


MONGOLIA

Country presentation, April 28, 2020

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Mongolian status as 28 April 2020

- ▶ The first case was registered in Mongolia on March 10
 - ▶ Infected: 38 (“imported” – People from abroad)
 - ▶ Recovered: 10
 - ▶ Death: 0
 - ▶ Quarantined: 743
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Labor situation and policies

- ▶ Closure of offices/business since 27th January (work from home)
- ▶ Small business closure leads to bankruptcy and increase of unemployment
- ▶ Due to financial difficulties some pay salaries, some work from home without pay.
 - ▶ NGOs/CSOs no salary –
 - ▶ Public servants receive 70% of salary

Government Policies & Measures on the COVID-19

Checklist	Description
Facial masks	Use of masks started in January and compulsory use introduced in February. Masks been requested Visitors to public places are required to wear a surgical facemask & can be subject to temperature screenings; Compulsory Use of Face Masks in Public: On April 14, the State Emergency Commission announced the launch of the “Let’s Wear Face Masks” campaign to promote the use of protective face masks throughout Mongolia. The campaign will run until at least May 31. Individuals found contravening the regulation will be subject to a penalty of MNT 150,000 (\$54) in accordance with the Law on Petty Offenses
Hand sanitizer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • yes
Tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspension all flights from/to Mongolia (to /from China in late January, to/from Seoul late February, and Moscow , Istanbul and Germany since middle of March) • Suspension of international passenger train travel; • Closure of all land borders of Mongolia with China & Russia. • A total of 9300+ Mongolian nationals from 45 foreign countries have applied for repatriation. Elderly, pregnant or women with young children are allowed to come via chartered flights. People have to pay 5mil+ togrog for flights, accommodation etc (previously purchased tickets no longer valid for MIAT chartered flight).
Social (Physical) distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibition of public gatherings, events & meetings, such as conferences, sporting events, concerts etc. • On April 14, the State Emergency Commission extended the closure of all educational institutions in Mongolia for the rest of the academic year and until September 1. TV lessons will continue until June 1 and registration for kindergartens and primary schools will re-commence in mid-August.
Quarantine	21+14 days (People from abroad obligated to be quarantined) = have to pay a total of 5mil+ tugrig, which include charter flight, accommodation & food. People who had lost their jobs abroad, can’t afford to come back. (this measurement discriminates people coming to the homeland. Following people allowed to come to Mongolia: elderly, people with young children or pregnant or chronic illness).

Government and Public Policies and Measures on Socio-economic impact of the COVID-19

	Checklist	Description
Social policies and phenomenon	Domestic violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased by 57.2% as compared to February 2019. - Shelter house of NCAV doesn't receive any funding from the government - Increased usage of household alcoholism. - Although, overall crime rate decreased by 9.3%, alcoholism hasn't changed.
	Child abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Physical abuse of children increased by 32.9 percent compared to the previous month, and by 46.8% compared to February 2019 reports. - Although, as of April 21, child abuse crime decreased by 44%, 330 cases nationwide from same period 2019, reported by National Police Agency. -11 children died due to parental negligence, household accidents.
	Closure of all educational institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -900 000 children under the age 18 affected by closure of 2200 institutions. -Children are behind schedule. Especially, those who are graduating and enrolling to secondary & higher education. -Closure measurement is putting vulnerable children at increasingly higher risk as they heavily depend on their daily school meals for their main source of daily nutrition.
	COVID19 discrimination	People likely to discriminate people who diagnosed with COVID19 (Case of #1).
Economic phenomenon	Income stopped	People who have small businesses/bank loans, can not pay Bank loans. People can not buy food.
	Unemployment	Increased
Politics	Election June 24	Politicians focusing on upcoming elections, rather than COVID19.

Government response

- ▶ The bank of Mongolia & Ministry of Finance decided to postpone loan principal & interest payments & to extend payment schedules for up to three months for holders of 8-5% mortgage loans upon a borrower's
- ▶ Government's new regulations to implement the measures aimed at easing the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, in which instituted a six-month exemption of monthly social insurance contributions paid by employees and employers, who retain their employees on payrolls despite revenue drops. It was reported that the decision applies to around 45,000 entities.
- ▶ The government will pay the social insurance contributions due by employees & employers of private entities, NGOs, public & private universities, higher education institutions & by individuals, who pay social insurance contributions voluntarily, Minister Khurelbaatar clarified that almost all companies in Mongolia, including those experiencing even a slight decline or decrease of 1 MNT in their revenue, are free from paying social insurance contributions until October .
- ▶ In support to the national response, UNICEF strategy and interventions focus on (i) Risk Communication and community engagement (RCCE); (ii) capacity strengthening of health facilities and provision of medical consumables and essential equipment; (iii) WASH and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) ; (iv) Support to the continuity of services (Health, Nutrition, continuous learning and child protection services including psychosocial support for mental health) ; (v) continuous monitoring of the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 to children and their families. On 14 April, the State Emergency Commission (SEC) announced its decision to further extend the current preventive measures until 1 September 2020.
- ▶ The international borders remain closed and only charter flights repatriating Mongolian citizens who were abroad are allowed to land. Upon arrival, passengers must follow strict protocols, including quarantine for three weeks.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

- ▶ PM Khurelsukh announced that the government of Mongolia decided to take the following measures to be financed with MNT 5.1 trillion to support the country's economy weakened by the corona virus outbreak.
- ▶ 1. All entities & companies are exempt from paying social insurance contributions for six months from April until October 1.
- ▶ 2. Personal income tax will be waived for six months from April 1 until October 1.
- ▶ 3. Entities with revenues of less than MNT 1.5 billion are entitled to exemption of corporate tax for six months from April 1 until October 1.
- ▶ 4. For 3 months, the government will pay monthly MNT 200,000 to each employee of private companies keeping their workers on their job despite the difficulties in their businesses & declining revenues.
- ▶ 5. Loan with 3-percent interest rate, totaling MNT 300 billion, will be granted by the government to national cashmere companies for purchasing cashmere from herders. Cashmere for price will be set at less than MNT 100 thousand. This measure is expected to directly benefit 233 thousand herding families, according to the PM.
- ▶ For 3 months, the monthly 'Child Money' allowance of MNT 20,000 to children aged under 18 is raised to MNT 30,000.
- ▶ Necessary measures will be taken so that retail price of fuel per liter would be cut by MNT 300-400, starting April 15.

Civil Society Responses to the COVID-19

- **Medical aid:** some groups of citizens has been collected money to buy Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), masks, hand sanitizer
- **Humanitarian aid:** some CSOs has distributed food in peri-urban areas
- **Livelihood/well-being:** **The current economic stimuli and the pre-employment card launched last month were insufficient to cushion short-term shocks in the labor sector.**
- **Campaign topics:** Universal Basic Income (UBI), better data management, more data transparency, domestic violence, sustainable development practices
- **Monitoring advocacy:** demanding for transparency (corruption watch) and better distribution of social protection allocation and humanitarian aid

Civil Society Responses to the COVID-19

- ▶ Human rights forum nominated 1 representative to the working group of the Selection of the National Human Rights Commissioner.
- ▶ 2. Made a list of the possible candidates to apply for the commissioner of NHRCM. (This is not relevant)
- ▶ HRF sent the 2 official letters to the Mr G.Zandanshatar, Speaker of the Mongolian Parliament for the Draft law on COVID 19
- ▶ The first letter included recommendations about the human rights concern to the Draft law on Covid-19 and the regulations and restrictions according to the State Urgent commission should be in accordance to the Constitution of Mongolia & other international agreements.
- ▶ The second letter included recommendations about that certain articles in the Covid-19 law, Disaster law & Petty offense law are violating the right to associate, freedom of expression, right to information and those articles should be revised. Also the first letter's recommendations were included in the Draft law on Covid-19.
- ▶ 4. Started collecting the human rights violation cases during the Covid-19 lockdown from the people who are abroad.

SUGGESTED URGENT ACTION

- ▶ Conduct in-depth research in the rural and peri-urban areas (CHRD SGs).
 - ▶ Survey
 - ▶ Individual interviewing (Online)
- ▶ Funding Community Development Fund (CHRD SGs Association) without interest.
 - ▶ Safety/Hygiene COVID19 (hand soap, toothpaste/toothbrush, washing powder, masks, hand sanitizer)
 - ▶ First aid medicines
 - ▶ Housing upgrading , improved access to the clean water and sanitation facilities
 - ▶ Staple food (flour, rice, vegetable oil, vegetables etc).
- ▶ Information dissemination about “informed voting and covid19” via online
 - ▶ Safety measures of COVID19
 - ▶ Informed election and voting
- ▶ Psychological counselling to community members
- ▶ International Solidarity:
 - ▶ Exchange experiences of lessons learnt & best practices of coping COVID 19 via online (3 times)
 - ▶ Online URGENT ACTION Conference COVID19, produce STATEMENT/RECOMMENDATIONS to participating GOVERNMENTS