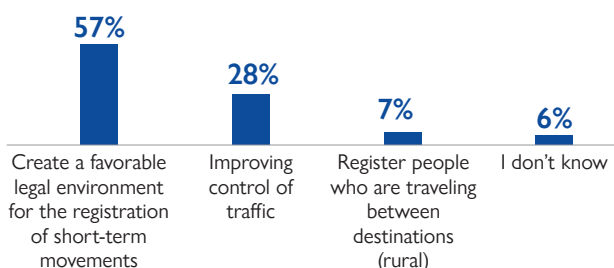
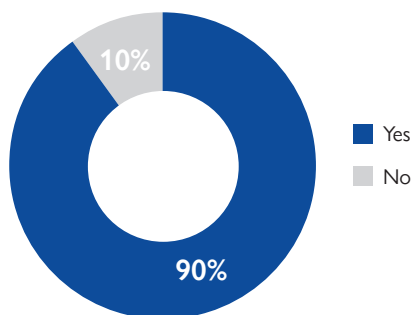


Chart 9. Actions taken by administrative unit (% of kheseqs)



1.8 SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

In Khan-Uul district, people had the most difficulties accessing income-generating opportunities – the share of total responses who reported reported this challenge has increased from previously 14 per cent to

16 per cent in current assessment. Furthermore, the lack of access to healthcare and to educational services continued to be another two major challenges, with each reported by 14 per cent of responses.

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

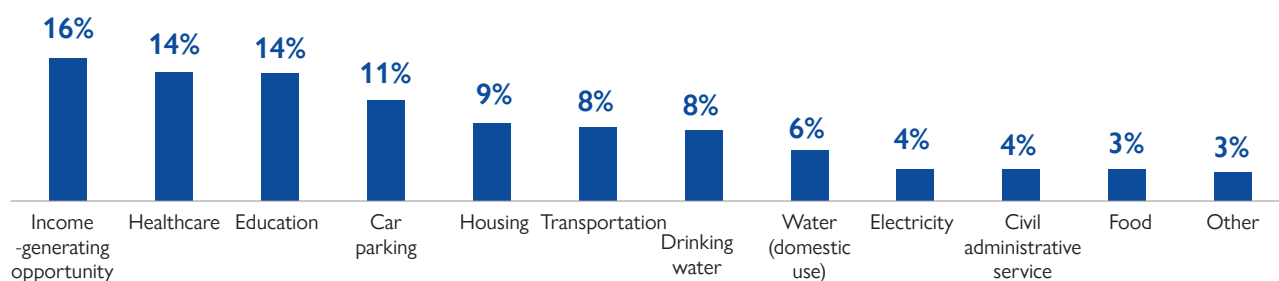


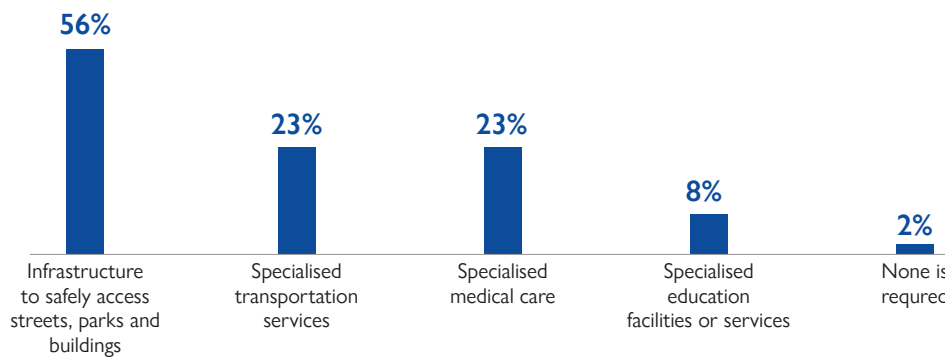
Table 5. Top khoros reported difficulties to access income-generating opportunities

Overall 215 kheseqs	Khoroo #2 10 kheseqs	Khoroo #8 10 kheseqs	Khoroo #20 7 kheseqs	
Khoroo #1 6 kheseqs	Khoroo #4 6 kheseqs	Khoroo #16 6 kheseqs	Khoroo #5 6 kheseqs	Khoroo #15 6 kheseqs

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 response, followed by the lack of specialized transportation services and the lack of specialized medical care (each was reported by 25% of responses).

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



CONCLUSION

The key findings of the current assessment are corresponding to the previous findings, especially with regards to migration trends and socioeconomic challenges in Khan-Uul district. The limited access to educational services and facilities were of 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 have been 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. Significant food consumption reduction was reported in 58 per cent of the kheseqs in the district – an increase from the phase two result – and the majority of those kheseqs also reported the challenges to access income-generating opportunities.

Social work has become the predominant sector of employment in the district — a drastic change from previously dominating in four per cent of kheseqs to currently dominating in 30 per cent of kheseqs.



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IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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.

