

REPORT ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND LINK TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2015/6

Question 1:

What macroeconomic, labour and social policies have been put in place that promote full and productive employment and decent work for women, in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on women's employment and economic rights and independence?

The Government of Mongolia has consistently taken measures to ensure gender equality and the empowerment of women, and to integrate gender equality into the national legal framework. The Parliament of Mongolia adopted the Gender Equality Law in 2011 and systematic measures have been taken to ensure its implementation. This law provided the legal basis for incorporating the concept of gender equality into policy planning in every sector.

Between 2015 and 2019, Mongolia has adopted a wide range of laws and policies that mainstream gender equality in line with the SDG 2030 agenda. These include revised National Population Development Policy, Package Law on Education, Law on Promoting Employment, Law on Health, Law on the Right of the Child, Law on Child Protection, Law on Combatting Trafficking in Person, Law on Domestic Violence and Law on Election.

The Parliament of Mongolia has adopted Mongolia's Vision-2050, which defines long and development policy and envisions Human Development Index to reach 0.9.

Within the framework of mainstreaming gender equality concept into policy implementation stage, we have set specific goals in programs for the implementation of policies and laws, including the National Program on Ensuring Gender Equality for 2012-2017 and 2017-2021 respectively, State Policy on Population Development, National Program on Child Development and Protection, National Program on Promoting Development and Engagement of Persons with Disabilities for 2017-2021.

In order to improve the effectiveness of the implementation of the Law on Domestic Violence, 35 procedures and standards were formulated and approved to prevent and eliminate violence, protect victims and create a mechanism for the provision of social services. The Infringement Law Amendment, passed on January 10, 2020, provides effective sanctions against perpetrators of sexual harassment in the workplace.

Relevant provisions on the prevention of sexual harassment in the workplace and ensuring gender equality were included in the draft Law in Labour, and the provision on ensuring gender equality in the family environment was included in the draft revision of the Law on Family

Question 2. What actions and investments have been made for financing gender equality and the empowerment of women?

In the period from 2017 to 2020, the state allocated 1 billion MNT for the implementation of measures to ensure gender equality. Of these, 200 million MNT in 2017, 300 million MNT in 2018 and 300 million MNT in 2019, respectively. This year's budget is 200 million MNT.

With the support of UNFPA, ADB and other donor organizations, we have implemented several projects that supported the implementation of the National Program on Gender Equality.

Question 3. What steps have been taken to bolster women's leadership and women's full and equal participation in decision-making in all areas of sustainable development?

In 2005, we amended the Election Law, which provided the legal basis for the introduction of a quota system for women candidates from political parties to ensure the equal and full participation of women in decision-making. Since then, the law has been revised several times, and the quota allocated to women candidates has been reduced from 30 percent in 2005 to 20 percent in 2011, 30 percent in 2015, 20 percent in 2016 and at least 20 percent in 2020 respectively.

In the 2020 parliamentary elections, 13 women MPs were elected. During the elections, ruling political parties such as the People's Party and the Democratic Party nominated 16 women candidates under a quota system established by law. The newly created Cabinet of Mongolia includes 3 women ministers and 2 women deputy ministers.

With regard to local elections, the quota system has been ineffective. The 2020 local elections are expected to take place in forthcoming October. Local elections' statistics for 2016 show that 26.7 percent of local government members were women, 27.8 percent of the chairpersons of the local government secretariat and 13.8 percent of local government heads were women. Thus, no woman has served as governor of any province.

More than half of civil servants / 60.4% / are women. However, the representation of women at the decision-making level remains unequal.

Question 4 What macroeconomic, labour and social policies have been put in place that promote full and productive employment and decent work for women, in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on women's employment and economic rights and independence?

The political goals were set to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in accordance with the principles of prohibiting any form of discrimination, restriction or preference in labor relations, as provided for in the Constitution of Mongolia, Law on Labour and Law on the Promotion of Employment, as well as the concept of promoting the equal and open participation of people regardless of gender and decent employment, which are reflected in employment promotion policies and activities.

In the area of employment and social protection of women, the following policy measures are being implemented, including:

- The time period of a mother with many children giving birth and raising children is counted as a period of employment and social insurance contribution,
- Paid Maternity Leave Program,
- Payment of social security contributions to mothers caring for children up to the age of three,
- Maternity benefits amount to 100 percent, and etc.

In connection with the COVID-19 pandemic, the following measures have been additionally undertaken:

Social welfare policy is based on the concept of participatory development and is oriented towards social goals in regions and aimags (provinces) with high levels of poverty. During the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the main challenges is to keep jobs and generate income for citizens.

The National Program on Unemployment and Poverty Alleviation was approved by the Government Resolution No. 159 of 2019. Through this program, we strive to promote employment, provide jobs and income, and manage unemployment and poverty through developing public-private partnerships and cooperation and appropriate and sufficient use of economic benefits.

Law on Prevention, fight and mitigation of socio-economic impact of the pandemic of coronavirus disease (covid-19) has been adopted in April 2020 with a purpose to regulate the relations pertaining to extraordinary regulatory regimen implemented by the Government for the prevention of and fight against the COVID-19, protection of public health, restriction of certain human rights, fast-tracked decision-making and mitigation of negative socio-economic impact of the pandemic.

Relevant government organizations have been implementing prompt sectoral measures within the framework of their responsibilities in accordance with the Government Resolution No. 30 on "Measures to be implemented to prevent from the risk of new coronavirus pandemic" of January 2020 and Decision No. 1 of the State Emergency Commission.

For instance, Minister of Labor and Social Protection issued an Order No. 1 on "Protection of Children's Rights and the Prevention of Risks" and furthermore "Guidelines and Action Plans for Ensuring the Safety of Children in the Family Environment, as well as for the Prevention of Potential Injuries and Risks" was adopted by a Joint Order of the Minister of Labor and Social Protection, Minister of Education, Culture, Science and Sports and Minister of Health. To ensure prompt implementation of the documents, guidance has been provided to the relevant authorities at the national and local levels.

The suspension of the activities of kindergartens and general education schools by the decision of the State Emergency Commission created a situation in which children could be left unattended, and also increased the risk of domestic injuries and domestic violence.

In order to prevent from these risks, measures have been taken to regulate working hours and allow parents, especially women with young children, and older staff to work from home.

Following the Government instructions, public and private organizations and businesses have decided to move employees to special work routes, with most organizations allowing pregnant women, women with children aged 0-12, employees over 50 and employees with disabilities to work from home. As a result, 249 civil servants in 15 provinces and 15,910 employees of 966 companies reduced their working hours and 262 civil servants in 16 provinces and 14,158 employees of 1118 companies worked from home.

Question 5. What response and recovery measures to the COVID-19 pandemic have been taken to improve and expand social protection for women (e.g., healthcare coverage, unemployment benefits, paid sick leave, paid parental leave, maternity benefits, pensions, income support such as cash transfers)?

In order to expand and improve the social protection of women during the COVID outbreak, the Government has been undertaking additional protection measures despite the country's deteriorating financial and economic situation.

The Parliament approved bills on a package of measures to protect the health and income of people, preserve employment and stimulate the economy during the Covid-19 pandemic in April 2020. These include the Law on economic measures to protect the health and income of people, preserve the employment and stimulate the economy, which outlines six-month exemption of monthly social insurance contributions paid by employees and employers, who are managing to keep their employees on payrolls despite difficulties in their operations and revenue drop, and also a monthly incentive of MNT 200,000 for 3 months to each employee of companies, whose revenue has dropped by more than 50 percent compared to the same period of last year. Mongolia has also increased the child monthly allowance of MNT 30,000 to 100000 MNT starting from April 2020 for the duration of 6 months. The Government has decided to continue the above measures until the end of this year on August 2nd, 2020.

The Government of Mongolia has introduced “a unified system for social welfare service” in August 2020 (<https://ehalamj.mn/>) within the framework of an objective to digitize labor and social protection sector fully and make services transparent, accessible and faster. Under the new system, services related to pension, allowance and assistance, including for the elders, child care, single parents and will be delivered to citizens in digital form in the first place without requiring relevant documents of the citizen. The early launch of this system is also in line with the Government efforts to prevent overcrowding and ensuring hygiene and sanitation.

Specific measures targeting the vulnerable groups of population, including improving their immunity, have been adopted and implemented. The Government has so far conducted an assessment of 56,213 households, provided 2,592 households with information

packages, delivered food assistance 1,063 households and health packages to 2,197 households.

With regard to domestic violence, the statistics show that the number of people, who have received services at the One-Stop-center and Temporary Shelters for victims of domestic violence, has increased by 88 percent compared to the same period last year during the Covid-19 quarantine period. In addition, Chingeltei and Sukhbaatar Districts of the Capital City, that do not have a One-Stop Center, have received 1,311 domestic violence calls and more than 100 child victim cases have been registered.

Assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on the gender-based violence/ domestic violence situation and survivor protection services, an evaluation of preventive measures, victim protection and rehabilitation treatment as well as rapid assessment for further necessary measures have been conducted.

Taking into account the above and the results of the assessments, “Combating Gender based Violence” project has been implemented with the support of UNFPA to establish One-Stop Centers in these two districts.

For the absence of additional regulatory in case of prevention from the spread of the pandemic, to finance additional costs associated with communicable diseases and payment for overtime work, the following policy measures have been implemented:

- In accordance with Article 35.4 of the Law on Combating Domestic Violence, the “Procedure for calculating variable costs per person for temporary shelter services” was approved by the Order No. A / 150 of the Minister for Labor and Social Protection on June 26, 2020.
- In accordance with the Order No.52/2020 of the Deputy Prime Minister, total of MNT100,000,000 /one hundred million MNT/ provided by the State Emergency Commission was distributed to support the operation of Temporary Shelters and One-Stop Service Centers in Ulaanbaatar.

Moreover, video contents, posters and other forms social media contents on how to reduce stress levels, prevent domestic violence, online psychological advices for victims, psychological treatments through arts were developed and disseminated to the general public.

Question 6. What actions have been taken to expand the availability and affordability of care services to address the increase in unpaid care and domestic work as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., care subsidies, paid leave)?

Within the framework of reviving the economy and improving the social protection of vulnerable groups during the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19), the following package of measures is being implemented for children, families and citizens in need of food and social welfare pensioners.

- The allowance for every child under the age of 18 years old is increased to MNT 100,000 (one hundred thousand) per month between May 1st and October 1st, 2020;
- The amount of food voucher issued to members of households in need of food supply is doubled between May 1st and October 1st, 2020;
- The amount of social welfare pension provided to citizens specified in the Article 12.1 of the Law on Social Welfare is increased by MNT 100,000 (one hundred thousand) per month between May 1st and October 1st, 2020.

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Question 7:

What action has been taken to increase resources and support for women's and civil society organizations as they cope with the COVID-19 pandemic?

Government of Mongolia fully supports and closely cooperates with civil society organizations. Since 2012, the Government has been cooperating with the Mongolian Red Cross Society, Mongolian Free Veterans Association, and Mongolian Veterans Association. An agreement is underway to be signed with the Mongolian Women's Association and its sub-councils on women's empowerment. Thus certain activities will be funded by the Government.

People with disabilities, women, and the elderly joined the efforts to provide handmade mask to those working on front lines and those in need. Youth organizations, like the Youth Development Organization, are also closely working with the Government in introducing innovative ways to public discussion, contest, research and advocacy using ITCs.

Answer 8:

What steps have been taken to improve gender-responsive data collection in the context of follow-up to the 2020 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to track and monitor the gender-specific impacts and response measures to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Actions have been taken to ensure transparency, openness and accessibility of official gender-based statistics and other information specified in the Law on Gender Equality and the National Program on Gender Equality, establish a gender database, a unified network, and provide sectoral and local gender-based statistics. The NCGE and NSO signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2018, with the objective of ensuring

transparent, open and accessible gender-specific statistical data and information that is envisaged by the LPGE and National Programme, creating a gender-specific information database, collecting the sector and local development-relevant sex-disaggregated statistical data and developing methodology for their application in policy planning and implementation processes. NGC and NSO jointly revised the framework and methodology for calculating gender statistics, which was approved by Order No. A / 173 of 2019 of the Chairman of the NSO. It covers 241 indicators from 14 groups, and 12 indicators are used to assess the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. 129 of these indicators can be calculated from official and administrative statistics, 96 from statistical surveys, and 16 from statistical census data.

In 2017, the NSO carried out the very first nation-wide survey on gender-based violence (GBV), using internationally recognized methodologies, with technical assistance by UNFPA. The survey seeks to establish the forms, prevalence, causes and effects of violence against women, and to collect quantitative and qualitative data for a solid substantiation of the indicators and targets of the SDGs, particularly in relation to SDG Goal 5, in the Mongolia's context, allowing for international comparison.

All the statistical data and information is available at the NSO's homepage (1212.mn) both in English and Mongolian.

The Civil Service Council (GSC) annually reports on the implementation of quotas set out in the Law on Gender Equality. Pursuant to Articles 10.1.1-10.1.4 of the Law on Gender Equality, the gender balance survey from central and local government employees shall be submitted in the form of "Civil Servant Composition, Movement and Statistical Information Form" - and approved by the NSO. In the last three years, the average turnout for GSC reports has been 96 percent, and quota implementation has been over 30 percent nationally.

In January 2019, the National Statistical Office (NSO) launched a SDG Implementation Monitoring System to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is implementing a project aimed at strengthening the national capacity to collect data through administrative and non-traditional methods and using multiple sources of information to monitor the implementation of SDGs.

**MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL
PROTECTION OF MONGOLIA**