

# **Sainshand – Tsagaan Suvarga Transmission Line Project**

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment  
Stakeholder Engagement Plan - Appendices

11 JULY 2025



# Sainshand – Tsagaan Suvarga Transmission Line Project

## Stakeholder Engagement Plan

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01	July 2025	EB	TG	KP	RB	n/a
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## Appendix A ESIA Engagement Plan

The social team prepared a detailed work plan for social fieldwork for the Project. Fieldwork comprised: Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) in each soum, including women, elderly, youth, micro and small businesses and herders who have their summer camps in the vicinity of soum centre and Household Surveys (HHS) for those HHs or HH assets identified within 1km either side of the OHTL route (originally identified as 23 HHs).

Social fieldwork was undertaken between Sunday 22 June to Saturday 28 June 2025. The social team is outlined in Table A-1.

Table A-1. Social Survey Team

Nº	Social survey team
1	Sumjidmaa. T, Social consultant
2	Enkhtsetseg. B, Social consultant
3	Butedmaa. E, enumerator
4	Misheel. J, enumerator
5	Driver

Day	Activity	Time	Location	Planned meetings
<b>Day 1</b>  22 June Sunday	Travel from Ulaanbaatar (UB) to Sainshand, Dornogovi aimag	Leave UB 7:00	UB - Sainshand	
	Overnight in Sainshand		Khurgovi Hotel	
<b>Day 2</b>  23 June Monday	KIIs in Sainshand soum - Enkhtsetseg	9:00 – 18:00	Sainshand soum centre	Meetings with relevant staff of Sainshand soum Governor's Office (KIIs)
	Household survey - Sumjidmaa	9:00 – 18:00	Sainshand soum	Household: HH1, HH2, HH3 HH4, HH5, HH6 HH7, HH8, HH10
	Overnight in Sainshand		Khurgovi Hotel	
<b>Day 3</b>  24 June Tuesday	KIIs FGD - Enkhtsetseg	9:00 – 18:00	Sainshand soum centre	Meetings with relevant staff of Sainshand soum Governor's Office (KIIs).



Day	Activity	Time	Location	Planned meetings
				Women, elderly, youth, micro and small businesses and herders who have their summer camps in the vicinity of soum centre.
	Household survey - Sumjidmaa	9:00 – 18:00	Sainshand soum	Household: HH11, HH12, HH13, HH14, HH16, HH17, HH20, HH21, HH22, HH23
	Overnight in Sainshand		Khurgovi Hotel	
<b>Day 4</b>  25 June Wednesday	Travel from Sainshand to Ulaanbadrakh (120 km)	Leave 7:00	Sainshand – Ulaanbadrakh	
	KIIs FGD - Enkhtsetseg - Sumjidmaa	12:00 – 16:00	Ulaanbadrakh soum centre	Meetings with relevant staff of Sainshand soum Governor's Office (KIIs).  Women, elderly, youth, micro and small businesses and herders who have their summer camps in the vicinity of soum centre.
	Household survey - Enkhtsetseg - Sumjidmaa		Ulaanbadrakh soum	Household: HH26, HH28
	Overnight in Ulaanbadrakh		Ulaanbadrakh Hotel	
<b>Day 5</b>  26 June	Travel from Ulaanbadrakh to Saikhandulaan	Leave 7:00	Ulaanbadrakh – Sainshand – Saikhandulaan	

Day	Activity	Time	Location	Planned meetings
Thursday	KII FGD - Enkhtsetseg - Sumjidmaa	14:00 – 18:00	Saikhandulaan soum centre	Meetings with relevant staff of Sainshand soum Governor's Office (KIIs).  Women, elderly, youth, micro and small businesses and herders who have their summer camps in the vicinity of soum centre.
	Overnight in Saikhandulaan		Saikhandulaan Hotel	
<b>Day 6</b>  27 June Thursday	Travel from Saikhandulaan to Mandakh	Leave 7:00	Saikhandulaan – Mandakh	
	KII FGD - Enkhtsetseg - Sumjidmaa	10:00 – 18:00	Mandakh soum centre	Meetings with relevant staff of Sainshand soum Governor's Office (KIIs).  Women, elderly, youth, micro and small businesses and herders who have their summer camps in the vicinity of soum centre.
	Overnight in Mandakh		Mandakh Hotel	
<b>Day 7</b>  28 June Thursday	Travel from Mandakh to Sainshand	Leave 7:00	Mandakh – Sainshand	

## Appendix B Key Informant Interviews (KIs)

The ESIA team identified the following key informants to be interviewed using semi-structured, open-ended questions (see Appendix C). Each interview is expected to last 1-1.5 hours.

	KII	Sainshand soum	Ulaanbadrakh soum	Mandakh soum	Saikhahdulaan soum
1	Удирдлага – Засаг дарга/ИТХ-ийн дарга-  Soum Governor/Chairperson of the Soum Citizens Representatives Khural/ Head of the Governor's Office	1	1	1	1
2	Хөдөө аж ахуйн асуудал хариуцсан мэргэжилтэн/ Agricultural specialist	1	1	1	1
3	Эмнэлгийн дарга/ Head of soum hospital	1	1	1	1
4	Цагдаа/ Soum police	1	1	1	1
5	Нийгмийн асуудал хариуцсан мэргэжилтэн/  Specialist in charge of labour/employment/social welfare	1	1	1	1
6	Төрийн сан, төсөв санхүү хариуцсан мэргэжилтэн/Тамгын газрын дарга /  Treasury/ Head of the Governor's Office	1	1	1	1
7	Бусад /орон нутгийн ТББ, ИНБ/ Other stakeholders (e.g. NGOs/SCOs, if any)	1	1	1	1
	Number of KIIs	11	8	7	6
8	<b>FGD (1 FGD in each soum center. Representatives from women, elderly, youth, small and micro businesses, herders who are in the vicinity of the soum center)</b>	1	1	1	1

	KII	Sainshand sوم	Ulaanbadrakh sوم	Mandakh sوم	Saikhahdulaan sوم
<b>9</b>	HH Survey (herder HHs within 1km zone on both sides of OHTL route	19	2	-	-
<b>Work days</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Commuting days</b>		<b>1.5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>

## Appendix C KII Interview Questions

### Key Informant Interviews

Key Informants' views were sought on topics of which they have specialist knowledge, for example:

- Latest available information or statistical data related to the informant's area of responsibility or job (e.g. if Hospital Director is being interviewed, questions will be on community health profile; main reasons, trends, impact on local health services, potential impact from project workforce and in-migrants/encroachers, if any; and
- Any identifiable trends (for example, decrease in herder household numbers) and reasons behind the trends, if known/understood).

The focus was on current situation and identifiable trends, where feasible. To this end the ESIA team collected the following data/information (where available) from key informants at soum level:

- Economic activity and livelihoods (including traditional pastoralism-based economies focused on livestock herding), labour market, welfare/poverty rates in the Project area of influence and a high-level analysis of the national/regional indicators for comparison of prevailing trends.
- Demographic composition (including breakdowns by sex and age; identification of vulnerable groups; prevalent patterns of in-and out-migration).
- Physical (such as water and power supply, communications and utilities, waste management and sanitation) and social infrastructure and services (such as educational and health facilities, community recreation and amenities);
- Status of public health - population life expectancy, morbidity, mortality (including maternal, infant and under-5 mortality), endemic, transmissible diseases (including vector-borne and water-borne diseases) and lifestyle-related illnesses.
- Herding features and herder movements in relation to the proposed paved road:
  - Location of summer and winter camps (number of households);
  - Location of herder wells/other kinds of livestock watering points;
  - Herder/livestock routes for moving between grazing areas; and
  - Grazing areas (with estimate of livestock type and numbers using the identified areas at different seasons).

### Topics for Key Informant Interviews

This section sets out the key discussion topics with local government officials and representatives from soum level organizations.

#### Parameter: Governance and demography (Questions for Administrative Head):

- What are the main administrative structures, functions and processes?
- What are the main settlements within the administrative area?
- What is the population of the administrative area?
- What have been the main changes to population numbers?
- What changes have there been in the gender and age profile of the area population?
- Are these changes a result of in/out migration?
- Has there been increased pressure or a decline in demand for social services and/or natural or other resources due to changed population numbers or profile?

- How have the local authorities responded to changes in demographic patterns?
- What are your hopes and concerns about the project regarding governance and population?
- Are there any major developments planned in the administrative area in the next 5 years e.g. more mines, industrial parks, power supplies, etc.?
- Are there any records of palaeontology in the area?
- What do you think would be the best approach to stakeholder engagement for the project as it progresses?

**Parameter: Land and resource use (Questions for Agriculture Head)**

- What are the main agricultural land uses (arable, livestock, mixed) within the area?
- What is the nature of land ownership and tenure within the area (short- or long-term renting, collective use, any subsidies or restrictions under the user conditions)?
- What are the grazing rights and use patterns within the area?
- What other natural resources does the area currently rely on?
- Has the quality of land and other resources increased or decreased over time?
- Has land and other resource availability, access and quality decreased in last decade?
- In what way has this loss of land or access affected living standards?
- What measures are currently being undertaken to address the above issues?
- What are your hopes and concerns about the project regarding land use and resources?

**Parameter: Health status (Questions for Chief Medical Officer)**

- What are the birth rates, mortality rates, life expectancy, eye and respiratory infection rates, gastric infection rates, mental illness rates, communicable disease rates, STD rates, road and other accident rates within the area?
- How have these rates changed in the last decade?
- What is the availability and accessibility of health services and facilities in the area?
- What are the main challenges to health service provision in the area?
- Has there been a change in the living conditions of the community that has affected health (particularly in terms of sanitary conditions, malnutrition)?
- What are your hopes and concerns about the project regarding health and wellbeing?

**Parameter: Crime and social malaise (Questions for Police Chief)**

- What is the incidence of crime (murder and suicide rates, assault and theft rates, drug and alcohol abuse rates, prostitution and domestic abuse rates, any other anti-social) in the area?
- What is the incidence of driving offences and accidents?
- How have the rates and incidence changed in the last decade?
- How is the local police authority responding to managing hazards, crime and social disorder?
- What obstacles and challenges are local police authorities currently facing?
- What are your hopes and concerns about the project regarding crime and social malaise?

**Parameter: Social infrastructure (Questions for Social Services Officer)**

- What education facilities exist within the area?

- What is the accessibility of these facilities for the area population?
- What are the challenges facing education and training within the area?
- What are the main transport links (including roads, routes and pathways) within the area?
- What is the availability of potable water and waste treatment facilities and capacities supplies in the area?
- What is energy supply availability and energy capacities and reliability like within the area?
- How are changes to the capacity and quality of infrastructure and services being managed?
- What are your hopes and concerns about the project regarding social infrastructure?

**Parameter: Economy (Questions for Finance Officer)**

- What are the characteristics of the local economy?
- What are the main industries and businesses in the local economy?
- What are the main changes in the characteristics of the local economy in the last decade?
- What proportion of people are employed in different sectors of local economy?
- What proportion of the working age population of the area unemployed?
- Are there any major economic development proposals for the local area?
- What are your hopes and concerns about the project regarding the local economy or job creation?

**Railway Operators**

- Do you have any questions about the project? (If 'yes' and you can't answer their question, record it, and tell them you will find out an answer)
- What is the timetable/use of the railway line/
- Do you have any plans for expansion? If so, when/where (details)
- What are your hopes and concerns about the project?
- Do you have suggestions about how these concerns can best be addressed?
- How is the engagement with local stakeholders and residents organised and what would be your recommendations or lessons learned that you could share for new operators or project developers coming into the area?

**Mine**

- Do you have any questions about the project? (If 'yes' and you can't answer their question, record it, and tell them you will find out an answer)
- What is the current employment/workforce on the mine? How many are at the mine on a daily basis (approximate)
- Where does the workforce stay?
- What other electrical connections are provided at/to the mine?
- What are your hopes and concerns about the project?
- Do you have suggestions about how these concerns can best be addressed?
- How is the engagement with local stakeholders and residents organised and what would be your recommendations or lessons learned that you could share for new operators or project developers coming into the area?

**Ministry/Authority of Mining**

- Do you have any questions about the project? (If 'yes' and you can't answer their question, record it, and tell them you will find out an answer)
- Do you have any plans for concessionaires to actively use their mining concessions along the proposed OHTL route? Please provide details if yes
- Will the concession boundaries be updated to reflect right of way / no go areas for the overhead line?
- What are your hopes and concerns about the project?
- Do you have suggestions about how these concerns can best be addressed?
- How is the engagement with local stakeholders and residents organised and what would be your recommendations or lessons learned that you could share for new operators or project developers coming into the area?



## Appendix D KII Responses

### Sainshand soum KII Responses

<b>DORNOGOVI AIMAG HEAD OF SOCIAL POLICY DIVISION</b>	<b>23 June 2025</b>
<b>M. MUNKHBAT</b>	



#### General Information About Dornogovi Aimag

- Total population: 71,200
- Population in the aimag center: around 28,000
- Youth: 21,065, Children: about 26,000, Elderly: about 8,000
- Relatively youthful demographic structure aimag

#### Education & Health Facilities

- Secondary schools- 21, Kindergartens- 33
- Health institutions: 119 (including family clinics and private clinics), Polyclinic 2 which of 1 in the Zamiin-Uud soum 1 at the aimag center. Every soum has a health center.
- Education Coverage and Accessibility Are High Across the Aimag level. Educational access and attainment rate is 98–99%. No school dropouts reported. Herders' children attend soum center secondary schools.
- A local council promotes access to education. Around 200 children are out of school, mainly due to disabilities. Herder families are supportive of schooling.
- In Dornogovi aimag, the average number of students per class is 26–27 (lower than the national average), but this is different by location. Aimag center and Zamiin-Uud soums experience higher class sizes due to population density. Some soum area schools tend to have fewer pupils than aimag center school.

- Teacher shortage in whole aimag level, this year 50–60 teachers' shortage in aimag level. Most needed teachers are 17 teachers-nutritionists, 16 math teachers. Good access and good attainment in educational institutions. Need to improve educational quality.
- School infrastructure and building quality vary between urban and rural areas. There is a difference arise relating to the skills of teachers, the current state of school construction, and social security of teachers. We are working to eliminate the difference. If the best specialist works in our aimag for 5 years, we will provide him with an apartment. This support and incentive has been announced since 2023. Out of the planned 10 best specialists, 3 are currently working.
- *Education Infrastructure and learning environment:* The secondary school and kindergarten have been built and are being improved. New schools and kindergartens under construction in Zamiin-Uud soum: One for 960 pupils another for 640 pupils. Sainshand's School #1 is overcrowded. A total of 2100 students, but capacity for 1300 pupils. Aimag is self-financing and manages infrastructure by aimag budget. Aimag manages aimag's budget. All soums have electricity. Each secondary school has a dormitory, though conditions are not same. There is good practice or bad conditions. Example, Ulaanbadrakh soum introduced locker culture. Pupils who live in dormitory they neatly folded their belongings. The feature is probably the management of the education system. A program suitable for the locality is implemented and adopted in Ulaanbadrakh soum. Every school has their own program.

### Infrastructure and Utilities

- Drinking water quality in Gobi region is challenging
  - Filters and equipment installed to improve it
  - Clean water available in schools across districts
- Greywater facility located in Sainshand
- School toilets vary — indoor and outdoor setups: Outdoor toilet still used in Saikhandulaan, project intended to improve sanitation, currently delayed
- Engineering systems being established in districts: Erdene, Ulaanbadrakh, Delgerekh soums all have steam heating systems.
- Sewage treatment plants exist.
- Waste management is weak, attributed to local behavior. Municipal workers perform well.

### Population Dynamics & Migration

- Health services have some problems under pressure from demographic growth and workforce strain. Highly mobile population- over 20,000 transient individuals. Zamiin-Uud soum sees major influx due to proximity to the border and business opportunities. Registration challenges relating to transient individuals and hinder health and education service funding. High variable costs and hospital bed-days problem. Plan to build Family Health Center in Zamiin-Uud soum. Dalandjargalan soum's cement plant (Mongliin Alt Company) driving increased migration. Proposal for a local health center being considered.

### Project Expectations & Concerns

- Reliable electricity expected to improve quality of life
- Insufficient public communication about projects. Hard to predict negative impacts due to lack of information

- In 2016, Khatanbulag soum was without electricity — later connected thanks to local leadership. Marked improvement in household well-being after electrification
- Focus on improving health literacy and education quality
  - Mongolia is piloting a nationwide school lunch program at the middle school level
  - Involves active participation from parents
  - Emphasis placed on student skills and academic achievement beyond infrastructure

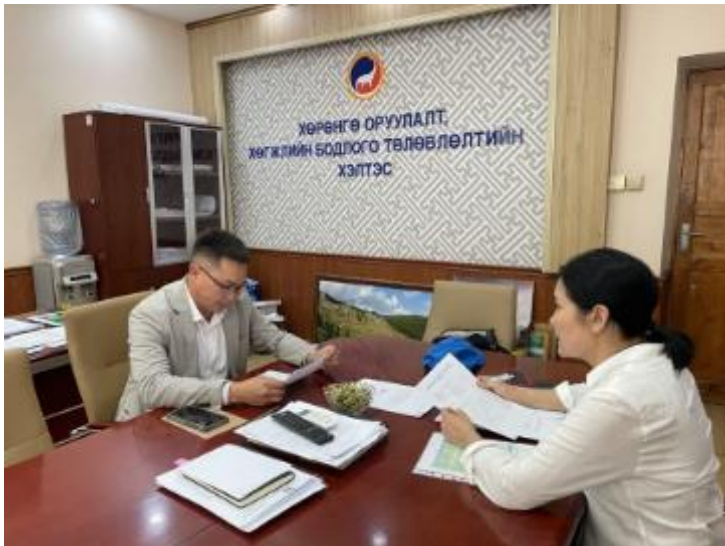
#### **Public Safety & Crime**

- High crime rate due to transient population
  - Examples: assault, public disturbances
- Peer bullying is a hidden issue
- Domestic violence incidents occur

**HEAD OF DORNOGOVI AIMAG DEVELOPMENT POLICY,  
PLANNING AND INVESTMENT DEPARTMENT**

**MUNKH-ERDENE TS.**

**23 June 2025**



**What are the economic characteristics of your district?**

Dornogovi Aimag is notable for its mining industry. For example: Tsagaan Suvarga, Alag Tolgoi, and the coal deposit in Dalanjargalan. In Airag soum, there is a fluorspar mine. The aimag has deposits of coal, fluorspar, copper, iron ore, and uranium.

**What are the main economic sectors and businesses in the region?**

Agriculture is a key sector. In 2022, an industrial strategic plan was approved, dividing the aimag into 3 regions and 5 subregions based on geographical location. The plan outlines the development of medium and light industries in alignment with heavy industry and mining. This regional strategic plan remains unchanged, and baseline research notes from the early region discussions still exist.

**Small and medium enterprises (SMEs):**

Light industry includes food processing, garment production, and leather processing. Although funds are allocated to the SME support fund, when transferred to the national upper-level fund, issues arise with redistribution to local levels. Dornogovi aimag has experienced this twice.

**“Partnership for Development” program** was newly launched and funded in 2024, with a budget of 2 billion MNT. Within SME development, projects focusing on intensive livestock production are being implemented. For example, the “Milk Program” is being run in kindergartens and general education schools. If dairy farms begin operating, there will be market demand for purchasing milk. However, current production cannot meet 100% of demand.

Though capacity assessments often claim internal resources can meet demand, in reality the foundational conditions fall short. Therefore, there’s an emphasis on supporting herder cooperatives. Still, cooperatives struggle to consolidate effectively—around 230 exist in total.



From the “Partnership for Development” program, 18 individuals and 8 enterprises received soft loans totaling 1.9 billion MNT. These loans are more favorable than regular SME loans. SME loan interest is typically 3%, while loans from the program are only 1.5%. Given the tough economic situation this year, the program aimed to concentrate efforts on developing intensive livestock clusters. A collaboration proposal was made with a team from Tuv aimag that had experience in cluster development, focusing on dairy, but economic hardships have halted progress.

Due to the *dzud* of 2023–2024, livestock numbers dropped by about 30%. As a result, the northern region of Dornogovi aimag has become depopulated of herders, prompting a focus on developing projects and programs to support intensive livestock and cooperatives in that area.

### **Transmission Line**

In Sainshand soum, Donshin Petroleum has a field under a product sharing agreement. The proposed transmission line will cross this area and is also expected to touch the edge of Ulaanbadrakh soum. In Mandakh soum, aside from the Tsagaan Suvarga deposit, there’s the Tumen Khayalga coal cluster located just before it.

If the project proceeds, Dornogovi aimag plans to jointly implement four major energy projects with private sector partners. One involves a 100 kV power station in Mandakh soum, which is viewed as related to this project. In Sainshand, a 70 MW thermal power station has been planned and approved by the Minister of Energy. In Altan Shiree soum, a 60 MW project is in the baseline study stage. The Sainshand project was approved by a citizen’s council and is currently at the land selection stage.

### **Within Sainshand’s impact area, aside from herders, livestock, coal, and the Tsagaan Suvarga mine, are there other mining activities?**

Herders are relatively few near the Tsagaan Suvarga area. Moving south, the landscape turns into camel pastures. The project transmission line is aligned along the railway.

### **What is the employment ratio in the region’s economic sectors? Are locals the main workforce, or is labor brought in from elsewhere?**

Most labor is brought in from outside due to a shortage of available workforce locally.

### **Do you require local recruitment, especially for herders who lost livestock?**

A certain proportion is hired locally. Most of the labor consists of external workers (not 100%). In major industrial investment projects, requirements are set to hire local labor and procure local products, but there is no legal framework mandating this—it’s encouraged but not strictly regulated. This is usually handled through cooperation agreements and other contractual arrangements. For example, a project requiring 100 engineers may not find qualified locals, so assistants are hired from the local area. There’s a need to train human resources. At Tsagaan Suvarga, the factory manager is a young local from Dornogovi. Mongoliin Alt Company (MAK) has followed a model since 2001—selecting, assessing, and training workers before relocating them locally. Large projects could benefit from this sustainable approach.

When operating a factory or mine, a hiring list is drafted from the local population. But it’s uncertain whether suitable candidates matching this list are available. Hence, if a project developer trains workers in advance and relocates them back to work locally, it’s seen as a path to sustainability.

### **What is the distribution of employment across the main economic sectors?**

About 20% of the registered population is work in agriculture sector. The number work in the mining sector is very small, less than 10%.

Dornogovi has two major border ports: one related to mining, the other is Zamiin-Uud. Most employment at the ports revolves around transportation. Transporting mining products plays a major role. Although these

companies operate in Dornogovi territory, many are registered in other aimags and therefore don't pay taxes locally. This presents an issue at the ports.

During elections, population inflates temporarily. Around 10,000 people reside in Zamiin-Uud for more than 180 days, and this can surge up to 30,000 during peak periods.

At Khangai port, there are about 3,000 temporary residents, growing to 5,000 when transportation is active. This area is located between two baghs of Khatanbulag soum, where state services are difficult to deliver.

At Khangai port, during low transport activity, there are about 3,000 residents. When exports are active, the population surges to about 5,000. Most of the transport comes from Umnugovi aimag's Gashuun Sukhait. Local governments currently lack legal means to set tariffs or collect taxes. Taxes go to the jurisdiction where the company was first registered.

### **Planned Major Economic Developments and Projects in Dornogovi aimag**

Avoiding Dependency on Mining The aimag aims to reduce reliance on mining by promoting agriculture, tourism, renewable energy, and integrating available resources into the economy.

A poultry farm with 70,000 chickens supplies products to Dornogovi and Ulaanbaatar. The farm forms part of a developing agricultural cluster, linking vegetable production, fertilizer from poultry waste, and meat processing. Operated by private individuals, it receives policy support through soft loans, project participation, and foreign investment.

Planned to cooperating agreement with Turkey in August–September 2025. Agreement targets meat, wool, and leather processing industries. Focus on wool and leather, with two major investments across two soums.

We are talking about the 125 km road with Badrakh Energy Uranium Group. Road project expected to begin in 2026.

### **Tourism Development:**

We have tourism resource in aimag level. Most popular resource is Khamar Monastery. 2025 was declared the "Year to Promote Tourism." A government-approved "Tengeriin Khutagt" Dance Festival will be held annually, aiming to attract 10,000 domestic and foreign tourists. Based on this, around the border, tourism proposals are being developed and introduced to the government. Tourism in the border around was tested in Zamiin-Uud, and visa issues are being addressed.

About the proposed border Tourism Route is

- Through Zamiin-Uud - Burden Sand Spa - Khamar Monastery - Zuunbayan - Khangai Port
- There is an issue about building a road from Zuunbayan to Khangai Port. If it is to be a paved road, expected to boost tourism.
- Specialized hunting and extreme tourism can also be developed. Hunting: The Ministry of Environment issues permit for hunting wild sheep on a quota basis. There are animals for which permits can be issued locally (snow gazelle, black-tailed deer, wild horse, and ibex).

Railway: There are also issues at the policy level regarding the UB railway. It was very difficult when the share was 49:51, but with a 50:50 structure and the head of the railway being a Mongolian, the problems have been reduced. Investments are decided by the Russia so it is very slow. For example, Gobi-Sumber aimag took 4 years to transfer its thermal power plant. There is talk of transferring small boilers located in the Arshand region. It is not profitable and loss-making for the local community to receive small boilers, but the issue of transfer is raised in the interests of the citizens. If a thermal power plant is built, the goal is to give the land where the boilers will be located.

### **Environmental Concerns with Mining & Infrastructure**

- Some mining activities affect grazing routes.
- Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is involved. Volunteer conservation groups have been established.
- There are tensions between mining activities and tourism goals.

**What are your expectations and concerns regarding this project, such as the local economy or job creation?**

- The first phase, Choir-Sainshand, will be completed. There is a significant delay in terms of time. Connecting to this project means connecting to the second power supply. When there is a power outage at Baganuur, it will be possible to receive power from Tavan Tolgoi. It is believed that there will be no power outages in the second circuit and there will be no risk.
- Secondly, there are many negative impacts on the environment due to infrastructure development. Such as affecting the migration of wild animals. It is advisable to continue with the existing infrastructure. Electricity development is viewed favorably, but the construction-related road problems and soil degradation are a cause of concern. Soil and dust issues are often discussed. In the Mandakh soum area where the track runs, there is a soil that is as porous as cement in the camel pastures/pastures. Therefore, the issue of transportation dust is often discussed. If it follows the existing railway, there is no need to build a new road.
- The energy efficiency is dependent. If the central line is built, the power plant can be used even if the connection is built. Therefore, the investment cost will be reduced on the other side. If you build a station and then build another line, a large investment will be required.
- The power plant will be built in Mandakh soum and connected to two industrial parks approved in Mongolia (the ferrous metallurgy complex in Altanshireet is 60% complete, and the Gerelt Gobi Industrial Park in Khuvsgul soum is over 40% complete), creating an electricity source. Since the source is being created, it will be used first, and then produced. It is believed that these projects will be interconnected. There was considerable agreement on this when the trunk line was agreed.
- Connecting to the second circuit is directly related to energy security.
- There is an impact of magnetic waves caused by power lines. Few people know about it, so they don't know how to talk about it.
- When electricity is installed, citizens expect to receive electricity. There is little understanding of how much the associated electricity installation costs will be. Therefore, citizens will welcome infrastructure-related construction.
- When construction work begins, the issue of waste must be resolved, whether it is disposed of in a designated area, stored, or destroyed.
- Since specially trained people must be involved in project implementation, there is no suitable local workforce.
- Project implementation unit can meet local herders and get food or milk from them.
- The southern part of Saikhandulaan soum and the northern part of Ulaanbaatar soum are in the OTR region. There is no impact on the OTR region due to the air route. The issue is often discussed because the Tavan Tolgoi-Zuunbayan highway crosses the OTR region.
- The local industrial strategic plan is effectively aligned with the national policy.
- About 10 of the 15 mega projects have similar names. There are few projects to be implemented in Dornogovi aimag. If the projects to be implemented in the Gobi region are included in the aimag, there will be relatively many.
- It is believed that if there is a reliable source of energy, it will be possible to export more than the domestic consumption.
- The Hangi port imports electricity. Mandakh and Khatanbulag soums were connected to the power supply from Tsagaan Suvarga. There are some things that can be done to increase the consumption capacity of these two soums.



- There is a high demand for electricity.

**Renewable Energy:** We have Solar & Wind in Sainshand soum. Solar used successfully during grid outages in Zamiin-Uud soum. In addition to the tariff reform in the energy sector, there are frequent breakdowns because the decision on routine maintenance has not been made.

The repair cost for the Zamiin-Uud soum line has reached 1.8 billion. The national power transmission network is being repaired.

It is necessary to clarify who will own the construction of the overhead power transmission line of the project.

It is necessary to reflect on the maintenance and repair of the operation. At 70 km from Zamyn-Uud, the line route meets a place where water stagnates or lakes form. The line is tilted due to the risk of thawing and freezing in winter. When there is ice in winter, temporary supports are made. Water returns, and the water does not recede. While the repair work was in progress, the line fell and the power supply to Zamyn-Uud was interrupted, and there was no power for several days. Immediate measures were taken to restore it within 3 days. In the event of such a risk, relevant measures should be reflected. It is necessary to pay attention to whether the line meets a water point and to bypass the surrounding areas.

The power line crosses a special protection zone. This needs to be coordinated with the aimag.

Make it clear whether the impact measures include environmental protection costs and measures. For example, creating an artificial lake will provide drinking water for wildlife and livestock, and agriculture will develop.

**Agriculture:** The northern part of Dornogovi aimag is an agricultural region. They provide Sainshand soum's vegetables needs. Forage crops are grown in Ikkhet soum. In an area called Dalanturun, all kinds of plants are grown near the spring. There is a lot of greenhouse cultivation.

Citizens with 70,000 chickens are preparing to plant onions.

Dornogovi aimag can provide all those who grow in greenhouses and outdoors with the same variety of seeds throughout Mongolia.

The rainfall is poor in the summer of 2025. In 2024, there was a very good rain that occurs once in 60 years.



<p><b>DORNOGOVI AIMAG AGRICULTURE</b></p> <p><b>HEAD OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT, NARANBOLD J.</b></p>	<p><b>23 June 2025</b></p>
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**What is the status of land ownership and possession? (Does it involve short- or long-term leases, joint use, subsidies or restrictions under user conditions?)**

- This information should be clarified with the land inspector.

**What is the status of pasture use and grazing rights?**

- Since herding is not sedentary, the use of pastureland depends on seasonal conditions such as drought or *dzud* (harsh winter). Permanent land disputes are uncommon, but conflicts may arise when herders migrate to areas with better forage during feed shortages.
- Soum (district) authorities are responsible for allocating and granting ownership of winter camps to herders.
- The Food and Agriculture Department oversees strategic issues such as ensuring successful winter survival, improving livestock quality, increasing productivity, promoting intensive livestock farming, and facilitating access to loans.

**What other natural resources does the area currently rely on?**

- Activities within the framework of intensive livestock farming: A new project was launched last year, and cooperative development efforts are underway across the aimag. Some aimags are progressing rapidly, while others are moving more slowly.
- In 2024, over the course of one year, 223 herders established new cooperatives, and more than 2,500 herders registered with cooperatives. The total number of cooperative members reached 2,158. Of these, 515 cooperatives received loans totaling 20.3 billion MNT to improve livestock quality. Approximately 70% of the total cooperative loans were intended for breed improvement. However, due to the inability to verify whether the loans were used for their intended purpose, the loan program was suspended.
- Crop farming: In 2025, cultivation was carried out on 70 hectares (preliminary data), and in 2024, on 217 hectares.

- **Greenhouse Farming:** Under the “New Countryside” project, 350 greenhouses were distributed to vegetable growers in August 2024, after the planting season, with a total investment of 2 billion MNT. While the initiative operated partially last year, it is now running at full capacity.
- In 2025, the project allocated another 2 billion MNT to address meat storage infrastructure.
- Dornogovi aimag supplies approximately 23% of the region’s vegetables. Due to water scarcity, crop farming remains relatively limited. For example, drilling a well to a depth of 150 meters yields water, but potato cultivation is not cost-effective under such conditions. As a result, land cultivation is not permitted for everyone. In contrast, while potatoes can be grown in the Khangai region for 40 MNT per unit, irrigation in Dornogovi costs around 1,000 MNT, making production expenses significantly higher.
- Consequently, some individuals grow crops only for personal consumption. To offset costs, farmers focus on selling high-value vegetables. In recent years, many have specialized in growing gourds. Dornogovi has developed and localized its own watermelon variety. While a sack of watermelon from Khovd sells for 30,000 MNT, a single watermelon from Dornogovi’s variety is sold at the same price
- **Challenges in Developing Intensive Livestock Farming:** There are significant challenges in developing intensive livestock farming in our region. Establishing stationary pig and cattle farms is difficult due to the lack of locally grown feed, which must be transported from elsewhere. This increases the cost of milk and dairy products, making such investments economically inefficient under Gobi conditions. Nevertheless, 54 enterprises and individuals are engaged in intensive livestock and crop farming across more than 200 hectares.
- **Camel Herding Policy:** A camel development policy has been implemented in response to severe winter storms and *dzud*, which reduced the camel population from 64,000 to 24,000. To address this, the “Bonus for Colt or Young camel” program was launched, and by 2024, the camel population had increased to 58,000.

#### **Has land and other resource availability, access and quality decreased in last decade?**

- *Pasture Carrying Capacity and Livestock Statistics:* Each year, pasture carrying capacity is assessed on August 25 based on that year’s harvest yield, the number of livestock to be overwintered, and the number of newborn animals. These factors help determine whether the available pasture is sufficient.
- In 2024, following a *dzud* (severe winter disaster), pasture conditions were favorable. However, in most years, pasture demand exceeds capacity by a factor of five. During the *dzud*, approximately 27–30% of livestock were lost.
- Due to the lack of inter-provincial reserve grazing zones, soums (districts) were instructed to establish shared reserve pasture areas. A total of 108 hectares were approved for this purpose. This year, additional reserve zones are planned in Erdene and Khatanbulag soums, which would expand the total area to around 210 hectares.
- Livestock Statistics (Post-Dzud): Herder households: 4,400, Total livestock: 1,451,000, Goats: 660,000, Sheep: 554,000, Cattle: 71,000, Horses: 107,000, Camels: 51,000

#### **How has the loss or reduced accessibility of land and resources impacted livelihoods?**

- Herders do not lose all of their livestock entirely.

#### **What expectations and concerns exist regarding land use and natural resources in connection with the project?**

- There is no impact from overhead power lines. Mining operations are not causing continuous dust pollution day and night. From the perspective of social responsibility, there is a proposal to reroute the power transmission line to ensure electricity supply. If this is accomplished, it would enable the establishment of

farms and industrial enterprises in the area. There are no soums without electricity. Herders commonly use solar and wind energy for their needs.

<b>DORNOGOVI AIMAG HEALTH DEPARTMENT, HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION AND INFORMATION DIVISION</b>  <b>NASAN-ULZII N.</b>	<b>23 June 2025</b>
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**What are the indicators of birth rates, deaths, life expectancy, eye and respiratory infections, stomach diseases, mental illnesses, infectious diseases, sexually transmitted diseases, road traffic and other accidents?**

- Statistics on birth, mortality, average life expectancy, eye and respiratory infections, gastric diseases, mental illnesses, infectious diseases, sexually transmitted infections, and traffic and other accidents are as follows:
- Due to the presence of the north-south vertical highway, accident-related injuries in Dornogovi aimag are quite high—about 2,000 to 3,000 cases per year, or approximately 300–400 cases per month.
- Birth rates have declined in recent years, with around 1,000 births recorded in the past year.
- Mortality has reached over 340 cases annually. Due to a high number of non-residents, this figure tends to increase each year.
- Infectious diseases have declined recently, mainly due to COVID. While 10,000 to 20,000 cases were recorded during COVID years, the current number is about 600–900 cases per year.
- Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) account for more than 20% of all infectious diseases. Testing is conducted on those who visit the clinic and voluntarily seek advice. (The number of sex workers is not officially recorded.)
- Due to heavy traffic toward border zones and checkpoints, accidents and injuries are more frequently recorded compared to other aimags. For example, while Khovd aimag reported 110 such cases annually, Dornogovi registers up to 3,000.
- If a mining-related accident occurs, the patients are referred to Dornogovi aimag hospital.
- The leading causes of death are:



1. Cancer
2. Cardiovascular diseases
3. Accidents and injuries

#### **How have these indicators changed over the past ten years?**

- The top five diseases with the highest number of cases have remained unchanged. Since 2020, accident-related cases have been recorded in more detailed and categorized formats.

#### **Accessibility of Health Services and Facilities**

- Local governments invest in health services. Health sector workers or professionals contribute to the development and investment of infrastructure to provide assistance and create patient-friendly environments.
- However, there is a shortage of human resources—especially in remote soums. There are no personnel to send young doctors to these areas, so they are typically staffed by retired doctors who have worked for many years. Due to long distances, doctors often do not travel to certain places; for example, they do not go to Khatanbulag soum, which is 280 km away. Although local incentives are provided, many doctors receive benefits for three years and then leave.
- Medical equipment is generally sufficient. Vehicles and technical supplies are well-equipped for rugged terrain.
- Despite graduating from medical school, young doctors require an additional year of training and practical experience because the quality of graduation is considered insufficient.
- There is a shortage of specialist doctors in the two general hospitals in Dornogovi aimag. However, rural areas do not demand specialists—general practitioners are acceptable and can be trained. The Health Center provides sufficient methodological guidance. Still, many doctors do not work in one place for long and tend to leave.
- Cardiovascular disease is one of the top five health issues in Mongolia. The main causes are poor diet and lack of physical activity.
- In recent years, there has been an increase in cases of sudden cardiac arrest. For instance, there are situations where patients suddenly collapse or pass away before receiving care.

#### **Key Challenges in Delivering Health Services**

- It's difficult to say that the general population has a strong understanding of health education. Many people consume excessive amounts of fatty foods. The public health campaign “Public Health in Every Household” has been running for two years now. According to a household social consumption assessment, 30% of families fall into the medium-risk category. For example, this includes behaviors like mixing cooked and uncooked foods during consumption.
- **Impact of Changing Living Conditions on Public Health** (Especially hygiene, nutrition deficiencies, etc.)
- Although soums are said to be network-connected, there are still baghs without connectivity. During natural disasters such as *dzud* (severe winter), people are cut off from communication—often the residents left behind are elderly (aged 50–60), without livestock, and unable to seek help. During the *dzud*, visits were made to all baghs within each soum. Households need better tools to assess and manage risk.

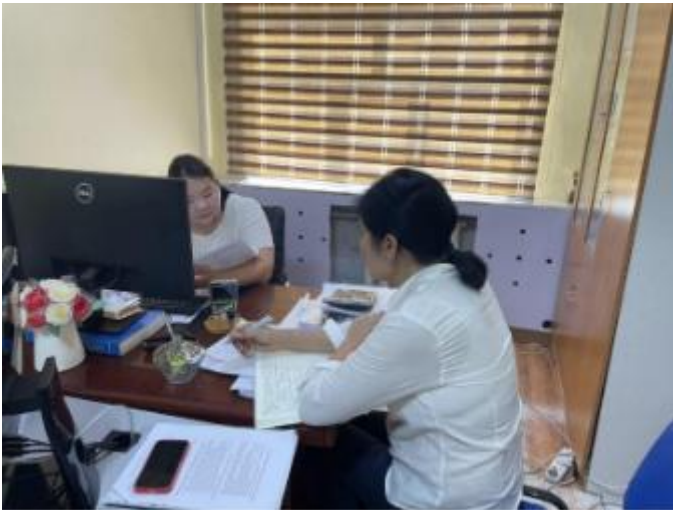
- Some families no longer process traditional dairy products themselves; instead, they rely on store-bought items. As livestock numbers decrease, efforts have been made to support cooperatives—for example, one household raises livestock while another processes dairy products.
- In many soums, single individuals or retirees live alone in rural areas. There is no way to predict when conditions like high blood pressure will occur.
- The hygiene quality of water in rural areas is problematic. In the Gobi region, the water is hard, which contributes to water-related illnesses-especially digestive system diseases.
- Food safety has deteriorated. If the aimag had a dedicated water testing laboratory, timely water analysis could be conducted. Currently, the Professional Inspection Agency conducts water testing of wells in provincial and rural areas. The water often contains high levels of salt and fluoride.
- Dental illnesses among children are common. The hardness of the water increases the risk of tooth decay, which is further aggravated by high sugar consumption.
- In the hot weather of the Gobi region, high blood pressure is widespread. Cases of death due to hypertension do occur.

#### **Expectations and Concerns Regarding Health and Well-being in Relation to Development Projects**

- **Electricity Access:** Reliable energy supply is highly desirable.
- **Increased Mobility and Population Pressure:** In Dornogovi aimag, a growing number of unregistered individuals are entering due to population movement. This has led to instances where unregistered persons receive treatment or even pass away, making it difficult to determine causes of death. When providing care to these individuals, the burden on local healthcare facilities increases. Patients without insurance coverage are left vulnerable and may not receive sufficient care.
- **Individuals planning to reside temporarily in a location must register with local authorities.**
- **Preventive Health and Insurance Coverage:** Residents should participate in preventive checkups and be insured under their respective local jurisdictions. For example, workers at Oyu Tolgoi who work in 14-day shifts are insured and regularly undergo preventive health screenings. This helps mitigate health risks for workers and prevents strain on hospitals.
- **Emergency Response Access:** Establishing emergency care points nearby is crucial to ensure timely medical assistance. Although development is progressing well, increasing population and infrastructure expansion have led to greater demand on services.
- **Power Stability in Hospitals:** Hospitals rarely experience electricity outages thanks to functioning backup generators. The general hospital in Zamiin-Uud soum operates its generator effectively.
- **Due to the large rocks under Mandakh and Saikhandulaan soums, they cannot access the heating network. The others are connected to the public heating network. The infrastructure is improving. It is now possible to heat with electricity.**

**SENIOR INFORMATION AND RESEARCH SPECIALIST, POLICE  
MAJOR KHULAN B.**

**23 June 2025**



**What is the level of crime (against the right to life; against the inviolability of human health; against human sexual freedom and inviolability; human trafficking and kidnapping; against children; against property rights; crimes related to drugs, narcotics, psychotropic substances, domestic violence, prostitution, suicide, and other violations of social order) in your aimag/soum?**

- Crime rates are increasing in the aimag level. Specific causes will be provided by officers in charge of each category.
- Major contributing factors include divorce, jealousy, alcohol abuse, and negative interpersonal relations.
- Local residents commit relatively few crimes. Most criminal incidents involve individuals from outside the area. Common cases include violations against personal inviolability and health.
- Crimes against property are increasing, particularly fraud and theft. Cybercrime includes cases such as:
  - Facebook account hacking followed by unauthorized money transfers.
  - A rise in fraud linked to Telegram.
  - Although prevalent nationwide, such crimes are increasingly affecting rural areas.
- Livestock Theft and Personal Safety: Livestock theft and crimes against human safety are becoming more frequent. When a livestock theft is reported, determining whether the perpetrator is identified depends on whether the act was committed within Dornogovi aimag or by individuals from outside.

#### **Road Safety and Violations Against Vehicle Usage Regulations**

- The causes and circumstances of traffic incidents are obtained from the head of the local traffic police division. Traffic accident assessments are not based solely on numerical data.
- Due to amendments in the revised version of the Criminal Code, specifically Article 27.10 which now classifies certain violations as criminal offenses, there has been an increase in crimes related to road safety and violations of vehicle operation regulations.

**What are the main difficulties and obstacles faced by the local police authority?**

- There are several difficulties and challenges. The traffic police division has limited staffing, and under heavy workloads, a single officer may be required to serve many individuals. At times, one officer is on scheduled leave while also covering the duties of another shift.
- Officers perform preventive duties as part of their work. In soums (districts), law enforcement is often carried out by one representative and one police officer. Some soums have no assigned representatives due to frequent migration or other circumstances. In such cases, the nearest soum's representative assumes responsibility.
- Cases are registered according to where they occurred within the territory. If a crime or incident takes place within a specific soum, its assigned representative is responsible for handling it. As a result, representatives often investigate cases independently. In practice, police officers are tasked with reviewing and resolving violations and compiling primary documentation.
- Non-residents or people who are from outside the area difficulties increase challenges.

**What expectations and concerns exist regarding crime and social order in connection with the project?**

- It is difficult to make predictions in advance.
- Crimes against personal integrity tend to occur quite frequently in connection with development projects. These offenses are often linked to individual awareness and behavior—for example, excessive alcohol consumption or adopting discriminatory attitudes toward outsiders. Local communities are typically peaceful and quiet. However, disputes often arise when outsiders consume alcohol together, leading to fights, physical assaults, and violence.
- Theft-related crimes are also fairly common. Moreover, crimes involving violations of sexual freedom and personal safety are likely to occur, which makes preventive efforts especially important.

**Regarding prostitution and suicide:**

- Information about prostitution is obtained from the Criminal Police Division. Currently, no cases of prostitution have been officially recorded at the provincial level. There is no specific legal provision that directly addresses prostitution, and related matters are treated confidentially. The Criminal Police Division is responsible for handling such cases, so detailed inquiries must be directed to them.





**Have you received information about the project?**

- I've received general information, but not detailed specifics yet.

**What positive or negative impacts might this project have on Dornogovi Aimag?**

- Local residents won't be able to directly benefit, so no clear advantages are visible. From the Tourism Association's perspective, the project doesn't seem significant. I'm unsure whether it affects animal migration. Economically, it could be beneficial if natural resources are used efficiently. However, policies must be aligned with local community interests. I can't comment on the impact of high-voltage power lines. Mining operations should consider how they affect herders, especially regarding pasture water supply. In the Galav, Oosh, and Doloid Gobi basins, the main issue raised by locals is water. Wells are controlled by mining companies. Water resources should be jointly managed and protected with local residents. Companies can dig wells, but they must ensure herders can use them. If surface water is used and economic benefits are shared locally, there's no objection.

**What are the tourism characteristics of Dornogovi? How might the project affect tourism activities and companies? How developed is tourism in the aimag?**

- The Tourism Association was recently re-established. Our strategy focuses on the fact that tourist sites in Dornogovi are very far apart. Because of the distance, private investment is costly, and tourism hasn't developed much. If roads and electricity reach these areas, investment opportunities may arise. We could build resorts and camps in electrified zones.

**How many civil society organizations exist in the aimag and in Sainshand soum?**

- Last year, a capacity assessment of Dornogovi's NGOs was conducted. I'll share that data from the NGO "Gobiin Khukh Salkhi." Overall, NGO activity is weak. Youth-focused civic participation NGOs are active. Environmental NGOs operate sporadically and are often centered around one person, lacking institutional structure. Capacity building is needed.

**What role can NGOs play in implementing this project?**

- If the project affects tourism interests, we'll raise our voice. If it's a supportive project, we'll cooperate. Our stance depends on the interests involved.

**Anything else you'd like to add?**

- The Gobi region's economy is largely mining-based. Mining companies struggle to collaborate with local residents. They should support the local economy by sourcing goods and services from local producers. This is an area we often critique.

**How developed are social infrastructure services in the aimag?**

- Our aimag has a major medical university that trains human resources for eastern and Gobi region aimags. Neighboring aimags rely on it. In terms of healthcare, government support has improved equipment over the past 2–3 years. However, core issues remain—especially water-related gastrointestinal illnesses.

**Is there a paleontological registry in your aimag/soum?**

- Registrations are handled by government agencies. Intangible heritage research is conducted annually by museums, research centers, and cultural institutions. The Tourism Association bases its planning on existing studies. Funding for paleontological research is difficult, though there are several sites that need exploration.

**How will project information be communicated going forward?**

- Rather than through civil society, it's more effective in the short term to share information via influential, active citizens. For medium and long-term outreach, civil society should be strengthened. Information can also be shared through local citizen group meetings.

**DALAISHAND 1ST BAGH GOVERNOR MUNKHBAYAR**

**23 June 2025**



**What is the basic structure, role, and function of the local administrative government?**

- The primary unit of government administration is the *bagh*. It serves as the bridge between the state and citizens by conveying government policies, decisions, and enacted laws, as well as any public sector activities, to the public. Our *bagh* includes 1,346 households with a population of over 4,000. Although some residents are registered in the soum center, many live in rural areas to tend livestock. Our staff regularly contacts herders every Wednesday, checking in on their current situation. This includes:
  - Challenges they're facing
  - Livestock birthing status
  - Any major losses
- We also pass on useful updates and news coming from the local government. Communication is streamlined through a group chat for herders, and now that all herders have internet access, information is quickly shared. For those who don't see the news and messages, we follow up with phone calls.
- Our *bagh* has 7 employees, including:
  - Bag Governor
  - Registration & Public Relations Officer (*responsible for statistics*)
  - Social Worker (*handles citizen welfare*)
  - Four Section Leaders (*each covering around 900 people on average*)

**What are the main settlements in your administrative region?**

- Our territory includes the soum center and the northwestern section of the Sainshand soum. The right-hand side of the paved road that enters from the north via the railway belongs to the 1st bag. Originally, our bag was larger, but after the 1992 Constitution was passed, it was split into the 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> bagh (Khairkhan bagh). I've been working for nine years and have served in this bagh since 2016. Compared to other baghs, ours has a smaller land area, particularly in the rural sections.

**What major changes have occurred in the population structure?**

- About 30% of population movement involves people who don't actually live at their registered address. This abstract migration happens because residents enroll their children in schools or kindergartens located in our

bagh, particularly at School No. 2 in the center. Some move here for job convenience. Others arrive from rural soums to enroll their children in school, but after 4–5 months, they leave their children with relatives and return to work elsewhere. This creates a “phantom migration”—they’re registered but do not engage with local activities.

**How has the age and gender structure changed? Are these changes related to migration?**

- The age and gender structure is generally average. There are very few young people; most are middle-aged, especially those over 45. We organize monthly outreach events for citizens, but attendance has declined, and public engagement has weakened. Once a month, we collect all necessary updates and host a single event day, inviting specialists from government organizations to share relevant information—such as current laws, projects, and programs.

**Have changes in population size or structure created pressure or relief on social services or natural resources?**

- There is mounting pressure from abstract migrating people. For example, someone may come from Saikhandulaan soum to enroll their child in school, then leave the child with relatives and return to their own residence. There are many citizens over the age of 45 who do not participate in bagh’s activities. Such individuals do not participate in our bagh’s activities, meetings, or local elections. Their civic engagement is minimal.

**How has local leadership responded to demographic changes?**

- According to the civil registration law, anyone who has lived at an address for more than 180 days should be automatically transferred to that address. But when we explain this, people often respond: “Where I live is my personal right. I can live anywhere I want. Don’t violate my rights.” So, there’s no viable enforcement method.

**Are there any major development projects planned over the next 5 years (e.g., mines, industrial parks, energy supply)?**

- There’s an approved plan to build a large paved road through the ger district that will connect to Dalai Khutul next year. Several projects are also planned under the Local Development Fund. Citizens frequently raise concerns about road infrastructure. Due to our arid climate, rain is rarely considered in planning, so parking areas lack proper drainage. When it floods, roads are submerged because no comprehensive flood protection—like dikes and trenches—is provided. This year, a road with integrated flood barriers is planned.

**Does your aimag/soum have any paleontological records?**

- Please refer to our local museum—I’m not exactly sure myself.

**What do you think is the most suitable method for stakeholder engagement during project implementation?**

- It’s crucial to communicate clearly with herders and give information frequently. They’re directly present at the project sites or near the project area. The way herders’ opinions and perceived and respond will be very important.





**Are there people moving in, especially related to bagh development and creation?**

- Few people are moving in, more are leaving. I've served as the bagh governor for the past 4 years. The population is around 1,900. The number of households dropped from 567 in 2021 to 550 in 2025 and continues to decline.
- In terms of population movement, fewer people are coming, and the number is decreasing. Departures and deaths are lowering the count. Some temporary residents live here but are not officially registered in the subdistrict.
- As for temporary residents—many come from different aimags on official assignment to work in the military unit and live in assigned housing. Currently, the military unit has around 400 employees, out of which 300 are working without having officially relocated.
- There are more than 150 employees working for the railway, of which 70–80 is registered in Zuunbayan. The rest are registered in other areas like Sainshand soum or Khovd aimag.

**What about public service institutions like healthcare and schools?**

- There are 2 kindergartens, 1 hospital, 1 cultural center, 1 sports center, and a public services department.

**Do unregistered individuals cause strain on services like healthcare and education?**

- Yes, they do. Previously, children of unregistered families weren't accepted. But now, in order to protect the child's right to education, they are admitted to schools and kindergartens. Healthcare financing is based on officially registered residents, so it puts a lot of pressure on the system.

**How is this being managed?**

- The hospital treats people who do come in place of those who don't, and they are requesting relocation registration from patients.
- The military and railway have their own internal medical units, so arrangements are made there. In cases where specialized services or capacities are lacking, patients are referred to the Zuunbayan hospital.
- The railway has one doctor position, providing primary care to workers.
- The military unit handles injured personnel and refers them to provincial or subdistrict hospitals if needed.

**Does urban maintenance face pressure from waste or other issues?**

- There is a lot of waste. Fortunately, the public maintenance department is operating, so waste is not overwhelming the area. However, the central landfill site has exceeded its capacity.

- The Donshing oil refinery factory works in Zuunbayan bagh. The refinery employs about 120 people, of which 110 are local residents of Zuunbayan. The rest are specialists brought in from Ulaanbaatar city and Sainshand soum. Around 70 Chinese nationals also work there. These Chinese workers live in company-provided housing. When they visit nearby shops, they are accompanied by Mongolian staff for supervision. Zuunbayan's small size makes it easier for police to monitor activities, so violations are rare.

#### **What is the level of alcohol consumption?**

- High. It starts with places like the military base and Donshing factory. Issues such as heavy drinking, domestic violence, and alcohol consumption in front of children are common and persistent. In our bagh, a dedicated joint task force is in place, and I am a member of it.
- Zuunbayan has three alcohol-selling shops. Reducing the number of shops does not appear to lessen alcohol consumption. One store was closed (there used to be four), but it made no difference in quality or behavior.
- If alcohol sale hours are restricted, illegal sales (bootlegging) often emerge.
- There is a need for public awareness efforts. Sometimes experts are invited to speak on the harmful effects, and people seem to understand at the time—but only a few events happen each year, and after a week people revert to their usual habits.

#### **Are there cases of marriage, separation, or single mothers due to outsiders staying in the area?**

- Yes. Some local, less-educated individuals working in support roles at Donshing factory develop relationships with Chinese employees. Even if they don't live together, they may have children and then separate. These situations are often kept quiet. There are also cases where Mongolian workers come temporarily, marry, and then later separate.

#### **Is there prostitution?**

- Such cases have not occurred. There are rumors, but when investigated, there is no identified person involved, and things go quiet.

#### **Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)?**

- Not well known.

#### **Are health statistics and birth records compiled at the bagh level?**

- Yes. The bagh health center compiles and submits data to the aimag level, including information on population growth, migration, deaths, and births.

#### **What major changes have occurred in the population structure?**

- Mostly young people leave. In Zuunbayan, middle-aged and elderly individuals tend to remain, especially those who have long worked in public service and have settled.
- **Herder households and livestock population:** There are 65 herder households. This year, 18,000 head of livestock were counted. Due to the *dzud* in 2024, the number of herders declined. As the number of livestock increases, it requires more effort to manage, so herders are not always interested in expanding their herd. After becoming a "thousand-head herder," the livestock count tends to decline year by year. Eventually, herders transfer livestock under their children's names to qualify them as thousand-head herders. This is believed to reflect a desire for social prestige within the community. Approximately 18 individuals are considered thousand-head herders.

#### **At the aimag level, some heads mentioned the livestock support program and cooperatives. Have any households that lost their livestock received support or joined cooperatives at your bagh level?**

- While local herders from Zuunbayan do not tend to cooperate with each other, they do collaborate with herders from other soums like Ulaanbadrakh and have formed cooperatives to receive support.
- Badrah Energy LLC, which passes through our area, selects two households each year for a livestock support project. Each selected household receives 25 female goats and 25 male sheep—a total of 50 livestock.
- The Labor and Welfare Department also selects one household per year to participate in a livestock support initiative.
- **Current Socio-Economic Situation, Development Priorities, Policies, and Planning**
- Development ideas and proposals are collected from citizens in each bagh. These are incorporated into the soum governor's policy agenda. However, not all proposals are implemented—typically, only 30–50% are carried out.

#### **Are there elected representatives?**

- Yes. Sainshand soum has three representatives in the Soum Citizens' Khural, and Dornogovi aimag has two. I am one of the three representatives for Sainshand soum.
- The three representatives gather proposals from residents and submit them to the soum governor to be included in the policy agenda.

#### **Which proposals are raised most frequently?**

- One of the most discussed issues is the paved road between Sainshand and Zuunbayan. In 2024, the paved section covered 12 km and ends just before Zuunbayan. There's strong demand to pave the remaining 4.8 km stretch between the railway and Zuunbayan. Large trucks from the Khatanbulag direction pass through Zuunbayan territory, where the road is dry, dusty, and worn down.
- Back in 1992, when there was a military base, major infrastructure was developed. Since then, there has been no maintenance on clean water, heating, or wastewater systems. There are proposals to repair and replace these systems. The buildings are connected to centralized heating and have a steam boiler. Although the boiler operates, the lack of pipeline maintenance makes winter conditions difficult. Proposals have been submitted to fix this.
- There are also proposals to repair building facades and roofs of old structures.

#### **How has the age and gender structure of the population changed? Are these changes related to migration?**

- The population is declining.

#### **What developments are taking place locally, such as in mining and energy? What would you like to see more of in the future?**

- There are native residents, but many outsiders are arriving.
- **Advantages :**
  - Native people are easier to organize.
  - There is consistent communication—residents and leaders help each other, mutually supporting community goals.
- **Disadvantages:**
  - Outsiders often behave with a “visitor’s mindset,” showing less care for the area.

- Some don't use waste bins or respect local norms.
- When the subdistrict governor enforces certain rules, newcomers may resist.
- Complaints are forwarded to relevant organizations, but the local governor lacks legal authority to enforce responsibility or take disciplinary action, which limits accountability.

**Key achievements during 4 years as bagh governor:**

- In 2024, a 1.6 km road was built in Zuunbayan's center with investment from Donshing company (MNT 1.3 billion). Donshing annually contributes MNT 200–300 million to local projects.
- With investment from Badrakh Energy LLC (MNT 250 million), a central park was created with green lawn, playground, bike paths, walking trails, and a sports area. It's a popular spot for children in summer.
- 19 street lights installed with funding from the Local Development Fund.
- Major renovations at the school costing over MNT 790 million. Zuunbayan bagh has a 12-year school with a dormitory that can host up to 1,000 students. Dormitory equipment and bedding were upgraded using funds from the aimag and local development budgets.

**Is there any paleontological record in your aimag/soum?**

- Yes, there is a site known as Duutiin Ovoo.
- Since this area used to serve a military base, there are many underground pits (dugouts). These are commonly encountered by local herders.

**What are the local expectations and concerns related to the project and demographic changes?**

- There's a proposal to educate local residents about the project and foster collaboration by providing guidelines and support through relevant agencies.
- For instance:
  - If there is a fault or damage to overhead transmission lines, there must be a rapid response system in place for communication and remediation.
  - Construction-related waste should be properly managed—collected, stored, and disposed of at designated locations.
- There were major complaints when a railway line was constructed between winter shelters and water sources, making it difficult for livestock to cross where they weren't used to passing. This caused significant dissatisfaction among herders.
- People also expect that if overhead power lines pass nearby, there should be provisions for local herders to access electricity—especially to power wells and water systems.
- Dornogovi aimag's climate, strong winds and dust storms are common. So, preventive measures against severe weather risks are necessary.
- Land has been distributed to residents north of Zuunbayan bagh toward Sainshand, but the absence of electricity makes it undesirable for settlement. If the area is connected to the grid, households are expected to settle more actively.

**Are there any non-governmental organizations (NGOs)?**

- Yes, an NGO established by herders exists. It was created to oppose the operations of Badrakh Energy company. There are no other NGOs active in the area.





<b>KHAIRKHAN 6TH BAGH GOVERNOR URANCHIMEG</b>	<b>23 June 2025</b>
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**What is the basic structure, role, and function of the local administration?**

- I've served as the Bagh Governor for 8 years. The administrative office of the 6<sup>th</sup> bagh of Sainshand soum was established by resolution No. 6/03 of the Aimag Citizens' Representative Khural on December 5, 2014. Official public service delivery began in July 2015. Our bag covers 2,825.02 hectares. As of 2022, we had 1,045 households and a population of 3,483. Currently, we have around 3,500 residents and 1,100 households.
- Our bagh staff consists of 7 employee such as Bagh Governor, Registration and Public Relations Officer, Social Worker and 4 Section Leaders. We operate with a mission to ensure high-quality, satisfaction-driven public service management for every citizen.

**What are the main settlement areas in your administrative region?**

- Our bagh area is a newly developed residential zone, featuring:
  - A new paved road
  - The 6<sup>th</sup> Secondary School
  - Oil refinery housing is being built

**What is the current socio-economic situation, development priorities, policies, short- and medium-term plans, and recently implemented projects/programs?**

- Our bagh office carries out the following tasks:
  - Implement government and council decisions, as well as the Governor's action plan
  - Deliver primary public services and consultations to residents
  - Ensure citizen participation
  - Resolve and forward complaints and petitions from citizens and institutions
  - Coordinate crime prevention activities
  - Provide social work services for individuals and families
  - Compile statistical reports and maintain population records

**What major changes have occurred in population structure?**

- About the bagh population structure: 48% male, 51% female, Age distribution is stable, few elderly residents, most of the population is youth -1,370 under age 18, 473 aged 55 and above.

**How has the age and gender structure changed? Are these changes related to migration?**

- Migration has occurred in the form of people moving in, passing away, or relocating. Migration doesn't cause a sharp population increase. On average, we see about 100 people added per year. The population was around 2,700–2,800 when I first started. Many new arrivals are of mixed backgrounds.

**Has the change in population size or structure caused pressure or relief on social services or natural resources?**

- There has been no significant pressure resulting from migration.

**Are there any major development projects planned over the next 5 years (e.g., mines, industrial parks, energy supply)?**

- There are occasional mentions, but no clear or detailed information is available.

**Does your aimag/soum have any paleontological records?**

- I do not know about this

**What do you think is the most suitable way to engage stakeholders during project implementation?**

- During the construction of a high-voltage line to Ailbayan soum, notices were distributed to households. Unfortunately, livestock fell into construction pits and died—compensation was provided by the implementing company. We give information through house visits, and we can do it. Herders didn't resist the installation of the high-voltage line.
- Best practices include:
  - Safeguarding pits during construction
  - Distributing safety notices
  - Clearly communicating the potential environmental impact and hazards to residents



**DORNOGOVI AIMAG GOVERNOR BATJARGAL O.**

**23 June 2025**

He requested detailed information about the project. Based on the information received, he will respond to the survey.



## Ulaanbadrakh soum KII Responses

ULAANBADRAKH SOUM GOVERNOR ERKHEMBOLD TS.

25 June 2025



**Long-Term Energy Policy and Regional Context** There's a long-term circular electricity grid policy underway from the Ministry of Energy, aimed at connecting the Gobi region. Our project is part of that larger initiative. Is your district fully supplied with electricity?

- There are still issues. In rural areas, there's no high-voltage infrastructure, so people rely on various renewable sources — mainly solar panels.

**Are there any risks associated with high-voltage lines?**

- Yes, bird fatalities have occurred.

**Does your province or district have any paleontological records?**

- It's highly probable. East of Unegt Mountain, there's a place called Shiree where many dinosaur fossils have been found.

**Project Expectations and Concerns**

- This project crosses the northern edge of our district, where there are few households. However, there are families in the area coming from Bayan. Other locations affected include Ulaanbadrakh, Sainshand, Saikhandulaan, and even Khuvsgul. Since this is a national project, there is nothing wrong with pulling to high voltage.
- Dust and debris will inevitably arise during construction. The most important thing is to ensure that households within the impact area are properly informed and understand the situation. If complaints or concerns emerge, appropriate measures must be taken. To avoid such conflicts, it's essential to maintain mutual understanding with the local residents.

SOCIAL POLICY SPECIALIST GANDOLGOR SH.

25 June 2025



### **Social Infrastructure Access**

- No significant changes in the last five years. The population currently stands at 1,475.
- 440 children aged 0–18
- Many youths aged 15–35
- 270 senior citizens
- 115 government employees, including military staff

### **Migration Trends**

- Migration occurs regularly.
- 10–20 children graduate 9th grade annually and move to the aimag center.
- Most do not return after pursuing education or careers.
- 2–3 people return each year to work; this year, five graduates have begun working locally.

### **Human Resource Challenges**

- Shortage of qualified personnel.
- Incentive and policy programs are in place to recruit staff. Badrakh Energy helps pay tuition for students who return to work in the soum.
- Monetary incentives are offered to incoming professionals, particularly kindergarten and school teachers. Up to 5 million MNT and access to government housing (monthly rent: 36,000–50,000 MNT)
- New hires in the last year: 2 at the hospital, 2 at the kindergarten, 3 school teachers, 1 cultural center employee

### **Education Services**

- **Kindergarten:**
  - One facility with three groups for ages 2–6
  - Capacity: 75 children
  - Currently 55–66 enrolled
  - Includes mobile teacher outreach for 115 herder children
  - Total reach: 115 children (88% classroom coverage, 100% total access)



- The kindergarten has an enrollment of 120 children and an 88% class size. Classroom enrollment is 88% and total enrollment is 100%. A nursery group is required.
- Lack of specialized kindergarten educators
- **School:**
  - One general education school offering 9 years of study
  - Capacity: 270 pupils
  - Dormitory accommodates 60 pupils (mostly herder children)
  - Fully meets national standards and well-equipped and organized
  - Consistently high graduation quality
  - Recognized as “Best General Education School” at the aimag “Altanzul Festival” (held every 2 years)
  - Shortage of elementary school teachers due to retirement

#### **Transportation and Infrastructure**

- Electricity capacity in the area is limited.
- Due to weak market demand, few private businesses operate.
- Government guesthouses exist; few private lodgings.

#### **Water, Sanitation and Utilities**

- Drinking water is supplied via mobile water tanks; not optimal for consumption.
- Water, wells, and toilet issues remain major concerns.
- Water samples are tested annually.
- Water sometimes appears cloudy.
- School, kindergarten, and dorm use standard boreholes and have indoor toilets
- No connection to sewer or clean water pipelines; heating pipeline is connected
- The hospital lacks indoor toilets
- Waste management is organized:
  - Dedicated disposal site
  - Waste is transported and buried using designated vehicles

#### **Electricity Reliability**

- Previously, electricity supply was weak—couldn’t handle multiple devices.
- Upgrades have improved the situation:
- Families now use heaters in winter and fans in summer

#### **Local Management of Infrastructure Changes**

- Development projects are prioritized through the Local Development Fund
- Suggestions are collected both on paper and online
- Bagh governors are responsible for managing input

- Citizens are actively involved
- Projects are implemented based on ranked suggestions

**Social Infrastructure Expectations for the Project**

- Emphasis on safety
- Measures must be in place to prevent lightning-related accidents
- Dust management is crucial



**AGRICULTURE SPECIALIST: ALTANCHIMEG**

**25 June 2025**



She has been working 11 years in soum

### **General Situation**

- The pastureland is overgrazed and facing challenges, although this year is relatively better.
- An unusually good summer is underway. In spring 2025, vegetation appeared early, but without rainfall, it may dry out.
- Rainfall has been scarce in recent years.
- In contrast, the abundant rain in 2024 positively affected vegetation growth.

### **Livestock Numbers**

- Livestock numbers decreased from 198,098 in 2022 to 144,800 in 2023, and to 112,618 in 2024, primarily due to weather conditions.

### **Roles:**

- Food Supply, SMEs, Cooperatives
- There are 5 food businesses and 7 grocery kiosks.
- One new tobacco outlet and one convenience store opened.
- A household goods store and a tea shop exist, with plans to expand the latter.

### **Cooperatives**

- Cooperatives originally founded in 2017. In 2024, 10 new cooperatives were formed through the "New Khorshoo Movement," focusing on livestock, meat, and dairy. 6 more were formed in 2025. Some specialize in breeding livestock.
- However, overall cooperative performance is lacking. 17 herders from 12 cooperatives visited Shilin Hot, Inner Mongolia, to learn best practices. Explored shared cooperative models for meat, dairy, and breeding. Researched equipment suitable for local use.
- The governor met with cooperative members to discuss strengthening meat and dairy initiatives. Financial challenges persist.
- Cooperatives can receive up to MNT 50 million in loans, but banks require high standards. State Bank and Khan Bank previously issued loans—this year, only Khan Bank continues, and uptake is low.
- As of July 31, the government halted livestock breeding loans. Breeders previously received loans to raise livestock, but this has stopped.
- In 2025, 3 new cooperatives were established, totaling 18 registered cooperatives.
- Older cooperatives process and sell meat, hides, and raw materials—mostly in urban markets.
- One cooperative was created for meat slaughtering but failed to establish a slaughterhouse due to insufficient equipment funding.

#### **Herders' Challenges**

- Despite droughts and harsh winters, herders manage pasture sharing cooperatively due to familiarity. Water scarcity is a significant concern.
- Conducted annually in the first week of August. Collaboratively handled by Land Affairs, Agriculture, and Meteorology. Data is fed into a national land database; official documentation highlights drought-stricken areas and overgrazed pastures.

#### **Environmental resource and Local Development**

- Social media circulates claims that uranium makes habitation impossible—but no evident local impacts.
- Water quality from wells is tested, though results are slow to be delivered.
- Droughts and storms impact livestock—lack of vegetation leads to feed shortages.
- Some households sold most livestock after successive drought years.
- Many have sold sheep and goats, keeping only larger livestock.

#### **Expectations and concerns**

- Extending electricity to nearby households could improve herders' quality of life.
- Without land restoration, mining-like effects may occur. Excavated land disrupts grazing and risks livestock injury.
- Since power lines are now being installed, risks are considered lower.



### **Economic Characteristics of Ulaanbadrakh Soum**

- Mining is the defining feature of the local economy.
- **Active Mining Companies:**
  - *Badrakh Energy* – petroleum operations
  - *Ariun Khad* – mining
  - *Teekhiin Shonkhor* – mining

### **Local Tax Contributions**

- Land fees: 80 million MNT
- Waste disposal fees: 2.88 million MNT
- Water fees: 7–8 million MNT (based on meter usage)
- Income tax: deducted from salaries

### **Agriculture**

- Livestock head tax was previously collected but waived in 2023 and 2024 due to weather-related hardships affecting herders. This was decided through the Citizens' Representative Council.
- In 2025, tax was also waived due to:
  - The soum's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary
  - Fundraising from herders

### **Soum main economic sector or business?**

- No factories exist in Ulaanbadrakh soum. Small shops and businesses operate locally. Stores report income and pay a 1% business tax.

### **Key sources of local revenue:**

- Land fees and salary tax contributions from Badrakh Energy dominate.

### **What have been the main changes in the local/soum economy in the last decade?**

- Noticeable progress over the past four years.
- Previously, tax revenues totaled 4–5 million MNT annually.
- Since 2020, mining activity has driven revenues up to 600 million MNT. **Are there any cases where locals get jobs in mines?**
- 12 people from Ulziit soum are employed at Badrakh Energy. Herders are mainly hired for support roles.

**What percentage of the working-age population is unemployed?**

- Unemployment rate is around 40% among the working-age population.
- Despite this, many are willing to work. Badrakh Energy hired 40–50 people in the past 2–3 years, but now takes on fewer workers. If the company expands, interest in employment is expected to rise.

**Project-Related Expectations & Concerns**

- That locals and nearby residents will have opportunities for employment
- Possible impact on herders' livelihoods
- The current perception is that project-related impacts are minimal

**HEAD OF HEALTH CENTER - NARMANDAKH**

**25 June 2025**



*He mentioned that since he is new to working in Ulaanbadrakh soum and unable to provide information from previous years.*

#### **General Overview of Ulaanbadrakh Soum**

- Since the beginning of 2025, 7–8 accident cases have been recorded, including:
  - Children falling or being pulled
  - Injuries caused by motorcycle accidents
  - Injuries from falling off horses or livestock
- One death was registered during this period.
- Disease rates in Ulaanbadrakh Soum are not high.
- Chronic and non-communicable illnesses are present.
- Local residents prefer calling for medical visits rather than going to the clinic, leading to a higher volume of calls. Calls due to severe illness are rare; typically, 1–2 calls per day.

#### **Main health issues observed:**

- Cardiovascular diseases and high blood pressure are common.
- Illnesses follow seasonal patterns.
- Allergies are increasing due to dust exposure.

#### **Accessibility:**

- Services are generally accessible to locals.
- There's a shortage of healthcare personnel due to low salaries and lack of interest in remote postings.

#### **Additional Difficulties:**



- Patient attitudes are sometimes problematic; they tend to blame the doctor and expect the doctor alone to handle all health matters.
- Insurance funding is poor, and performance-based quotas are limiting.
- Hospital admission quotas fill quickly.

#### **Sanitation Facilities:**

- Outdoor toilets are still in use but are disinfected regularly.
- Indoor toilets are being installed.

#### **Health Trends Related to Lifestyle**

- Illnesses linked to poor nutrition and lack of exercise are rising.
- Decreased living standards contribute to choices favoring cheap, bulk foods.
- Food quality has diminished due to economic constraints.

#### **Drinking Water:**

- Water is drawn from wells.
- High salinity levels are noted; containers tend to whiten after repeated use.

#### **Eye Disease**

- Dry eye syndrome is common.
- Some elderly residents have had cataract surgeries.

#### **Births and Maternity Care**

- No births occurred at the local clinic; home births were reported.
- To reduce risks, most mothers give birth at the provincial hospital.
- Newborns are placed under monitoring after birth.

#### **Sexually Transmitted Disease**

- No cases recorded in 2025.

#### **Traffic Accidents**

- There are no paved roads, so traffic accidents are minimal.
- In soums with paved roads, incidents are more frequent.
- In Ulaanbadrakh, common accidents involve:
  - Burns
  - Falling off horses
  - Motorcycle-related injuries
- Serious injuries from accidents are rare.

#### **Project Expectations & Concerns**

- If many outsiders arrive, food safety must be closely monitored.
- Local community supports construction and development.

- Dust exposure during development is a key concern.



### **Common Criminal Offenses**

- Crime rate is low; the area is peaceful.
- There are four ongoing investigations related to livestock theft, which remains a persistent issue.
- No cases of homicide have been recorded.
- In 2025, two cases of suicide involving women over 40 years old were registered. Both were married and from herding families. The cause is presumed to be psychological trauma.
- Domestic violence is reportedly nonexistent.

### **Alcohol Consumption**

- Alcohol usage is low overall.
- A few individuals have received treatment for alcohol dependence, but alcohol-related issues are minimal.

### **Prostitution**

- No known cases of prostitution locally. Relevant inspections are conducted.
- Some activity has been observed in Zamiin-Uud.

### **Traffic Violations**

- Few violations occur; most are motorcycle-related.

### **How does the local police department deal with risk, crime, and disorder?**

- Police workload is light, with only 1–2 calls per month. Ulaanbadrakh soum is considered calm and orderly. Most calls relate to domestic disputes and alcohol-related incidents.
- Public discipline is well maintained. Measures have been taken to help individuals overcome alcohol dependence.
- Patrols are conducted by vehicle both during the day and night.

### **Police Challenges**

- Police face few difficulties overall.
- Development in Zamiin-Uud is robust, and local problems are generally resolved.

### **Training Programs**

- Joint training teams (including police, local governors, family support specialists, and child protection experts) conduct prevention training for citizens.
- Participants include local residents, school teachers and students, and military units.
- Local police officers and district representatives hold 4–5 one-hour trainings per month. Sometimes these are conducted jointly with the team.

### **Child Protection**

- Oversight is reported to be strong; no recent violations have been noted. Not familiar with data from the past five years.

### **Project-Related Expectations and Concerns**

- Public opposition has occurred regarding foreign development projects.
- Community members expect clear registration and information about incoming workers.
- Regular monitoring and inspections are necessary.
- Vigilance and supervision need emphasized.

ULAANBADRAKH SOUM ARGALANT BAGH GOVERNOR  
OYUNTUNGALAG

25 June 2025



*She has been working for 5 years for bagh governor.*

**What major changes have occurred in population structure?**

- Argalant bagh has:
- 113 households
- 286 residents
- The majority are youth
- Around 60 people are under 18 years old
- About 20% are senior citizens (aged 55+)

**Livelihood & Herding**

- Around 80–90% of the residents are herders.
- Households depend on livestock for their livelihood.
- Many animals were lost during *dzud* (harsh winter conditions). Cattle and horses were lost after crossing the border during strong wind and sandstorms.

**Bagh Infrastructure**

- No school or kindergarten in the bagh center, but a bagh office exists. Bagh citizens' meetings are held at the bagh center every quarter.
- The bagh doctor is based in the soum center and makes rounds to rural households.
- Children attend school and kindergarten in the soum center. No cases of school dropouts; access to education is considered good.

**Electricity Supply**



- Households use solar panels for electricity.
- Nearly all households have access to power.

#### **Cultural Heritage & Paleontology**

- Sacred mountains: Argalant Uul, Takhiatyn Uul (protected by the province)
- Areas near Khamriin Khiid Monastery there are specially protected zones: Khar zag and Shar zag
- Aimag and soum-level special-use lands are designated

#### **Mining Operations**

- **Company Operating in the Area:**
  - *Badrakh Energy* — conducting mineral exploitation
- Their detailed environmental impact assessment includes information on protected lands.
- Sites under Badrakh Energy are *Dulaan Uul* and *Zoovch Ovoo*
- Other Mining Companies:
  - Teekhiin Shonkhor
  - Erel
  - Arvin Khad
  - Uushiin Govi

#### **Expectations & Concerns Related to Projects**

- No excessive strain on the bagh is expected.
- High-voltage power lines are passing through the area.
  - Residents near the route and the bagh center are eager to know whether they can access electricity.
- Information should be shared during public bagh meetings.

## Mandakh soum KII Responses

MANDAKH SOUM AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST ZOLBAYAR

26 June 2025



### Land Use (Agriculture, Livestock, Mixed)?

- Crop farming is practiced around the soum center.
- Households grow produce in greenhouses primarily for their own needs.
- Over 70% of the soum's territory consists of pastureland.

### What is the land ownership and tenure situation? (Are there any subsidies or restrictions on short-term or long-term leases, shared use, or user conditions?)

- Land used for winter and spring camps is extended through possession rights. Extension is discussed in citizens' meetings of bagh.
- A proposal was submitted to the aimag to designate the boundary area between Bagh 1 and 4, called "Nayan Khamagyn Khundii," as a reserve herding zone. This has been under discussion since December 2024 but no response has been received.
- The soum currently has no dedicated land officer, making it difficult to determine land coordinates. It's challenging for the local Food and Agriculture Department to manage land issues alone. There are no current conflicts over pastureland.

### Pasture Use and Access Rights

- Pasture use is stable, but concerns arise in the northern part of the soum due to frequent movement of wild horses and white gazelles, reportedly damaging the pasture.
- No new wells have been constructed since 2022. There's a shortage of wells, and it seems funding from the Local Development Fund is not accessible for this purpose, although the exact reasons are unclear.

### What other natural resources are you currently relying on?

- The soum relies primarily on coal as a natural resource.

### Changes in Land and Natural Resource Quality

- The quality of resource use is deteriorating. Locals complain of overwhelming smoke, soot, and dust in the mining areas, causing air pollution and harming animals.
- Grazing areas along mining roads are reportedly being destroyed.
- Complaints have emerged regarding food safety due to selling livestock exposed to coal fumes.
- Water access is poor. Conflicts even occur between relatives over water.
- Assigning one person responsibility for the well can lead to disputes—some livestock-rich households have allegedly locked wells to prevent depletion, sparking disagreements.

**What measures are being taken to address the above issues?**

- These problems have not been resolved. My role involves managing livestock and agricultural planning. I focus on educating herders about laws, regulations, implementation, and policy documents.
- Previously, herders received incentives, but these stopped in 2022. It's expected that incentives will resume starting this year.

**Project-Related Land Use Expectations and Concerns**

- Electricity supply is weak in the soum. There's hope for improvement.
- Concerns exist over pasture degradation and power outages.
- For instance, drunk drivers have crashed into power poles, causing outages.

**MANDAKH SOUM TUKHUM 5<sup>TH</sup> BAGH GOVERNOR  
SUVDANTSETSEG /SOUM CENTER BAGH GOVERNOR/**

**26 June 2025**



**Have you heard any information about the project?**

- I had not received any information about the project before. The Deputy Governor mentioned it today.

**What is the basic structure, role, and operations of the local government?**

- I've been serving as a bagh leader for five years. The primary administrative unit of the government is the bagh. We serve to citizens, communicating national policies, decisions, and enacted laws, as well as ongoing governmental activities to the public.

**What are the main settlements located in your administrative region?**

- Current local socio-economic conditions, development priorities, policies, short- and medium-term plans, and projects and programs implemented in recent years.

**What major changes have occurred in the population structure?**

- In 2021, there were around 90 households and 212 residents. Now there are 114 households with 272 residents. Births increased in 2023 and increase total number of population. Out of the 114 households, over 10 are registered but do not live at their addresses. The soum population has reached 1,580 showing an increase compared to previous years.

**How has the population's age and gender structure changed? Are these changes related to migration movements?**

- Young people frequently move in and out. When Mongoliin Alt company first launched operations, they hired people who were officially registered in Mandakh soum. As a result, many young people moved here and established households. When Mongoliin Alt company's operations stopped, those same individuals returned to their hometowns. In terms of gender, women now make up the majority.

**Has the change in population size and structure caused pressure or relief on social services or natural resources?**

- For citizens with lower living standards, it's difficult to place them into jobs because they tend to disappear—it's unclear where they are. There are 2 or 3 individuals who move around tending livestock at different households. One teacher is now living in Uvurkhangai, and another person is in Sainshand.

**How has the local administration responded to demographic changes?**

- Officials followed up with residents who had moved but were still registered at their previous addresses, and arranged for their registration to be updated to reflect their actual residence.

**What are the expectations or concerns regarding the project in relation to the local area and demographics?**

- There is concern that competition for electricity might arise when the overhead line is installed. Our soum already has issues with electricity—though it's supposed to receive 220 volts, only around 160 volts actually arrive. Power outages are rare, and if there's a natural event that causes a pole to fall or maintenance is required, notice is typically given in advance. Due to low voltage, electricity is unreliable. We can't even operate an electric kettle properly.

**Are there any major development projects planned over the next five years (e.g., mines, industrial parks, energy supply)?**

- This year, the Local Development Fund will replace wooden poles with concrete ones. There are talks of building a substation along the railway. A mining company promised to build a cultural complex, but it's already been two years. Work to connect to the water and sewage system has begun.

**How many mines are in your soum?**

- There are mines such as Ikh Tumen Khurd coal mine LLC, Mandakh Lake LLC, and Tumen Gobi LLC are supporting companies. When the local government asks these companies to hire residents, they often require highly specialized labor. Currently, 12 people from our bagh work there. In winter, Ikh Tumen Khurd LLC and Tumen Ail LLC cooperate to give 2 tons of coal free to each household.

**Does your aimag/soum have any paleontological records or landmarks?**

- Yes: a rock with petroglyphs, the fossilized forest of Suukhent, and Ulgii Monastery.

**What do you think is the most suitable approach to engage stakeholders during project implementation?**

- Citizens must be informed. The electricity transmission line seems manageable, and I think there will be little resistance from the citizens. If exploration identifies something like copper and other mining activity, residents may immediately perceive it as a mining venture and may be willing to oppose it.



**MANDAKH SOUM DEPUTY GOVERNOR B.BAT-ERDENE**

**25 June 2025**



#### **Local Government Structure and Role**

- The project is part of the local policy agenda and has been included in:
- The aimag governor's action plan
- The soum's operational action plan
- We have information

#### **What is the role and function of your soum's local government?**

- Delivering public services to citizens
- Implementing policies from the national and provincial governments at the local level
- Informing residents about decisions and policies

#### **Structure of the Governor's Office (ZDTG)**

- The Governor's Office consists of:
  - Governor
  - Deputy Governor
  - Office Director
  - Finance Department
  - Agricultural Section
  - Livestock Section
  - Veterinary Section
  - Social Policy Specialist
  - Bagh governors -5

**Vertical governance officials** (appointed nationally, not locally) include:

- Land administration
- Social insurance
- Civil registration
- Welfare services
- Local social workers

Other key local institutions:

- Local administration
  - Hospital
  - Police
  - Private veterinary service
  - Schools and kindergartens
  - Citizens' Assembly
  - Cultural Center
- The soum consists of 5 baghs and population of the soum around 1,500 people

#### **Population structure change?**

- No major structural changes in recent years
- Population size remains fairly stable around 1,500

#### **School enrollment trend:**

- Decline in pupil numbers
- Some people buy apartment in Sainshand soum and moved to Sainshand soum take their children with them. But they do not register in Sainshand soum.
- In 2015, 240–250 pupils in school. By 2022, it was around 210 pupils in school.

#### **Socio-Economic Conditions of soum**

- The local economy is primarily based on livestock farming:
- Approximately 510 households
- Around 310 or about 80% are herder households or own livestock
- The rest 15–20 percent are government employees and retirees
- Mining is second economy sector in soum level. There are five coal mines in Mandakh.
- Tsagaan Suvarga: A copper-molybdenum mine. Ikh Gobi Coal Mine: Operating since 2015; halted during COVID but reportedly resumed. Medical staff are present on-site.
- Limited and unstable employment
- 50–60 individuals have stable jobs. Workers follow 14 days on/14 days off shifts.
- Others work temporarily and rotate in and out
- Two major railway station are Nomgon Station and Bor Khoshuu.

**Are schools, kindergartens, and hospitals overcrowded with people coming from outside to work?**

- Despite high numbers of incoming workers, schools and kindergartens have not been heavily burdened.
- The greatest strain falls on healthcare due to injuries and emergencies requiring attention.

#### **How supportive is mining development in the local community?**

- There are problems relating to mining activity in soum level.
- Environmental concerns are significant: dust and odors from coal operations are constant sources of public frustration.
- Local residents frequently lodge complaints with the administration.
- Mines are contractually obligated to undertake development projects, but often fail to deliver or avoid responsibility.
- Taxes from land and water usage, as well as income tax from mine employees, are centralized at the soum level.
- The soum is financially independent, no longer reliant on national subsidies.
- One of the few soums in the province to support the aimag's state budget.
- The annual local budget is MNT 1.8 billion.
- Dust and debris from long-haul transport are a major issue.
- The aimag governor issued an order to temporarily shut down mines due to these problems.
- Special transportation permits are required via the governor's approval.
- Rail transport has shown promise—a pilot coal shipment via rail caused no complications.
- Other mining operations have been suspended by administrative directive.
- The copper mine is planned to launch in December 2025.
- It's operated by a national company, with a monitored camp located over 60 km from the soum center.
- Heavy dust causes frequent accidents.

#### **Electricity Supply & Demand**

- The soum was connected to a permanent power grid in 2017. Initial supply was calibrated to lower household usage. Demand has since increased substantially, straining the system.
- There are two substations in the soum. Planning is underway—funding from the Local Development Fund is being used to expand capacity.

#### **Upcoming or Planning Major Development Projects (Next 5 Years)**

- **Power Plants: 110 MW coal-fired power station** is planned by *Tümen Ail Energy LLC*, financed privately. Supported by both the *aimag* and *soum* administrations. For this they have a 100-hectare site called "Bor Khoshuu," located north of the railway. The power plants are based on large coal deposits and aim to supply energy to the Gobi region. Project plans have been introduced to the soum. But for local herders are concerned about loss of grazing land.
- New school, kindergarten, and hospital construction is planned but not finalized. Existing school and kindergarten buildings date back to the 1970s. A new dormitory opened in 2018. Plans to renovate the school, cultural center, and hospital are in place.

- The proposed “Gerelt Gobi Industrial Complex” was originally planned for Mandakh soum, but the decision was made to construct it in Khuvsgul soum instead.
- A water pipeline from Tsogttsetsii to Erdenes Tavan Tolgoi mining site is being proposed. Officials visited Mandakh for consultation. The soum government is opposing the project. Erdenes Tavan Tolgoi JSC is client.
- **Paleontology Records:** Regarding paleontological documentation in the aimag/soum, a professional organization is needed to conduct such records and assessments.

#### **Community Expectations & Concerns Related to the Project**

- As development proceeds, various forms of land disturbance may occur.
- Public frustration stemming from mining impacts has increased, and there's a high likelihood of citizen complaints. However, if project benefits are clearly communicated during soum and bag public meetings, opposition is unlikely.

#### **Best Approach for Stakeholder Engagement During Project Implementation**

- The most appropriate method is to share information during the bag-level citizens' meeting. These meetings are well-attended by local residents and serve as a central platform for discussion. The meeting is held annually in August, making it a timely opportunity for community outreach.

**MANDAKH SOUM BUDGET AND TREASURY SPECIALIST  
AGIIMAA O.**

**26 June 2025**



**What are the key economic characteristics of your soum (district)?**

- Mining, railway, and livestock husbandry.

**What are the main economic sectors and businesses in your local area?**

- The main sectors are mining, railway, and livestock. Since mining began, herders have been selling meat and dairy products through contracts, which has benefited them. Their livelihoods have improved. Herders take turns supplying meat and dairy to the mines. Exact figures are unavailable. Our soum has a camel milk and dairy farm. In 2024, it received ₮91 million in funding from the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry and is now operational. It supplies milk and dairy to nearby soums, dormitories, and enterprises. The farm is located 50–60 km north of the soum. Camel milk, dried curds, and fermented milk are distributed to neighboring soums such as Öndörshil, Manlai, and Khanbogd. Our soum's brand product is fermented camel milk. There are also businesses in tailoring, green fodder production, block manufacturing, camel milk, coffee shops, restaurants, shops, and felt crafts.

**What major changes have occurred in the local economy over the past decade?**

- Since the opening of the Tümen Ail coal mine in 2020, herders have been supplying meat and dairy to the mine, increasing their income levels. They've developed a mindset for engaging in production and services.

**What is the employment distribution across economic sectors in your area?**

- There are about 750 working-age residents. Around 60–70% work in mining. The rest are employed in government and agriculture.

**What percentage of the working-age population is unemployed?**

- Unemployment is low—only about 2%.

**Are there any major economic development projects planned locally?**

- Yes, under the government's "New Cooperative Movement," herders are forming cooperatives to access loans. So far, 9 cooperatives have been established in our soum, and 3–4 more are in the process. According to surveys, people have bought livestock and freezers to prepare meat for mining supply. They're also preparing dairy products for sale.



**What are your expectations or concerns regarding this project's impact on the local economy or job creation?**

- The project is expected to improve infrastructure. Although it's uncertain whether it will be implemented, the aimag has planned to build a camel farm between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> baghs. I see potential for job creation and improved livelihoods. No negative aspects identified.

**MANDAKH SOUM HEAD OF THE CITIZENS' REPRESENTATIVE MEETING**

**26 June 2025**



**Are there people who object to dust pollution?**

- Tseveensambuu, a local civil society leader, actively raises concerns about dust and environmental issues. Despite this, it is believed that project implementation will proceed without major conflict.

**Has mining caused livestock to be lost, livestock to be destroyed, or livestock farming to be negatively impacted?**

- Many households have been affected by mining activities. Affected families receive monthly compensation. So far, no cases of livestock loss or disease directly caused by mining have been reported.

**Cultural Heritage and Paleontology**

- If the project follows existing infrastructure routes, it is unlikely to encounter cultural or paleontological sites.

**How many service organizations are there in the district? How many businesses and individuals are engaged in production?**

- The soum has many small and medium enterprises (SMEs). However, only 3–4 operate consistently.
- Around 17–18 loan-supported projects have been initiated through local programs. Many have not started or have stalled.
- In 2024, the government issued large-scale cooperative loans for livestock development. In one case, 10 individuals shared a single loan, weakening team coordination. This led to negative outcomes, including loss of livestock among herders.

**Electricity Access and Its Impact on Small and Medium Enterprises**

- In 2016, due to frequent power outages, the local bakery ceased operations and has not been able to resume.

- A coffee shop was operational but its equipment broke down due to insufficient power capacity.
- Mandakh soum is located at the end of the transmission line:
  - Electricity is routed through Mongoliin Alt Corporation (MAK) and then redistributed, resulting in significant voltage drop by the time it reaches the soum.
  - When distributed to households, the high number of connections causes overloading.
- A machine for processing lamb hides was brought in, but power capacity was too low to operate it.
- As a result, local businesses and service providers face serious challenges due to unreliable electricity.
- There are high expectations for the upcoming project to improve power infrastructure and support SME development.

### **Project Expectations and Concerns**

- No formal information about the project has been received yet.
- Mandakh soum was previously one of two soums not connected to the power grid. The community is supportive of energy-related projects, especially if they improve reliability. If clear information is provided to residents, they are expected to respond positively.
- Positive impact: The project is expected to connect the soum to a stable and uninterrupted power supply. Currently, electricity is received via secondary transmission from Tsagaan Suvarga, which results in reduced capacity.
- No opposition has been expressed regarding the energy project

**HOSPITAL DIRECTOR CHULUUNTSETSEG E.**

**26 June 2025**



*he has been worked at the soum hospital for 16 years.*

**What are the indicators of birth rates, deaths, life expectancy, eye and respiratory infections, stomach diseases, mental illnesses, infectious diseases, sexually transmitted diseases, road traffic and other accidents?**

- Over the past 10 years, total consultations have increased—from about 2,000 annually (duplicated count) to around 13,900. Emergency calls were around 700 initially but dropped to over 400 by the end of 2024.
- The top five most prevalent health issues:
  1. Respiratory diseases
  2. Digestive system diseases
  3. Cardiovascular diseases
  4. Accidents and injuries
  5. Cancer
- Respiratory and digestive diseases remain leading concerns annually. Cardiovascular diseases have dropped from second to third place; digestive disorders have increased.
- More illnesses are being diagnosed due to expanded early detection screenings (ultrasound, endoscopy, etc.)—these services weren't available 4–5 years ago.
- Accidents and cancer cases have increased in the last 4–5 years, due to factors like:
  - Vehicle and motorcycle accidents
  - Unexplained falls, burns
  - Mining-related incidents

- Also, it related to changes in medical data registration now track all injuries. Mining-related injuries have grown, including workplace accidents and mass vehicle crashes.
- Mandakh soum's hospital treats many patients due to the lack of on-site doctors at mines. In 2024, out of 8,900 consultations, about 1,677 were non-local patients.
- While coverage is mainly through health insurance, the hospital often provides care regardless of payment status.

### **Challenges in Healthcare Delivery**

- Significant human resource shortages. Director has worked alone for over a decade. Staff includes 3 nurses, 1 doctor, and support workers.
- There are 4 baghs, but bagh-level doctors are unavailable.
- High workload and personal sacrifices—working day and night.
- Human resources fall short by 60–70%.
- High responsibility: for example, while the doctor was transferring a critical patient to the aimag center, another came in with severe abdominal pain.
- Patients frequently come from other soums; Mandakh's hospital is well-equipped with diagnostics (ultrasound, internal medicine).

### **Do people from outside the soum get charged extra for treatment at the soum hospital if they get into an accident?**

- No extra charge for outsiders in accident cases. Emergencies are not planned, so all patients are treated as needed.

### **Healthcare Accessibility & Infrastructure**

- Hospital established in 1933 and building constructed in 1983. Interior renovated in 2019, exterior in 2024. Though the 2019 renovation didn't meet expectations, overall facilities are now decent.
- Residents can receive diagnostics locally without needing to travel to aimag or city centers.
- Plans are underway to connect clean and waste water systems.
- Heating is provided via steam boiler.

### **Electric Power Capacity and Infrastructure**

- When arriving in 2010, sewing was done by candlelight. Electricity became available in 2016.
- Prior to that, operations relied on generators, especially for paperwork during emergencies. Nights were especially difficult due to darkness.
- Power outages still occur periodically in the soum. About 3 years ago, several medical devices were damaged due to unstable electricity supply.
- A voltage stabilizer has since been installed at the hospital, which has reduced equipment damage.
- The hospital's electric system is outdated and underpowered:
  - Electrical wiring from the original building (1983) has never been replaced.
  - During interior renovations in 2019, wires were embedded inside walls, making upgrades nearly impossible without demolition.
- Electricity demand is very high:



- Patients need to charge phones, boil water, etc.
- For instance, a two-bed patient room has only one wall outlet near the door.
- Power strips are overloaded with medical devices, internet routers, phones, and other utilities—posing serious risks.
- There's an urgent need to improve the current electric capacity.
- The soum's electricity infrastructure is extremely limited, and power consumption has surged with the increase in households.

**Are changes in the living conditions of the population affecting health (especially sanitation, malnutrition, etc.)?**

- There's a noticeable lack of healthy behaviors and hygiene habits among residents. Ideally, practices like handwashing and tooth brushing should be ingrained from early childhood (e.g., in schools and kindergartens), but many people have not adopted them.
- In Gobi region conditions, water sanitation issues are widespread. Diseases related to the digestive system are persistent and difficult to reduce.
- High rates of cancer are likely linked to poor water hygiene. Cases of all types of cancers have been reported, including:
  - Lung cancer
  - Heart-related cancer
  - Stomach cancer
  - Pancreatic cancer
- Over the past 3–4 years, deaths from both accidents/injuries and cancer have increased significantly.

**Water Sanitation and Public Health**

- Discussions about testing water quality are rare among residents.
- The soum governor's development program includes provisions related to public safety, but implementation is lacking.
- When I first started working, it was said that hospitals would be responsible for water safety. However, hospitals cannot ensure water safety. In the 2024-2028 action plan, water hygiene was included as the responsibility of health organizations. Hospitals only see sick people.
- It is believed that it is necessary to make a real reform of their own water hygiene program.
- Water problems are very common. Water tanks become heavily turbid. When water is boiled, white particles splatter. People who use it often develop calcification in their organs, such as kidney stones and liver calcification.

**Respiratory Diseases**

- Respiratory diseases are most prevalent among young people aged 0–18. Causes are largely linked to gaps in basic immunity-building care, including:
  - Parental efforts in child care
  - Regular exposure to fresh air and sunlight
  - Keeping children warm and seasonally dressed

- In households, when one adult becomes ill

#### **Common Illnesses Among Herders /characteristics of herder**

- Among herders, the most common health issues are:
- High blood pressure
- Digestive system diseases
- On the other hand, eye-related illnesses are rare, and herders tend to have good vision overall.

#### **Sanitation Facilities**

- In the hospital environment, there are both indoor and outdoor toilets.
- Over the past four years, a project was implemented to construct 100 wooden pit latrines for households in the soum. Households are responsible for disinfecting their own latrines.
- To prevent soil contamination, the responsibility for sanitation is often expected to fall on health and veterinary institutions.
- However, households are expected to manage and disinfect their own latrines, not the health facilities. Payment was collected for lime (used for disinfection).
- The Soum hospital staff have at times disinfected latrines for households, managing and splitting hundreds of households.
- The local government building lacks an indoor toilet; only outdoor facilities are available.
- Over the past four years, kindergartens have acquired indoor toilets. In 2024, first-grade students at the soum's school were provided access to indoor toilets.
- Thanks to support from mining entities, the soum hospital installed an indoor toilet in 2022. The facility now includes a shower and indoor washing area. However, during times with no water supply, these facilities cannot be used. Indoor toilets are reserved for hospital patients and service users; outsiders do not use them. Patients no longer need to go outside to use facilities, regardless of the season.

#### **Food Safety in the Soum**

- Food safety is a major concern across the soum.
- Most food and goods are transported from distant locations. Transportation and storage conditions are uncertain, often lack proper standards, and their safety cannot be guaranteed. Nonetheless, residents still purchase and consume these products.
- Food sold in local shops is not actively monitored. For example, Bottled drinks are often left outside in direct sunlight all day. During winter, items are stored outside or in corridors, regardless of temperature extremes.
- Cases of food poisoning are rare. People tend to seek medical help only after serious complications have developed in the digestive system.

#### **Sexually Transmitted Diseases in the Soum**

- STD cases are recorded, though the prevalence is relatively low within the soum. Most cases occur among people aged 18 to 60. However, in the past 1–2 years, there has been an increasing trend. On average, the number of cases per 10,000 residents remains very small.
- At the aimag level, STD rates are higher, but monitoring is weak. Only symptomatic cases that come to the hospital are recorded. If routine screenings were conducted, more cases would likely be detected.

Some individuals get checked once and then disappear without follow-up. As a result, reported case numbers are low, and preventive screening participation is poor. To undergo screening, individuals must have fully paid health insurance. If uninsured patients are screened, no financial coverage is provided, putting the hospital at risk.

- Since the beginning of the year, over 500 tests have been conducted among local residents. No new cases have been detected so far. Because the diagnostic and detection process is weak, existing infections may go undetected.

### **Birth**

- Pregnant women are monitored by the local soum hospital. In high-risk pregnancies, childbirth is conducted locally at the soum hospital.
- The hospital records about 5 births per year. On average, 30 pregnant women are under regular antenatal monitoring at the soum hospital annually.
- Late-age pregnancies are present. However, the rate of pregnancies among women up to 20 remains consistently high. Most of these young women are already married.
- At the aimag level, the overall birth rate is declining.

### **Violence**

- Individuals who travel to comb goats are frequently associated with acts of violence. Mandakh soum has a high number of livestock, with most households owning around 1,000 animals. Households typically do not comb their own goats—instead, large groups of young workers arrive by vehicle for this task. A child sexual abuse was reported four years ago.

### **Accidents and Mortality**

- Due to a rise in fatal injuries, the soum hospital established a morgue four years ago.
- About 20 deaths occur per year, with 3–4 caused by electric shocks at workplaces. Cases of sudden cardiac arrest have also been recorded. Most fatalities involve non-local individuals, with causes including:
  - Workplace accidents
  - Road traffic collisions
  - Falls into pits or holes
- Two corpse refrigeration units were procured locally.

### **Public Bathing and Work Environment**

- A public bathhouse is operational in the soum.
- Despite offering salaries as high as 3 million MNT, doctors often leave quickly due to harsh local conditions.
- There's a lack of infrastructure for family-based employment opportunities and suitable working conditions for household settlement.

### **Migration and Population**

- Few outsiders migrate to Mandakh soum. Most of them do not officially register in soum. The local population remains stable, suggesting potential for development.

### **Expectations and Concerns Related to Health and Well-being in Development Projects:**

- Health and Well-being Expectations Tied to Local Projects
- Incoming workers should be enrolled in health insurance and participate in at least basic preventive health screenings.
- To avoid increasing the workload on existing som doctors, there is a need for an on-site physician who can provide primary care and basic treatment services.
- Labor safety standards must be observed and implemented consistently.
- Infrastructure Impacts on Health
- Improvements in electric power sources are expected to have positive ripple effects on livelihoods:
  - Prevent unexpected power cut
  - Enable households and businesses to solve heating needs through electricity, especially during winter when electric heaters are widely used
- Efficiency and Cost Reduction
- Better power supply would reduce operational expenses for medical services:
  - Less need to purchase backup generators
  - Hospitals can allocate their budgets more effectively

**MANDAKH SOUM SOCIAL POLICY SPECIALIST NARANTUYA**

**26 June 2025**



**Is there any updated information or changes regarding local social sector organizations?**

- There are five budgetary institutions operating in the district center: the Governor's Office, a general education school, a kindergarten, a cultural center, and a health center. In total, 90 staff members are employed.



- There are about 6-7 businesses including enterprises, shops, cooperatives, and service and trade organizations.
- The district also has a weather station and two banks.

#### **What educational institutions exist in your district and how accessible are they?**

- The kindergarten employs 14-15 staff members and has 60 children aged 2–5 years. It is designed to accommodate 60 children.
- No children have been excluded from enrollment. They accept 1.5-year-old children of government employees. On average, 45–50 children regularly attend. Accessibility is considered sufficient.
- The kindergarten building was built about 4–5 years ago, in 2019. Due to heating issues and structural cracking in 2025, it is currently undergoing repairs.
- There is a shortage of qualified kindergarten staff. One professional teacher is recruited from outside.
- Although bonuses are being discussed to ensure social support, they are not provided consistently.
- There are six government apartment units next to the health center. Teachers also reside there. Monthly electricity costs range from 40,000 to 50,000 MNT. Outdoor toilets are used.
- The school has 35 staff members. 220 children regularly attend classes. The school's capacity is 220–230 students. It offers 9 years of education, after which students move to the aimag center for further studies.
- There is a shortage of qualified school personnel. Critical positions like English and music teachers have been vacant for many years. Teachers come from outside but do not stay long-term. As a result, there is high interest in school transfers.
- Mothers move with their children to the aimag center. They are required to relocate with their children. Fathers often become single parents and remain in the district. There are many single-parent households. These families live separately but are not legally divorced.
- The dormitory accommodates 60 children and has two floors. In spring, more children seek dormitory space as herder families migrate with their livestock and leave their children at the dormitory. Siblings often share a bed to accommodate more children.
- During fall and winter, dormitory capacity is sufficient.
- Although the dormitory has an indoor toilet, students still use outdoor facilities. Water supply is insufficient.
- In spring 2024, the aimag authorities conducted inspections. They found poor ventilation in the dormitory, inadequate blankets and mattresses, and unsatisfactory renovation efforts.

#### **Education and Training Challenges**

- Human resources are the primary issue.
- Children have limited access to extracurricular clubs and activities.
- There are no professional teachers and training centers, resulting in a lack of opportunities for child development.
- There is a need for local policies and guarantees to support professionals working in education and culture sectors.



**What are the main local roads and transportation links (paved, dirt, within the soum center, connecting to UB city, aimag center, etc.)?**

- Infrastructure improvements are urgently needed. The road to the aimag center is 170 km of dirt track, which is difficult to travel. The route includes hard-packed and sandy gravel roads, taking about 5 hours to traverse. Due to these conditions, professionals often leave after only a few months, unable to stay long in remote soums.
- In 2024, Mandakh soum recorded the highest number of accidents, mostly related to mining operations.
- Large vehicles are now prohibited from traveling certain routes.
- There is a strong need to pave roads within the soum center. Although gravel has been laid from the mine, frequent tire damage has led to many complaints. Dust levels in the soum have increased significantly. While there is talk of paving roads, no action has been taken, despite numerous requests from residents.

**Do herders drive their children from the countryside to the soum center for school without placing them in a dormitory school?**

- Children from rural herder families are not regularly transported by vehicle to the soum center for school. Instead, they are either placed in dormitories or left with acquaintances or relatives in the soum center.

**Does your soum have a drinking water supply and wastewater treatment facility? What is its capacity?**

- Sewage pipeline construction is currently underway. Discussions are ongoing within the soum boarding council to establish a wastewater treatment facility, but the timeline and responsible party remain unclear.
- Solid waste is disposed of at a centralized dump site. Waste is collected seasonally, including piles near the site. Mining companies also dispose of waste at this location.
- Drinking water quality in the soum is considered relatively good compared to the aimag average. Recently, smart wells have been introduced:
- Residents use cards to access water.
- Wells are filled with deep groundwater transported by truck.
- Two wells are equipped with purification systems.
- The coal-heaver of the village carries water from the well. He is alone carrying out garbage and doing household chores, so he does not always have time to carry water from the well. And disinfects it once a season.

**What is the level of energy supply, capacity, and reliability?**

- Mandakh soum is connected to the central power grid via Tsagaan Suvarga. Power capacity remains insufficient. The half of the screen at the cultural center functions due to low voltage. There are rumors of plans to expand the central transmission line, but no confirmed timeline or details.
- In 2015, the soum had no electricity. In 2016, it was finally connected to the grid.

**How are local administration managing changes in the capacity, service, and quality of infrastructure facilities?**

- **Infrastructure Capacity and Local Oversight**

- In recent years, no significant progress has been observed. For example, during class reunions held in the soum center, many participants comment that nothing has changed.
- There is a belief that mining development and population concentration could lead to improvements in:
  - Entertainment and public services
  - Availability of skilled professionals

### **Food Supply and Accessibility Challenges**

- Due to the soum's remote location, food supply faces multiple issues:
  - Transportation and storage conditions are often compromised.
  - Many goods arrive spoiled or degraded.
  - Prices for essential goods are high.
  - There is no active monitoring of consumer goods quality.

### **Safety and Crime**

#### **Public Safety and Crime Risks**

- Safety has deteriorated due to increased mining activity. For example, individuals with backpacks have been seen suddenly emerging from behind rocks, raising concerns.
- The soum has few guesthouses, and some mine workers remain behind, waiting for transport.
- Mandakh soum is rocky, and during warmer seasons, some people camp overnight outdoors.
- Missing person cases are frequent. In one case, 300 people were mobilized to search for an 11-year-old child from Dornogovi aimag, who was eventually found in Mandakh soum.
- A tragic case of suicide involving an 11-year-old girl was also reported.
- Risks to children have increased recently.
- Surveillance is poor:
  - Street lighting has been added but is unreliable.
  - After crimes were recorded, 3 new lights and 6 cameras were installed.
- However, some cameras malfunction, and although reports mention their installation, performance is weak.
- Residents frequently request improvements in surveillance and lighting.
- Child sexual abuse cases are high:
  - Since 2014, three cases of sexual violence against young children have been recorded.
  - Two cases involved goat combers and assistant herders as perpetrators.
- Children face high levels of risk. **Social Protection and Support Services**
- No social safety infrastructure exists:
  - There is no temporary shelter for vulnerable individuals.
- A social worker was previously employed, but due to lack of a dedicated consultation space and low salary, they left the position shortly after. There is an urgent need to strengthen social guarantees and support public servants working in child protection and welfare.

## **Work Responsibilities and Community Engagement:**

### **Scope of Work and Responsibilities**

- Responsible for a wide range of areas including:
  - Education
  - Health
  - Culture and arts
  - Sports
  - Elderly care
  - People with disabilities
  - Youth
  - Gender issues
- After accompanying people with disabilities to competitions at the aimag level, urgent reporting on family and child-related matters is often required the very next day—creating heavy workload pressure.
- Due to the workload, family attention suffers, and stress levels are high.
- Unable to give enough attention to children.
- One child is graduating 9<sup>th</sup> grade this year, and preparations are underway to relocate to the aimag center.
- There is no dedicated social welfare specialist, so these duties are also handled by the same person. Also serves as secretary for all sectoral councils. Although the population is small, each sector has a significant workload.

### **Youth Engagement Challenges**

- Youth support activities are lacking. The soum has not yet elected a youth association leader. Youth participation is low:
- They do not attend awareness events, lectures, or trainings.
- Social involvement has weakened.
- Elderly residents are more active. A 20,000 MNT incentive per camel calf encourages participation. Elderly individuals are highly engaged to qualify for such incentives.

## **Infrastructure Expectations and Social Risks Related to the Project**

### **Infrastructure Expectations**

- There is hope that the project will improve local infrastructure, which in turn could attract and retain skilled professionals. Emphasis is placed on child safety and accident prevention as key priorities.

### **Additional Social and Environmental Concerns**

- Illegal mining occurred about 30 km northeast of the soum in an area called Ukher Chuluut two years ago.
- A working group from the aimag investigated and implemented land restoration.
- However, in spring 2025, illegal mining resumed, prompting local police and representatives to respond.

- Livestock theft is common. If stolen animals aren't found among nearby households, the search is often abandoned.
- Air pollution and dust levels are high.
- Since 2025, residents have used coal from local mines, which contains high sulfur content and emits strong odors.
- Several cases of carbon monoxide poisoning have been reported.
- Burning raw coal poses serious health and environmental risks.
- Prior to 2024, residents used washed coal from Tavan Tolgoi, sourced from Umnugovi.
- There are discussions about building a coal washing facility 100 km away, but no confirmed timeline.

#### **Sanitation and Waste Management Needs**

- The soum lacks a centralized waste disposal site and public toilet facilities. Large mining buses operate in the area, and workers reportedly relieve themselves indiscriminately, causing public complaints. There is a clear need for designated sanitation and waste disposal infrastructure.

#### **Public Safety and Law Enforcement**

- Mining workers frequently go missing, raising safety concerns. The local police force is overburdened, and police rotate frequently, making consistent enforcement difficult.

## Saikhandulaan soum KII Responses

SAIKHANDULAAN SOUM GOVERNOR B.ENKH-AMGALAN	27 June 2025
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### What is the basic structure, role, and function of your local administration?

- The Governor's Office has 21 approved positions. The Citizens' Representative Khural has 3 positions, totaling 24 staff in the local administration. Currently, 18 of the 21 positions are filled. Our affiliated institutions are fully staffed, so compared to other soums, we have an adequately supplied labor force for local organizations. The soum has around 1,500 residents and 420 households. There are no officially registered unemployed individuals.

### What are the main settlements in your administrative area?

- The soum center includes a secondary school, kindergarten, dormitory (capacity: 60 children), cultural center, museum, library, and senior citizens' center. There are 3 shops and 1 hotel.

### What is the current socio-economic situation, development priorities, policies, and recent projects?

- In the past two years, livestock numbers have declined except for camels. Most households are herders. Six households grow crops annually—watermelons and vegetables—on 1-hectare plots. Two are in the soum center, four in rural areas. One person processes hides, another wool, and some do home-based tailoring. Dairy sales are strong. Our main focus is camel husbandry. We rank third in the province for camel numbers. Camel polo is a local specialty, with national champions and medalists. Camels are exempt from tax. There's a camel dairy farm on the road from Sainshand to Saikhandulaan. The "Khutagt Gobi Camel Herders Cooperative" has operated for over 10 years. We have 4 cooperatives; 3 received loans and are active in meat production. Camel-related cooperatives are less active. Mining licenses include 24–25 exploration and 6 exploitation permits. Only one white stone mine operates minimally, exporting to Japan. The rest are inactive coal mines. Public opposition is low. The soum has significant gold reserves and many informal miners. Our school has 130 students, though it's built for 250. Families near Sainshand send children to the city. We're planning computer and English courses locally.

### What demographic changes have occurred?

- Youth dominate the population: ages 20–39 is the largest group, followed by 0–19, then seniors. Gender ratio matches national averages. Twenty years ago, seniors were more prevalent.

### Are these changes linked to migration?

- About 600 people moved to Sainshand's 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> baghs. Mothers relocate for education, while fathers stay behind. Few households move into the soum—only 5–10 per year. Population remains stable, with frequent movement between Sainshand and Saikhandulaan.

### Have these changes affected social services or natural resources?

- Yes. It's difficult to deliver services when only one household member is present. These split households strain urban services. National policies are tailored to Ulaanbaatar and don't suit provincial realities.

### Are there major development projects planned in the next five years?

- Yes. A Children's Development Center is planned for next year, funded by local, provincial, and national budgets. Also planned: a unified fodder bond and a cultural-sports complex.



**Is there a paleontological registry in your soum/province?**

- No formal registry. I'm an archaeologist and have documented burial sites—about 50 along the main road between Umnugovi and Dornogovi. I've submitted a request to the National University of Mongolia for excavation. The Paleontology Institute is costly, so I proposed student fieldwork instead. Our soum has a site called "Mongolian Rock" with 4,000–5,000 petroglyphs in a 500x800m area. Other sites include Eruun Khar and Ikh Javkhlant. The Paleontology Institute conducts annual research. We have five sacred ovoos (ritual cairns) that are ceremonially honored between May 20 and June 10. These are Buural ovoo, Ikh Ulziit, Ikh Dulaan, Baga Dulaan, Bayan Ovoo.

**What is the best way to involve stakeholders during project implementation?**

- Create temporary jobs during infrastructure construction (e.g., support roles and cooks).

**SAIKHANDULAAN SOUM SOCIAL AFFAIRS SPECIALIST**

**B. ARIUNTUNGALAG**

**27 June 2025**



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*he was appointed on May 15, 2025, to this position, before previously worked as a public relations officer.*

**What educational institutions exist in your soum?**

- There is one school and one kindergarten. The kindergarten accommodates 70 children and has two groups. The school has a capacity of 130 students. The school is rated highly based on teacher performance evaluations. All school teachers are qualified and positions are fully staffed. One kindergarten teacher is unqualified. Both the school and kindergarten are equipped with surveillance cameras. There are no home-based kindergartens. After the kindergarten closed for summer break, herders' five-year-old children were taught for two weeks under the regular kindergarten schedule.

**How accessible are these institutions?**

- There are no issues with overcapacity at the school or kindergarten.

**What are the main challenges in education and training?**

- The school, dormitory, and kindergarten all have outdoor toilets. Water is transported by vehicle to the facilities.

**What are the main roads and transport links in your area?**

- There are roads to the provincial center, Mandakh soum, and a connection to the 33<sup>rd</sup> railway station road leading to the capital. The road to the 33<sup>rd</sup> railway station is 110 km of dirt road. There are also roads heading north to Badrah, Zuunbayan, and Undurshil.

**What is the status of drinking water supply and wastewater treatment facilities?**

- There is an auto well in the soum center. Although the filter is regularly changed, boiling the water produces white sediment. Most households get drinking water from this well. Some families consider the auto well

water too hard and fetch water from a well 7 km away. There are four wells in the soum center: two for vegetable plots and two for domestic use. One is a deep well (free), and the other is an auto well (5 MNT per liter via card). There is no wastewater treatment facility or public bathhouse. Private individuals operate seasonal bathhouses. Water is piped from wells, but output is low.

**What is the status of electricity supply, capacity, and reliability?**

- The soum is connected to the central grid. However, power outages are frequent during storms. Electricity often doesn't arrive on schedule and can be cut for up to 24 hours.

**What are your expectations or concerns regarding social infrastructure in relation to the project?**

None.

<b>SAIKHANDULAAN SOUM POLICE TUGULDUR</b>	<b>27 June 2025</b>
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*Worked in Saikhandulaan soum for the past 3 years. Was responsible for Mandakh soum for 2 years.*

**Crimes:**

**Saikhandulaan soum level**

- Frequent theft of personal property. Livestock theft is common in rural areas.
- Residential theft occurs. People move seasonally and leave their winter shelters behind, which are then targeted by outsiders.
- Since Saikhandulaan soum lacks major mining operations, crimes related to large gatherings are rare. However, there have been cases of crimes against personal health in the soum center.
- No recorded cases of homicide.
- One suicide case in 2025; four cases in 2023 involving individuals aged 40–45.
- Alcohol abuse tends to increase with population size, but Saikhandulaan has relatively low levels.
- No active mining or public transportation. Most travel is for personal reasons, so traffic accidents are rare. Motorcycle accidents in rural areas are usually linked to intoxication and irresponsibility.
- Domestic violence occurs 2–3 times a year, mostly due to alcohol abuse.

**Mandakh soum level:**

- Crimes against personal health are common in areas with high foot traffic and mining-related gatherings.
- As mining operations expand and jobs increase, crime rates also rise.
- There have been cases of homicide.

**Recent Changes:**

- Over the past 3 years, theft of personal property has increased—homes, seasonal camp or shelters, livestock.
- The cause is attributed to deteriorating personal ethics. In the past, people could leave belongings unattended, but now even locks aren't enough.
- Along the main road to Undurshil, traveling goat comber have been linked to crimes.
- The police conduct regular investigations and hold community meetings to prevent crimes, such as protecting winter camps.

**Challenges Faced by Local Police:**

- Fuel and oil are provided by the local administration, but there are no official vehicles. Police must use private or government vehicles, which compromises investigation confidentiality.

- Having proper transport would allow for regular patrols and timely responses to citizen reports.
- Citizens are reluctant to let police use their vehicles, causing delays and potential complications.

**Is there a shortage of local police?**

- Section representatives – police are appointed by the central office. Local organizations train or practice their own officers. There's enough workforce for the police. But section representative positions are in short supply and are appointed from the central office.
- Once appointed, representatives are obligated to serve in their assigned area.

**Electricity:**

- Saikhandulaan soum receives electricity from Sainshand. If power goes out in Sainshand, Saikhandulaan also loses power.

**Project Concerns and Expectations:**

- The project line bypasses the center of Saikhandulaan soum.
- Responsible personnel should be registered and documented. In case of issues, records should be available.
- It's advisable to share information about staff working with the soum administration for collaboration.
- Individuals with prior convictions should provide documentation.
- The southern part of the bagh has many abandoned homes, increasing the risk of property and livestock theft.
- Monitoring is recommended to prevent crime.





**What are the indicators for birth rate, mortality, average life expectancy, eye and respiratory infections, gastrointestinal diseases, mental illness, infectious diseases, sexually transmitted infections, and traffic or other accidents?**

- I've been serving in this role since August 2024, now in my second year. Our soum is primarily agriculture-based such as livestock and a little bit of crop farming. The most common illnesses are kidney, back and spinal, and cardiovascular diseases. Seasonally, there are flu outbreaks in autumn and gastrointestinal issues like diarrhea and food poisoning in summer—often linked to what people eat. Our soum is relatively peaceful, with only 2–3 traffic accident-related emergency calls per year. Since 2024, we've had two cases of chickenpox and one case of diarrhea in children; no measles cases. One person with alcohol-induced psychosis was treated and referred to the next level of care. STIs (like syphilis and gonorrhea) are mostly found among youth, based on tests from institutions—testing regular citizens is more difficult. Among herders, STI rates are relatively low. Mortality is also low. One suicide was recorded this year, but no hospital deaths. We have 10 asthma patients under our hospital's supervision. Average life expectancy in the soum is 65–70 years. Traffic accidents are recorded about once per season.

**How accessible are health services and facilities?**

- Our hospital has 3 doctors and 4 nurses. Structurally, we're understaffed. We approved our staffing plan at the beginning of the year with 24.5 positions, but currently have 16 employees, 3 of whom are contract workers. We're not connected to the central heating system, so we use a low-pressure boiler. Our seasonal staff work from October to May and then take leave. Vaccination support is limited—only 0.5 positions are approved, and we can't register more. We're short on staff: 2 doctors, 2 nurses, a pharmacist, a lab technician, and one doctor for the mobile team. Everyone multitasks due to the shortage.

**What are the main challenges in delivering health services?**

- We lack laboratory equipment, which puts extra pressure on secondary-level hospitals. For some diagnoses, lab results are essential. If we can't conduct tests locally, patients must travel to the provincial center for testing, and doctors then write their assessments based on those results. Internal diseases especially depend on lab diagnostics.

**Are changes in living conditions affecting public health (e.g., hygiene, nutrition)?**

- It varies by social class, but overall, conditions are manageable. Only a few individuals are affected. No maternal or infant deaths have been recorded in the past two years. No children are underweight. On average, we record 10 births per year.

**What are your expectations or concerns regarding health and well-being in relation to the project?**

- No major concerns. As long as the implementing organization is responsible, it should be fine.

<b>SAIKHANDULAAN SOUM BUDGET AND STATE TREASURY SPECIALIST LKHAMSUREN</b>	<b>27 June 2025</b>
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- Phone number 94282800
- She has worked for a total of 18 years. She is a resident of this soum. Previously worked as an accountant. Since 2015, she has served as a budget and state treasury specialist.

**What are the economic characteristics of your soum?**

- What are the main sectors and businesses of the local economy? Livestock husbandry is the main source of development. Although there are mining sites with exploitation licenses in the soum, none of them are currently operational. Other than that, there are no well-developed business sectors.

**What major economic changes have occurred in the soum over the past ten years?**

- Since the establishment of the Local Development Fund, infrastructure such as ceremonial halls and bagh centers have been constructed. Due to the low population, the allocation from the Local Development Fund is limited. Our soum must carry out development projects within a budget of 500 million MNT annually. Saikhandukhaan is the soum with the lowest population in Dornogovi province. Investment amount depends on population size.

**What is the employment distribution across the economic sectors in your soum?**

- Mostly livestock herding and herders. In the soum center, there are government workers and small shops. Many people registered in the soum are working elsewhere, so we cannot include them in our records.

**What percentage of the working-age population is unemployed?**

- Unemployment is low. About 14 registered individuals are seeking jobs.

**Are there any major planned economic development projects in the soum?**

- Projects such as connecting to clean and wastewater systems, and constructing a sports complex are underway. The clean water and sewage system project for the entire soum is being designed and funded by the provincial budget. A company has provided 40 million MNT worth of furniture to the ceremonial hall, but the exact company name is unknown.

**What are your expectations or concerns regarding job creation or economic growth from these projects?**

- If jobs are created, there are plenty of people willing to work. It's unclear what specific qualifications or professions will be required. The labor force is sufficient, and such initiatives are clearly needed for the soum. As for concerns, I can't specify anything. Information is limited, so I don't know much yet. Cooperation is possible.

<b>SAIKHANDULAAN SOUM SPECIALIST FOR AGRICULTURE AND PASTURE ISSUES J. ULZIIDAVAA</b>	<b>27 June 2025</b>
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**What is the current land use (farming, livestock, mixed)?**

- Livestock dominates land use. Crop farming is practiced on 4 hectares, and fodder crops are grown on 1 hectare. The rest is pastureland used by herders.

**What is the status of land ownership and possession? (Short/long-term leases, shared use, subsidies or restrictions?)**

- The soum's land is officially owned. However, no new land has been allocated for ownership in the past two years. All herders possess their winter camps. Households in the soum center have ownership rights. Herders possessed their winter and spring camps.

**What is the status of pasture use and rights?**

- 98% of the land is pasture. There are no major issues with pasture use. During droughts or harsh winters, herders from other areas temporarily move in, but conflicts don't arise. There's no concept of exclusive pasture possession.

**What other natural resources are currently being utilized?**

- Coal is one resource, though the mine with a permit is currently inactive. In terms of vegetation, wild plants like *wild leek* and *ramson or wild onion* grow abundantly.

**Has the quality of land and natural resources improved or deteriorated over time?**

- Several years ago, studies were conducted. Some exploration companies are active. The yield of *wild leek* and *ramson or wild onion* remains good. No significant deterioration has been observed.

**Has the accessibility or quality of land and natural resources declined in the past decade?**

- I've been here for four years. Since then, some pasture degradation has occurred, especially in the southern part of the soum. It depends on plant yield.

**How has the loss or reduced access to land and resources affected livelihoods?**

- When pastures degrade, herders migrate. There's no collaborative effort to restore pastureland.

**What measures are being taken to address these issues?**

- We've issued pasture use guidelines and signed agreements with herders. We advise them to grow fodder crops in their seasonal camps during summer. However, herders don't follow through.



**What are your expectations or concerns regarding land use and natural resources in relation to the project?**

- Special attention should be paid to water well locations that may be affected.



## Mongoliin Alt Corporation (MAK) KII

<p><i>Senior Specialist for Legal Compliance, Department of Environment and Sustainable Development</i></p> <p><i>Sanjmaa</i></p>	<p>07 July 2025</p>
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- Phone: 99629621
- Date: 2025.07.07

**Have you heard about or received any information regarding the 220 kV transmission line project from Sainshand to Tsagaan Suvarga?**

- No, I haven't heard or received any information.

**How many people currently work at the mine? Approximately how many work on-site daily?**

- I don't work directly at the mine, so I'm not entirely sure. I'll give an approximate figure. Construction work is currently underway at the Tsagaan Suvarga mine, reportedly about 60% complete. Around 200 Mongolian workers are employed as regular staff. In addition, over 500 subcontractor company workers are working there. Once the mine is fully operational, it's expected to create over 1,000 jobs and contribute significantly to the national budget.

**Are there any other electricity connections to the mine?**

- The only known electricity connection is from Oyu Tolgoi. I'm not aware of any other connections.

**What are your expectations or concerns regarding this project?**

- We've conducted environmental assessments twice. In 2025, we're working on a revision of the environmental assessment. From the results, it's clear that close coordination and transparent communication with local communities are essential.

**How does your mine organize engagement activities with local citizens and stakeholders? What recommendations or experiences can you share for new operators or project implementers in this region?**

- The implementing company should meet with citizens to provide updates and share information about the progress. If project details are presented clearly and transparently to local residents, resistance is relatively low. The key is to clearly explain what benefits the community will receive from the project.

## Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources KII

<b>Senior Specialist Geology and Mining Policy Division, Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources</b>  <b>Unurnasan</b>	<b>08 July 2025</b>
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Date: 2025.07.08

**Have you heard about or received any information regarding the 220 kV overhead transmission line project from Sainshand to Tsagaan Suvarga?**

- I haven't heard of it and haven't received any information.

**Do the holders of special permits (exploration licenses) along the proposed transmission line route have any plans to begin extraction or use their sites?**

- We cannot directly know when companies will begin extraction. As for using the licensed areas, the Mineral Resources and Petroleum Authority would have more detailed information.

**Will the boundaries of special permits be updated to include areas affected along the transmission route?**

- No, the boundaries will not be changed.

**What are your expectations or concerns related to this project?**

- During implementation, the project developer should pay attention to and protect the engineering infrastructure of the grid system.

**How does your mine organize collaboration with local residents and stakeholders? What recommendations or experiences can you share with new operators or project implementers in the region?**

- Mining and exploration projects require electricity, so most companies prefer to build substations for their own use. However, if the transmission line route intersects a site where resources are calculated, the project developer must negotiate with the resource-holding company.
- **Note:** Unurnasan connected the inquiry to Mr. S. Gan-Ochir, Director of the Exploration and Exploitation Department at the Mineral Resources and Petroleum Authority.
- **S. Gan-Ochir** – Director, Exploration and Exploitation Department, Mineral Resources and Petroleum Authority
- If the transmission line is to cross a site with calculated reserves, then each case should be addressed individually. In other words, project developers must meet and negotiate with each resource-holding company. We cannot provide direct information on license holders or companies planning to begin extraction. However, we can provide a map showing the licenses located along your proposed project route.
- Mining companies may have two different views regarding this transmission line project. Your team should pay attention to the following:

1. Some companies may see it positively, as the transmission line enables substation construction and accelerates operations.
  2. Others may face challenges, especially those requiring blasting operations—if the transmission line overlaps their work area, it could create complications.
- Blasting operations must be carefully considered to avoid affecting the line. If the line intersects resource-holding land, the developer must meet each company, assess the situation, and consider factors like mine camps, storage areas, and blast zones before beginning the work

## Mongolian Railway State-Owned Joint Stock Company KII

<b>Head of the Department for Signalling, Communications, and Power Issues</b>  <b>Khatanzorig</b>	<b>08 July 2025</b>
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Date: 2025.07.08

**Have you heard about the 220 kV overhead transmission line project from Sainshand to Tsagaan Suvarga? Have you received any information?**

- No, I hadn't heard about it until now.

**What is the operating schedule of the railway?**

- Railway operations are not fixed. The frequency of transport depends on the level of demand—sometimes frequent, sometimes less so. I expect operations will change once your project begins implementation.

**Are there any expansion plans? If so, when and where (please provide details)?**

- Currently, our railway has 6 sidings. We have plans to expand to 12 sidings. The expansion hasn't started yet, but the plan exists—so your project team should also coordinate with us regarding this.

**What are your expectations or concerns related to this project? What advice or experiences can you share for new operators or project implementers in the area?**

- Before beginning work, the project developer must formally request technical specifications from our organization. Work should proceed in accordance with those technical conditions, and coordination must occur between our teams.
- When crossing over the railway, it is essential to notify Mongolian Railway SOJSC and collaborate with our engineering and technical staff. Additionally, a 35 kV power line runs along the railway, which will also be intersected. The developer must request technical specifications for both power line and railway crossings.
- The key message I'd like to reiterate is: obtaining our technical specifications is essential.

## The National Power Transmission Grid

<b>Director the CIS</b> <b>Chuluunbaatar</b>	<b>08 July 2025</b>
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Date: 2025.07.08

No.	Question	Answer
1	<p>Компанийн бүтэц, зохион байгуулалтын схем/</p> <p>Company structure and organizational chart</p>	<p>Шинэчлэгдсэн. Имэйлээр явуулна.</p> <p>Changed, I ill send via email.</p>
2	<p>Хэлтэс, нэгж тус бүрийн чиг үүрэг? Тус бүр хэдэн хүнтэй. /</p> <p>What are the functions of each department and unit? How many people are there in each unit?</p>	<p>Нийт 5 салбар, 13 хэлтэстэй. ЗГ-аас сүүлд гаргасан шийдвэрийн дагуу 5 салбар 7 болж болзошгүй./</p> <p>There are a total of 5 branches and 13 departments. According to a recent decision by the Government, existing 5 branches may be increased till 7.</p> <p>Нийт 1400 хүнтэй. 60% эрэгтэй, 40% эмэгтэй.</p> <p>There are 1400 people in total. 60% are men, and 40% are women.</p>
3	<p>БОН асуудал хариуцсан аливаа нэгж эсвэл мэргэжилтэн байдаг эсэх?</p> <p>Is there any unit or specialist responsible for ENVIRON.issues?</p>	<p>Хариуцсан ажилтнаас тодруулна./</p> <p>I will clarify with the respective employee.</p>
4	<p>Төсөл хэрэгжүүлэх нэгж байдаг гэж веб хуудас дээр мэдээлэл байсан. Байдаг бол ямар төсөл хариуцдаг вэ?/</p> <p>There was information on the website that there is a project implementation unit. If so, what projects are they responsible for?</p>	<p>No response</p>
5	<p>Нийт ажилчдын тоо, үүнээс эмэгтэй ажилчид, 2024 оны эцсээр, шинэ шугамын ашиглалтын шатанд</p>	<p>1400, 40% эмэгтэй, 60% эрэгтэй./</p> <p>There are 1400 people in total. 60% are men, and 40% are women.</p>



	<p>ажилчдын тоо нэмэглэх үү? Хэрэв тийм бол, хэдэн хүн, аль салбарт?</p> <p>Workforce headcount as of end 2024, including female employees. Will the number of employees increase during the operation phase of the new line?</p>	
6	<p>Салбарын ажилчдын тоо, үүнд мөн адил эмэгтэйчүүдийн тоо, салбар тус бүрээр</p> <p>Number of employees per branch, including female</p>	<p>Хариуцсан ажилтнаас тодруулна./</p> <p>I will clarify with the respective employee.</p>
7	<p>БОНЭМАА-ны бодлого, журмууд бий юу?</p> <p>Are there any policies and procedures for EHS?</p>	<p>Хариуцсан ажилтнаас тодруулна./</p> <p>I will clarify with the respective employee.</p>
8	<p>Байгаль Орчин Нийгмийн Менежментийн Систем бий юу?/</p> <p>Is there an Environmental Social Management System in place?</p>	<p>Хариуцсан ажилтнаас тодруулна./</p> <p>I will clarify with the respective employee.</p>
9	<p>Нийлүүлэлтийн сүлжээний менежментийн бодлого эсхүл журам бий юу?/</p> <p>Are there supply chain management policies or procedures?</p>	<p>Хууль, журам баримтлан ажилладаг.</p> <p>NPTG implements relevant laws and regulations</p>
10	<p>Аюулгүй ажиллагаа хариуцсан газар, хэлтэс бий юу? /</p> <p>Is there a department or office responsible for OHS?</p>	<p>Хяналт, мониторингийн хэлтэс/</p> <p>Supervision and Monitoring Department</p>
11	<p>Дотоод мониторинг хийдэг эсэх, журам байдаг эсэх?</p> <p>Is there internal monitoring and are there procedures?</p>	<p>Журам, дүрэмтэй, тодорхой хуваарьтай, шалгах хуудсын дагуу шалгадаг. /</p> <p>Inspections are conducted according to procedures, rules, and a specific schedule. Checklist are used for inspections.</p>
12	<p>Гомдол барагдуулах GRM байдаг эсэх? www.11-11.mn-ээс гадна. 2024 онд хэдэн гомдол хүлээн авсан, хэрхэн шийдвэрлэсэн бэ?/</p> <p>Is there a GRM for grievance redress besides www.11-11.mn?. How many</p>	<p>Дотоод ёсзүйн хороотой. Аваарь, саатлыг судлан бүртгэх комисс ажилладаг./</p> <p>There is an internal ethics committee./ A commission is in place to investigate and record accidents and electricity outages.</p>

	complaints were received in 2024 and how were they resolved?	
13	Хүний нөөцийн бодлого байгаа эсэх, ямар бодлого баримталдаг вэ?/ Is there a Human Resources Policy? What is your policy?	Бодлого бий. Бэлтгэх, чадавхжуулах гээд бий. / There is a HR policy I place, including training, capacity building.
14	Хүүхдийн хөдөлмөр, албадан хөдөлмөр эрхлэлтийн эсрэг ямар арга хэмжээ авдаг вэ? What measures are taken against child labor and forced labor?	18-оос доош насны хүн ажиллахыг хориглодо. E employment of persons under the age of 18 is prohibited. NPTG does not hire any persons under the age of 18.
15	Ажлын байран дээрх дарамт, бэлгийн дарамтын эсрэг бодлого байдан эсэх?ю Is there a policy against workplace harassment and sexual harassment?	Gender хариуцсан ажилтантай. Сургалт явуулдаг. Жишээ нь өнөөдөр сургалт явагдаж байна. We have a gender officer. Trainings are provided on these subjects. For example, training is underway today.
16	Шүүхэд нэхэмжлэлтэй эсэх, өөрөөр хэлбэл шүүхийн шатанд байгаа хэргийн тоо?/ Any lawsuit, the number of cases pending in court	Хуульч хариуцаад явдаг. The lawyer is responsible.
17	Хөдөлмөрийн АА-тай холбоотой ямар журмуудтай вэ, ХАБ-ын хороо, хүний тоо гэх мэт, ямар Хувийн Хамгаалах Хэрэгсэл ашигладаг? What OHS procedures are in place? Is OHS committee in place, the number of members.	Компанийн хувьд #1 асуудал гэж онцгой анхаардаг. Бүх мэргэжлийн чиглэлээр журам, заавруудтай, хэрэглэгчидтэй харилцдаг харилцааны загвартай. Хяналт Мониторингийн хэлтэс бодлого эрсдэл, үнэлгээ, хэрэгжилт, чанар, хэрэглэгч хариуцдаг. ҮЭХ-оор ажилчдын асуудал яригддаг. ҮЭХ-ны байнгын оролцоотой./OHS is the #1 priority the company. There are standards operating procedures for each type of work. There is a customer communication procedure. The Monitoring Department is responsible for policy, risk assessment, implementation, quality assurance, and customer service. Workers' issues are discussed at the Trade Union. The Trade Union actively participate in issues related with OHS.
18	Дасгал, сургуулалт хийдэг эсэх? Хийдэг бол хэрхэн яаж, давтамжийн тоо	Аюулгүй ажиллагаа, галтай холбоотой сургалт, гамшиг, аваарийн дасгал дааврын дагуу хийгддэг. Эрсдэлийн үнэлгээ жил болгон хийдэг, шинэчилж батлуулдаг.

	Drills? Frequency?	Drills are conducted according to OHS procedure, fire fighting exercises are in place. Risk assessments are conducted and updated annually.
19	Gender-ийн тэнцвэртэй байдал хэр хангагдсан бэ?/ Gender balance?	40% эмэгтэй, 60% эрэгтэй/ 40% female, 60% male
20	ЦТҮС компани гэрээт гүйцэтгэгчиддээ хэрхэн хяналт тавьдаг вэ? How does the NPTG monitor its contractors?	Барилга гэх мэт өөр төрлийн гэрээгээр хийлгүүлдэг ажлууд бий. Гэрээндээ холбогдох заалтуудаа тусгаад, чиглэл чиглэлээр нь хариуцсан ажилтнууд хянаад, явдаг. Худалдан авалтын хууль, журмын дагуу явж байгаа.  There are other types of contracts, such as construction. Relevant provisions are included in the contract, and respective employees review and monitor the contractors for different clauses.
21	Судалгааны үр дүнд үндэслэн, төлөвлөгдөж буй өндөр хүчдэлийн дамжуулах шугам (ӨХДШ) нь төв шугамаас 20 метр доторх бүсэд хязгаарлагдан байрлаж, ажилчид өдөрт 4 цагаас дээш хугацаагаар тухайн бүсэд ажиллах тохиолдолд эрүүл мэндэд сөрөг нөлөө үзүүлэх эрсдэл байж болзошгүй. Мөн ашиглалт ба засвар үйлчилгээний (А&З) ажлуудын явцад дээрх хугацаанаас давж үргэлжлэх боломжтой юу?  There may be a risk of adverse health effects if workers work within 20 meters for more than 4 hours per day. Is it possible that during O&M activities working hours exceed the above mentioned permissible hours of work?	Нөлөөллийн бүсэд ажиллах хугацааг заасан байдаг. Нөлөөлөл болон халхавчлах гэж байдаг. Нөлөөлөл, хүчиллэг үүсээд байгаа нөхцлийг тодорхойлдог. Үүний үндсэн дээр ажилладаг. Зарим онцгой тохиолдолд ГЗ-ын тусгай тушаал гарч, гүйцэтгэх ажлыг нарийвчлан зааж өгдөг./  The working hours in the impact zone are specified. Determines the conditions under which the influence and acidity occur. In some exceptional cases, a special decree by Government is issued, specifying in detail the work to be performed.
22	Дараах сөрөг нөлөөллийг бууруулах арга хэмжээнүүдийг ашиглалтын үе шатанд хэрэгжүүлэх шаардлагатай:	Ажил мэргэжлийн стандартуудыг шинэчлээд явж байгаа. ҮЭХ-г мөн үүнд оролцуулдаг. Хүчдэлээс хамгаалах. ISO45001 нэвтрүүлсэн, хэрэгжилтийг хангаж ажилладаг.

		SOPs and standards are being updated. The Trade Union is also involved in review process. ISO45001 is introduced.
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## Appendix E Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) Approach and Questions

### Focus Group Discussions

FGDs were held involving community groups who may be directly and or indirectly affected by the Project. Groups targeted included:

- Agriculturalists who have land on both sides of the existing dirt road
- Herder households using grazing areas near the existing road (to be confirmed during site visit);
- Vulnerable people/households;
- Opinion Influencers (including soums' Elderly Association, Women's' Association); and
- Small business owners.

One FGD was organised for:

- Agriculturalists (crop farmers) and business owners;
- Soum residents, including representatives from vulnerable groups such as women, elderly, PWD (where feasible), CBOs (if any) as well as herders.

The following themes were the focus for discussion in the FGDs:

- Community perception towards infrastructure development, more specifically about proposed paved road;
- Key issues/ concerns regarding proposed development (positive and negative) such as issues related with environment, community safety, land use, economic opportunities;
- How these issues associated with the project should be managed;
- Respondent's view about contribution to the local development, job creation, local supply opportunities; and
- Suggestions for the Project for future stakeholder engagement activities.

Each FGD aimed to include 6-8 persons. One ESIA team member led the discussion while two others will take notes. FGD will normally last a maximum of 2 hours.

The following rules will be observed at each FGD:

- Introduction of the survey team;
- Introduction of the proposed project
- Introduction of discussion goal, duration;
- Basic rules to be observed during discussion (respecting each other; respecting other person's views, refraining from open negative remarks; refraining from talking loudly while other people are talking; refraining from talking on phone, if urgent, going out of the room to answer the call);
- Explaining the group that their names will not be mentioned in any report;
- In case of open mistrust or negative reaction/acceptance/behaviour the survey team will politely remind the rules.

The FGD Questions used were as follows:

#### Introduction

As an independent consultancy, we have been commissioned by EBRD to research and evaluate the potential positive and negative social and economic impacts of the proposed project. To do this we need to understand



any views or concerns that you may have about the proposed project. These views or concerns are treated in confidence and will not be attributed to any one individual.

The interview or FGD will then be preceded by a short background overview of the proposed project, including supporting maps, diagrams and pictures and impact mitigation measures being explored.

Interviewee group or gender and job / role:

(1) Do you have any questions about the project? (If 'yes' and you can't answer their question, record it, and tell them you will find out an answer)

(2) What are your expectations of the project?

(3) Specifically, how do you feel the project could affect you or the community's...

...Economy and employment?

...Energy use and security?

...Infrastructure, including social facilities?

...Land, animals or housing?

...Noise, dust, visual landscape?

...Mental and physical health and wellbeing?

...Harmony, culture or leisure?

e.g. What cultural and spiritual intangible heritages does your community have and how do you think these could be affected?

Are there any cultural heritage or memorials in the study area that you consider require protection for the road project? (where/ why)?

...Authority and criminal activity?

(4) What do you feel will be the main positive contributions of the project?

(5) What are the main concerns that you or your community have about the project?

(6) Do you have suggestions about how these concerns can best be addressed?

(7) Can you suggest other people who may have particularly strong, specific or alternative views on the project?

(8) Thank you, do you have any other questions or comments?

## Appendix F FGD Meeting

### Sainshand FGD Attendance List

БҮЛГИЙН ХЭЛЭЛЦҮҮЛГИЙН ЯРИЛЦЛАГА - ЦАХИЛГААН ДАМЖУУЛАХ АГААРЫН ШУГАМЫН ТӨСӨЛ

Аймаг/Сум/Баг: *Ховдоговь Сайншанд*

Огноо: *2025.06.23*

No	Овог нэр	Холбоо барих утас	Хүйс/нас	Эрхэлж байгаа ажил (хувиараа бизнес эрхэлдэг, тэтгэвэрт, гэрийн эзэгтэй гэх мэт)	Тархын үзэг
1	<i>Энхтүхиава Нарангын</i>	<i>86203739</i>	<i>эм 66</i>	<i>Төмөр 1-р 80 аймгийн 1-р 35-р хороо</i>	<i>Тархын үзэг</i>
2	<i>Мавдан Нарангын</i>	<i>95915115</i>	<i>эр 60</i>	<i>Трун-9</i>	<i>Тархын үзэг</i>
3	<i>Дамбаа Нарангын</i>	<i>96323088</i>	<i>эм 58</i>	<i>Төмөр</i>	<i>Тархын үзэг</i>
4	<i>Савдга Нарангын</i>	<i>86990633</i>	<i>эм 46</i>	<i>Мал хивсний газар</i>	<i>Тархын үзэг</i>
5	<i>Мавдан Нарангын</i>	<i>96630726</i>	<i>эм 35</i>	<i>6-р баг хэсгийн 6-р баг</i>	<i>Тархын үзэг</i>
6	<i>Мавдан Нарангын</i>	<i>99291767</i>	<i>эм 58</i>	<i>6-р баг хэсгийн 6-р баг</i>	<i>Тархын үзэг</i>
7	<i>У. Нарангын</i>	<i>90903368</i>	<i>60/эр</i>	<i>Хөвдоговь сумын 1-р баг</i>	<i>Тархын үзэг</i>
8	<i>А. Нарангын</i>	<i>96901010</i>	<i>эм 28</i>	<i>6-р баг хивсний газар</i>	<i>Тархын үзэг</i>
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### Sainshand FGD Notes

#### Have you received information about the project?

- Not yet.

#### What are your expectations from the project?

- Since it involves electricity, people's lives are expected to improve.

#### How do you think this project might impact your life and that of your local community?

- Concern about the source of funding—who provides the budget? It's very important for the citizens' livelihood impact or local development. Is the project privately owned or state-run? It is very important for us.

#### Economic and employment impacts:

- Citizens may gain employment. Hiring is likely based on education and skill level.
- Many can work as support staff. What matters most is the reliability of salary payments.
- Seasonal jobs would be helpful for students and children.

#### Electricity Usage and Reliability

- Before, Mandakh soum had no electricity. But when Tsagaan Suvarga started taking electricity from the Oyu Tolgoi project, Mandakh soum has electricity from there. It's good condition for the soum's citizens and livelihood.
- At the aimag level, frequent power outages occur. Electricity is expensive. If the bill isn't paid by the 20th of the month, it is cut off immediately.
- When reporting outages, technicians often don't arrive at the promised time. Even though there's a hotline, no one answers—service is unreliable.

### **Infrastructure and Social Services**

- The project is expected to positively impact infrastructure.

### **Healthcare:**

- The service quality is poor.
- Staff attitude is negative, and most services require payment.
- Long queues.

### **Education:**

- School accessibility is good—there are 6 schools.
- Overcrowding is increasing.
- At one school (School No. 6), young teachers who recently graduated behave disrespectfully.
- Attention should be paid to improving service quality and ethics among school and kindergarten staff.

### **Preschools:**

- There are 11 kindergartens. Quality and accessibility is good

### **Land, Livestock, Housing**

- The land office is difficult to work with.
- People struggle to obtain ownership or use rights.
- Only one person has acquired 0.07 hectares. /From participants/

### **Housing:**

- Many can't afford homes.
- Rental apartments are very expensive, like in a major city, and not accessible.

### **What cultural or intangible heritage exists locally, and how might it be affected by the project (e.g., road construction)?**

- Tsagaan Tsav is a very nice place in Mandakh soum. If this project is implemented, Tsagaan Tsav could be developed. If electricity is provided, spas and wellness centers could grow.
- Khiimoriin Ovoo – a sacred cairn built by horse trainers.
- Khamriin Khiid monastery.
- Choilon Mountain is revered annually in May–June.
- Cultural events such as wrestling and horse racing are held based on auspicious calendar days.

### **How might local development affect crime conditions?**

- Theft is common, especially by transients.
- Alcohol abuse and domestic violence are prevalent.
- Hidden or unreported violence is also a problem.

**How and when would you like to receive project information? Would you like to participate in meetings or discussions?**

- Share information on Facebook.
- Disseminate through subdistrict groups online.
- Telegram and Viber within institutions.
- Use Facebook and television for public outreach.
- During bagh or soum citizens meetings, information should be shared.

**Suggestions for Improvement**

- Install lighting—especially tower lights.
- Increase surveillance cameras for public safety.

**Sainshand FGD Meeting Photo**



## Ulaanbadrakh FGD Attendance List

БҮЛГИЙН ХЭЛЭЛЦҮҮЛГИЙН ЯРИЛЦЛАГА - ЦАХИЛГААН ДАМЖУУЛАХ АГААРЫН ШУГАМЫН ТӨСӨЛ

Аймаг/Сум/Баг: Улаанбаатар  
Огноо: 2025-06-25

No	Овог нэр	Холбоо барих утас	Хүйс	Эрхэлж байгаа ажил (хувиараа бизнес эрхэлдэг, тэтгэвэрт, гэрийн эзэгтэй гэх мэт)
1	У. Отгондуган	95848397	24	Нийслэл, Гаалийн газар
2	Б. Урианхай (26)	80824878	24	Хуульч, багш нага
3	О. Батсүх 54	8833207	24	Мөн зинвэрний салбар дорно
4	З. Ганзор (44)	99142620	24	2-р байр, засаг сура
5	О		24	
6	Б. Нарангуй	99227271		Тусгай зориулалт
7	Т. Вүлэмүрэн	99595213	24	4-р баг, онгоц нага
8	О. Чинх	99575086	24	МОНХА
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## Ulaanbadrakh FGD Notes

### Do you have any information about project?

- No prior information about the project has been received. We have not information

### Project Expectations

- The project should benefit herders.
- Residents request detailed project information to be shared during public bag-level meetings.
- Households likely to be affected should be included in consultations.

### Current Energy Status

- Electricity supply is generally stable, but in some cases, power capacity is insufficient.

### Economic and Employment Impact

- Locally, in Ulaanbadrakh soum, the economic benefits are perceived as low. However, the project is expected to have a positive impact at the national level.

### Do you think there will be local land use, livestock farming, and air pollution?

- Construction activities are expected to generate significant dust. During installation of high-voltage transmission lines, there is a risk of road scraping, which may affect herders' pastureland. There is a need to clarify:



- Who is responsible for land use payments
- How those payments will be made
- Residents request information on whether the project will be connected to Ulaanbadrakh soum.

**Have there been any cases of birds, animals, or plants being killed due to electric poles or overhead power lines?**

- After the initial installation of power lines in Ulaanbadrakh soum, birds (e.g., crows) died due to lack of bird deterrents.

**Cultural and Intangible Heritage**

- Residents request clarification on whether the project will enter protected areas. Dinosaur fossils have previously been discovered in Ulaanbadrakh soum.

**Additional Comments and Suggestions**

- Digital feedback collection from residents is recommended.
- The project route passes through seasonal grazing zones, which should be protected.
- Multiple road routes should be avoided.
- High-voltage lines produce noise, and dust is generated during construction.
- If the construction period is two years, local labor should be involved.

**Ulaanbadrakh FGD Photo**



## Mandakh FGD Attendance List

БҮЛГИЙН ХЭЛЭЛЦҮҮЛГИЙН ЯРИЛЦЛАГА - ЦАХИЛГААН ДАМЖУУЛАХ АГААРЫН ШУГАМЫН ТӨСӨЛ

Аймаг/Сум/Баг: *Мандах*

Огноо: *2025-06-26*

No	Овог нэр	Холбоо барих утас	Хүйс	Эрхэлж байгаа ажил (хувиараа бизнес эрхэлдэг, тэтгэвэрт, гэрийн эзэгтэй гэх мэт)
1	<i>М. Оюун</i>	<i>9036 9108</i>	<i>Эн</i>	<i>6098 шонг ашигласан үнийн үйлчилгээ</i>
2	<i>Н. Мовсисович</i>	<i>91668223</i>	<i>Эн</i>	<i>Автомобиль</i>
3	<i>М. Носбаатар</i>	<i>88953006</i>	<i>Эн</i>	<i>Аувиараа бизнес эрхэлдэг</i>
4	<i>Б. Намуур</i>	<i>99794524</i>	<i>Эн</i>	<i>4-р байртай газар дараа</i>
5	<i>Х. Хуучин</i>	<i>89170558</i>	<i>Эн</i>	<i>2-р баг 500000 Чөлөөт</i>
6	<i>Х. Ууган</i>	<i>80309907</i>	<i>Эн</i>	<i>4-р баг Соёмтоо О.Н.С.Т.А.</i>
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## Mandakh FGD Notes

### Do you have any information about project?

- No, it's first time to hear about the project

### Project Expectations and Concerns

- Improving electricity capacity is essential for raising living standards. The source of electricity supply is important.
- Bor Khoshuu railway point has a terminal site; a 50 MW new power station was approved by the aimag via tender and designated as a special-use zone. Clarification is needed on whether this is connected to the project.
- The project is expected to be beneficial for the soum and surrounding areas.
- Plans exist to extend electricity toward Tsagaan Tsav.
- It's important to strictly follow safety and quality standards.
- The project will inevitably bring in external personnel; locals expect they'll do their job peacefully without causing conflict.
- Better electricity would prevent equipment damage and reduce operational costs.

- Demand for electricity is high, and the system is often overloaded.

#### **Current energy challenges:**

- Electricity is distributed through secondary transmission lines, which are unreliable.
- Soum draws power from Tsagaan Suvarga, so it's excluded from nighttime tariff discounts that apply to Mandakh soum. Power supplied from Russia is not connected, so no benefit is applied.
- Households trying to run leather and light manufacturing face high electricity costs and frequent voltage drops, leading to equipment failure. Feed production equipment often breaks down after 1–2 years due to power instability.
- Many oat milling machines in soum households are no longer working due to electrical issues.
- Electricity supply is unstable and intermittent.
- Power disruptions lead residents to turn off devices to reduce noise and save energy. Monthly electric bills rose to 80,000 MNT in 2025, compared to 20,000–40,000 MNT in 2024.
- There's a strong desire to expand capacity.
- Reliable electricity would encourage service expansion and allow businesses to thrive (e.g., there's demand for a bakery facility).

#### **Small and Medium Businesses**

- **Coffee Shop:**
  - Operating for 10+ years
  - Uses gas stoves; customers often come to eat due to electricity outages
  - Serves 20 people daily, sometimes more in the evening
  - Buys meat from herders; prepares dough on-site; daily fresh meals
  - Difficulties sourcing flour and rice; costs up to 200,000 MNT
- **Tire repair:**
  - In operation for 3 years, privately run
  - Faces competition from other shops in Mandakh; few customers
- **Bakery:**
  - Home-based production by local resident
  - Products sold in shops in small quantities and consumed locally

#### **Community Concerns About the Project**

- Parents of daughters are especially concerned about safety; criminal incidents involving outsiders are frequently reported.
- Surveillance cameras are active in the soum, but parents check on their children often for safety.
- Dust from transportation affects health; rainfall is scarce.
- Veterinary services follow clients; rural residents experience loneliness.

- The most pressing issues are education and mental health.
- Youth behavior is sometimes disruptive; noise is a concern.
- Greater social engagement for youth is needed.
- The Elderly Association is highly active and recognized as a national leader. Elders frequently participate in meetings and community activities.
- Youth organizations are criticized for being inactive and under-supported.
- Due to lack of educational opportunities, young people are less inclined to return and work in rural areas.

### **Cultural and Intangible Heritage**

- The Shine Us site has archaeological and paleontological significance. Recently designated as a special protected area. No formal signage yet. Ancient graves discovered. Located near the border between Mandakh and Ulaanbadrakh soums at the easternmost point of the soum.

### **Community Suggestions**

- Ensure safety and compliance with all standards
- Clarify job opportunities for locals; the soum supports training residents to join the workforce.
- Promote education as a form of social responsibility. Provide mental health support to herders at least once a year.
- Development follows electricity access. As land is being disturbed, plant trees and improve the surroundings
- Protect bird habitats
- Project information should be presented at bagh citizens' meetings in detail to herders and residents.

### **Mandakh FGD Photo**



## Saikhandulaan FGD Attendance List

БҮЛГИЙН ХЭЛЭЛЦҮҮЛГИЙН ЯРИЛЦЛАГА - ЦАХИЛГААН ДАМЖУУЛАХ АГААРЫН ШУГАМЫН ТӨСӨЛ

Аймаг/Сум/баг: Дорноговь Сайхандулаан  
Огноо: 2025.06.27

No	Овог нэр	Холбоо барих утас	Хүйс	Эрхэлж байгаа ажил (хувиараа бизнес эрхэлдэг, тэтгэвэрт, гэрийн эзэгтэй гэх мэт)	Гарын үсэг
1	Д. Сантасуурон	96055756	эр	Төсвөгчм 18 баг.	А. Сантасуурон
2	Ц. Одоогийн	89510500	эм	Хүүхд, нэр бүхий нийгмийн ажилтан	Ц. Одоогийн
3	А. Адамс	95874280	эр	4-р багийн засаг дарга	А. Адамс
4	Д. Хуучин	94001131	эм	4-р багийн урьдчилсан	Д. Хуучин
5	М. Байгальс	99959978	эр	Ажлаагчид хяналтын дарга	М. Байгальс
6	А. Одоогийн	90956252	эм	Засаг даргаар өргөж	А. Одоогийн
7	Б. Гантүвшин	99932497	эм	МХУ-ын байр	Б. Гантүвшин
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## Saikhandulaan FGD Notes

Have you received information about the project?

- Not yet.

What are your expectations from this project?

- We'd like the implementing unit to explain what benefits this power line will bring and how it will impact the local socio-economic situation. Since we lack information, we can't comment further. Why can't Tsagaan Suvarga continue using the power line from Oyu Tolgoi? Dornogovi Province has limited electricity access. If another transmission line is built, how will it affect the province? What negative impacts might it have on our region? Will it increase Dornogovi's energy supply? We'd like to see the baseline study. Is there a restriction like with railways, where homes can't be built within a certain distance?

How might this project affect your community's livelihood? Economy and employment

- It could create jobs. Our soum has three baghs, mostly herder households. A few unemployed people live in the soum center. If labor is needed, young people will likely register. They're good at physically demanding work. When the project starts, they could buy meat and dairy from herders. Once construction begins and camps are set up, we hope food supplies will be sourced locally. Transport will increase during construction. We have local drivers who could be hired. They're helpful for soum during the dzud and other times. We also have skilled mechanics and machine operators, some with mining experience. Please provide short-term jobs for them.



- *Energy supply and reliability:* Electricity is insufficient. Our electricity line separates into mining sites and others. When we request 380 kW, we're told the system can't handle it.
- *Infrastructure and public services:* Kindergarten, dormitory, and school rely on electric heating. The cultural center used to have electric heating. Our soum isn't connected to central engineering networks. The kindergarten can't use large cooking pots due to power limits, so they use smaller ones.
- *Land, livestock, and housing:* We have two mines. Around 10 people work there.

**What types of cultural or intangible heritage exist locally, and how might the project affect them?**

- There are no sacred mountains or ovoos along the transmission route. However, dinosaur fossils are likely to be found in the Gobi. Five sacred mountains are honored annually:
  - Ulzii Khaikhan (south)
  - Zagal (west of soum)
  - Bayan Ovoo (north)
  - Baga Dulaan
  - Ikh Dulaan

**What do you see as the main positive impact of the project?**

- It's a national development initiative. If electricity is being installed, we have no objections.

**What concerns do you or other residents have about the project?**

- Rare wildlife in the Gobi, especially birds. They seem to be the most affected by high-voltage lines.

**What measures do you suggest to address these concerns?**

- Ensure strong environmental protection and explain it clearly to residents. Proper grounding is essential.

**How and when would you like to receive project information? Would you participate in meetings or discussions?**

- Information should be shared through public meetings at the bagh (subdistrict) level for better accessibility.

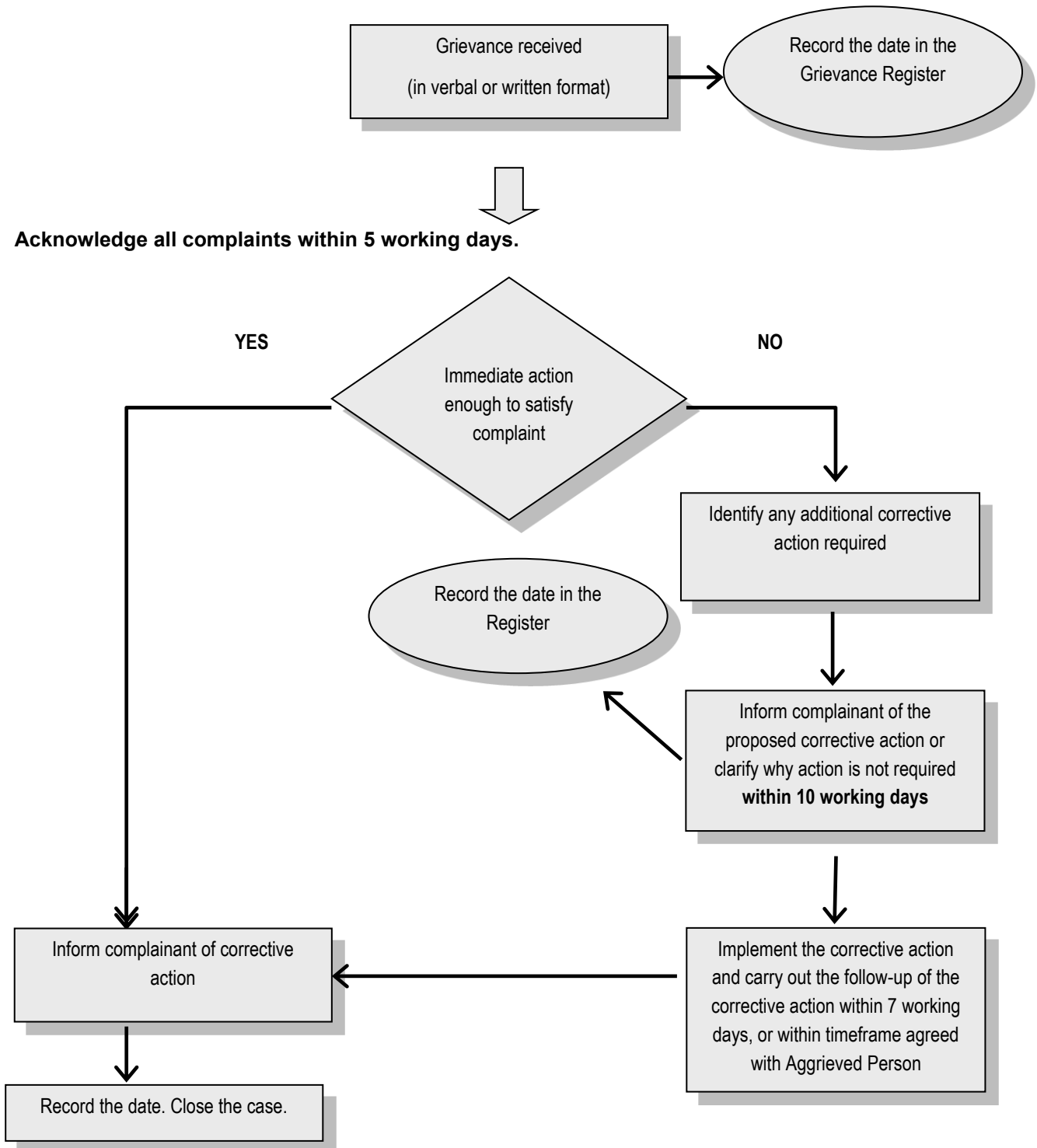
**Final comment:**

- No further questions or suggestions.

## Saikhandulaan FGD Photos



## Appendix G Grievance Procedure



## Appendix H Project Grievance Form

Reference Number (Protocol Number)	
Name/Surname <i>Note: you can remain anonymous if you prefer or request not to disclose your identity to the third parties without your consent</i>	
Date of complaint:	
Contact information  Please check how you want to be contacted	<input type="radio"/> by postal mail <input type="radio"/> by telephone <input type="radio"/> by e-mail
Description of incident or grievance: What happened? Where did this happen? who did it happen to? what is the result of the issue?	
Date of incident or grievance:	
	<input type="radio"/> Once <input type="radio"/> More than one time <input type="radio"/> On going
What would you like to see happen to settle the issue?	

## **Appendix I Grievance Register Template**



[illegible]

## Appendix J Stakeholder Register Template

Name/Contact details	MoE/PIU Staff Responsible (name and role)	Position Method of engagement	Contact details	Topic	Issues	Follow up required

## Appendix K Minutes of Meeting Template

Minutes of Meeting	
Date of consultation	
Type of consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Face to face</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Discussion groups</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Public meeting</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Press Conference</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Other</li> </ul>
Location address	
Town/Village Address	
Stakeholder Contact Person	
Stakeholder Individuals or Groups	
Representatives	
Other Attendants	
Confidential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> yes</li> <li><input type="radio"/> no</li> </ul>
Discussion	
Issue	
Grievance, nuisance or complaint	
Annexes	

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