

PW-AOT-164



Darkhan Demographic Report

by

Margaret Herro

USAID/CHF Supporting Enterprises and
Economic Development (SEED) Program

USAID Cooperative Agreement No. AID 492-A-00-02-00017-00

Darkhan, Mongolia
January 15, 2003

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	2
Introduction – Purpose of the Demographic Report.....	3
1 Population	4
1.1 Age	4
1.2 Growth and Migration.....	5
1.3 Marital Status.....	6
2 Employment & Economic Activities	7
2.1 Employment.....	7
2.2 Economic Activities.....	9
2.3 Industry Sectors.....	9
3 Education	11
3.1 Literacy	11
3.2 Education	12
3.3 School Attendance.....	13
4 Housing.....	13
4.1 Type of living quarters.....	13
4.2 Conventional Housing.....	14
5 Conclusion.....	16
Bibliography.....	17

Introduction – Purpose of the Demographic Report

This report provides a brief analysis of the available demographic information for the Darkhan soum (or city) and Darkhan Ger District. Written for the CHF Supporting Enterprises and Economic Development (SEED) Program, the report offers an examination of population, employment, education and housing statistics of the two areas. Short narratives describe the findings and where considered interesting, we provide potential reasons for disparities although all explanations are only hypotheses at this point. With this information, the SEED Program will be able to better target its services to meet the needs of the Darkhan residents especially those living in the Ger District.

In this report, we contrast national statistics to the soum. We also separate the soum into the Ger District and the Rest of the City. The Darkhan Ger District is composed of five bhags within the soum: 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7. The Rest of the City consists of the other 11 bhags. Although the Ger District extends heavily into bhag 15 and slightly overlaps into six other bhags in the city, we feel that differences between the way of life of Ger District residents and other Darkhan residents will be apparent through comparing these five bhags to the Rest of the City.

The data analyzed in the report was compiled in 2000 for the Population and Housing Census by the National Statistics Office. Further information comes from the 2001 Micro Study of Internal Migration in Mongolia by the Population Teaching and Research Center at the National University of Mongolia. Specific bhag data was provided by the Darkhan-Uul aimag Statistics Office collected during the Population and Housing Census 2000. We also draw on anecdotal information from informal interviews in the Darkhan Needs Assessment in September and October 2002 with Darkhan Ger District residents.

1 Population

Darkhan is the second largest city in Mongolia. The population of the aimag (or county) is 83,271 and the Darkhan soum population is 65,791 or 80% of the total aimag population. The Ger District population is 17,229 or 26% of the total soum population. However, the Darkhan-Uul Statistical Office reports that an additional 10 – 20% of the Ger District population is unregistered residents.

Table 1.1 Population by residence and gender, 2000

	Mongolia		Darkhan Soum		Darkhan Ger District		Rest of City	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Males	1,177,981	49.60%	31,957	48.60%	8,601	49.92%	23,356	48.1%
Females	1,195,512	50.40%	33,834	51.40%	8,628	50.08%	25,206	51.9%
Total	2,373,493	100.00%	65,791	100.00%	17,229	100.00%	48,562	100.0%

Source: National Statistics Office and Darkhan-Uul aimag Statistics Office

1.1 Age

In the Darkhan soum, the percentage of the working age population (15 – 59) is higher than the national average. As discussed in the Micro-Study of Internal Migration in Mongolia, this could be attributable to the predominance of migration of young people (aged 24 and younger) to urban areas including Darkhan.

The most notable difference between the Ger District and the rest of the city is the increased number of elderly living in the Ger District. This partly reflects the fact that older, retired people are poorer so they cannot afford apartment living. It also supports the opinions that were heard in interviews that many elderly move to the Ger District after reaching the retirement age to give their apartments to their children who work in the downtown of the city. Other reasons for the high elderly population could be that the elderly never afforded an apartment or they prefer life in the Ger District, living closer to the land, than an apartment.

Table 1.2 Population by age group and by residence, 2000

	Mongolia		Darkhan Soum		Ger District		Rest of City	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
0-14	849,121	35.8%	22,276	33.9%	5,823	33.8%	16,453	33.9%
15-59	1,400,077	59.0%	40,788	62.0%	10,401	60.3%	30,387	62.6%
60 and above	124,295	5.2%	2,727	4.1%	1,005	5.8%	1,722	3.5%
Total	2,373,493	100.0%	65,791	100.0%	17,229	100.0%	48,562	100.0%

Source: National Statistics Office and Darkhan-Uul aimag Statistics Office

1.2 Growth and Migration¹

In terms of overall growth, the Darkhan-Uul aimag population declined from 85,737 in 1989 to 83,271 in 2000. It was one of only 5 aimags in Mongolia to have a negative population growth during that 11 year time period. At first glance, this is somewhat surprising as Mongolia experienced an “urbanization” trend with Ulaanbaatar and Orkhon aimag growing over 3% and 2% respectively during the same 11 year period. We would assume Darkhan as the second largest city would also experience similar growth. However, in the early 1990’s the Darkhan-Uul aimag experienced a great out-migration of thousands of former Soviet Union citizens as state owned enterprises that relied on Soviet technicians closed their doors. Another factor that affected Darkhan, as it affected the rest of Mongolia, was the marked decrease in fertility during those 11 years.

In terms of migrants, over 53% of the Darkhan aimag is made up of migrants from other areas of the country. This is quite high compared to the national average of 26% migrants and 34% migrants to all urban areas. However, since Darkhan was created in 1961, this number is not surprising. This signifies Darkhan is still a young city without a long, local history.

Table 1.3 Resident Population by Migration and by Residence, 2000

	Mongolia		Urban		Darkhan Aimag	
Living since Birth	1,762,842	74.3%	881,723	65.6%	38,689	46.5%
Moved in	610,651	25.7%	462,793	34.4%	44,582	53.5%
Total	2,373,493	100.0%	1,344,516	100.0%	83,271	100.0%

Source: National Statistics Office

In contrast to the 11 year timeframe, during the five year period 1995 to 2000, the aimag experienced a positive net migration of 4,894 people or a 6.5% increase in the population 5 years old and above. This reflects the end of the mass departure of Soviets in the early 1990s. During the same 5 year period, Ulaanbaatar increased its population by 75,357 through migration or 11%. Of the 8,638 people who left Darkhan during those years, most moved to Ulaanbaatar. In informal interviews, many residents said people leave for better educational and economic opportunities that are available in Ulaanbaatar.

Table 1.4 Five year migration of resident population 5 years old and above by residence, 2000

	Ulaanbaatar			Darkhan Aimag		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Living since Birth	603,677	293,400	310,277	62,203	30,509	31,694
Moved in	95,435	45,045	50,390	13,532	6,483	7,049
Moved out	20,078	10,974	9,104	8,638	4,333	4,305
Net Migration	75,357	34,071	41,286	4,894	2,150	2,744

Source: National Statistics Office

It is interesting to note that in both places, more females than males moved in to the areas while more males moved out.

The 2001 Micro Study on Internal Migration surveyed 6,778 households in Mongolia for information on migrants and migration habits. They defined migrants as anyone who has moved in the past five years. In the Darkhan-Uul aimag, they surveyed 917 households: 517 migrants and 400 non-migrants.

¹ In terms of growth, we could not locate data that describes the soum or Ger District level movements therefore this section looks at statistics from the aimag level.

The following paragraphs summarize their major findings about recent immigrants to the Darkhan-Uul aimag.

Not surprisingly the study found that the “majority of migrants are young, single and unemployed, poor and have lower educational status than the non-migrants.”² Contrary to the census data, the study found that more males migrated than females. In the Darkhan-Uul aimag 51% of the migrants are 24 years old or younger while 44% of the non-migrant population is 24 or younger. 42% of the migrants claim animals/individual farm as their main source of income while 21.7% of non-migrants obtain their main source from animals/individual farm. 54.4% of migrants live in a ger compared to 30.7% of non-migrants. Although migrants live “poorer” than non-migrants in the amount of electricity they consume and in their smaller, basic housing conditions, their average monthly household consumption is higher 77,088 tgs vs. 69,331 tgs.

Migrants in the study indicated their main reason to move to Darkhan-Uul aimag was family (48%), better living (32%), economic (15%), and education (3.5%). However, these reasons varied by sex. A higher percentage of women migrate for family reasons, while a higher percentage of men migrate for economic reasons. The percentage of males and females were about the same in regard to migrating for better living conditions and education.

Economically, migrants are more likely to be unemployed than non-migrants especially among males (33% vs. 26%). While many migrants cannot find work after migrating to Darkhan (34%), over half (51%) find work in less than one month of arrival. Over 25% of the migrants remain herdsman after migrating to the Darkhan-Uul aimag while more another 11% become self-employed in a number of fields.

Roughly 80% of the migrants are registered with the Darkhan-Uul administration. Of those that are not registered, about half either had no permission or identification to register in Darkhan or they did not have the funds to register.

Finally, 22% of migrants and 29% of non-migrants who are living in Darkhan are planning to move. Of these people, roughly 45% are planning to move to Ulaanbaatar and 25% haven't decided where to move yet. The main reasons they cited for moving are better living (22% of migrants and 34% of non-migrants), economic (5% of migrants and 11% of non-migrants) and education (7% for both groups). Interestingly, only 2.5% in both groups indicated family reasons as a reason for future migration while the majority of in-migrants cited family as the reason they moved to Darkhan.

1.3 Marital Status

As detailed in Table 1.5, marital status is quite similar in all areas of Mongolia. It is especially similar between the Darkhan soum and the nation. However, there are slight differences between the Ger District and the rest of the city in the never married, married and widowed categories. It appears that Ger District residents are less likely to marry or to live together. Also, there are a higher percentage of widowed residents in the Ger District which correlates to the higher number of elderly residents living in the area.

² Page 14, National Statistics Office, “Internal Migration in Mongolia”, 2000 Population and Housing Census; 2001 Micro Study on Internal Migration

Table 1.5 Resident population aged 15 and over by residence and marital status, 2000

	Mongolia		Darkhan Soum		Ger District		Rest of City	
	# of people	%	# of people	%	# of people	%	# of people	%
Never married	505,067	33.1%	14158	32.5%	4,140	36.3%	10,018	31.2%
Married	768,329	50.4%	21365	49.1%	5,190	45.5%	16,175	50.4%
Living together	112,115	7.4%	3350	7.7%	785	6.9%	2,565	8.0%
Separated	17,821	1.2%	722	1.7%	170	1.5%	552	1.7%
Divorced	23,623	1.5%	1107	2.5%	242	2.1%	865	2.7%
Widowed	97,417	6.4%	2813	6.5%	869	7.6%	1,944	6.1%
Total	1,524,372	100.0%	43,515	100.0%	11,396	100.0%	32,119	100.0%

Source: National Statistics Office and Darkhan-Uul aimag Statistics Office

2 Employment & Economic Activities

2.1 Employment

Table 2.1 measures the number of people over the age of 15 by their economic activity status. The Census data defines “anyone who reported as having worked for more than one hour during the week prior to the census as working or ‘employed.’ Those who reported having not worked (for at least one hour) during the one-week reference period, but were looking for work were classified as ‘unemployed.’ Taken together, ‘employed’ plus ‘unemployed’ is termed the ‘labor force’ or the ‘economically active’ population. In addition, the information collected in the Census also allows us to identify ‘discouraged workers.’ This category includes those who reported that they were not working because no work was available. This category is not included in the labor force and or the unemployed. If this category was included as part of the unemployed, then the employment rate and labor force participation would be higher than those presented.”³

Comparing Darkhan soum’s economic activity status to the national statistics, shows that Darkhan has a higher unemployment rate and a higher percentage of discouraged workers. In Mongolia, 62% of the population over the age of 15 is economically active with an 11% unemployment rate. If you add discouraged workers in the population who are inactive due to the reported “no work available” category, the labor force increases to 68% with the unemployment rate increasing to 25%. In Darkhan soum, only 53% of the population is reportedly in the labor force with a 14% unemployment rate.

³ Page 4, National Statistics Office of Mongolia, Population and Housing Census 2000, Economic Activity: Analysis Based on the 2000 Census

Adding the population who are inactive due to the reported “no work available,” the labor force increases to 61% with the unemployment rate increasing to 36%.

Dividing the sum between Ger District and the rest of city reflects that the majority of unemployed and discouraged workers are located in Ger District. Only 47% of the Ger District population is reportedly in the labor force with 26% employed and 21% unemployed. Including the population who reported being inactive due to “no work available”, the labor force increases to 60% with the unemployment rate increasing to 56%. In the rest of the city, 55% of the population is reportedly in the labor force with 44% employed and 11% unemployed. If we add the population who are inactive due to “no work available,” the labor force increases to 62% with the unemployment rate increasing to 29%.

Table 2.1 Resident population aged 15 and over by economic activity status and by area, 2000

	Mongolia		Darkhan Soum		Ger District		Rest of City	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Employed population	779,151	51.1%	17,213	39.6%	3,000	26.3%	14,213	44.3%
Unemployed population	164,932	10.8%	5,861	13.5%	2,376	20.8%	3,485	10.9%
Total economically active population	944,083	61.9%	23,074	53.0%	5,376	47.1%	17,698	55.1%
<i>Inactive due to:</i>								
Studying	171,003	11.2%	7,217	16.6%	1,279	11.2%	5,938	18.5%
On pension/ retired	163,666	10.7%	4,188	9.6%	1,614	14.2%	2,574	8.0%
Disabled	36,912	2.4%	923	2.1%	243	2.1%	680	2.1%
Home duties	76,307	5.0%	3,121	7.2%	1,103	9.7%	2,018	6.3%
No work available	90,353	5.9%	3,674	8.4%	1,426	12.5%	2,248	7.0%
Other	42,048	2.8%	1,318	3.0%	362	3.2%	956	3.0%
Total economically inactive population	580,289	38.1%	20,441	47.0%	6,027	52.9%	14,414	44.9%
Total Population 15 years old and older	1,524,372	100.0%	43,515	100.0%	11,403	100.0%	32,112	100.0%

Source: National Statistics Office and Darkhan-Uul aimag Statistics Office

Examining the economically inactive population also reveals a number of interesting differences between the Ger District residents and the rest of the city. Corresponding to the age statistics, a high number of people on pension live in the Ger District compared to the rest of the city (14.2% of total population vs. 8%). A lower number of students live in the Ger District compared to the rest of the city (11.2% vs. 18.5%). The number of people who report “no work available” in the Ger District is almost double the number in the rest of the city (12.5% vs. 7%). A markedly higher number of Ger District residents also report they are economically inactive due to “home duties” (9.7% vs. 6.3%). Although the number of children in both parts of the city is comparable, this may be due to a number of reasons including the increased amount of work it takes to live in the Ger District (no indoor plumbing or heating), time required to care for elderly, or greater dependence on home subsistence activities, such as gardening or canning.

2.2 Economic Activities

Of the population that is considered economically active, there are some marked differences between the nation and the Darkhan soum. Most of these differences are due to the inclusion of the rural economy in the national statistics. For example, nationwide over 20% of the population works in the family business without salary compared to 2% in the Darkhan soum, this is due to the traditional family structure in the rural area working together for the benefit of the whole family. Also, nationwide only 34% are employees whereas in the Darkhan soum 52% of the labor force is employees, due to the high number of factories and infrastructure located in Darkhan.

Looking at the differences between the Ger District and the rest of the city reveals that employees are more likely to live in the rest of the city vs. the Ger District (56.7% vs. 38.3%) whereas Ger District residents are most likely to describe their economic activity status as looking for a job (44%). This statistic underlines the importance of the SEED Program and other programs that focus on this target group.

Table 2.2 Percentage Distribution of the economically active resident population aged 15 and over by residence and economic activity status, 2000

	Employee	Employer	Self employed	Member of cooperative	Working in family business without salary	Other	Looking for job	Total
Mongolia	34.0%	1.1%	25.8%	0.4%	20.9%	0.4%	17.5%	100.0%
Darkhan Soum	52.4%	2.3%	17.3%	0.4%	2.0%	0.2%	25.4%	100.0%
Ger District	38.3%	0.7%	14.7%	0.4%	1.7%	0.1%	44.2%	100.0%
Rest of City	56.7%	2.8%	18.0%	0.4%	2.0%	0.3%	19.7%	100.0%

Source: National Statistics Office and Darkhan-Uul aimag Statistics Office

2.3 Industry Sectors

Table 2.3 examines the industries in which the employed population works. It only looks at those people who are currently working. Nationwide, almost half of Mongolians work in the agricultural sector (47.2%). Conversely, only 3.7% of the employed population in Darkhan works in the agricultural sector.

Darkhan was established as an industrial city and the manufacturing sector continues to be the largest employer in the soum for both Ger District residents and the rest of the city. The manufacturing sector includes all production of food and beverages, textiles, steel, wood, paper, plastic, construction materials, chemicals, etc. Generally, manufacturing rather than services industry is a sign of a strong economy although with the transition that Mongolia continues to undergo, it is unclear how many of the private and state owned companies involved in manufacturing will survive. There are still 20 fully or partially state owned entities operating in the Darkhan aimag.

The Ger District and the rest of the city closely resemble one another in industry employment. The soum appears to be diversified with manufacturing, trade and education making up the three biggest sectors in the city. The biggest difference is in the agriculture, hunting and forestry sector with 7.3% of the Ger District residents working in this sector versus only 2.9% of the rest of the city. This 7.3% of the Ger residents most likely are the newer residents of the city—as shown in section 1.2 Growth and Migration, the first job of migrants is in agriculture. The education sector has the second largest variation (8% for the Ger District vs. 11.9% for the rest of the city).

Table 2.3 Employed Population aged 15 and over by Industry and Residence, 2000

	Mongolia		Darkhan Soum		Ger District		Rest of City	
	# of people	%	# of people	%	# of people	%	# of people	%
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	367,617	47.2%	633	3.7%	219	7.3%	414	2.9%
Mining and Quarrying	18,802	2.4%	483	2.8%	60	2.0%	423	3.0%
Manufacturing	56,587	7.3%	3,927	22.8%	813	27.1%	3,114	21.9%
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	15,940	2.0%	1,047	6.1%	170	5.7%	877	6.2%
Construction	13,734	1.8%	888	5.2%	181	6.0%	707	5.0%
Wholesale and Retail Trade	68,503	8.8%	3,053	17.7%	517	17.2%	2,543	17.9%
Hotel and Restaurant	11,079	1.4%	445	2.6%	89	3.0%	313	2.2%
Transport, Storage and Communications	42,111	5.4%	1,608	9.3%	210	7.0%	1,398	9.8%
Financial Intermediation	4,464	0.6%	129	0.7%	6	0.2%	123	0.9%
Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	10,215	1.3%	413	2.4%	40	1.3%	373	2.6%
Public Administration and Defense, Compulsory Social Security	59,611	7.7%	990	5.8%	193	6.4%	797	5.6%
Education	51,487	6.6%	1,932	11.2%	241	8.0%	1,691	11.9%
Health and Social Work	30,592	3.9%	846	4.9%	116	3.9%	730	5.1%
Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activity	17,912	2.3%	677	3.9%	129	4.3%	548	3.9%
Other	10,497	1.3%	142	0.8%	16	0.5%	126	0.9%
Total	779,151	100.0%	17,213	100.0%	3,000	100.0%	14,213	100.0%

Source: National Statistics Office and Darkhan-Uul aimag Statistics Office

In Mongolia as a whole, almost 50% of the people are skilled agricultural and fishery workers. In the Darkhan Soum there is a balance of workers across many occupations with the service workers, shop and market workers occupation employing over 20% of the employed population followed closely by craft and related workers and professionals.

The Ger District and rest of the city also show more balanced occupations than Mongolia overall. Although Ger District residents are more likely to work in as a skilled agricultural compared to the rest of the city (6.7% vs. 1.8%), the occupation is nowhere near as important as in the whole of Mongolia. The rest of the city residents work as professionals, service workers and shop, market sales worker and craft and related workers. Ger District residents work as service workers and shop, market sales workers, craft and related workers and unskilled workers. This demonstrates that Ger Residents are much more likely to work as street vendors and in other unskilled professions than residents located in the rest of the city.

Table 2.4. Distribution of employed population aged 15 and over by occupation and residence, 2000

	Mongolia		Darkhan Soum		Ger District		Rest of City	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Legislator, Senior Officials and Managers	38,500	4.9%	1,239	7.2%	56	1.9%	1,183	8.3%
Professionals	75,000	9.6%	3,001	17.4%	217	7.2%	2,784	19.6%
Technicians and associate professionals	35,600	4.6%	883	5.1%	122	4.1%	761	5.4%
Clerks	16,600	2.1%	221	1.3%	25	0.8%	196	1.4%
Service workers and shop, market sales workers ⁴	69,200	8.9%	3,617	21.0%	554	18.5%	3,063	21.6%
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	360,000	46.2%	454	2.6%	202	6.7%	252	1.8%
Craft and related workers ⁵	64,500	8.3%	3,251	18.9%	687	22.9%	2,564	18.0%
Plant and machine operators and assemblers ⁶	51,800	6.6%	2,274	13.2%	536	17.9%	1,738	12.2%
Unskilled workers and not stated occupations ⁷	67,900	8.7%	2,273	13.2%	601	20.0%	1,672	11.8%
Total	779,100	100.0%	17,213	100.0%	3,000	100.0%	14,213	100.0%

Source: National Statistics Office and Darkhan-Uul aimag Statistics Office

3 Education

3.1 Literacy

Mongolian literacy is very high compared to international standards. As demonstrated in Table 4.1, nationwide the literacy rate is 97.6% of the resident population. In urban areas, including the Darkhan soum, literacy rates are higher reaching 99.1%. As expected, the Ger District has a lower literacy rate than the rest of the city. This could be due to the migration of rural residents into the Ger District, the higher number of elderly residents or the lack of educational opportunities for current Ger District residents.

⁴ Service workers, shop and market workers occupation includes those who sell goods or services from established storefronts

⁵ Crafts and related workers include bricklayers, roofers, carpenters, cement mixers, plumbers, electricians, painters, welders and ironworkers, home decorators, boot makers, light industrial machine operators and handicraft artisans

⁶ Plant and machine operators and assemblers include mining equipment operators, metal operator, glass and ceramic machinery operator, wood processing equipment operator, and chemical processors

⁷ Unskilled workers and not stated occupations include street vendors as well as guards, farm laborers, mining laborers, road cleaners, construction laborers, packaging laborers, truck loaders, and human transport services

Table 3.1 Resident population aged 15 and over by residence and literacy, 2000

	Literate		Illiterate		Total
	Number	%	Number	%	
Mongolia	1,490,361	97.8	34,011	2.2	1,524,372
Darkhan Soum	43,143	99.1	372	0.9	43,515
Ger District	11,225	98.5	171	1.5	11,396
Rest of City	31,918	99.4	201	0.6	32,119

Source: National Statistics Office and Darkhan-Uul aimag Statistics Office

3.2 Education

In examining table 4.2, definitions of educational levels are:

- Uneducated is anyone who did not complete their primary education
- Primary education refers to completing four years of schooling
- Grade 4-8 (basic education) refers to 8 years of schooling
- Grade 9-10 (secondary education) refers to 10 years of schooling
- Technical vocational education varies from 1 to 4 years depending on the level of education obtained and specificity of vocation.
- A diploma is acquired after 90 credit hours of high education
- High refers to a bachelors, masters or PhD.

Examining the educational level demonstrates that the Darkhan Soum residents are better educated than the average Mongolian. This is understandable as there are seven institutions of higher education located in Darkhan. However, Ger District residents more closely resemble the nation in terms of education. The differences between the Ger District and the rest of the city becomes pronounced at the highest levels (diploma and high) with per capita more than double the residents in the rest of the city receiving diplomas and more than four times as many residents of the rest of the city receiving a high degree.

Table 3.2 Resident population aged 7 and over by educational level and by residence, 2000

	Mongolia		Darkhan Soum		Ger District		Rest of City	
	# of people	%	# of people	%	# of people	%	# of people	%
Uneducated	398,631	19.7%	9,839	17.1%	2,736	18.2%	7,103	16.7%
Primary	432,168	21.2%	8,904	15.4%	2,915	19.4%	5,989	14.0%
Grade 4-8	463,191	22.9%	11,133	19.3%	4,259	28.3%	6,874	16.1%
Grade 9-10	386,253	19.1%	14,310	24.8%	3,109	20.7%	11,201	26.3%
Technical vocational	67,198	3.3%	2,924	5.1%	809	5.4%	2,115	5.0%
Diploma	139,455	6.9%	5,727	9.9%	873	5.8%	4,854	11.4%
High	140,178	6.9%	4,837	8.4%	340	2.3%	4,497	10.5%
Total	2,027,074	100.0%	57,675	100.0%	15,041	100.0%	42,633	100.0%

Source: National Statistics Office and Darkhan-Uul aimag Statistics Office

3.3 School Attendance

Nationwide, 47.8% of the 7 – 29 year old population is currently in school. In Mongolia, age 8 is the age of entry for primary school. As in the other educational measurements, the Darkhan Soum has 10% more of its youth in school (58.6%) although the Ger District population more closely resembles the national average at 48.6%. Again, the difference in educational attainment between Ger District residents and the rest of the city is profound (48.6% vs. 62.3%).

Table 3.3 Resident population aged 7-29 years old by school attendance and by residence, 2000

	Mongolia		Darkhan Soum		Ger District		Rest of City	
	# of people	%	# of people	%	# of people	%	# of people	%
Attending school	582,208	47.8%	19,929	58.6%	4,388	48.6%	15,541	62.3%
Not attending school	636,225	52.2%	14,064	41.4%	4,647	51.4%	9,417	37.7%
Total	1,218,433	100.0%	33,993	100.0%	9,035	100.0%	24,958	100.0%

Source: National Statistics Office and Darkhan-Uul aimag Statistics Office

4 Housing

Housing is fundamental to economic and social well-being. It can also be used as an indicator of “The 2000 census collected a limited range of information on household living arrangements and housing facilities. Conventional housing and traditional gers were treated separately, since it was felt that different kinds of data were required for each.”⁸

4.1 Type of living quarters

Housing type varies markedly in Mongolia. Nationwide 50.9% of Mongolians continue to live in gers. However, in Darkhan Soum, due to its urban infrastructure, only 10.1% live in gers and 68.2% live in apartments. Dividing the city between the Ger District and the rest of the city, Ger District residents tend to live in houses (60.9%) or gers (30.4%) while the rest of the city overwhelmingly lives in apartments (89.7%). As described further below, Ger District houses are quite humble, usually they consist of one or two room. Often, the houses are constructed of found materials. The high number of houses in the Ger District demonstrates that many people have settled in the District and have built conventional housing in addition or in place of their traditional ger.

⁸ Page 99, National Statistics Office, 2000 Population and Housing Census of Mongolia: The Main Results

Table 4.1 Household by residence and type of living quarters, 2000

	Mongolia		Darkhan Soum		Ger District		Rest of City	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
House	133,941	24.8%	3,000	19.6%	2,425	60.9%	575	5.1%
Apartment	119,031	22.0%	10,435	68.2%	276	6.9%	10,159	89.7%
Public Apartment	8,381	1.5%	165	1.1%	22	0.6%	143	1.3%
Other*	4,192	0.8%	160	1.0%	45	1.1%	115	1.0%
Ger	275,604	50.9%	1,545	10.1%	1,209	30.4%	336	3.0%
Total Households	541,149	100.0%	15,305	100.0%	3,981	100.0%	11,324	100.0%

* includes student dormitory and non-living quarters.

Source: National Statistics Office and Darkhan-Uul aimag Statistics Office

4.2 Conventional Housing

Conventional housing includes houses, apartments, public apartments, student dormitories, and non-living quarters. As detailed in Table 4, only 10% of Darkhan soum households live in gers, the rest of the households are considered conventional households whether in the Ger District or not.

From Table 4.2, 65% of Darkhan Soum residents live in houses with 2 rooms or more compared to 56.9% of Mongolia. However in the Ger District, only 30.6% of the population who live in conventional housing have a house with 2 rooms or more. This indicates the increased poor living conditions in the Ger District.

Table 4.2 Percentage distribution of households living in conventional housing, by number of rooms and residence, 2000

	By number of rooms			
	1	2	3+	Total
Mongolia	43.1%	37.7%	19.2%	100.0%
Darkhan Soum	34.6%	38.1%	27.2%	100.0%
Ger District	69.4%	23.9%	6.7%	100.0%
Rest of City	26.3%	41.5%	32.2%	100.0%

Source: National Statistics Office and Darkhan-Uul aimag Statistics Office

With the preponderance of apartments in the Darkhan soum, most households (75%) have hot and cold water pipes in their homes. However in the Ger District, where the conventional houses are almost entirely independent, only 4.3% of the households have hot and cold water pipes in their homes. Households in the Ger District rely on water from outside of their homes. 64% get their water from the municipal wells, 16% from hand wells and the remaining 6% from other sources such as rivers and streams. In the rest of the city where the apartments are located 92% of the households have hot and cold water pipes in their homes.

Table 4.3 Household living in conventional housing by source of water supply, 2000

	Hot and cold water	Only cold water	Municipal Well	Hand Well	Other	Total
Mongolia	39.8%	6.4%	32.6%	6.7%	14.5%	100.0%
Darkhan Soum	75.1%	5.4%	13.2%	3.4%	3.0%	100.0%
Ger District	4.3%	9.6%	64.3%	15.7%	6.0%	100.0%
Rest of City	91.9%	4.4%	1.0%	0.4%	2.3%	100.0%

Source: National Statistics Office and Darkhan-Uul aimag Statistics Office

With the Darkhan-Selenge Electric Network located in the Darkhan soum and 68% of the households living in apartments, it is apparent why 80% of the households in the soum have centralized heat. However, only 10% of the households in the Ger District are connected to this infrastructure. Therefore 89% of the Ger District conventional houses rely on other means to heat their houses. Generally, they use coal and wood. Many also use dung from animals.

Table 4.4 Percentage distribution of households living in conventional by type of heating and residence, 2000

	Centralized Heat	Non-Centralized	Other	Total
Mongolia	44.3%	12.3%	43.4%	100.00%
Darkhan Soum	80.1%	7.0%	12.9%	100%
Ger District	10.9%	32.8%	56.3%	100%
Rest of City	96.5%	0.9%	2.6%	100%

Source: National Statistics Office and Darkhan-Uul aimag Statistics Office

5 Conclusion

It is clear from the data that there are important differences between the residents of the Darkhan Soum and the Ger District in all four of the demographic areas examined. Interestingly, in many areas the Ger District statistics parallel Mongolia as a whole. The population and housing statistics are quite similar. In education, while Ger District residents tend to be less educated than others living in Darkhan Soum, they are better educated than Mongolians as a whole. These differences can be incorporated into the design of the SEED Program.

For example, the population statistics show that more Ger District residents are elderly. At the same time, recent immigrants, who are generally younger than 25 years old, tend to be moving to the Ger District. Therefore, the program, while available to all residents, can target both older residents as well as those under 25 year olds.

The employment and economic activities demonstrate that Ger District residents have higher unemployment and a higher percentage of discouraged workers than the Soum or Mongolia as a whole. This confirms the need for a program like Supporting Enterprises and Economic Development (SEED) that will address the high unemployment and discouraged workers living in the Ger District. Ger District. These statistics also demonstrate that of the Ger District residents that are currently employed the majority have relevant, diverse, workplace skills. It would be worthwhile to investigate any surveys or studies of Ger District residents who are not currently employed to ascertain what types of skills these residents have.

Bibliography

Lassiter, Greg, Herro, Margaret, Napoleoni, John, and Sommerville, Patrick "Darkhan Needs Assessment," USAID/CHF Support to Enterprises and Economic Development (SEED) Project, Darkhan, Mongolia, October 2002.

National Statistics Office, Mongolia National Census for 2000, National Statistics Office, Ulaanbaatar, 2000.

Population Teaching and Research Center at the National University of Mongolia, "Micro-Study of Internal Migration in Mongolia," Ulaanbaatar 2001.

Unpublished statistics, "Specific Data for Relating to the Bhags, Darkhan-Uul Aimag Governor's Statistics Office," Darkhan, 2002.