



## DEVELOPMENT EMERGENCY MODALITY

### Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

-

## Cover Page

**UNCT/MCO:** Mongolia

**Reporting Period:** 1 January - 31 December 2022

**JP title:** Rapid Analysis and Response to the Impact of Russia-Ukraine Conflict and the Covid-19 pandemic on Mongolia's Economy and Vulnerable Population

**Thematic SDG Areas:** Food systems transformation; Decent jobs & universal social protection; Climate action & energy transformation; SDG localization;

**PUNOS:** UNDP, FAO, UNICEF, UNFPA

**Stakeholder partner:** National Government; Sub-national Governments; Civil Society Organizations; IFIs/DFIs; Private sector; Bilateral aid organizations; universities, households;

**Gender Marker:** Gender-responsive (for example, the JP aimed to respond to specific gendered needs, such as linking social assistance with GBV response services or maternal health support)

**Resident Coordinator Name:** Mishra, Tapan

**Resident Coordinator Email:** tapan.mishra@un.org

## Annual Progress

### Overall JP self-assessment of 2022 progress:

On-track (expected annual results-achieved)

### Overall Progress

The JP completed all four planned outputs related to assessing the impact of crises on households and businesses and demonstrating resilience to inform the government on strengthening food and energy systems in line with the national plans for achieving SDGs and post COVID economic recovery.

- The JP supported the National Statistics Office to analyze big-data of 11,199 households and 180,006 businesses using Value Added Tax e-receipts, supplemented by a survey of 602 households, 80 businesses, and 20 local government authorities in Ulaanbaatar and six provinces by the Economic Research Institute to validate big-data results. The assessments observed a decline in household expense in February 2022 at the advent of war in Ukraine. Business sales followed a similar trend.
- The global crisis caused inflationary pressures throughout the economy, raising food, oil and transport prices and impacting household expense and business sales. The single headed women led households and SMEs were affected the most.
- An assessment by Nomadic New Energy researchers and a policy brief by a consultant analyzed energy security and clean energy technologies affordability by households and businesses. Mongolia's energy sector has been impacted by supply chain disruptions which affected the procurement of spare parts for existing power plants and slowed down the implementation of 22 energy sector development projects, affecting future energy availability. The policy brief for supporting public and private energy compacts for renewable energy urges the government to reallocate fossil fuel subsidies for just energy transition, economic diversification, research, and achieving net-zero in other sectors of the economy.
- The assessment of micronutrients availability to vulnerable pregnant and breastfeeding women found disruptions in the supply

chain of iron and folic acid supplements essential for the prevention of anemia in pregnancy and fetal abnormalities.

- An assessment by the National Centre for Public Health on the availability of essential nutrition supplements, vitamin A and D, for children and women, across 61 Soums, found that 44 per cent of health centers assessed had no vitamin A stock. Nearly 52 per cent did not have stock of multiple micronutrient supplements (MMNs) for either women or children - only 24.6 per cent had MMNs for both. Trainings for 200 healthcare workers from 55 health facilities were organized to support nutrition screening of 35,600 children under 5 years old, detecting 1,719 cases with acute and severe malnutrition with provision of necessary treatments them.

- A desk review of the food price monitoring system in Mongolia underscored the need for improving and integrating food price data monitoring in policy analysis and designing interventions.

- The assessments informed the design of a pilot for a cooperative of 10 herder families in Yeruu soum, Selenge Province to strengthen local food systems. The pilot trained 15 members of cooperative on dairy product development for supplying to the school lunch program. The program will be expanded to increase food resilience in Mongolia.

- A policy brief, consolidating the analytical assessment findings of the impact of the war in Ukraine on food and energy systems affecting households, businesses, and governments in Mongolia is developed to guide the development of integrated strategic responses of the government for strengthening food, nutrition, and energy system in line with Mongolia's targeted development plan for achieving SDGs and the New Recovery Policy. It recommends stabilizing prices to mitigate the impact on businesses and of food inflation on vulnerable households, building health workers' capacity and ensuring supply of nutrients, targeted child allowance for primary care givers, electric power system reforms, and just energy transition. It also recommends the government to increase tax base and undertake privatization reforms to achieve fiscal sustainability.

### **SDG Acceleration progress towards the SDGs, focusing on the main SDG targets**

#### **SDG 1: No Poverty:**

- Survey and big data assessments studied the impact of global crises on lives of the most vulnerable groups: young families, women, pregnant women, children, single headed households, herders, ethnic minorities, and people with disability and recommended the government to develop policies, strategies, and targeted responses, especially, for those who are in risk of left behind.

#### **SDG 2: Zero Hunger**

- Food resilience pilot focused on enabling access to more diverse food production and consumption at local level strengthening food resilience and security in the long run

- Nutrition screening and micronutrient availability assessments contributed to zero hunger for ending malnutrition among children and women, and informed fiscal policy actions

#### **SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being**

- Iron deficiency anemia is an important contributor to maternal mortality. The nutrition assessment will contribute to maternal mortality reduction.

#### **SDG 5: Gender Equality**

- All assessments included gender disaggregated data and analysis to inform policy response addressing issues faced particularly by women. The local food resilience project contributed to rural women's economic empowerment.

#### **SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy**

- The analyses will inform policies to create an enabling environment for a just energy transition, creating resilience, by reallocating carbon fuel subsidies, regulatory reforms, and supporting introduction of international standards for energy efficiency by the Government.

### **Constraints that were encountered and any adjustments that were made to strengthen the relevance and effectiveness of the JP and the coherence and coordination of UN system support.**

- The value chain issues due to Russian Federation and China border closures and exchange rate fluctuation affected the procurement of the dairy processing equipment for the local food resilience project. As a result, equipment had to be procured from different suppliers, which took more time than planned. In winter the supply of milk in Mongolia is low, which impacted the conduct of effective on-site trainings. An additional training session has been planned from other funding sources to complement the JP intervention in the summer of 2023.

- Another constraint was the lack of available data for some elements of the analysis. Vitamins and micronutrients are registered as both bioactive substances and essential drugs. Drug Regulation Agency counts vitamins and substances registered as essential drugs in the registry. Therefore, the collected data did not account for all available vitamins and micronutrients in the market.

- The main contributing factors that permitted the timely delivery of results were flexibility in program implementation and frequent communication with stakeholders. UN coherence and coordination was achieved as UNDP, the lead PUNO, worked in collaboration with UNRCO, other PUNOs, and implementing partners to ensure timely delivery and provided feedback and advice on program support.

## Next steps, scaling and sustainability [up to half a page]

The PUNOS will continue to provide support to the public sector partners on data collection and analytical capacity to ensure further generation of timely data that can inform policies.

- Work will continue with NSO on building its capacities for big data, human development measurement, socio-economic impact assessments and estimating SDG progress indicators, especially for vulnerable groups.
- Dialogue with the Government and stakeholders on just energy transition, reappropriation of coal subsidies for net-zero, and energy related social protection for supporting a demand and supply shift towards clean technology. They will provide technical assistance to the Government on energy security and transition and supporting work on sustainable development finance and green loans.
- Work will continue with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to ensure funding for the procurement of micronutrient supplements, in particular for iron and folic acid, for primary healthcare facilities. Pilot to build resilience in local food systems will be expanded in collaboration with the government.

## Strategic Partnerships and Communications

### Explain how diverse stakeholders were engaged with the JP

Throughout the JP implementation, PUNOs engaged multi-stakeholders under the UNRCO leadership, including national and local governments (Ministries of Health, Energy, and Economic Development, National Statistics Organization), development partners (USAID, ADB, WB, GGGI, PIN, GIZ, Embassies, and aid missions), Human Rights Commission, National University of Mongolia, thinktanks, civil society, private sector, and youth in analytical assessments, consultations, and result validation workshops. In particular: 1) Health and nutrition assessment were done with the Ministry of Health (MoH), National Centre for Public Health, Ulaanbaatar and Bayanzurkh Health Departments to build the capacity of health workers in micronutrient availability assessment, screening and development of a digital application to register and monitor acutely malnourished children. MoH and local health departments provided policy-related inputs. Pharmaceutical companies and pharmacies contributed to supply chain analysis. Healthcare providers: maternity hospitals, outpatient clinics, soum, and family health centers helped to gather pregnant and lactating women data from vulnerable population groups; 2) Ministry of Energy, Energy Regulatory Commission, National Dispatching Center, Thermal power plants, District Heating companies, energy technology companies, development partners (USAID, GGGI, PIN, ADB, GIZ etc), Mongolian University of Science and Technology, National University of Mongolia were involved for energy security assessment through focus group discussions, consultation and workshops; 3) Local government and producer's cooperative were engaged as target beneficiary. Food and Technology College as main service provider, and private sector as the main supplier of equipment for empowering women in the dairy sector; and 4) UN agencies within and outside the country, including UNIDO, UNESCAP, ILO and WHO, were also engaged to benefit from the lessons learned from the assessments and results.

### Key meetings and events organized

---

JP steering committee/ programme board meeting	Strategic partners/ donors	Kick-off meeting event
---	-------------------------------	---------------------------

---

---

## Priority Cross-cutting Issues

### Cross-cutting results/issues

- The PUNOs worked together to ensure that data and analysis are segregated by gender, age, location, and included vulnerable groups such as young mothers, pregnant women, children, single parents, herders, and people with disabilities to inform the design of policy response and sustainable development measures related to food and nutrition availability (SDG 1,2, 3, and 5) and affordable energy (SDG7).
- The suggested policy interventions and pilot programs conducted within this JP particularly focused on marginalized groups, namely children and women in rural areas and encouraged government to develop more targeted, effective response strategies for

responding to the impact of the global crises.

- A nutrition screening project enabled healthcare workers to conduct screenings more effectively and provided life-saving treatments and supplements for children suffering from malnutrition.
- The targeted support to women-led rural cooperatives through trainings and equipment will produce local products improving economic empowerment and food resilience.
- Three policy briefs included recommendations regarding affordability of energy, support for most vulnerable groups, improvement of food and nutrition availability, and fiscal sustainability reforms.

### How did the JP apply the Gender Marker

The JP is Gender-responsive (for example, the JP aimed to respond to specific gendered needs, such as linking social assistance with GBV response services or maternal health support). Evidence, data collection and analysis (e.g. gender assessments of programmes; policy briefs, costing for scale-up of social services); Policy dialogues, advocacy (e.g. direct inputs to national policies, strategies, laws, including women’s and girls’ rights groups in coordination mechanisms); Capacity development (e.g. training of social workers, local governments, local communities);

### JP address the below cross-cutting issues and principles of leaving no one behind

Human Rights	Persons with disabilities	Youth	Environmental and social standards
No	Yes	No	No

### Contribution to enhancing SDG Financing

Drafted a bill, strategy, and/or approved a law increasing the fiscal space for the policy in focus	Produced financing, costing, diagnostic feasibility analyses as a basis to invest or increase spending on the SDGs	Improved efficiency (cost savings) in the management of programmes/schemes	Improved effectiveness (value for money; i.e. social impact of \$1 spent) of spending	Drafted policies/regulatory frameworks or developed tools to incentivize private sector investment on the SDGs	Structured new financial instruments (public, private or blended) to leverage additional funding
No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No

### How and in which area your JP contributed to enhancing SDG financing

- 1) Financing: Energy sector reviews and policy briefs recommend reorientation of coal subsidies for supporting the enabling environment and financing of renewable energy transition.
- 2) Cost Saving: a) Improved efficiency of women owned local businesses for supporting local food resilience – value for money and b) Local research capacity of National Statistical Office, academia, and local researchers built in capacity for poverty impact assessment and big data analytics. This will save cost on hiring international experts.
- 3) Improved Effectiveness: a) Micronutrient availability assessment analyzed costs of essential micronutrients available in the market including vitamin D, and multiple micronutrient supplements to make recommendations for evidence-based public expenditure in health for pregnant and breastfeeding women. Recommendations are also made for improving food price monitoring systems to ensure effective policy response. b) For addressing poverty and vulnerability targeted social protection measures are recommended to improve effectiveness of social service programs and using result-based budgeting for ensuring sustainable fiscal operations.