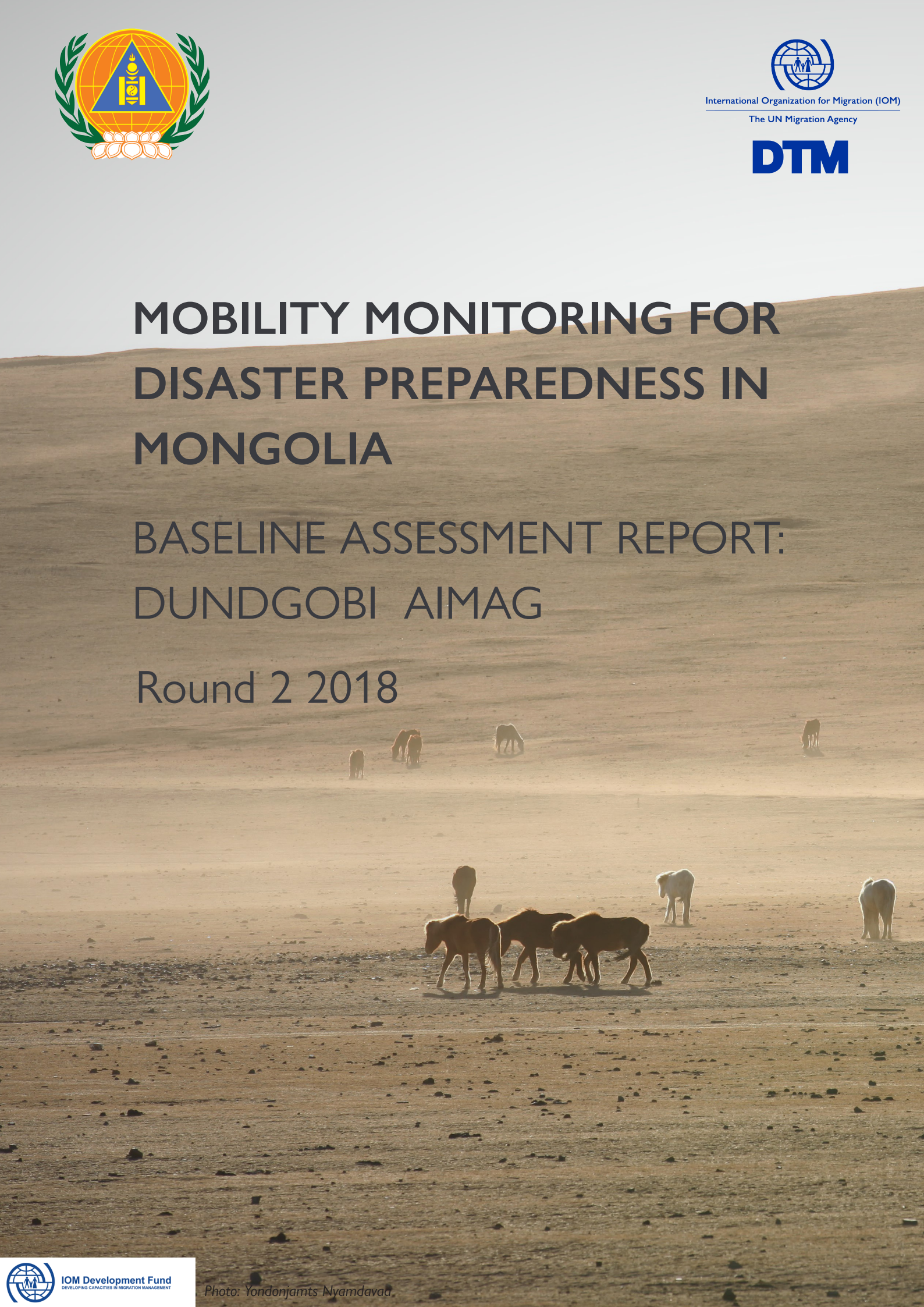
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

DTM

MOBILITY MONITORING FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IN MONGOLIA

BASELINE ASSESSMENT REPORT: DUNDGOBI AIMAG

Round 2 2018



IOM Development Fund
DEVELOPING CAPACITIES IN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

Photo: Yondonjamts Nyamdavaa

Dundgobi AIMAG BASELINE ASSESSMENT

April - June 2018

INTRODUCTION

Short and long term internal migration has a long-standing tradition in Mongolia. However, data on short term movements (< 3 months) is not systematically collected. In addition, recent trends indicate that rural to urban migration, particularly towards Ulaanbaatar, has been fostered by a number of factors principally related to better employment opportunities, healthcare, education and climate change[1].

Mongolia's unique geographical location, as well as the rural population's dependence on animal husbandry, make the country particularly vulnerable to environmental changes and severe weather events. The increasing trend of rural to urban migration in Mongolia has been linked to factors resulting from climate change, such as declining livelihood opportunities in rural areas that have been amplified by increasing incidences of severe droughts and winter storms (*dzuds*[2]).

If the trends continue, the increasing incidences of disasters will drive higher rates of rural to urban migration into Ulaanbaatar where government officials are already facing significant challenges to accommodate new arrivals. In order to prepare for coming disasters and respond accordingly, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) will need to have precise information on population mobility and the number of people at different sites.

In response to the increased occurrence of severe weather events in the country, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) began implementing its Mobility Monitoring for Disaster Preparedness in Mongolia through the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) with the objective to support the Government of Mongolia in establishing a comprehensive system to collect data on displacement caused by climate change and in the event of a natural disaster in the country. DTM will also provide a unique set of data, as for the first time information on short term movements will be collected and analyzed.

METHODOLOGY

The data collection tools and strategy implemented by NEMA are based on the DTM global methodology and have been adapted to the context and the displacement patterns in the country. The information collected will contribute to the creation of a comprehensive profile of the population in Mongolia.

For this baseline assessment, IOM distinguishes between two types of populations: residents (any person living at the given location/site) and mobile population (individuals who moved in/out of the soum within 1-3 months).

NEMA and IOM define population mobility as the movement of people from one place to another, temporarily, seasonally or permanently for either voluntary or involuntary reasons. It describes the full range of mobility from short term movement (e.g. herders) to longer term or permanent relocation.

The location assessment was conducted at the secondary subdivision of the administrative level (soum) outside of Ulaanbaatar. Information was collected through interviews with key informants, identified by NEMA, in consultation with IOM. The collected data includes basic information about the residents and the displaced population (number of individuals, time of arrival, origin, reason for mobility, etc.).

While the assessment was be carried out in all 330 soums across the country (except in Ulaanbaatar city), this report presents analysis of just the population movements of the Dundgobi aimag.

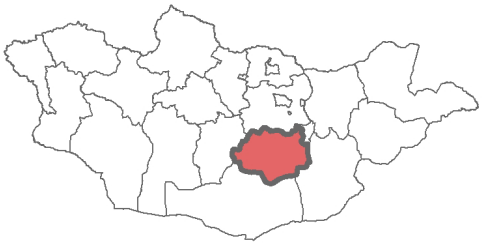
1 National University of Mongolia (NUM), United Nations University – Merit, and International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2018). Understanding and Managing Internal Migration in Mongolia.

2 A dzud is a cyclical, slow onset disaster unique to Mongolia. It consists of a summer drought followed by a deterioration of the weather conditions in winter and spring during which the shortage of pasture and water leads to the large-scale death of livestock.

Photo: Yondonjamts Nyamdavaa

OVERVIEW

Dundgobi is one of 21 aimags (provinces) of Mongolia. It is located in the South of the country, approximately 245 km south of Ulaanbaatar. Its capital is Mandalgobi. It consists largely of semi-arid steppe and low hills. The total area is 74,690 km2, and the average elevation is 1,412m. Temperatures in the summer may top 32 °C, while winter temperatures may dip below −30 °C. Precipitation is scarce, and air humidity is low. The province's main industry is animal husbandry and livestock products. At the administrative level the aimag is further divided into 15 soums.



KEY FINDINGS

In comparison to other aimags in Mongolia, Dundgobi had the highest number of individuals who left between April and June 2018 (3,678 individuals).

Fifty-six per cent of all individuals who left Dundgobi left from four soums: Saikhan-Ovoo (18%), Luus (14%), Deren (14%), and Adaatsag (12%).

The number of individuals who left Dundgobi increased steadily from April to June. Out of the total number of individuals, 20 per cent left in April, while 50 per cent left in June. The majority of individuals (71%) left from their soums of habitual residence to other aimags.

Most individuals who left the Saikhan-Ovoo soum to the neighbouring aimag in January (when the number of people leaving significantly increased) left because of drought.

INTRODUCTION

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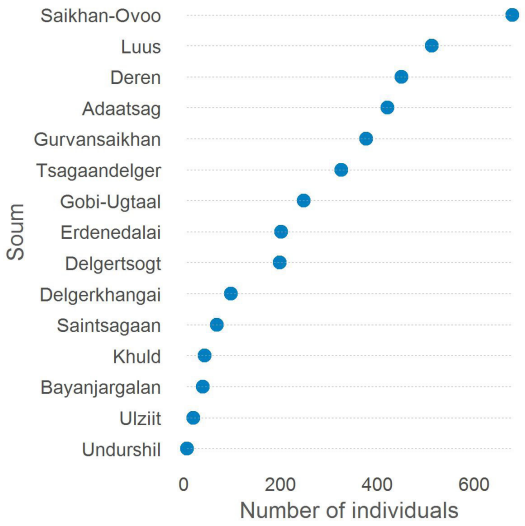
The lowest number of individuals left from the Undurshil, Ulziit, Bayanjargalan and Khuld soums

The map below shows the distribution of individuals who left Dundgobi by soum.

Figure 1: Number of individuals who left Dundgobi between April and June 2018, by soum.



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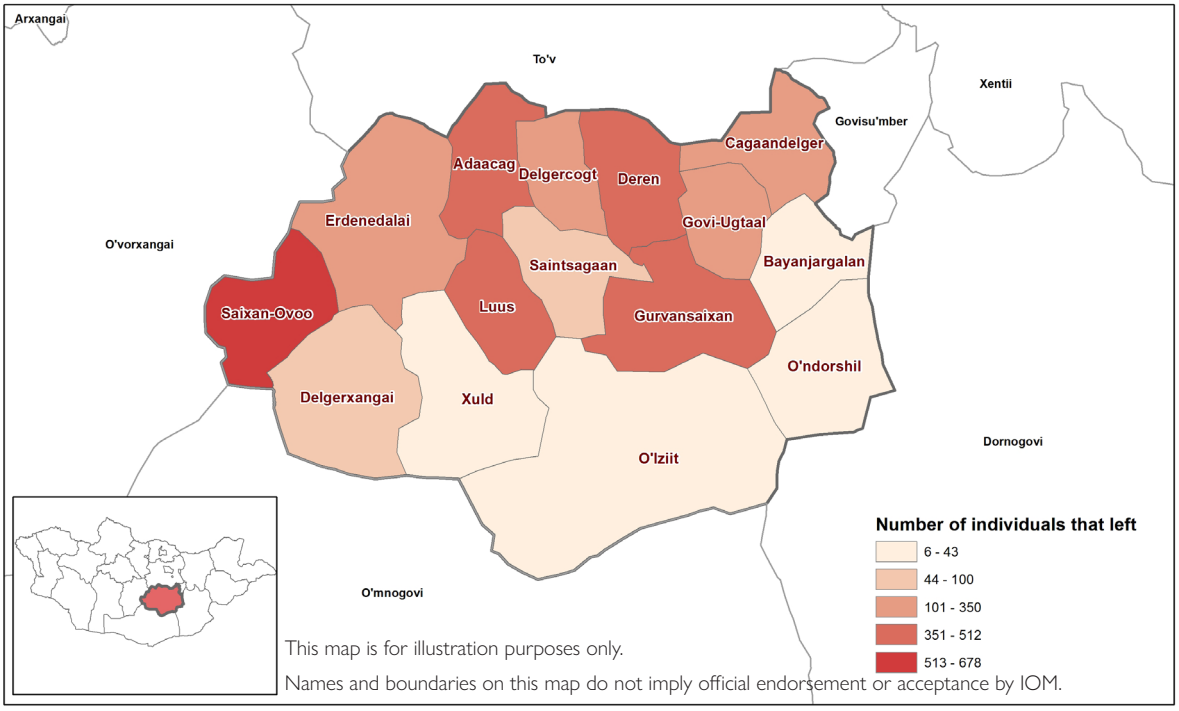


WHERE AND WHEN DID THE INDIVIDUALS GO?

The number of individuals who left Dundgobi increased steadily from April to June. Out of the total number of individuals, 20 per cent left in April, while 50 per cent left in June. The majority of individuals (71%) left their soums of habitual residence to move to other aimags.

Individuals who left Dundgobi tended to move more frequently to other aimags rather than move within the aimag or move to Ulaanbaatar. Over half of all respondent who left Dundgobi in April and May left to other aimags and the percentage increased to 90 per cent in June. All individuals who left from Saikhan-Ovoo, Deren, Adaatsag went to other aimags.

The highest share of individuals who left to other soums in Dundgobi (42%) was those who left from the Luus soum. The majority went to the Ulziit soum.

The majority of individuals who left to other soums left to Tuv. The highest share of those who left to Tuv (97%) was in April. In May and June there was an increase in the share of individuals who left to the Uvurkhangai aimag (27% and 31%, respectively). All individuals who left from Saikhan-Ovoo, Deren and Adaatsag went to other aimags.

Figure 2: Percentage of individuals who left Dundgobi to the capital/other aimag/other soums in Dundgobi between April and June 2018.

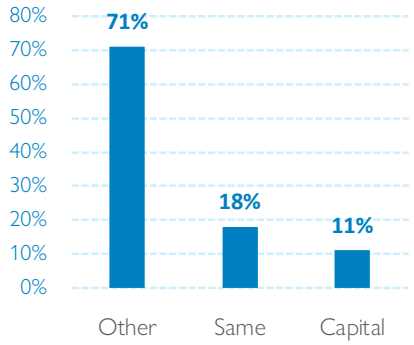


Figure 3 Percentage of individuals who left from Dundgobi, by month.

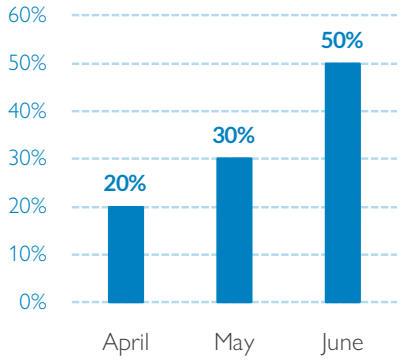


Figure 4: Percentage of individuals who left Dundgobi for the capital/other aimag/other soums in Dundgobi, by month.

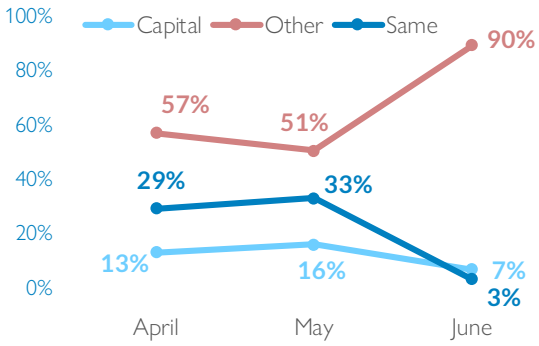
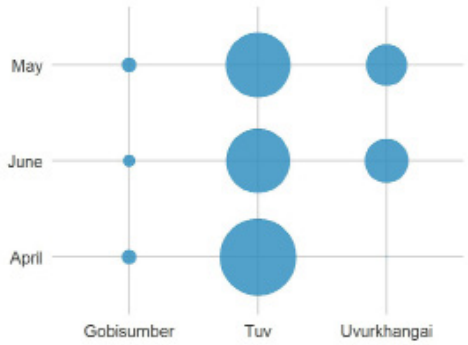
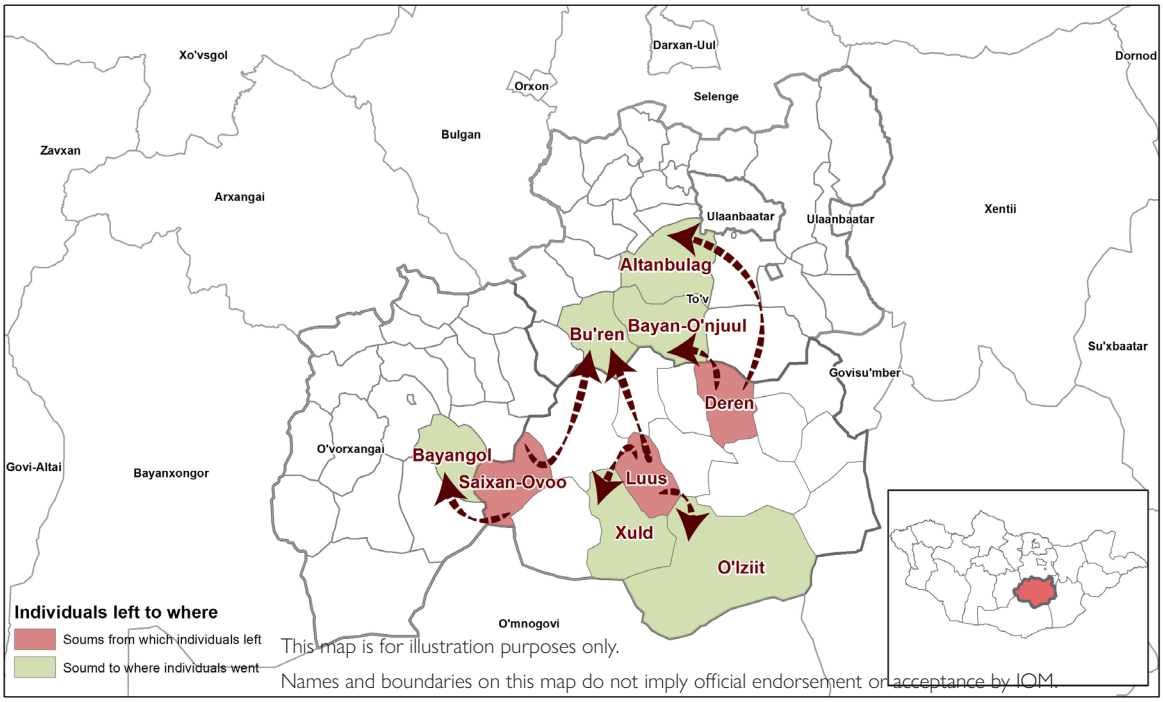


Figure 5: Percentage of individuals who left to other soums, by month and soums of destination.



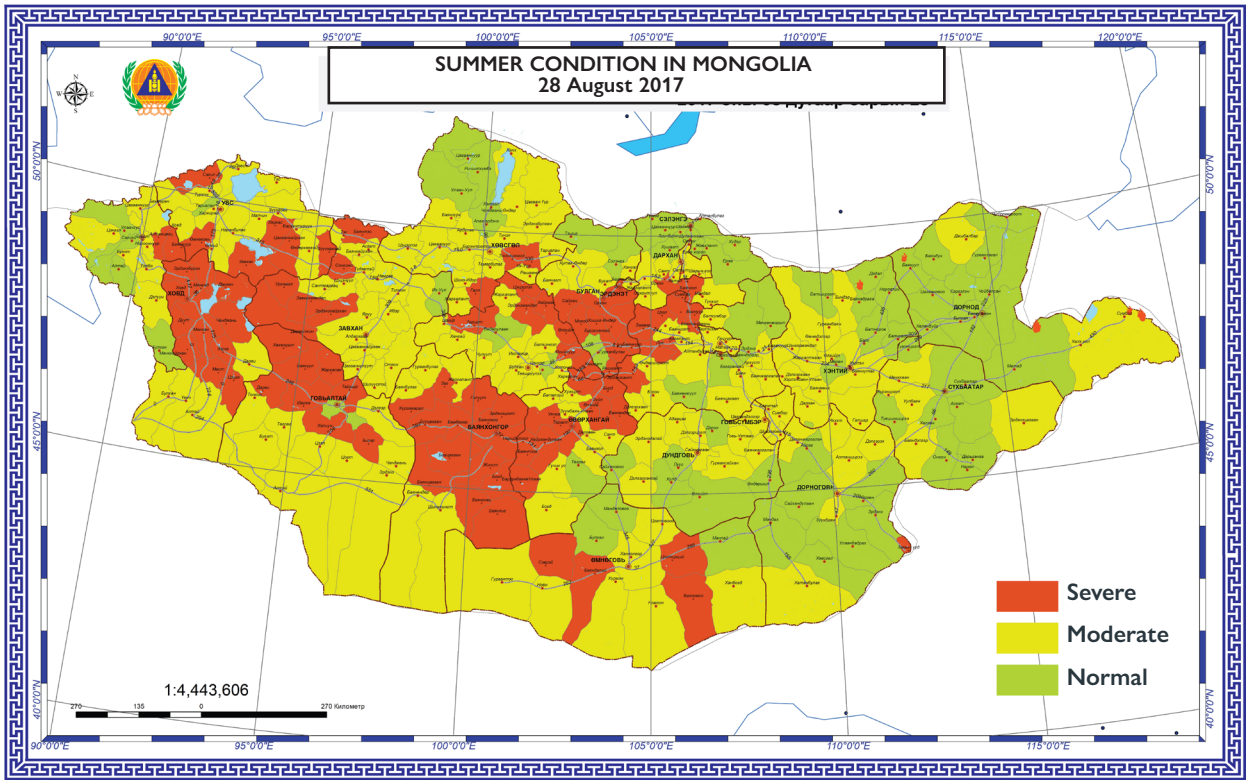
Map 2: Destination of individuals who left from the Sailkhan-Ovoo, Luus and Deren soums.



REASONS FOR LEAVING

Individuals who left the Saikhan-Ovoo soum to move to the neighbouring aimag in January (when the number of people leaving significantly increased) left because of drought.

Map 3: Summer conditions in Mongolia in 2017.



Spatial Information and Technology Division, NEMA