

Voluntary GCM Review

Survey conducted to inform the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration Bangkok, (18-20 November 2020)

The [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#) (GCM) (General Assembly Resolution 73/195) calls for review of the progress of “implementing the Global Compact in the framework of the United Nations through a State-led approach and with the participation of all relevant stakeholders” (OP48), and “invites United Nations regional economic commissions ... to review the implementation of the Global Compact within the respective regions, beginning in 2020” (OP50)

This voluntary GCM review is issued to fulfil this mandate, by enabling member States to provide information on their progress towards the objectives of the Global Compact. The results will inform the preparation of the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration to be held at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok from 18 to 20 November 2020, the preparation of the 2020 Asia-Pacific Migration Report and related background documentation.

The survey has been informed by the suggested outline prepared by the United Nations Network on Migration ([Proposed framework to assist Member States in the organization of regional reviews](#) – Annex II: Indicative outline for Member States) to review the status of implementation of the GCM at national, subregional, regional and cross-regional levels (General Assembly resolution 73/195, OP48 and OP50). It has been structured according to the four round tables to be organized for the Asia-Pacific Regional Review meeting which correspond to the four round tables of the International Migration Review Forum in 2022 (General Assembly resolution 73/326, OP21).

Please identify the office responsible for coordinating the responses to this survey and include the contact information.

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Please return the completed survey to the ESCAP secretariat by **31 August 2020**, preferably by email (escap-sdd@un.org) with a copy to the Regional Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific (UNRNAP-regreviews@iom.int). Any queries can be forwarded to these same addresses.

Kindly indicate whether you would be willing to share your report at the IMRF/regional reviews site on the UN Network on Migration at <https://www.migrationnetwork.un.org/>. Please contact UNRNAP-regreviews@iom.int if you have a query or suggestion in this regard.
X=Yes =No

Instructions:

*Please provide answers to the following set of questions (about 500 words per question) as they relate to **clusters of objectives** of the Global Compact for Migration (General Assembly resolution 73/326, para 21).*

If needed, please provide the answers in a separate document and attach it to this survey.

*Please provide **references or links to relevant policy documents in a separate document**, attached to this survey.*

*If possible, please identify any **innovative policies or practices** related to any of the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration.*

*Also, information should be based on **statistical as well as qualitative data**.*

Questions (about 500 words per questions (1a, 1b, 1c, 1d - please attach paper and documents, as needed):

<p>1. Ensuring that migration is voluntary, orderly and regular</p>	<p>GCM Objectives: 2, 5, 6, 12, 18</p>
<p>a. Please highlight the migration levels and trends, including drivers (if possible), and migrant experiences relevant to this cluster of objectives.</p>	
<p>Over the past 20 years, Mongolia has transformed into a vibrant multiparty democracy. The country has experienced an economic boom, driven by the mining sector, with significant GDP growth and increased in-and-outbound migration flows. Mongolia is experiencing higher migration rates in all aspects with increasing numbers of international immigrants, the emigration of young people looking for work, and rural to urban migration. Currently, an estimated 190,000 Mongolians, 5.8 percent of the total population, live abroad. Usually, Mongolian migrants to foreign countries are young people educated and skilled in search of higher paid jobs and a better quality of life for themselves and their families. These migrants are mainly males traveling to destinations in Asia, like the Republic of Korea, China, Japan, and some countries in Europe, with the Czech Republic and Sweden are the main destinations, as well as the United States.</p>	
<p>As of 2019, the population of Mongolia reached 3.3 million, and the growth was at 1.8 percent. According to the 2020 Housing Census, 122.3 thousand people are living abroad for 6 months or more, of which 58.8 percent live and work in the Asia-Pacific region and 23.9 percent in Europe. Of all the Mongolians living abroad, 34.2 percent went for study, 32.0 percent for work (of which 20.6 percent are self-employed, 10.4 percent are employed, 1.0 percent are on business trips), 12.6 percent are staying for family reasons, 11.7 percent are residing, and the remaining 9.5 percent are residing for other reasons.</p>	
<p>Concerning migration towards Mongolia, according to the Mongolian Immigration Agency, as of 31 December 2019, there were more than 22,600 migrants from 127 countries residing in Mongolia regularly. Migrant workers come mainly from China, the Republic of Korea, Russia, Australia, Canada, and Central Asian countries. Major economic projects with high contribution to Mongolian GDP are directly dependent on foreign labor force: mining projects, roads, factories, etc.</p>	
<p>Internal migration has grown exponentially, especially rural-to-urban (heading mostly towards the capital Ulaanbaatar) and, more recently, to mining areas. Mongolia has a rich cultural history steeped in a nomadic way of life. However, rural poverty triggered by unemployment, low incomes, and desertification has led many opting to leave their traditional way of life for urban centers. Almost half (47 percent) of the Mongolian population is currently living in Ulaanbaatar, and the share of the urban population has increased to 67 percent of the total population. Of the total population, 20.3 percent are settled in provincial centers, 1.6 percent in villages, 10.5 percent in village centers, and 21.7 percent in rural areas. 76.3 percent of the capital city's movements consist of migrants, which is an increase of 1.3 points compared to 2010. However, when looking at the regional migration situation, it shows that the central region (where the capital city Ulaanbaatar is situated) is most affected by internal migration.</p>	

According to the “Mongolia: Internal Migration Study (2018)” conducted by the IOM, “young adults aged 25–39 and children under ten comprise the majority population in migrant households”. According to the “Mongolia: Urban Migrant Vulnerability Assessment (2018)”, also conducted by IOM, children from migrant households are already largely excluded from preschool education. “Despite their willingness, migrants often opt out of sending their children to preschool education institutions and instead, resort to childcare at home, provided either by the migrant mothers themselves or by other family members. Securing access to education at all levels is often challenging for migrants due to its high cost. Routine expenses required at public kindergartens and high monthly fee of private kindergartens effectively discourage pre-school education enrollment. Children of migrants are disadvantaged with regard to education access due to registration issues and financial barriers. Access to public schools is relatively easier for migrants than accessing kindergartens due to availability and demand. However, migrant children often need to commute longer distances, and experience discrimination and stress when they are unable to afford frequent money collections at schools for various extra-curricular expenses.”

b. Please highlight the concrete policy, legal, and programmatic actions taken by your government to advance these objectives in recent years (in particular since the adoption of the GCM on 10 December 2018).

The Government of Mongolia has indicated its interest in prioritizing migration by including the protection of migrants’ human rights, access to education, establishing mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits, and increasing the positive impact of migration key issues in the national development agenda. In the past years, the Government has received support from the IOM in improving migration management and building capacity for improved border management and counter-trafficking efforts.

To contribute its collective commitment towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, as well as to integrate the national policies under the shared long-term vision, the Government of Mongolia has re-examined its national development strategies and developed the long-term national strategy “Vision 2050” with vast participation across various fields. On May 8, 2020, the “Vision 2050” was ratified by the Parliament of Mongolia as the policy foundation for all sectoral development policies and programs.

In parallel to this, the Law on Development Policy and Planning was revised and ratified by the Parliament on 7 May 2020 to establish a legal mechanism for the coordination of the policy implementation and the alignment of national planning and monitoring frameworks. The law aims to ensure the sustainability and continuity of national long, medium, and short-term development policies and planning with shared principles.

The Government of Mongolia developed the first state policy on population development in 2004, with the purpose to ensure sustainable development and growth on population and quality of life and implemented it for a period of ten years from 2004 to 2015. The policy was revised and extended from 2016 to 2025. For its implementation, an Action Plan was developed and approved by the Decree of the Minister of Labor and Social Protection (No.A/221) in 2017. In accordance with the Law on Development Policy and Planning, the State Policy and its Action plan will undergo a mid-term evaluation to provide a basis for responsible decision-making for further improvements of implementation and necessary changes to be consistent with the long-

term policy strategy. The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection is evaluating the 109 activities in the Action Plan with the assistance and support of the IOM Mongolia. Of the 6 significant outcomes that deal with population development, growth, and quality of life, the 2nd outcome mentions internal migration: “To maintain population migration at an appropriate level”. The Action Plan will be evaluated using a result-oriented, multi-dimensional approach, assessing its relevance to population development, efficiency in its implementation, effectiveness to date, impact on target audiences, sustainability, and partnership. An external migration expert will evaluate Migration-specific activities as a separate chapter of the report.

The National Development Agency of Mongolia is working with IOM Mongolia to develop a situation analysis of migration-related regulations by adopting a whole-of-government approach with the involvement of all relevant organizations by conducting a technical workshop to discuss state policy on migration-related issues. In addition, both organizations will organize a joint meeting with other UN agencies (UNFPA, UNDP) to invite further research collaboration and formulation of regional development regulations within the framework of mainstreaming migration dimensions into the regional development.

The Parliament (State Great Khural) approved the Action Plan of the Government of Mongolia 2020-2024 in its Resolution No. 24 and included clauses that advance the GCM objectives: To minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave Mongolia, the Government plans to build satellite cities of Ulaanbaatar as a necessary infrastructure to support the e-economy and service sector (Clauses 3.7.6 and 3.7.7). For low and medium-income citizens who pay social insurance premiums, the Government is enabling their eligibility for soft mortgage loans with 4-6% annual interest rates with no down payment when they purchase apartments for the first time. (Clause 3.7.10) To support skills and career development, the Government plans to strengthen the system to create equitable, inclusive, and quality education for all (Clause 2.3). In this respect, the Government intends to establish a research results-based competitive financing system for professional education in conformity with graduates’ employment opportunities in their field and develop research-based universities (Clause 2.3.5). The Government plans to increase the quality of life of the Mongolian people by reforming the social insurance system, streamlining social welfare, increasing employment, ensuring human development and expanding the middle class (Clause 2.5). In efforts to enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration, the government intends to identify potential settlement areas for development with optimal regional structure based on the appropriate mix of locals and settlers and connect them to air, road and railway transport networks (Clause 3.7.4).

(Please see more information in Attachment 1.)

c. What are the main gaps identified and challenges faced in addressing these objectives?

The increase of internal and international migration in recent years has brought about an array of challenges for the country’s political, social, and economic fabric. Main challenges include overpopulation of the capital city, rural-urban inequalities, imbalanced social development, lack of adequate structures to protect migrant rights, and limited access to social services for internal migrants. Cross-border challenges include unsafe migration, fraud, border inspection avoidance, visa violations, and an increasing incidence of human trafficking, including internal.

Mongolia faces challenges in having adequate, up-to-date factual data on both international and internal migration and needs support in enhancing its statistical system as well as adaptation of additional data production, analysis, and usage methods. As the country maintains its international borders closed for regular passenger traffic and COVID-19 related restrictions manifest major socio-economic impact, the government experiences a lack of funds and operating capacities while the need for support increases, especially for those people who suffered the most during the COVID-19 restrictions.

d. Please share some of the results of these actions, effective solutions, best practices and lessons learned by your Government in implementing these objectives.

Mongolian government’s “child money program” has proved to be a good practice in supporting the most vulnerable families with children who prove to be most prone to migrate internally. The increase of “child money allocation” from MNT30,000 to MNT100,000 during the active phase of the COVID-19 restrictions has proved to be a powerful instrument to prevent vulnerable families from falling into poverty and remaining behind the country’s development.

Mongolian government’s labor migration agreements, like the ones with the Republic of Korea and Japan, have facilitated the opening of regular migration pathways and protected employment for thousands of Mongolian people willing to find employment abroad.

In the framework of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Government of Japan and the Government of Mongolia on the Technical Intern Training Program, 421 Mongolian interns were sent to Japan in 2017, and 747 interns were sent in 2019. The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection expects these numbers to increase in the coming years.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding to send and receive employees in accordance with Korea’s Employment Permit System (EPS), 1,293 Mongolians were sent to work in the Republic of Korea in 2017, and 773 people were sent in 2019.

Questions (about 500 words per question 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d - please attach paper and documents, as needed):

2. Protecting migrants through rights-based border governance measures	GCM Objectives: 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 21
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a. Please highlight migration levels and trends, including drivers (if possible), and migrant experiences relevant to this cluster of objectives.

According to official reports, Mongolia is considered a high-risk country for human trafficking, both in sending and receiving. According to reports from several institutions, due to the increasing trend of internal migration in the last few decades, the forced labor and sexual exploitation of women and children in the country are becoming more visible in urban areas and the border provinces. Some Mongolian victims are subjected to forced labor in countries such

as Turkey, Kazakhstan, Israel, Norway, and Sweden and to sex trafficking in China, Hong Kong, Macao, South Korea, Malaysia, Turkey.

Traffickers often use fraudulent social networking, online job opportunities or attractive advertisements for study abroad scholarships or lure the victims with promises of lucrative jobs. Many women who fall victim to fraudulent schemes are from rural and poor economic areas. Women are also often unaware of the provisions of the Law to Combat Domestic Violence and are thus exposed to greater risk.

According to a 2014 report from the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, between 3,000 and 5,000 women and children are trafficked each year from rural communities into cities and beyond the nation's borders. On the other hand, UNICEF estimates that roughly 19,000 sex workers are active in Mongolia; however, some field workers cite much higher numbers.

Further research on the correlation between internal migration, prostitution, and sex trafficking will improve the evidence base to design programs and policies to effectively counter TIP and address the root causes of trafficking and strengthen protection measures. This is because internal migration is often driven by a desire to obtain employment.

Domestically, Mongolian girls are increasingly subjected to sex trafficking in Mongolian massage parlors, hotels, bars, and karaoke clubs. The National Policy Agency conducted several unannounced inspections on sauna and massage parlors in January 2018 and detected 6 girls aged 16 to 17 who had been forced into sexual exploitation and prostitution.

In terms of national data and information on border crossings at national checkpoints, according to the General Department for Border Protection, a total of 6,767,687 travelers from 183 countries and 5,339,465 vehicles arrived in Mongolia and were registered at 26 national border checkpoints in the period from 1 January 2019 to 1 October 2020.

b. Please highlight the concrete policy, legal, and programmatic actions taken by your government to advance these objectives in recent years (in particular since the adoption of the GCM on 10 December 2018).

The Government of Mongolia has been taking measures to eliminate trafficking in persons by joining the international human rights convention and by strengthening the legal framework by enacting such laws and policies as Law on Combating Human Trafficking (2012), Criminal Law (2015), and National Program Combating against Human Trafficking (2017-2021) (Mongolian Gender Equality Center NGO, 2019). Additionally, on March 3, 2017, the Minister of Justice and Home Affairs issued Order No. A/49 approving the "Regulation on monitoring the crossing of children across the border" to monitor the border crossing of Mongolian children under the age of 18 in efforts to prevent trafficking in children.

Article 13.1 of the Criminal Code criminalizes sex trafficking and labor trafficking with penalties of 2-8 years' imprisonment for offenses involving adult victims and 5-12 years' imprisonment for those involving child victims. These penalties were considered sufficiently stringent by the U.S. State Department and, with respect to sex trafficking, commensurate with those prescribed for other grave crimes, such as rape. Article 12.3 of the Criminal Code criminalized sexual exploitation offenses, including some forms of sex trafficking, penalties

ranged from 2-8 years' imprisonment for trafficking offenses involving individuals older than the age of 14, and 12 - 20 years' imprisonment for those involving children younger than the age of 14.

The latest Action Plan of the Government of Mongolia (2020-2024) reflected the government's willingness to prevent, combat, and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration in Clause 4.3. The government plans to use public-private partnerships to expand preventive and impact measures designed to prevent children and women from being exposed to sexual exploitation and human trafficking. In efforts to manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner, the government intends to renew the border barrier to ensure the inviolability of the frontiers of the country and security of the border area, introduce advanced techniques and technologies in the operation of the border protection service and to improve the social welfare services for border guards and strengthen the human resources of the border protection service.

In efforts to prevent human trafficking in accordance with the "Regulation on controlling the entry of children across the Mongolian border" approved by Order A/49 of the Minister of Justice and Home Affairs in 2017, the General Department for Border Protection cooperates with the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the General Police Department, and the Department of Family, Child and Youth Department on providing information and data on border crossings by children on a monthly basis. In the period of January to October 2020, a total of 2,601 children crossed national borders and have not returned to Mongolia.

To manage state borders in a coordinated manner and regulate efficiency and safety in monitoring of border crossings in accordance with established international agreements with neighboring countries, information and data regarding border violations, illegal actions, and the number of passengers and vehicles crossing the state border is provided by the General Department of Border Protection through their 3-level coordination of the border protection management, the border representative, and the relevant border points for the detection and suppression of cross-border crime.

A revised version of the Law on Borders of Mongolia was approved by the Parliament /State Great Khural/ on 26 December 2016 and came into force on 1 February 2017, with the aim to strengthen the legal basis for managing borders in a unified, safe, and coordinated manner.

c. What are the main gaps identified and challenges faced in addressing these objectives?

The Government took significant measures to eliminate human trafficking by strengthening the legal framework and implementing programmatic actions. However, some challenges are faced to fully implement the enacted laws and regulations, including the inadequate systematic understanding of the human trafficking issues among law enforcement officials and insufficient human capacity and resources to fight against and prevent human trafficking. As human trafficking is a hidden, underground criminal activity, obtaining real, reliable data on trafficking cases is difficult. To overcome these challenges, studies on emerging trends of human trafficking causes, methods, and dynamics, as well as on the vulnerability and coping capacity of victims,

are needed to feed the development of effective policies, interventions, and programs in Mongolia.

One of the main challenges in ensuring and managing border protection for the General Department of Border Protection is the use of traditional paper-based monitoring and registration, which takes time and relies on human judgment and intuition, whereas the use of new specialized technology would help provide speedy, orderly and efficient flow of border crossings and border protection. There is a need to introduce modern, advanced technology based on non-overlapping data of biometrics and develop registration and information systems in line with international standards to improve the process of document inspection and to prevent potential risks and trafficking crimes. It is estimated that funding equivalent to MNT 14.1 billion (USD 4.7 million) would be required to introduce new identification technology based on non-overlapping biometrics data of travelers at border checkpoints.

d. Please share some of the results of these actions, effective solutions, best practices and lessons learned by your Government in implementing these objectives.

The Government of Mongolia has collaborated with various international organizations and foreign governments to prevent and combat human trafficking. As of October 2020, more than 700 border guards have participated in donor-funded projects and targeted training on “Prevention of Human Trafficking” to build the capacity of personnel on crime detection and identify victims, organized by the Asian Development Fund, the International Organization for Migration in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs. Continuous cooperation with donor agencies and international organizations resulted in best practices in strengthening the legal framework and enacting new laws and procedures to fight trafficking in persons, provide shelter and repatriation assistance to victims of trafficking, and building capacity of police, border protection officers, and relevant law enforcement officials in identifying victims and prosecuting offenders.

On October 29, 2020, MFA reported that since the end of January 2020, 26,338 Mongolians stranded abroad due to COVID-19 were repatriated from 91 different countries to Mongolia via charter flights (19,757 persons) and special arrangements for land border crossing (6,581). At the same time, a significant number of Mongolians, especially those particularly vulnerable and with no means to support themselves, have filed requests with the Mongolian diplomatic missions for an immediate return.

As of September 2020, the Government, with the support of IOM Mongolia, cooperated in facilitating the safe and dignified return of 324 Mongolians stranded overseas due to COVID-19. Assistance includes covering charter flight fees and quarantine cost, and the beneficiaries will be further receiving reintegration assistance (Czech- 218; Belgium-51; Germany 20; Hungary 5; Austria-6; Latvia 6; Netherlands 9; Switzerland- 5; Thailand-2; Poland-2). Mongolian MFA cooperated with the Czech government and IOM in organizing a special return flight from Prague that brought back 250 Mongolians stranded abroad. Out of these, 186 were under IOM’s direct assistance program. After return, 186 beneficiaries from the Czech received briefing sessions focusing on the procedures for receiving reintegration support, which may

consist of one or more of the following components: vocational training courses, formal education for adults and/ or children, language courses, access to job placements, assistance in providing necessary tools for self-employment initiatives, information on job placements, and advice and referral to services available locally.

As of October 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is coordinating with IOM implementation of a special return operation aiming at ensuring the safe return of 174 most vulnerable migrants from abroad who got stranded due to COVID-19 and have no means to support themselves or to return via usual return channels organized by the government of Mongolia. The Global Return Task Force at IOM Headquarters approved financial means that would suffice to return about 100 people. UNICEF and UNDP will be supporting IOM to return an additional 40 people. The government of Mongolia committed to pay for the quarantine costs of these returnees.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been working with IOM Mongolia since 2011, supporting the return of Mongolian nationals from abroad. In this timeframe, over 6,000 Mongolians have been repatriated safely from over 22 countries. IOM has assisted over 2,300 individuals, many of whom were victims of trafficking, to help them reintegrate into society with a targeted reintegration plan with an estimated budget of over 3, 2 million USD in assistance.

Questions (about 500 words per question 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d - please attach paper and documents, as needed):

<p>3. Supporting the integration of migrants and their contribution to development</p>	<p>GCM Objectives: 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22</p>
<p>a. Please highlight migration levels and trends, including drivers (if possible), and migrant experiences relevant to this cluster of objectives.</p> <p>A significant number of Mongolians were traveling abroad for seasonal, temporary, or permanent employment, sending back remittances that supported the family members who stayed behind. According to the World Bank, Mongolia received \$574.4 million in remittances in 2019 (4.1% when compared to GDP). A recent report by ADB notes that a significant share of remittances occurs through informal channels and some unofficial estimates indicate that total remittance inflows could be as high as 10% of the GDP. World Bank projects that in 2020, remittances might decline globally as much as by 20%. Although data on the Mongolian international migrant contingent is lacking, global research suggests that women tend to send a higher proportion of their income, even though they generally earn less than men. They also usually send money more regularly and for longer periods of time. These remittances cover the basic living expenses, health, welfare, and education costs of those staying behind and play a significant role as a safety valve for domestic unemployment.</p> <p>To prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Mongolia has suspended all scheduled inbound and outbound flights from/to Mongolia and closed land borders with the Russian Federation and the People’s Republic of China since March, 2020.</p>	

Since the suspension of all commercial flights and border closures and in conformity with its limited domestic capacity of quarantine facilities and medical institutions, the Government of Mongolia has only allowed special repatriation flights, which were operated under strict on board regulations with crews consisting of doctors and epidemiologists and has repatriated over 20500 Mongolian nationals from 91 countries.

The number of chartered flights and the number of returnees are strictly regulated in direct correlation with the capacity of quarantine facilities, where all the arrivals are required to undertake a 21-day mandatory quarantine.

Mongolians stranded abroad due to COVID-19 pandemic are facing a number of major challenges. Financial constraints mostly due to job loss connected to COVID-19 and challenges finding a job given that a significant number are in an irregular situation.

Mental health problems and risks of exposure to violence, especially for vulnerable women and children because of the extremely stressful situations they are in. These short- and long-term effects on their mental health and psycho-social well-being.

Accommodation is a problem, especially for students who had to vacate dorms and people who lost jobs and income. Food and basic needs are an issue for those with multiple levels of vulnerability, particularly children.

Legal challenges are relevant for those in an irregular migration situation and those whose visa is set to expire soon (students, short-term travelers on a specific purpose, etc.)

The challenging situation of Mongolians stranded abroad because of COVID-19 has contributed to significant social activism. A number of pages have sparked on social media (especially on Facebook, given the popularity of this platform in Mongolia – 79.4% of the population are Facebook users and the majority are women – 52.5%) on which Mongolians stranded abroad share the latest available information on the return options, are exchanging views on government's performance in organizing return and are supporting each other. There is anecdotal evidence of various initiatives organized in different countries worldwide by diaspora associations, spontaneously formed groups, and individuals.

MFA and IOM are currently working to develop a comprehensive diaspora development program building on the increased activism of diaspora during the COVID-19.

b. Please highlight the concrete policy, legal, and programmatic actions taken by your government to advance these objectives in recent years (in particular since the adoption of the GCM on 10 December 2018).

Since 2019, the work of the Consular Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs focused on expanding consular relations, protecting the interests of Mongolians and legal entities abroad, simplifying travel conditions, and improving the legal environment for consular activities to make services faster, more accessible and more digitalized for Mongolian citizens to travel

abroad. These efforts are in line with the Ministry's Action Plan as well as the Government Action Plan of 2016-2020, and the Ministry has made considerable progress in reaching these objectives.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is currently working on improving and amending the Law on the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens, strengthening the legal framework on procedures for introducing e-visas, bringing visa issuance procedures in line with international standards, improving visa registration and monitoring. A new version of the Law on Migration of Mongolian Citizens Abroad is in the process of being drafted to improve the registration of Mongolian citizens traveling abroad.

The Action Plan of the Government of 2020-2024 states its plans to enhance consular protection, assistance, cooperation, and optimize the location, structure, and staffing of diplomatic missions abroad, taking into account the level and importance of political and economic relations, number of Mongolian citizens residing in a particular country and the number of in-and-out travelers and other factors (Clause 4.5.4).

The Action Plan also mentions that the Government plans to create a favorable environment for citizens working and living abroad to return to their home country to work as well as to make a contribution to the economic and social development of the country from overseas (Clause 4.2.11).

In the latest Action Plan of the Government 2020-2024, the Government plans to provide an integrated e-development policy, planning, and management to ensure that public services are responsive, accountable, and accessible to save time and costs for citizens. Clause 2.5.8. mentions implementation of a comprehensive human development policy that upholds the rights of families, children, youth, elderly, and people with special needs and ensures the participation of all demographic groups.

(Please see more information in Attachment 3.)

c. What are the main gaps identified and challenges faced in addressing these objectives?

Unable to travel internationally due to COVID-19 restrictions and without the possibility of sending back remittances for their families, returning diaspora will add to the unemployment figures and find it increasingly hard to prevent their households from slipping into poverty. With 28.4% already in poverty (2018) and other 14.9% of the total population vulnerable to slipping into poverty, especially when they are hit by negative shocks such as increasing prices, unemployment, illness etc., the interruption of outgoing migration from Mongolia could have a devastating socioeconomic effect. Without proper support upon arrival, the most vulnerable returning migrants may have limited success in integrating back into the community.

d. Please share some of the results of these actions, effective solutions, best practices and lessons learned by your Government in implementing these objectives.

In efforts to increase access to consular services by Mongolian citizens, the MFA actively cooperates with governmental, non-governmental organizations, and private entities in disseminating information to the public. The Consular Department regularly updates the information on its website www.consul.mn to use as their primary channel for communication and information-sharing for Mongolians traveling abroad and incorporated online forms for user-friendliness.

The Consular Department established cooperation with MIAT Mongolian Airlines, a national flag carrier, ticketing agencies, and the Tourism Association to aim towards promoting informed and responsible travel for Mongolian citizens. The Ministry has also started cooperating with the World Wanderers Group, a Facebook group that has over 600000 followers, to organize a social campaign titled “Let’s travel responsibly” to raise awareness and influence self-responsibility and clarity in Mongolian citizens/travelers abroad.

Many Mongolians travel to South Korea for work, study, and travel; as of March 2020, there are around 48,000 Mongolians living in South Korea. For many years, Mongolian citizens have faced difficulties when applying for a Korean visa due to its cumbersome procedures, lengthy process, and high application fee. As a result of continuous negotiations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Korean side on alleviating such difficulties, the S. Korean Embassy took measures to increase the number of consular staff and abolish the 5 million MNT deposit required for visa applications. As a result of these negotiations, families of Mongolian citizens working contractually in S. Korea have the opportunity to obtain a visa without any additional monetary collateral or requirements. Additionally, the Republic of Korea decided to outsource some of its visa handling operations to IOM starting in January 2020 in Ulaanbaatar, the Korea Visa Application Centre. Although the processing capacity of the new facility is high and was planned to satisfy the high demand that existed in the past, the border closure caused by COVID-19 significantly reduced the number of processed visas.

Questions (about 500 words per question 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d - please attach paper and documents, as needed):

<p>4. Improving value-driven and evidence-based policymaking and public debate, and enhancing cooperation on migration</p>	<p>GCM Objectives: 1, 3, 7, 17, 23</p>
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- a. Please highlight migration levels and trends, including drivers (if possible), and migrant experiences relevant to this cluster of objectives.

The international circulation of labor has direct implications for the economic situation in Mongolia. The COVID-19 pandemic and the inability for Mongolians to travel abroad for work inevitably adds to the problem of unemployment and increased poverty in the country. Surveys show that COVID-19 has negatively affected household economic conditions in the context of employment, especially within the SME, informal, and self-employment sectors with 31% of the surveyed households have experienced income reductions. The Bank of Mongolia stated that enterprises were most likely to cut expenses related to employment due to the pandemic. According to the employment survey conducted by the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MNCCI), about 6000 workers already had to quit their jobs, and it was estimated that about 8000 employees would lose their jobs if these firms continue to make jobs cuts in the future.

Important infrastructure, mining, road, and other construction projects have been delayed, reduced or canceled, as foreign workers could no longer come into Mongolia due to the COVID-19 restrictions. While foreign direct investment in Mongolia decreased by 21.5 percent year-on-year to \$491.4 million in the first four months of 2020, almost 90% of it depends on the Oyu Tolgoi project that reduced its initial investment plans by about \$ 100 million due to labor shortages caused by the pandemic. The construction of a major road connecting Ulaanbaatar and Darkhan. The second-largest city in Mongolia has also been delayed, as the foreign workers were not allowed to enter Mongolia. On August 1st, 2020, Mongolia started the implementation of a special arrangement with China called “Green Gateway” for limited circulation of truck drivers and essential specialists via selected land border-crossing points between the two countries, but much more support is necessary to expand it to other important labor migration destinations and countries of origin, sectors, means of transportation.

The economic recession and unemployment caused by COVID-19 in Mongolia will make it increasingly hard for returning stranded Mongolians to find a job and effectively reintegrate in Mongolian society. The UNICEF-supported Rapid Social Impact Assessment revealed that mothers surveyed had to resign from work (24.9%) or had to reduce their working hours (16.6 %) or take unpaid leave (11.7%) to take care of their children due to the closure of schools.

Vulnerabilities in migration: Rising economic growth in the past 20 years have shown little change in the living standards of people with the lowest 20% of consumption, which shows the persistent inequality and the gap between rich and poor. These disparities are directly linked to extreme climatic conditions, distance from city centers, and insufficient infrastructure and social services. Regional disparities lead to people moving from rural to urban areas to look for better opportunities. This has increased the pressure on social services, urban planning and contributed to air pollution. For example, most tertiary educational institutions (94.7 percent) are concentrated in Ulaanbaatar, and the rest located in other aimags, which limits education opportunities for rural youth. The ger districts of Ulaanbaatar cover 75 percent of the city’s territory and accommodate 55 percent of the capital’s residents. Out of these residents, one-third are newcomers who have migrated from rural areas for better job opportunities, more incomes, and better access to basic services.

Due to harsh winters and droughts, many countryside herders lost their livestock and other resources, which forced them to move to the city. Particularly in 2000 and 2010 – the years of extremely cold winters and drought – the number of migrants to the city increased drastically. Among the migrants, 40 percent belong to population groups who are at risk of being left behind, needing extensive social protection services. Initially, the capital city, Ulaanbaatar, was designed for just 500 thousand residents, but currently, it accommodates over 1.5 million people, 1.2 times increase over the last decade.

Many urban migrants who arrive in Ulaanbaatar settle in the ger districts located on the outskirts of the city, which typically lack adequate infrastructure and services and experience a range of issues including air, soil, and water pollution, inappropriate land use and high poverty rates. Poverty and inequality are further exacerbated by the migration restriction making urban migrants highly vulnerable. As such, life in Ulaanbaatar often fails to meet urban migrant's expectations increasing the likelihood of them falling into the ranks of the urban poor or leaving the country to look for better livelihoods abroad. The latter trend has picked up in the last years as many urban migrants are economically active people aged 25-39, which means Mongolia may lose its young population, ensuring a negative impact on the country's development. It is also further evident throughout the Studies that no targeted interventions are implemented to mitigate the vulnerabilities of internal and urban migrants. Internal and urban migrants face multiple vulnerabilities that range from lack of official information to guide migration decisions, support with integration into new communities and context, insufficient access to services and decent employment, inadequate living conditions, as well as social discrimination.

Ten percent of migrant households in urban locations are dependent on shared facilities such as public latrines, which is significantly higher than non-migrants in the same areas. Gers are often not connected to the central heating, water supply, and sewage system in the city. Around two-thirds of urban households collect water from outside of their property, with the average distance a little more than half a kilometer. In rural areas of origin, the rates of access to electricity is significantly lower than in the ger districts of Ulaanbaatar, which further drives internal migrants to urban centers to access these facilities. The Studies found that living conditions in urban centers were often viewed as an improvement in comparison to rural areas of origin despite experiencing unequal living conditions in comparison to non-migrants in urban areas. This, therefore, underscores the net gains of urban migration.

Limited information on land ownership, limited land availability, and a lack of income affects urban migrants' ability to access appropriate, affordable, and secure housing. Many internal migrants resort to is to set up their own ger on unoccupied land which is often illegal without land title or registration at the khoroo (lowest administrative unit in the city). Studies noted that these challenges are largely due to the migration restriction, registration complications, and gaps in current land management, such as incomplete reforms on market-driven urban development, restraints in existing national laws, lack of infrastructure, and the continuous change in laws and practices.

- b. Please highlight the concrete policy, legal, and programmatic actions taken by your government to advance these objectives in recent years (in particular since the adoption of the GCM on 10 December 2018).

International cooperation on migration: The Government of Mongolia is cooperating with the IOM Mongolia towards strengthening efforts in understanding and managing international and internal migration. Mongolia became a member of IOM in 2008. IOM activities in the country are grounded on a Cooperation Agreement signed on 27 November 2010. Since the establishment of its office in 2011, IOM has been contributing to the efforts of the Government to manage migration effectively through a wide variety of projects and programs. With the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, IOM started a comprehensive program in 2017 in order to support research in the field of internal migration, also studying vulnerabilities of internal migrants as well as supporting provision of services to existent and prospective external migrants, including informational and psychosocial ones. Activities are being implemented with various governmental agencies in order to mainstream internal migration into the strategic and developmental framework of Mongolia.

Mongolia has supported the building of the “Belt and Road initiative” ever since it was put forward by the People’s Republic of China in 2013 and has agreed to establish Mongolia-Russia-China economic corridor, a multifaceted trilateral cooperation program that aligns Mongolia’s “Development Road” program to the “Belt and Road initiative”. Moreover, the Government of Mongolia decided to unveil “Belt and Road – Travel Facilitation Initiative” in November 2017 to help create a better condition for connectivity and cooperation between the countries that support the “Belt and Road” initiative. President Xi Jinping welcomed the “Belt and Road – Travel Facilitation Initiative” during his meeting with Prime Minister U. Khurelsukh in April 2018. One of the main objectives of the initiative is to help create a better condition for connectivity and cooperation between the countries along the “Belt and Road” initiative by facilitating travels between the countries. Some of the main accomplishments of the “Belt and Road – Travel Facilitation Initiative” is the opening of Fast-track lanes specifically dedicated to the “Belt and Road – Travel facilitation initiative” at Chinggis Khaan International Airport in Ulaanbaatar City and Zamyn-Uud-Erlian, the major land border port between Mongolia and China. In addition, an underway fast-track lane was established at Altanbulag-Khiagt, the major land border port between Mongolia and the Russian Federation.

Under this initiative, on-arrival visas are issued to Government delegates and accompanying business people provided that prior notifications are given to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia. Multiple-entry visas may be issued to frequent business travelers with an expedited procedure at Mongolian diplomatic missions located around the world. A Comprehensive Plan on further action for promoting the “Belt and Road – Travel Facilitation Initiative” was adopted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs on 2 April 2018.

- c. What are the main gaps identified and challenges faced in addressing these objectives?

The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Mongolia is responsible for the employment of Mongolian citizens at home and abroad and social protection and welfare. The challenges Mongolian labor migrants face relates to employment opportunities abroad and in Mongolia. The Ministry emphasizes the need to amend labor migration agreements, especially with the Republic of Korea, as there are 48,000 Mongolians currently living and working there. The

Ministry also emphasizes the need to sign more treaties on the transferability of social benefits.

d. Please share some of the results of these actions, effective solutions, best practices and lessons learned by your Government in implementing these objectives.

The Government of Mongolia is receiving support from the IOM Mongolia through their implementation of the Project in Understanding and Managing Internal Migration in Mongolia (2019-2023), which is aligned with Mongolia's sustainable development vision that addresses the implementation of the SDGs and puts forth the objective of sustainable development to promote inclusive growth, economic opportunity and social protection for vulnerable population groups.

There are also other policies and programs specific to urbanization and internal migration. For example, under its "40,000 Houses" program, the government envisaged the construction of 15,000 suburban houses, 15,000 homes in ger ("informal urban") areas, and 10,000 apartment units. This is in line with the government's attempt to narrow the gap between the urban and rural areas. This will be done through the provision of infrastructure to aimag centers and the promotion of economic development. Municipality of Ulaanbaatar city has been making efforts to ease rapid urbanization through signing a Memoranda of Understanding with authorities in Tuv, Selenge, Bulgan, Darkhan-Uul aimags and Erdenet city in 2018 to implement a "Golden Triangle of Development," which aims to "increase the accessibility of human resources and workforce and improve market opportunities and resources in local areas using economic and administrative means" in an effort to reverse rural to urban migration and reduce intensive urbanization of Ulaanbaatar.

The Ministry of Construction and Urban Development (MCUD), the National Development Agency (NDA), and the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry (MoFALI) have developed their own relocation and/or return to rural areas initiatives. For example, MoFALI has developed the initiative "New Life at New Rural", which aims to mitigate social constraints brought by rural to urban migration and promotes re-designing and restoring rural livelihoods in Mongolia, in line with policies such as the "State Policy on Herders" and the Government Resolution on Action in Decreasing Air Pollution. The aim is to reduce urbanization in Ulaanbaatar by creating favorable living conditions in rural areas, restocking herders who lost livestock due to dzud, a condition characterized by deterioration of the weather conditions in winter and spring leading to a shortage of pasture and water for livestock suffering massive die-off, investing in new herding businesses.

5. What steps has the Government taken to integrate the **vision and cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles** of the Global Compact for Migration (see paras 8 to 15 of the Global Compact (see General Assembly resolution 73/195)) into its implementation? How was this accomplished? (please check against the principles that have been integrated)

Guiding principle	Principle has been <input type="checkbox"/> =yes <input type="checkbox"/> =no Explanation (please provide integrated explanation on additional paper and attach relevant documentation)
People-centred	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓=yes <input type="checkbox"/> =no
International cooperation	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓=yes <input type="checkbox"/> =no
National sovereignty	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓=yes <input type="checkbox"/> =no
Rule of law and due process	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓=yes <input type="checkbox"/> =no
Sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓=yes <input type="checkbox"/> =no
Human rights	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓=yes <input type="checkbox"/> =no
Gender-responsive	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓=yes <input type="checkbox"/> =no
Child-sensitive	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓=yes <input type="checkbox"/> =no
Whole-of-government approach	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓=yes <input type="checkbox"/> =no
Whole-of-society approach	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓=yes <input type="checkbox"/> =no

Questions (about 500 words per question 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 - please attach paper and documents, as needed and relevant):

6. How is the Global Compact for Migration contributing to realizing the achievement of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**? What has your Government done to integrate the implementation of the Global Compact objectives into SDG implementation?

Mongolia presented its first Voluntary National Review Report on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals at the 2019 meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Parliament of Mongolia approved its long-term development strategy (Mongolia’s Sustainable Development Vision 2030) in 2016, reflecting the 2030 Agenda. This makes Mongolia one of the early adopters of the SDGs. The Report featured the issue of “Air pollution” as an example of a complex, multifaceted development challenge as it has become a point for everyday discussion among citizens, civil society and decision-makers alike. The increase in air pollution in Mongolia violates citizens’ fundamental rights to live in a safe and healthy environment, and one of the major contributing factors of air pollution is the burning of fossil fuel (mainly coal) in the outskirts of the capital city called in the *ger* districts, which cover 75% of the city’s territory. 55% of the capital’s residents reside in ger districts, and one-third of them are internal migrants who have moved from rural areas for better job opportunities, more incomes, and better access to basic services. From 2010-2018, the capital city ger area households used on average 708.9 thousand tons of coal per annum. The Government of Mongolia made significant efforts to amend the legal environment to solve the cross-cutting issues of air pollution and migration, amongst other developmental issues.

The 2030 Vision, mentioned above, was re-examined by the Government of Mongolia and was further revised into the long-term national strategy as the “Vision 2050”, which was ratified by the Parliament of Mongolia on 8 May 2020 as the policy foundation for all sectoral development policies and programs. In parallel, the Law on Development Policy and Planning was revised and ratified by the Parliament to establish a legal mechanism for coordinating the policy implementation and the alignment of national planning and monitoring frameworks. The law aims to ensure the sustainability and continuity of national long, medium, and short-term development policies and planning with shared principles.

One of the 6 main objectives of the State Policy on Population Development is to maintain population migration appropriately.

In its new Vision 2050, the Government of Mongolia aims to promote living standards in rural areas to reduce migration pressure to cities by ensuring that economic and social opportunities exist for those residing in rural areas. Rural development plans are being prepared in coordination with national development strategies, based on the comparative advantage of each province, to generate economic growth and employment opportunities.

7. From the Government’s perspective, are there any objectives of the Global Compact for Migration that are of particular importance in the national context? Please name the **objectives that the Government has prioritized and explain why.**

Priority GCM Objectives for Mongolia	Reasons for Prioritization
1. Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies	The issue of accurate and disaggregated data on internal and international migration poses an issue in Mongolia, especially due to citizens’ reluctance of registration in the change of address of internal migrants. Relevant government agencies require improved strategies for collecting accurate data on migration and utilizing the data for better policy amendments and implementation.
2. Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin	The main drivers of migration in Mongolia are the people’s need for employment and educational opportunities, better living conditions, and an improved way of life. To minimize these adverse drivers, efforts need to be strengthened in policy planning and implementation towards increasing employment opportunities, improving educational facilities, and living environment in rural areas. The Government of Mongolia has adopted Vision 2050 that incorporates such objectives and efforts that need to be taken to effectively implement the policy document and relevant legal amendments.
3. Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration	The Government of Mongolia receives support from IOM Mongolia on the accurate collection of relevant information and data on various stages of internal and international migration. However,

	such efforts are not regularly updated on a yearly basis. Therefore, systematic mechanisms need to be in place for obtaining accurate and timely information at all stages of migration in Mongolia.
7. Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration	Migration, especially internal migration from rural-urban settings, is becoming an increasingly important issue for the Government of Mongolia. It results in overpopulation in the capital city and provincial centers, air pollution, noise pollution, and increased pressure on public servants. Therefore, Objective 7 is one of the main priorities for the Government of Mongolia.
10. Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration	The Government of Mongolia is making significant efforts in combating trafficking in persons in the context of international migration. However, improvements need to be made the implementation of current laws and policies related to counter-trafficking, capacity-building of law enforcement officials, and the implementation of a whole-of-government approach to tackle the issue of trafficking in persons. Therefore, Objective 10 is one of the priorities for Mongolia.
11. Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner	The Department of Border Protection is making significant efforts in improving the issue of border management and monitoring of border crossings. However, there is a need to introduce modern, advanced technology and develop registration and information systems in line with international standards to improve the process of document inspection and prevent potential risks and trafficking crimes. Therefore, Obj. 11 is one of the Government of Mongolia's priority objectives.
14. Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its Consular Department has made significant achievements in enhancing consular services, protection, and international cooperation throughout the migration cycle. However, as the number of temporary and long-term travelers increases yearly, so does the workload of consular services. The challenges and complexities facing consular services are becoming more important for the Government of Mongolia in today's globalized world. There is an urgent need to look for innovative, far-sighted approaches and solutions to build the capacity of consular staff and ensure the availability and efficiency of consular services.

15. Provide access to basic services for migrants	With increasing internal migration and the reluctance of migrants to register their new addresses at the registration department creates problems for obtaining basic services. It also poses a challenge for public servants at educational facilities, hospitals, administrative offices with increasing workloads. Mongolians who are living abroad cannot obtain rightful services at home due to a lack of information regarding available services. The Government of Mongolia is continuously working to make public services easily accessible for citizens through e-government programs and one-stop service centers. However, efforts will need to continue to improve the accessibility and availability of services.
18. Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences	Mongolian migrants who migrated out and back to Mongolia face employment issues, even though the majority have finished tertiary education. There is a need to establish a system of facilitating mutual recognition of skills and qualifications to relevant job markets.
19. Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries	With over 190 thousand Mongolians living abroad and internal migrants increasingly migrating to urban settings in Mongolia, there is a need to establish a system and a legal environment where Mongolian diaspora and internal migrants can fully contribute to sustainable development in Mongolia and overseas.
20. Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants	Obj. 20 is one of the main priority objectives for the Government of Mongolia, as the issue of remittance is a priority for Mongolians living abroad, who continuously transfer money back home. The Ministry of Finance and the Mongolian National Bank are the main institutions that are intended to be involved in promoting the faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittance and foster financial inclusion of migrants.
22. Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits	Mongolians living and working abroad are not able to fully exercise their rights and receive essential social services in Mongolia due to the lack of availability of online services. The Government of Mongolia is working towards fully implementing an e-governance program, and social welfare, and social insurance services are gradually becoming available online, providing more ease and accessibility for citizens at home and abroad. However, the problem lies in the lack of awareness

	of the Mongolian migrants abroad. Therefore, it is necessary to continue efforts in establishing mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and benefits to Mongolians abroad and in the country.
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8. From the Government’s perspective, how and to what extent have **regional plans and strategies** incorporated the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration? What are the main achievements, gaps and challenges to existing regional approaches, strategies and implementation plans?

Mongolia is a party to such regional instruments, as the Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution negotiated by the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC), which aims to promote cooperation amongst the Member States so that they may effectively deal with the various aspects of trafficking in women and children, i.e. the prevention of the use of women and children in international prostitution networks, particularly where the countries of the SAARC region are the countries of origin, transit and destination, the repatriation and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking.

Mongolia is also a member of the Bali Process, an official international forum, established in 2002, to facilitate discussion and information sharing about issues relating to people smuggling, human trafficking, and related transnational crime and appropriate responses to these issues. The Seventh Ministerial Conference of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime took place in Denpasar, the capital city of Bali, Indonesia, where the then Deputy Minister of Justice and Home Affairs of Mongolia was present. Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and other officials from 46 Asia-Pacific member countries of the Bali Process attended the event to exchange experiences in combating the abovementioned crimes. The conference aimed to endorse the Ministerial Declaration on exchanging information and experiences as well as assisting human resource capacity building of the region’s relevant authorities in combating human trafficking, illegal immigration, and contemporary slavery.

Mongolia has supported the building of the “Belt and Road initiative” ever since it was put forward by the People’s Republic of China in 2013 and has agreed to establish Mongolia-Russia-China economic corridor, a multifaceted trilateral cooperation program that aligns Mongolia’s “Development Road” program to the “Belt and Road initiative”. Moreover, the Government of Mongolia decided to unveil “Belt and Road – Travel Facilitation Initiative” in November 2017 in order to help to create a better condition for connectivity and cooperation between the countries that support the “Belt and Road” initiative. President Xi Jinping welcomed the “Belt and Road – Travel Facilitation Initiative” during his meeting with Prime Minister U. Khurelsukh in April 2018.

9. What **methodology** was adopted for completing this voluntary GCM review; how was a whole-of-government approach applied through engaging the various relevant ministries and other sectors of government; what mechanisms were used to engage civil society and other relevant stakeholders for a whole-of-society approach?

To complete the first voluntary GCM review of Mongolia, the Government applied a whole-of-government approach by engaging relevant ministries, agencies, UN agencies, and civil society to discuss common goals concerning migration issues relevant to the work of each agency and coming to a mutual decision on the priority GCM objectives for Mongolia.

On 19 October 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia (MFA), in cooperation with the IOM Mission to Mongolia (IOM), organized a Workshop on the Review of the Implementation of the GCM. The workshop was attended by representatives of 7 governmental institutions, 8 UN agencies + UNRCO, and an umbrella NGO at the level of heads of departments. The workshop aimed to reach the following objectives:

- To review the GCM objectives and discuss its implementation in Mongolia
- To examine the Voluntary GCM Review Survey and agree on a division of labor between relevant authorities in providing inputs for the completion of the survey
- To conduct a prioritization exercise identifying the GCM objectives that are most relevant for Mongolia
- To brainstorm on potential ideas for a future joint project to be submitted for funding to Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF)
- To discuss preliminary ToRs for the establishment of the UN Network on Migration in Mongolia

Achieving its initial objectives, the workshop helped reiterate Mongolia's progress in implementing the GCM, clarify the timeline and division of labor for collecting inputs from all the stakeholders for the compilation and timely submission of the GCM Review Survey of Mongolia. Participants also agreed on recommending that Mongolia becomes a Champion Country for GCM implementation and identified a preliminary list of 12 priority GCM Objectives for Mongolia, to be finalized as part of the Review Survey process. The participants also contributed ideas for a possible future application from Mongolia for Migration MPTF. The initiative to launch the UN Network on Migration in Mongolia was also presented.

10. Given the outbreak of **COVID-19** which has affected all countries in the region, what challenges has the Government identified in implementation of the Global Compact for Migration as part of the COVID-19 response, and what has the Government done to address the specific situation of migrants and their families?

The first COVID-19 case in Mongolia was confirmed on 10 March 2020. As of 15 November 2020, the number of Novel Coronavirus infections had reached 428 in Mongolia. Of these, 328 have recovered, 100 cases are active, and there has been no registered COVID-19 death. Till 11 November 2020 all instances have been imported cases, and there were no reports of community transmission. This is attributable to the government's early and timely adoption of decisive preventative measures since January 2020 – limiting physical interaction, temporarily banning

travel between the provinces and the capital, temporarily closing shops and retail businesses, closing schools, universities, and training centers, prohibiting public gatherings and enforcing the wearing of masks in public places. Municipal authorities in Ulaanbaatar introduced monitoring of all vehicle and passenger flow in and out of the capital city, which allowed the identification of the first, and only, COVID-19 positive case at large that could potentially have led to community transmission. This monitoring of in and outflows of vehicles to the capital city was possible with the introduction of a new tool called Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), which was initiated by IOM Mongolia and implemented with the National Emergency Management Agency in cooperation with the Municipality.

Collecting and utilizing accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies.

With the start of the pandemic, suspension of international flights and operation of repatriation flights to various destinations, we have encountered challenges of registration of our citizens abroad. Through Mongolian missions abroad, the MFA started to collect data on our citizens who wish to return to Mongolia.

Before the declaration of COVID-19 as a global pandemic, the Consular Department of the Mongolian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) estimated that about 190,000 Mongolians were either permanently or temporarily abroad, with many of them in an irregular situation, excluding those traveling for tourism or other short-term purposes. Since January 28th, 2020, the Government of Mongolia has operated 101 special chartered flights and brought 20500 Mongolians who were stranded in 91 countries and regions. Also, through land border with Russia and China, the Government of Mongolia repatriated 6,581 persons, making the total number of repatriated Mongolians 27200.

At the same time, about 13,000 Mongolians have filed requests with the Mongolian diplomatic missions for an immediate return. Almost 2,500 are family members with children, 239 are pregnant women, 631 are in a dire economic situation, 118 have no place to stay, and 864 have a health condition. Most of the stranded Mongolians requesting return are in the Republic of Korea (4540), followed by the U.S. (2433), Australia (1180), Kazakhstan (1128), UK (287), and Turkey (841). According to Mongolian diplomatic missions and IOM missions, the real number of those willing and in need to return is considered to be much higher because they are unable to reach Mongolian government agencies or missions or believe that they would not have the financial means to pay for their return or that the waiting list is already too long.

Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration

With the ongoing pandemic, the Government of Mongolia is paying the utmost importance to provide relevant information to its citizens regarding actions taken by the Government, flight schedules, international pandemic situation, precaution measures, international border restrictions, etc. The State Emergency Commission, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relevant government organizations, and Mongolian Embassies and Consulates abroad are operating 24/7 Emergency hotlines, as well as providing information through social networks.

Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration; Provide basic service for migrants.

The Government of Mongolia is working to address and provide support to those vulnerable citizens who are in difficult situations. These measures include providing financial assistance to the most vulnerable groups by providing food coupons, financial and reintegration assistance with the active cooperation of IOM offices in Ulaanbaatar and abroad, and foreign governments.

With the financial support of the IOM as well as the EU countries, a total of 444 Mongolians, who were stranded and unable to purchase flight tickets and make payment for the quarantine facility, were able to come back to Mongolia. The Global Task Force will support the return of about 100 most vulnerable migrants stranded due to COVID-19, and with additional assistance from UNICEF and UNDP, MFA and IOM will support the return of 40 more persons.

The Government of Mongolia understands the difficulties that foreign nationals residing in Mongolia face in terms of visa and residency permits. That is why the Immigration Agency of Mongolia is facilitating a smooth extension of visas for foreign nationals. With the support from the Government of Mongolia, foreign nationals, who were stranded in Mongolia due to absence of flights, were able to leave the country using chartered flights.

The MFA of Mongolia is cooperating with foreign governments to seek support in extending visas and alien registration cards for Mongolian citizens stranded abroad.

Annex.

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration - Objectives for safe, orderly and regular migration (GA resolution 73/195)

1.	Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies
2.	Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin
3.	Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration
4.	Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation
5.	Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration
6.	Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work
7.	Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration
8.	Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants
9.	Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants
10.	Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration
11.	Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner
12.	Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral
13.	Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives
14.	Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle
15.	Provide access to basic services for migrants
16.	Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion
17.	Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration
18.	Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences
19.	Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries
20.	Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants
21.	Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration
22.	Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits
23.	Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration

1. Ensuring that migration is voluntary, orderly and regular	GCM Objectives: 2, 5, 6, 12, 18
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b. Please highlight the concrete policy, legal, and programmatic actions taken by your government to advance these objectives in recent years (in particular since the adoption of the GCM on 10 December 2018).

Mongolian citizens often travel to Japan and the Republic of Korea for work. In efforts to “Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications, and competences – **Objective 18**” the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Mongolia signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea to cooperate on migration-related matters and protect the rights of Mongolian migrants traveling to these countries.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Mongolia established a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare of Japan on the “Skills Training program” in 2017. As of June 2017, over 900 interns from Mongolia had been involved in various technical trainings, and the number of interns from Mongolia has been increasing over the years. According to the Japanese Ministry of Justice, Mongolia is in eighth place for its number of interns gaining professional experience in Japan. Accordingly, there are 76 organizations, accredited by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Mongolia, working in charge of dispatching interns to Japan. The effective collaboration between the two countries on sending Mongolian trainees to Japan strengthens bilateral cooperation and contributes to the development of Mongolia by building the capacity of young Mongolians to be trained in high technology and improved professional skills. The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Mongolia is working to regulate the demand and supply of the labor market by training youths in foreign developed countries, improving the knowledge and professional skills of the population and contributing to strengthening the legal environment.

On April 2019, a Memorandum of Cooperation on a Basic Framework for Proper Operation of the System pertaining to Foreign Human Resources with the Status of Residence of “Specified Skilled Worker” was signed between the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Mongolia and the National Police Agency, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan. Mongolia is among nine countries from where Japan receives labor force according to Japan’s revised law on immigration control, which came into effect from April 2019. The Memorandum created an opportunity for Mongolian youth to work and learn technical and technological advancements of the world’s highly developed country.

In regards to the employment of Mongolian citizens in the Republic of Korea, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Mongolia and the Ministry of Employment and Labor of the Republic of Korea have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to send and receive employees in accordance with Korea’s Employment Permit System (EPS) aimed to coordinate the actions of both governments regarding recruitment, selection, placement, protection and work-related benefits of migrant workers from Mongolia bound for Korea.

Due to the increasing demand for foreign labor in Mongolia since 2010, there is a growing need to protect the domestic labor market. In order to regulate the situation, the percentage of the foreign labor

force is calculated annually with the goal to reduce the percentage. According to the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, in 2016, 11,152 foreigners were employed and working in Mongolia, while in 2019, the number decreased to 10,357. The Government of Mongolia aims to “Train Mongolian youth and provide them with jobs, and reduce the number of foreign workers by more than 50 percent” (Article 3.3.6 of the 2016-2020 Action Plan of the Government). The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection reports that the number of foreign workers has been reducing over the years: in 2016, the number of foreigners employed in Mongolia was 11,152, while in 2018, the number reduced by 42 percent compared to that of 2016 to 9,741 and by 20 percent compared to the data of 2017. The 2019 data shows the number of foreign workers had been reduced further by 20 percent; consequently, the Ministry is working towards attaining the goal of the Government Action Plan and reduce the number of foreign workers by 50 percent by the end of 2020.

The National Emergency Management Agency of Mongolia with support from the IOM conducted monitoring of in and outflow of vehicles to and from Ulaanbaatar city with the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), which showed that although migration to Ulaanbaatar remains the predominant internal population movement in Mongolia, there are significant movements of people from rural areas to provincial centers as well as from one province to another, often as a transition towards reaching the final destination - Ulaanbaatar. In 2018 alone, over 87,000 individuals left soums (villages) of their habitual residence, moving to different soums of the same aimag, different aimags, or to Ulaanbaatar. These movements are often associated with family separation as mothers accompany children who turn 6 years old to join a school in a higher-level administrative unit (movement from baghs and soums to aimag centers) and other consequences that negatively affect the wellbeing of households.

Attachment 2

Answers to question 2b

2. Protecting migrants through rights-based border governance measures	GCM Objectives: 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 21
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b. Please highlight the concrete policy, legal, and programmatic actions taken by your government to advance these objectives in recent years (in particular since the adoption of the GCM on 10 December 2018).

Within the framework of Objective 10 of the GCM:

The Government of Mongolia and the Government of the Republic of Korea have been implementing the “Prevention of Violence Against Women in Mongolia and Assistance to Victims” project for 5 years, starting from May 2019 under a grant from the Government of the Republic of Korea.

The project aims to assist in developing comprehensive services to combat, prevent and rehabilitate victims of violence against women, including sexual exploitation, in Ulaanbaatar city, Zamiin-Uud soum of Dornogovi aimag, and Gashuun-Sukhait of Umnugovi aimag.

Within the project, the work of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection includes the following:

- In efforts to prevent human trafficking and raise awareness of the public, a training on “Combating Violence Against Women and Assisting Victims of Sexual Exploitation” was organized to train 45 trainers in Ulaanbaatar city, border provinces of Umnugobi and Dornogobi, which included the participation of 624 girls, women and parents.
- During the reporting period, a total of 43 customers received consultation and information, of which 34 were identified as victims of trafficking. The Ministry also provided social and protection services to victims of sexual exploitation in the Philippines. 10 victims received vocational guidance training. Scholarships were awarded during their studies, which provided opportunities for regular training.
- On the occasion of the International Human Rights Day, a public information day was organized on December 10, 2019. The event was attended by 1,200 people in Ulaanbaatar and nationally, reaching 103,707 people and 150,000 people through online media. 360 people were provided with information and consultations.
- In 2020, 50 percent of the 30 victims (15 people) were repatriated. The event was organized by governmental and non-governmental organizations in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration and The Asia Foundation to bring three special flights to Mongolia. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mongolia has been quarantining people arriving on special charter flights for 21 days, and the quarantine cost for 8 victims from Malaysia was covered by the “Prevention and Assistance to Violence Against Women in Mongolia” project.

Attachment 3

Answers to question 3b

3. Supporting the integration of migrants and their contribution to development	GCM Objectives: 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22
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Please highlight the concrete policy, legal, and programmatic actions taken by your government to advance these objectives in recent years (in particular since the adoption of the GCM on 10 December 2018).

The total number of employers who covered foreign citizens and employees with social insurance in 2019 was 3,292, and the total number of foreigners who paid social insurance premiums in Mongolia in 2019 was 15,037. There are more than 197,000 people living and working abroad, and as of 2019, 719 Russian citizens, more than 620 South Korean citizens, and 34 Hungarian citizens are exchanging information and paying social insurance premiums.

The number of Mongolians living, working, and studying abroad and the number of foreigners living and working in Mongolia are increasing.

One of the important policy objectives of the Government of Mongolia and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection is to ensure the social security of Mongolian citizens living abroad.

Therefore, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare is pursuing a policy and direction to create a legal environment and opportunities to cover every citizen of Mongolia living and working abroad with social insurance services and to ensure their future life.

Previously, a legal environment has been established to implement efforts to cover Mongolian citizens working abroad with social insurance, concluding social security agreements, protecting their legitimate interests, establishing contacts, calculating contributions and length of service, and establishing pensions.

The Ministry is working to publicize the relevant legal framework on social security to Mongolian citizens working abroad contractually and informally to improve their legal knowledge, assist them in receiving social insurance, and ensure their right to receive pensions, benefits and payments in accordance with the relevant conditions and procedures set forth in the Social Insurance Law and the Social Welfare Agreement. The current Social Security Agreement and legal acts related to the implementation of this agreement are being compiled and disseminated to relevant organizations and citizens for public awareness.

Mongolia currently is party to social security agreements with the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea, Hungary, Poland, Turkey, and the Czech Republic.

According to social security agreements, social security guarantees are provided to 67,000 citizens living abroad.

The total number of foreign employers who covered employees with social insurance reached 3,064 in 2016, 2,886 in 2017, 3,201 in 2018, and 3,292 in 2019. According to the data from 2016-2019, the

number of employers increased by 7.4 percent. According to this survey, the highest number of employers are from China, Russia, Korea, the United States, Japan, Vietnam, Australia, and India.

According to the survey of foreigners who have paid social insurance premiums in Mongolia for each year: 13,749 in 2016, 13,627 in 2017, 16,163 in 2018, and 15,037 in 2019. Between 2016 and 2019, the number of insured persons increased by 8.5 percent. According to this survey, the highest number of insured people are from China, Russia, Korea, and Australia. At this time, there is a need to commence the work to establish agreements with those countries that we haven't made social security agreements with and ensure the social security of Mongolians.

In 2019, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare cooperated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the General Department of Social Insurance, embassies, consulates, and Mongolian associations abroad as well as relevant non-governmental organizations to promote the agreement among Mongolians abroad.

In efforts to promote the social security agreements with 6 countries, a promotional poster was developed and posted on websites of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the General Department of Social Insurance, and Mongolian associations abroad.

In addition, as the Ministry does not cover costs for advertising social security agreements, decisions need to be made to allocate funds for awareness-raising manuals and online advertising, involve representatives of the Ministry in meetings and conferences in foreign countries, and to publish printed manuals and materials through diplomatic channels. There is a need for funding and information, such as assistance to embassies and diplomatic missions in the contracting countries, and to support the promotion of social security agreements to citizens.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection is actively working to negotiate social security agreements with other countries, and the United States legislates for social security agreements. To commence this work, the Law on Social Insurance of Mongolia and the relevant legislation on pensions were translated and submitted to the United States of America in August 2018 through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In September 2018, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection proposed a draft agreement to be concluded with Sweden, and the date of negotiations yet to be decided.

These are examples of ongoing negotiations for future cooperation, and there is a further need to conduct a detailed study of the pension, social security, and health insurance systems in the UK.

We intend to support and cooperate with Mongolian embassies, consulates, and associations abroad, including and non-governmental organizations, with countries with which agreements are established to reach these goals.

3. Supporting the integration of migrants and their contribution to development	GCM Objectives: 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22
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Please highlight the concrete policy, legal, and programmatic actions taken by your government to advance these objectives in recent years (in particular since the adoption of the GCM on 10 December 2018).

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We intend to support and cooperate with Mongolian embassies, consulates, and associations abroad, including and non-governmental organizations, with countries with which agreements are established to reach these goals.

4. Improving value-driven and evidence-based policymaking and public debate, and enhancing cooperation on migration	GCM Objectives: 1, 3, 7, 17, 23
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- b. Please highlight the concrete policy, legal, and programmatic actions taken by your government to advance these objectives in recent years (in particular since the adoption of the GCM on 10 December 2018).

Objective 7. Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration

The issue of population migration is considered in the framework of the “State Policy on Population Development” approved by the Government in 2016. The policy document is based on the basic principles of human rights-based development, protection of human habitat and livelihoods, and pursuit of sustainable development. One of the policy objectives is to ensure cross-sectoral coordination to keep migration at an appropriate level.

In this context, the Government of Mongolia aims to increase the share of the rural population in rural areas by creating a favorable working environment and living conditions, encouraging rural migration, and balancing the distribution of the population between urban and rural areas.

To reach this goal, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection is working to improve the registration and information of citizens, in particular, to improve the registration of passengers at the Mongolian border and to create a database. In addition, the “One Citizen-One Registration” national program was approved and implemented by the Government Resolution No. 144 of 2018, and about 70% of the total personal files of the civil document archives have been digitized.

The Ministry is working to reform the general population and household database, to increase the use of the database, and to register births and deaths into the database at the time of occurrence. For example, hospitals at all levels are registering newborns and issuing registration numbers, while public and private hospitals are registering newborns electronically in Mongolia from 2019 based on medical certificates of death.

Within the framework of developing the general plan of settlements, working groups were established in each province by order of the Governor to support the development of the draft plan and provide the necessary information. As a result, the draft plan was presented to 160 villages, and 15 provinces recommendations were reflected. In addition, with the technical assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), a general project on population and settlement development is being developed, and the Mid-Term Report will be presented and finalized in 2019.

In addition, in efforts to increase employment, create and sustain favorable living conditions, various activities are being implemented, such as the projects and programs supported by the Small and Medium Enterprise Support Fund and the Employment Promotion Fund for the development of rural areas and agriculture, support for small and medium enterprises and herders.

At the local level, the focus is on improving access to health care, especially in remote areas. In 2019, the project on “Expanding the use of mobile technology in primary health care” was implemented, covering 11 provinces, 16 villages and 4 district health centers and providing them with machinery and

equipment, which provides support to citizens in ensuring their right to primary care and health protection.

Together with the International Organization for Migration and the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Government of Mongolia is implementing the “Understanding and Managing Internal Migration in Mongolia” project with since 2019 in order to develop an evidence-based and evidence-based migration policy and improve the social and economic situation of Mongolia's internal migrants. The project aims at improving the quality of data on migration required for policy development, to provide policy recommendations and support to reflect domestic migration in national, local and sectoral policies, to reduce vulnerabilities of domestic migrants by improving access to information, services and targeted programs.

In May 2020, the State Great Khural (Parliament) approved the “Vision 2050” long-term policy document, which reviews the policies and activities of the Government of Mongolia over the past 30 years and sets goals for the next 30 years. Based on this policy document, the Ministry is working to reform domestic legal and sectoral policies for the implementation of medium and short-term policies. This long-term policy aims to ensure a balanced labor economy, build a knowledge economy, and provide employment and income to every citizen. It provides for the dissemination of job information by province, village, and district, and the regulation of employment migration. It also addresses the need to coordinate health care services in relation to population density, geographical location, demographic structure, morbidity, migration, and demand for health care services.

This creates a foundation to reflect and implement migration issues in government policies and activities and coordinate with the work to support labor demand, increase employment, create access to such basic social services like health care and education.

The Government of Mongolia is working with the IOM to conduct an external evaluation of the implementation and results of its population development policy and plans to define and implement future migration policies based on Mongolia's long-term policy document.

Under Objective 1 of the GCM:

The issue of entry, travel, and immigration of children across the border of Mongolia is regulated under Article 7, Articles 8.2.1, 8.2.2 and 8.2.3 of the Law on Travel and Migration of Mongolian Citizens Abroad for Private Purposes, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, other relevant laws and regulations, as well as the “Procedure for the Transit of Children across the Border of Mongolia” approved by the Minister of Justice and Home Affairs.

Within the framework of implementing the Law on the Rights of the Child, the Law on Child Protection and related regulations, an inter-sectoral working group were established by Order A/295 of the Minister of Labor and Social Protection in 2018 to review and assess the family situation of children studying and living abroad. The working group visited Manzhouli, Hailar, Shiliin city, and Erlian, Shiliin Gol province of Inner Mongolia, China, on November 27-30, 2018. According to the situation assessment, there are more than 300 Mongolians and 1,046 children in Erlian city, 38 students at Hulunbuir Teachers' University in Hailar, and 230 Mongolian students at Shiliin Vocational College in Shiliin Gol province.

Although employers claim responsibility and are aware that child labor is prohibited by law in the People's Republic of China, there are reports that Mongolian children are engaged in horseback riding and herding. These citizens and children are facing employment issues, additionally, young people are involved in drug-related crimes, and girls and women are involved in prostitution.

The working group studied the situation of children living and studying in these cities at schools, dormitories and found that Mongolian children and children from multicultural families face such challenges as being denied access to education, some general education courses, clubs, and students in equestrian schools do not have high school certificates.

Recommendations to be implemented at the policy and implementation levels were developed based on the recommendations from the working group and submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs, the Department of Family, Child and Youth Development, the Immigration Office, the General Police Department, and educational institutions.

In addition, bearing in mind that the state is duty-bound to protect the rights of children living abroad and living in Mongolia, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection is in the process of studying international treaties that Mongolia has not acceded to and organizing efforts to accede to The Hague Protocol. The translation of the protocol has been submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for review and approval, and a draft law on acceding to the Convention is being drafted for approval.

Under Objective 7 of the GCM:

Due to the rapid spread of the new strain of Covid-19 around the world, the quarantine measures are being extended. In this context, the “Regulation on the Protection of the Rights of the Child, Emergency Assistance and Support” by the Government of Mongolia has been approved and is implementing an inter-sectoral child protection group preparedness and response plan.

In addition to protecting and preventing the rights of children living in the country, the Ministry also organized activities to protect, prevent, and repatriate children living abroad. There are 470 religious students in the Republic of India, including 270 children under the age of 18, of whom 178 have applied for repatriation. Accordingly, the Government approved Resolution No. 206 on “Ensuring the Rights and Safety of Children” of 1 June 2020, and provided social and psychological support to these children, and organized their repatriation.

Child allowance:

In 2020, 96.6 percent of all children or 1,172,289 children aged 0-18 will receive cash benefits. On April 29, 2020, the State Great Khural (Parliament) of Mongolia approved the Law on Prevention, Combating and Reducing the Social and Economic Impact of Coronavirus Infection (Covid-19).

According to the law, the Government approved Resolution No. 114 of 2020 to increase the duration of the monthly child allowance for every child aged 0-18 of MNT 30,000 from April to June to 1,122,446 children. Also, in accordance with Government Resolution No. 167 of 6 May 2020, “On the 2nd package of measures to revive the economy and improve the social protection of vulnerable people during the epidemic of coronavirus infection (Covid-19)

“During the period from **April 1** to October 1, 2020, it was increased to MNT 100,000, and MNT **701.2** billion was spent on 1,162,779 children.

In addition, Government Resolution No. 126 of 30 September 2020, decided to extend the implementation period until the end of 2020 and to spend 852.0 billion MNT. It also covers more than 4.0 thousand children of Mongolian citizens living abroad.