Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 on Vulnerable Groups in Mongolia

What is the socio-economic impact assessment?

UNDP in Mongolia is conducting an assessment to gauge the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on poor and vulnerable groups. The purpose is to generate information so that targeted measures to mitigate the effects can be put in place by the Government of Mongolia to increase community resilience and build back better.

Interviews are being conducted at the household level, with herder communities, owners of small businesses, and local government leaders. The assessment will have a special focus on women and youth whose livelihoods have been most affected by the crisis.

The assessment is being conducted in close collaboration with the Government of Mongolia, including the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Light Industry, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, the Ministry of Finance, the National Statistics Office, the Bank of Mongolia and with UN Agencies including UNFPA, UNICEF, FAO, ILO, and IOM.

How will the findings of the assessment be used?

By policy makers to:
- Adopt targeted service measures to mitigate the effects and increase community resilience during and after COVID-19;
- Design and delivery of inclusive and integrated "whole of society" response measures to reduce negative impacts at the household and community level.

Donors and international organizations to:
- Assist in the coordination and identification of resource needs and gaps in COVID-19 response and recovery;
- Assist in the financing of the response and recovery.

Academia
- Provides evidence-based research and academic findings;
- Preliminary study for potential further academic interest and follow-up research.

Civil Society and Media
- Evidence-based information for the public;
- Serves as the basis for civic participation, public debates and dialogue.

Why is the assessment important?

The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to reverse important gains made in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. COVID-19 presents us with an unprecedented social and economic crisis. According to ADB, Mongolia is listed as the 6th economy that will most likely be affected with a moderate case scenario, followed by China. From mining industry to retail, aviation, tourism and the cashmere sector, the impact is being felt across the country but most heavily by vulnerable groups.

The assessment will collect gender-disaggregated information to inform recovery efforts as there is strong evidence from other pandemics that women are among the most affected from the impact of a crisis. For instance, the majority of health care workers are women; women are responsible for the bulk of unpaid care work; and because women make up the majority of persons working in the informal sector. Thus, women are affected in multi-dimensional ways in the immediate term, but also over the medium- and long-term.

The assessment will identify the impact on vulnerable groups which will be crucial to informing effective, efficient, and targeted recovery measures and investments. This will minimize the long-term impact on livelihoods and help to build back better and equitably, while also building the resilience of vulnerable groups to future shocks.

UNDP, with the Government of Mongolia and UN partners, aims to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are reflected in targeted COVID-19 recovery efforts, to ensure that no one is left behind.

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