

MONGOLIA

Scaling up modern energy services for Mongolia's traditional homes



Context

Mongolia's urban centres are facing **severe air pollution** during the cold season and it has become a public health crisis. The effects of air pollution are devastating, especially on maternal and child health. This includes **stillbirth, preterm birth, pneumonia, asthma, reduced lung function, damage to the brain development, and negative impacts on children's behaviour.**

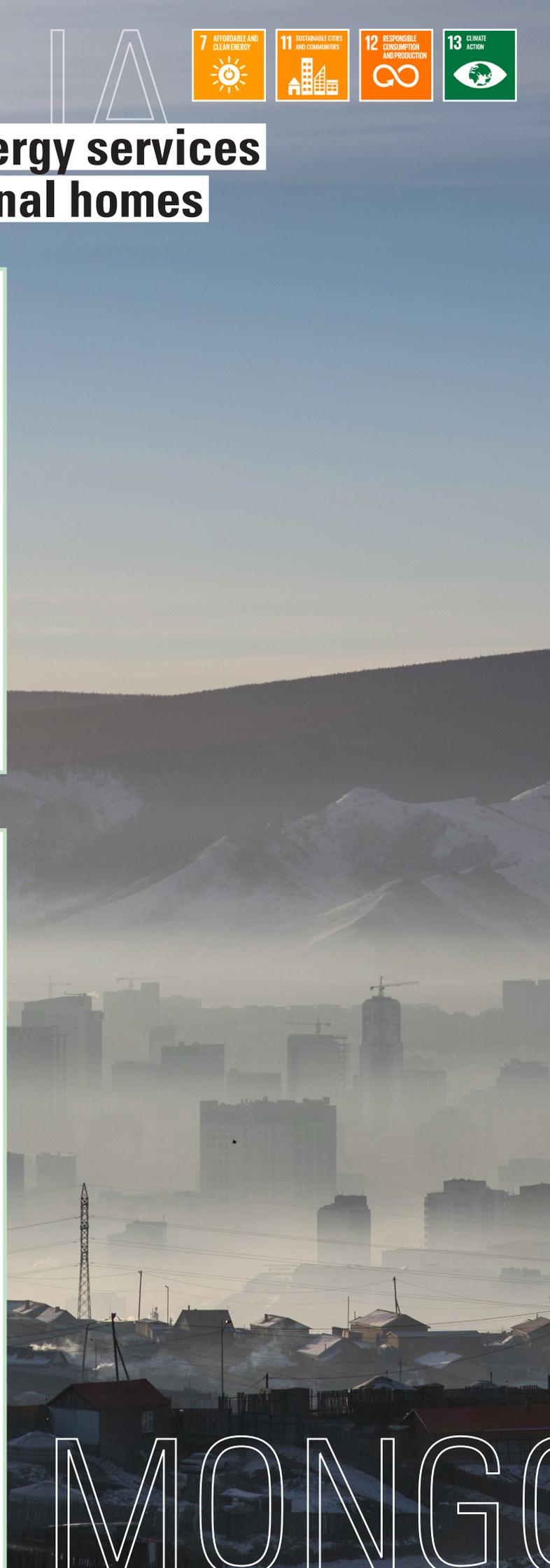
By far, most of the pollution is caused by the burning of coal in residential areas to stay warm. Over the years, most attention has been given to improving the air quality in the nation's capital Ulaanbaatar where half of the Mongolian population resides. But very little action has been taken in other urban areas in Mongolia where **the situation is just as critical.**

Our solution

By the end of 2025, at least 20.000 traditional houses will have made the transition to energy efficient, affordable and clean electric cooking and heating technology. A substantial part of the electricity will come from renewable resource.

UNICEF will focus on supporting traditional households to adopt "Cooking, Heating and Insulation Products" (CHIPS), establishing a city-wide ambient air quality monitoring network, strengthening health services for children and pregnant women. Unicef will also strengthen communication and community engagement, technical assistance to the local government for enabling policy changes to promote environment for clean air, and the development of a sustainable financing mechanism to make CHIPS affordable for families.

The project has been tested in Bayankhongor and has proven to be a real success. It has brought thermal comfort, safety and a cleaner indoor environment resulting in better health and time saving for all family members. **Many households even saved money because it turned out that electric heating was less expensive compared to coal heating.**



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UNICEF key actions



- CHIPS scaling up: sustainable financing and social protection measures for the most vulnerable households
- Sustainable energy planning: energy mapping (supply and demand), assessment of potential low carbon and renewable based technologies/combinations
- Air quality monitoring
- Communication, awareness raising and community/youth mobilisation for attitude and behavioural changes
- Create an enabling policy environment and climate and air pollution coordination and manage efforts at the national and subnational level

Story from the field

These adolescents are collecting air pollution data in the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar as part of the “Programme Air Pollution Youth Mappers”. The adolescents are responsible for collecting information regarding the quality of the air. They walk in their community mapping the areas and note the pollution indexes using a portable air quality monitor provided by UNICEF.

UNICEF Mongolia reached over one million people with evidence-based, compelling messages and storytelling on air pollution and its impact on children’s health. **They called on key stakeholders to take immediate action.**



Financing examples

35,000 €

1 ambient air quality reference station and 5 low cost air quality devices for a district

130,000 €

Development of a national air quality platform and calibration of air quality data

400,000 €

Energy mapping and air quality monitoring in 9 cities and 3 locations in Ulaanbaatar

1,000,000 €

7,860 households have CHIPS with a subsidy of 20%



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