



Diaspora engagement mapping

MONGOLIA

Facts & figures

Terminology: Government documents use the phrases “Mongolian nationals living abroad” and “people of Mongolian origin”.

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Remittances



Remittances as a share of GDP: **2.22%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **527.69**

Data disclaimer

As diaspora definitions vary widely, we have chosen to use comparable data on emigration as a proxy. This does not include all who consider themselves diaspora and is not necessarily aligned with national definitions of diaspora. Emigration data comes from [UNDESA \(2024\)](#) and remittances from the [World Bank \(2024\)](#).

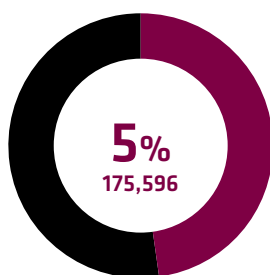
Emigration



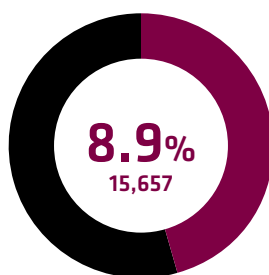
% of emigrants in total population



% of which in the EU



♂ 47.5%
♀ 52.5%



♂ 45.8%
♀ 54.2%

Top countries of destination



Kazakhstan	75,801
Republic of Korea	45,698
Japan	20,179
Australia	11,188
Sweden	6,866

¹ Law of Mongolia on Citizenship, 1995, <https://www.refworld.org/docid/4af7dec62.html>

² https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/e/c/583375_2.pdf

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2008** ● The **Action Plan of the Government for 2008-2012** seeks cooperation with foreign governments to ensure the rights of Mongolian nationals and their children residing abroad to receive education and live in a safe environment. It also aims to protect the legal interests of Mongolian nationals and legal persons abroad by creating a fund to assist Mongolian nationals and expand consular activities.
- 2016** ● The **Action Programme of the Government of Mongolia for 2016-2020** aims to implement targeted policies for increasing cultural tourism, promoting Mongolian national culture abroad and produce relevant products and services. As part of its foreign policy, it seeks to consistently uphold the interests of Mongolian citizens and economic entities abroad as well as improve the conditions for citizens to travel abroad. It also seeks to increase the budget and accessibility of the Fund of Assistance to Mongolian citizens abroad to protect the legitimate rights and interests of citizens living and studying abroad, provide legal assistance in case of violation of their rights and improve the accessibility and quality of citizens' registration, notary and consular services. The programme also looks into supporting Mongolian schools and kindergartens established abroad by delivering books and learning materials to associations initiated by Mongolian citizens. The programme further aims to create enabling conditions for Mongolian citizens studying abroad in specialised fields to contribute to the country's development from abroad by connecting them to research institutions, universities, institutes and laboratories in Mongolia.
- 2020** ● **Vision 2050** is Mongolia's long-term development policy vision aimed at transforming the country into a leading regional power by 2050. It sets nine core goals in human development, good governance, peaceful and safe society, green growth, shared values of the nation, life quality and middle class, regional development and people-centred cities. Mongolian nationals abroad are referenced for their role in strengthening the resilience of Mongolia's national values, disseminating its culture and raising its prestige and standing, initiatives for which are foreseen in the medium term, phase II 2031-2040.
- 2020** ● **Action Plan of the Government of Mongolia** comprises six sets of issues: successful overcoming of the economic and social challenges caused by the pandemic, ensuring human, economic and social development, improving environmental balance and governance, ensuring regional and local development and preserving continuity of the previous government policy.
- 2024** ● The **Resolution on Regulation for Providing Government Support to Mongolian Education and Lifelong Learning Institutions Operating Abroad** was approved by the Cabinet in May 2020. This resolution directs the Ministry of Education and Science to secure funding to support a total of 59 publicly led Mongolian language and culture centres operating in 16 countries, including Germany and Switzerland. Aligning with Mongolia's long- and medium-term national development objectives, it aims to enable Mongolian children living abroad to inherit and promote the Mongolian language, customs and heritage.



Practices

Explore 520+ practices by country, SDG or sector of engagement in the [interactive database!](#)



The Beehive Programme 2011

The Beehive Programme was implemented to encourage Mongolians living abroad to return to their native land. A Beehive conference³ was held in Berlin in 2011, attended by 150 Mongolians from 17 European nations, with presentations about the economic situation in Mongolia and the country's need for highly educated professionals. Information was shared about 600 job openings in Mongolia for skilled workers. The 2016-2020 action programme also mentioned a continued implementation of the Beehive Programme to encourage and provide support to young people who have studied, worked, or mastered new technology and skills abroad to work permanently in their home country.

Soyol School 2014

The school was founded in 2014 in Germany by members of the Deutsch-Mongolisches Tor in NRW e.V. 'Soyol' means culture in Mongolian, and the school aims to teach children and youth from the Mongolian diaspora in Germany the language and origins of Mongolian culture, as a defining part of their cultural identity. In the academic year of 2018-19, the school had four teachers and 29 students with Mongolian classes taking place on Saturdays twice a month.

Nadaam Festival (annual)

Every year, on the Anniversary of the People's Revolution National Festival, the Nadaam Festival is organised by the organisation "Austria-Linz Mongolchuud". The festival aims to promote Mongolia's traditional culture, arts, sports, customs, food and clothing to Mongolians and foreigners living in Austria and Europe. In 2019, the festival was held for the third time in Austria. The event consists of wrestling, archery, ankle archery, arm wrestling, tug of war, horseracing and an award ceremony for Mongolian leaders in arts and sports. The embassy of Mongolia in Austria attends the event and provides consular services and help during the event.

Returning Experts Programme 2004

Run by the Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM), the programme supports individuals from developing, emergent and transition countries who live and work in Germany - or have completed education or training there - to return to their home country to use their skills and knowledge. It enables diaspora experts to contribute to development back home by applying their knowledge, experiences and contacts in the right places. The programme aims to promote international migration as a positive factor in development and to encourage the transfer of knowledge through the professional integration of returning experts. Since 2004, the programme has assisted more than 10,000 persons with career planning, returning to their home countries and the search for appropriate positions there. There is also extra financial support for experts returning to a list of 23 countries, including Mongolia.

³ <https://mongolia.iom.int/resources/understanding-situation-mongolian-diaspora>

Leveraging the potential of the diaspora for the development of Mongolia 2023-2024

The Government of Mongolia is working with IOM to improve its understanding of diaspora engagement and its potential for national development. “An IOM rapid diaspora mapping, around 98% of the survey participants have expressed their interest in contributing to the development of Mongolia by exchanging and transferring their knowledge and experience, mobilising their networks and connections to support local businesses and investments and providing financial support”. The project is undertaking data collection, studying international good practices, and increasing engagement between the diaspora, government and Mongolian society through policies, consultations and forums. The project produced a Discussion paper: Understanding the situation of the Mongolian diaspora⁴ which clusters recommendations to the government into four groups: 1) Strengthening trust between government and diaspora, 2) Implementing diverse diaspora engagement programmes, 3) Adopting a strategy and/or policy to further engage and mobilize diaspora participation, and 4) Diversifying and intensifying future diaspora studies with strategic importance.

The project also developed a Diaspora Engagement Policy Baseline Study⁵, the results of which outlined best practices, diaspora engagement priority areas and recommendations for the Mongolian government and relevant stakeholders to develop a diaspora engagement policy. Key recommendations are: 1) to broaden the diaspora engagement strategy in more areas, including economy, technology and knowledge transfer; 2) to adopt a comprehensive diaspora policy to implement the above-mentioned strategies; 3) to establish a dedicated diaspora unit; and 4) to enhance diaspora members’ participation in development programme planning.

The Diaspora Open Forum 2024

Convened by IOM Mongolia, the Diaspora Open Forum is the first platform where the public and private institutions and diaspora communities engaged extensively in exchanges and discussions on the development potential of the diaspora. The agenda of the 2024 forum, held on 16 April 2024, included a report on research results of the Mongolian diaspora’s contribution to the public and private sectors, followed by an open panel discussion with all stakeholders.

>> Observations

The “Observations” and “Obstacles” sections contain additional information on the context of diaspora engagement that does not fit directly into the other sections. They are based on a combination of literature review and comments from the authors. New information is incorporated during the annual updates. Readers are invited to verify the relevance of the information at the time of reading, as the context may have evolved.

Mongolia has seen a steady growth in diaspora engagement initiatives since the government’s 2008 action plan. The current action plan covers more diaspora engagement-related strategies than the 2008 version, which shows that diaspora engagement has become an increasingly important goal for the Mongolian government. Whilst the government used to focus on protecting and assisting its citizens abroad, it now seeks to mobilise the resources of its diaspora to boost infrastructure as well as use their expertise for science and technology. The government has also emphasised the promotion of Mongolian culture abroad. Over the past years, the government has partnered with cultural groups abroad to host national events like

4 https://mongolia.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11611/files/documents/2024-01/understanding-the-situation-of-the-mongolian-diaspora_eng.pdf

5 <https://mongolia.iom.int/resources/diaspora-engagement-policy-baseline-study>

the Nadaam Festival through its embassies. Mongolian migrants are young, educated, skilled and in search of higher paying jobs and a better quality of life. Many go abroad to countries such as South Korea for higher education. There were more than 25,000 Mongolians studying abroad in 2019.⁶

Following the latest amendment of the Parliamentary Elections Law (PEL) and other related regulations in 2023, Mongolian nationals living abroad were able to participate in the 2024 Mongolian parliamentary election. Also, the Mongolian General Election Committee appointed a dedicated technical working group to promote and facilitate diaspora participation during this election. As a result, several new systems were adopted to accommodate diaspora voting, including an online registration portal. By registering online, the diaspora only had to travel once to the designated voting locations in their countries of residence to cast their votes. Previously, they had to go to the consulates or embassies twice to register first. According to IOM Mongolia, 9,760 out of the registered 13,095 Mongolian citizens abroad cast their ballots at the 47 diplomatic missions of Mongolia in 34 countries.⁷

Under the IOM Development Fund project “Leveraging the Potential of Diaspora for the Development of Mongolia,” a Diaspora Engagement Policy Baseline Study was conducted to assess Mongolia’s diaspora landscape and provide recommendations for developing a national diaspora engagement policy and institutional framework.

Obstacles



- **Lack of dedicated institutions:** While the government has mentioned the diaspora in their action plan, there is no separate ministry or institution established to implement diaspora engagement objectives. This could hinder the implementation of some of their strategies.
- **Lack of public infrastructure:** Infrastructure challenges have been cited as a concern by members of the diaspora considering return. For example, 25 doctors who expressed interest in returning to Mongolia during the Beehive Conference shared that they hesitated because of challenges such as finding schools for their children and getting long-term work contracts.

6 <https://monitor.icef.com/2019/09/mongolian-outbound-higher-than-estimated-most-of-it-going-to-asian-powerhouses/#:~:text=There-fore%2C%20on%20a%20macro%20level,abroad%20today%2C%20mostly%20in%20Asia.>

7 <https://mongolia.iom.int/news/iom-mongolia-advocated-voting-rights-mongolian-diaspora>

Annex:

List of Actors

Explore the institutionalisation of diaspora engagement worldwide via the [typology of 520+ institutions](#)

Diaspora related institutions



- **At regional level**

International Organisation of Migration 2008

Mongolia joined IOM as a member in 2008. In 2011, IOM opened an office in Ulaanbaatar and has been contributing to the efforts of the government to manage migration effectively. It has implemented programmes such as the AVRRI to help reintegrate the diaspora back to society.

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

Ministry of Finance

The Ministry of Finance manages the Fund of Assistance to Mongolian citizens living abroad. It aims to cover the cost for incidents related to Mongolians whose rights have been violated or have lost their lives or are victims or perpetrators of crimes abroad. The Fund of Assistance to Mongolian citizens living abroad provided financial support equalled to MNT 1.3 billion (almost 400,000 EUR) for the years 2009- 2017.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mongolia's MFA leads work with international actors on migration affairs, provides consular services to its citizens abroad and is, as of 2023, collaborating with IOM on a project to leverage the potential of the diaspora for development (see spotlight). It also has a directory of over 120 Mongolian associations and NGOs abroad.

Diaspora organisations in Europe

Read more about diaspora organisations in "[Starting guide: What is a diaspora organisation](#)"

Association for the Development of Mongolian Women in Europe (ADMWE) 2011 United Kingdom

- ☑ **Integration activities**

Established to facilitate Mongolian women's networking and development in Europe. It aims to unite women of different professions and background to provide opportunities to network and develop business and social connections.

Deutch-Mongolisches Tor in NRW e.V. 2012 Germany

- ☑ **Integration activities**

With over 50 club members, the association aims to improve the lives of Mongolians in Germany. The association supports various integration projects and measures in Dusseldorf. It also holds cultural events and traditional national festivals.

Freunde Der Mongolei eV 1996 Germany

- ☑ **Development activities**
- ☑ **Integration activities**

This non-profit organisation in Munich, Germany aims to promote international understanding and cultural exchange with Mongolia. It supports development aid projects in Mongolia, especially in the environmental and educational sectors, and with helping children. It supports cultural exchange between the two countries by making Mongolian traditions in Germany known through cultural events and celebrations. The organisation also aims to build connections between Germany and Mongolia in the fields of culture, science and development assistance.

German-Mongolian Association Gobi e.V. 2009 Germany,

- ☑ **Development activities**
- ☑ **Integration activities**

The association in Halle/Saale promotes knowledge of Germany and Mongolia and the cultural exchanges between them. It organises information and cultural events and aims to support humanitarian aid campaigns. For instance, it has held fundraising campaigns for socially disadvantaged children at schools in Mongolia. It is financed through membership fees and sponsors.

MAS Berlin e.V. 2016 Germany

- ☑ **Integration activities**

The student association based in Berlin helps Mongolian students from Mongolia and based in other German cities to travel to Berlin for professional development. The academic association was founded by and for trainees and students of Mongolian origin in and around Berlin. It aims to pass the Mongolian language and culture on to Mongolian children, pupils and students born and raised in Berlin. Through their projects, it aims to contribute to cultural, educational and social exchanges between Germany and Mongolia.

Mongolistik Berlin 2014 Germany

- ☑ **Integration activities**

Mongolistik Berlin aims to provide cultural and scientific exchange of information between Mongolia and Germany. It posts about recent happenings on politics, society and culture in Mongolia and Germany on their Facebook page. It also provides information on events happening in Berlin that are connected to Mongolia and the Mongolian community there.

Soil Society - Swedish Mongolian Culture Association 2003 Sweden

- ☑ **Integration activities**

A non-governmental organisation that functions as a platform for artistic collaborations between Sweden and Mongolia. The organisation's board and members are based in Sweden and Mongolia.

World Mongol Federation, Global 2021

Development projects

Established at the initiative of Mongols around the world, WMF is an international federation of Mongol nationals with a view to creating a favourable legal and operational environment that promotes Mongolian solidarity. Its mission is five-part: 1) Respect the unity of Mongolians, human rights, freedom and common interests of the Mongols; 2) Protection and dissemination of Mongolian pride, Mongol language, script and culture; 3) To be a heirloom of Mongolian diligence, a home of peace, and to raise high the name of Mongol; 4) Contribute to the development and prosperity of Mongolia, and worldwide Mongolians; 5) To strengthen mutual understanding of Mongolians and expand international cooperation.

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