



## EDITORIAL

Welcome to IOM Mongolia’s first Newsletter– A Year in Review!

Since the establishment of IOM’s country office in Mongolia in 2011, we have expanded the areas of our work, strengthened the partnerships with Government and local civil society organizations (CSOs), and cooperated with international humanitarian agencies.

This edition highlights the progress of our most recent activities. In 2018, with the funding of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), IOM supported the Government of Mongolia to strengthen the management of internal migration. This was done by conducting an assessment on drivers of internal migration, urban migrant vulnerability assessment, capacity building of government agencies, as well as a policy dialogue to support the development of a policy brief to respond to internal migration.

IOM joined hands with Mongolia’s National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and conducted baseline assessments to monitor population mobility for disaster preparedness and response using the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). The data it generates can help governments and aid agencies to better respond to humanitarian crises.

Counter-trafficking in persons has also been a top priority. IOM supported the efforts and capacities of the Mongolian Government and CSOs in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking, and victim support, including support for full implementation of Mongolia’s 2012 Law of Mongolia on Combating Trafficking in Persons.

Throughout 2018, IOM has extensively assisted migrants to return safely to their country of origin, as well as support Mongolian nationals to return and reintegrate into Mongolia through the AVRR programme. Moreover, with the generous support of the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency, for the first time IOM Mongolia organized the 2018 Global Migration Film Festival (GMFF). The event raised awareness of the issues and challenges associated with migration.

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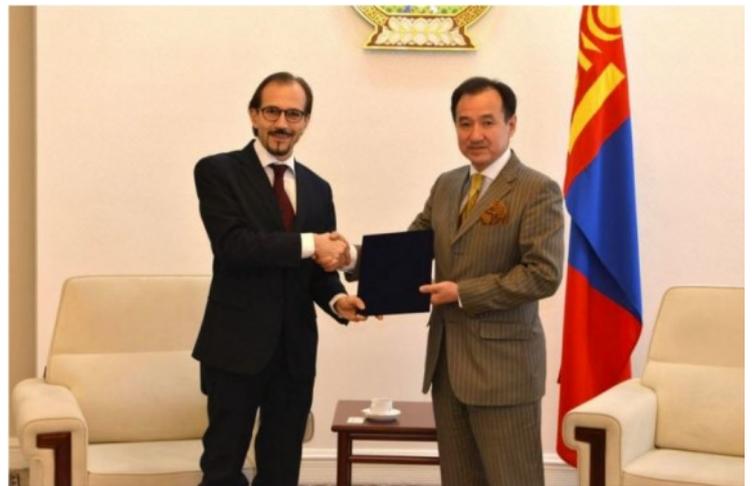
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We’re social, follow us!

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES IOM CHIEF OF MISSION

The Minister of Foreign Affairs Damdin Tsogtbaatar received Mr. Giuseppe Crocetti, newly appointed Chief of Mission of China and Mongolia at the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Minister Damdin Tsogtbaatar received his credentials and congratulated Mr. Giuseppe Crocetti on his appointment as Chief of Mission of IOM Mongolia. He expressed his appreciation for IOM’s assistance and support for protecting the interests of Mongolians abroad, returning citizens in difficult situations and victims of human trafficking and exchanged views on expanding cooperation between Mongolia and IOM. Mr. Giuseppe Crocetti gave detailed information on IOM operations, mission, projects and programmes in Mongolia.



IOM CHINA AND MONGOLIA CHIEF OF MISSION GIUSEPPE CROCETTI PRESENTS HIS CREDENTIALS TO THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS D.TSOGTBAATAR , 2019, ©MONTSAME

HIGHLIGHTS

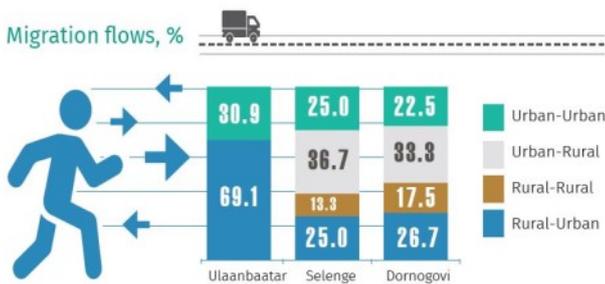
INTERNAL MIGRATION



DISSEMINATION LAUNCH OF TWO IOM STUDIES ©SDC AND IOM

In 2018 IOM issued “Mongolia: Internal Migration Study”, the first comprehensive study on internal migration in Mongolia since 2009, and “Mongolia: Urban Migrant Vulnerability Assessment”. Both studies, conducted over a year, were supported by the Ulaanbaatar City Municipality (UB) and funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The results of the first study reveal that most of the country’s internal migrants over the past 30 years have moved from rural areas to the capital, Ulaanbaatar, causing intensive urbanisation and depopulation of the countryside. By surveying 1,000 migrant and non-migrant households, the study found that most people did not migrate in response to a specific event. Most moved in search of jobs, better living conditions, educational opportunities, better health services, or to reunite with family members. The NGO Ger Community Mapping Center carried out the second study. It found that urban migrant vulnerability is linked with three main factors which include an individual’s personal background, contextual vulnerability such as living area and access to urban services, and the lack of officially designated government services for urban migrants. Internal rural-urban migrants are facing challenges in registration in the city, employment, land and accommodation, and accessing basic services. The challenges are often interrelated to one another.



Both studies provided crucial baseline data as they enabled the Government of Mongolia to enhance management of internal migration, including taking into consideration factors such as climate change and natural hazards. Drawing from the results of the studies, IOM facilitated training workshops on the use of “Migration Data for Policy Planning”. The “Migration in Mongolia-Development of a Policy Framework” was a chief outcome under the project on internal migration. The Ulaanbaatar Municipality showed interest in using the research report findings in their future policy planning and implementation.



Rural populations in Mongolia are particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change and natural disasters. The rising incidence of severe droughts and dzuds (harsh winters) in the country often forces herders to either travel longer distances to find pastures or, in the event of losing their livestock, to move to urban centres. Fewer economic opportunities in the countryside are also causing growing numbers of rural people to migrate to cities.

In December 2017, IOM together with NEMA launched an 18-month project supported by the IOM Development Fund, to build the capacity of the government to track climate change and disaster-related migration. It included the use of DTM to monitor population movements caused by slow and rapid onset disasters and climate change.

Under this project, a workshop on mobility monitoring for emergency preparedness took place in Ulaanbaatar on July 4, 2019. The event brought together migration experts and representatives from the Government, NGOs and UN humanitarian agencies to discuss the ways to enhance coordinated efforts of stakeholders to better manage and plan for emergency in Mongolia. Read more [here](#).

Moreover, IOM and NEMA organized DTM data collections as part of emergency preparedness simulation exercises in Bulgan, Tuv and Sukhbaatar Aimags, between September and November 2018. The simulations, which involved some 17,000 members of the public, local government officials, Emergency Commission staff, service providers, Mercy Corps and the Red Cross, were designed to improve the government’s provision of shelter, water, food, fodder and other necessities to rural households to minimize forced migration during the country’s bitterly cold winter. Read more [here](#).



A GER IS BEING BUILT ON AN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SETTING / PHOTO IOM: GANTUGS ERDENEBAYASAKH, 2018



IN SUKHBAAATAR SOUM 1,200 PEOPLE TOOK PART IN THE SIMULATION EXERCISE. PHOTO: IOM/ NYAMDASH MUNKHBAYAR 2018.

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION (AVRR)

AN OVERVIEW OF 2018

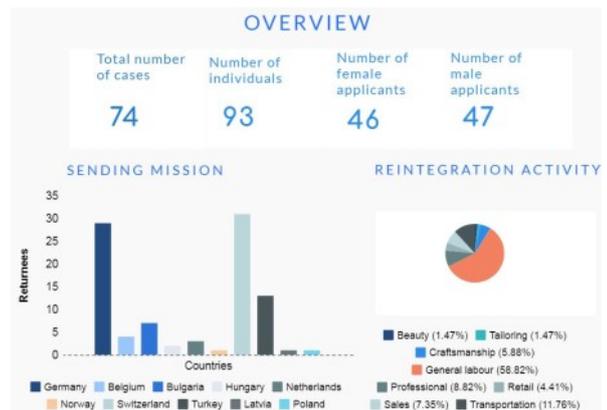
The Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration programme is at the core of IOM’s work in Mongolia. With the vision of assisting migrants in need to return voluntarily, safely and in dignity to their country of origin, in 2018 IOM assisted a total of 93 individuals. Among them, there were 46 female and 47 male returnees.

Switzerland was the country with the highest number of voluntary returnees with 31 persons, followed by Germany with 29 persons and



A MONITORING VISIT TO A RETURNEE FROM SWITZERLAND, ULAN BATOR, 2018, PHOTO: IOM/ RENTSENDORJ OYUNBILEG ULAN BATOR, 2018

Turkey with 13 persons. 50% of returnees were aged 30 to 50. A total number of 17 children were assisted. The travel costs for the majority of returnees were covered by Switzerland.



Upon their reintegration in Mongolia, the largest majority of returnees were employed in the manual labour sector. Overall, they account for 58% of all persons. The second dominant group was employed in the transportation sector.

Among all voluntary returnees who were assisted by IOM Mongolia in 2018, a total of 10 persons were identified as victims of trafficking in persons, with 7 of them being male and 3 female. Medical needs were considered during the preparation and organization of their return.

With the support of the United States’ Department of State’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP), IOM has carried out diverse capacity building trainings for local officials, CSOs, immigration and police officers. The projects support the efforts and capacity of the Mongolian Government and Civil Society in investigation and prosecution of trafficking, and victim support, including through support for full implementation of Mongolia’s 2012 Anti-Trafficking Law.

IOM has contributed to and provided expertise to the Sub-Council’s consultative meetings each year with the support of the European Union’s European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) and J/TIP, and it was aided by local project partners, the Mongolian Gender and Equality Centre (MGEC) and End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT). The meetings, which were attended by representatives from the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs, the Anti-Trafficking Sub-Council, have provided the opportunity to discuss the challenges facing implementation of Mongolia’s National Action Plan (NAP) to combat human trafficking and strengthen the cooperation and partnership among international agencies and the Government of Mongolia. Read more [here](#).



TRAINING OF IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS ON VICTIM IDENTIFICATION IN WORKPLACE, DORNOD AIMAG, JUNE 2018 PHOTO: IOM/CHIMIDRAVDAN BATBULGAN



IOM in collaboration with the Consular Department of Mongolia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organized a pre-departure training on human trafficking for Mongolian consular officers. The training in Ulan Bator was designed to help the officers better understand the crime of trafficking in persons within a human rights framework – enabling them to identify victims and offer better protection to Mongolian nationals abroad. It will also help them to process suspect applications for Mongolian visas. Full story [here](#)

MAIN TRENDS AND FIGURES



- Estimated total number of VoTs identified : 29 victims officially identified and assisted by the authorities
- Main types of exploitation : forced labour, sexual exploitation
- A source country for : types labour exploitation in Turkey, Kazakhstan, Israel, Norway, and Sweden, and for sex trafficking in the Republic of Korea, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Macau, Malaysia, Germany, Sweden, Belgium, Netherlands, Turkey, and the United States of America
- A destination country for : Chinese male workers and Vietnamese male workers, Nigerians

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE AND MAIN STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED



- Shelter for female and child trafficking victims : Mongolian Gender Equality Centre (MGEC) and Talita Asia NGO
- Training and technical support : The Asia Foundation, and IOM in coordination with The Anti-Trafficking Sub-Council (Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs)
- Counselling and referral : with MGEC and End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT) networking NGOs

MONGOLIA’S FIGURES IN IOM’S COUNTER-TRAFFICKING DIRECTORY FOR EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES STAFF, 2018

MIGRANT WOMEN AND VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

With the support of the European Union, IOM successfully concluded projects on protecting the rights of migrant women and victims of human trafficking in Mongolia. The overall objectives of the action were to enhance the institutional capacity of governmental authorities and CSOs to protect the rights of migrant women and victims of trafficking (VoTs) in Mongolia, as well as to improve migration management, support the prevention of sexual exploitation and gender-based violence in the Southern mining impacted areas of Mongolia. Learn about the projects’ activities and outcomes [here](#).



TRAINING OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN ZAMIIN ÜÜD OF DORNOGÖBI AIMAG. PHOTO: IOM/RENSENDORJ OYUNBILEG

Climate Migration in Mongolia: IOM is Helping the Government Prepare

Since the 1950s, agriculture has developed steadily into one of Mongolia’s most important economic sectors — employing over one third of the nation’s labour force. Rural Mongolian families are typically herders and have maintained their traditional pastoral practices for centuries. Climate hazards, such as drought and dzuds, have always posed a risk to the Mongolian herder lifestyle. Now they are threatening the traditional way of livestock breeding on which most of rural Mongolia relies.



DROUGHT AND CONSECUTIVE DZUD WINTERS ARE FORCING HERDERS TO ABANDON THEIR LIVELIHOODS. PHOTO: IOM/NYAMDAAVA YONDONJAMTS 2017

A dzud is a slow-onset disaster that is unique to Mongolia; it is characterized by a summer drought followed by severe weather conditions in winter and spring (during which pasture and water shortages lead to the large-scale death of livestock).

“In 2015 and 2016, a severe dzud destroyed almost 80 per cent of Mongolia’s wheat crop and fodder, and affected 41 per cent of Mongolia’s rural herder population,” explained Badral Tuvshin, the head of the Mongolian National Emergency Management Agency .

To help herder communities prepare for cases of forced migration during the country’s bitterly cold winter IOM organized an emergency preparedness simulation exercise in Bulgan, Tuv and Sukhbaatar aimags (provinces) in cooperation with Mongolia’s NEMA. Full story on [Medium](#).

EVENTS

IOM ATTENDS THE LAUNCH OF THE 2018 WORLD DISASTER REPORT



THE PANELISTS AT THE LAUNCH OF THE WORLD DISASTERS REPORT 2018, PHOTO: IOM/ ZUZANA JANKECHOVA 2019

On July 3, 2019 the Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (IFRC) launched the flagship publication 2018 World Disaster Report (WDR) in Ulaanbaatar.

IOM China and Mongolia Chief of Mission Giuseppe Crocetti attended the panel discussion moderated by Gitte Rabol, Interim Communications and Advocacy Manager at IFRC. He was joined by Australian Red Cross’ David Stephens, NEMA’s Disaster Risk Management Department Mr. Baasansuren, and Mongolia’s University of Life Sciences lecturer Kadyrbyek Dagys.

The focus of the event was to call on the international humanitarian sector to do more to respond to the needs of the world’s most vulnerable. The report presented the reasons why the humanitarian sector is not reaching those in need and comes up with six clear and compelling solutions to governments, donors and international humanitarian organizations that can support more people in need.



2018 GLOBAL MIGRATION FILM FESTIVAL

For the first time, thanks to the support of the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency, IOM organized the Global Migration Film Festival (GMFF). The event took place at the National University of Mongolia (NUM) on December 13, 2018.

The main participants were students from NUM’s school of International Relations and Public Administration, who were interested to gain more knowledge and generate research ideas for their final academic studies.

Participants were asked to fill in surveys on how their perspectives on migration changed after the screenings. Overall, the responses were positive and demonstrated the impact the films had on the participants, such as generate deeper empathy and understanding of migrant groups.



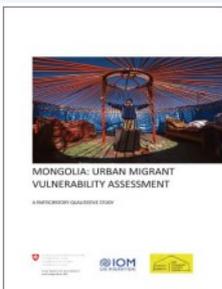


**Mongolia: Internal Migration Study**

The first comprehensive study of internal migration in Mongolia reveals that most of the country’s internal migrants over the past 30 years have moved from rural areas to the capital, Ulaanbaatar, causing intensive urbanization and de-population of the countryside.

This report fills the gap by providing up-to-date evidence on internal migration in Mongolia. The analysis relies on data from a recently conducted household survey across areas of both origin and destination. As a result of the complementary mixed-methods approach, there are valuable findings for policymakers working on this topic.

The report can be downloaded [here](#).



**Mongolia: Urban Migrant Vulnerability Assessment**

Urban migrant vulnerability is found to be linked with three main factors, which include an individual’s personal background, contextual vulnerability such as living area and access to urban services, and the lack of officially designated government services for urban migrants.

These factors result in varying degrees of vulnerability for urban migrants and each experience is unique. However, this qualitative study sheds light on the common challenges that Mongolian urban migrants face in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar.

The report can be downloaded [here](#).



**Mobility Monitoring For Disaster Preparedness Baseline Assessment Report**

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 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.

Download the reports in English and Mongolian [here](#).



**Site Assessment Report**

The project aims to contribute to strengthened migration management in Mongolia by improving the knowledge and skills of government officials to use DTM, and by building evidence and data on current migration flows to improve future response planning.

IOM Mongolia conducted site assessments in 10 herder encampments between 6-14 March 2018. 30 key informants, including regional officials and livestock and veterinary experts, were interviewed for the purpose of the assessment.

Download the report [here](#).

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