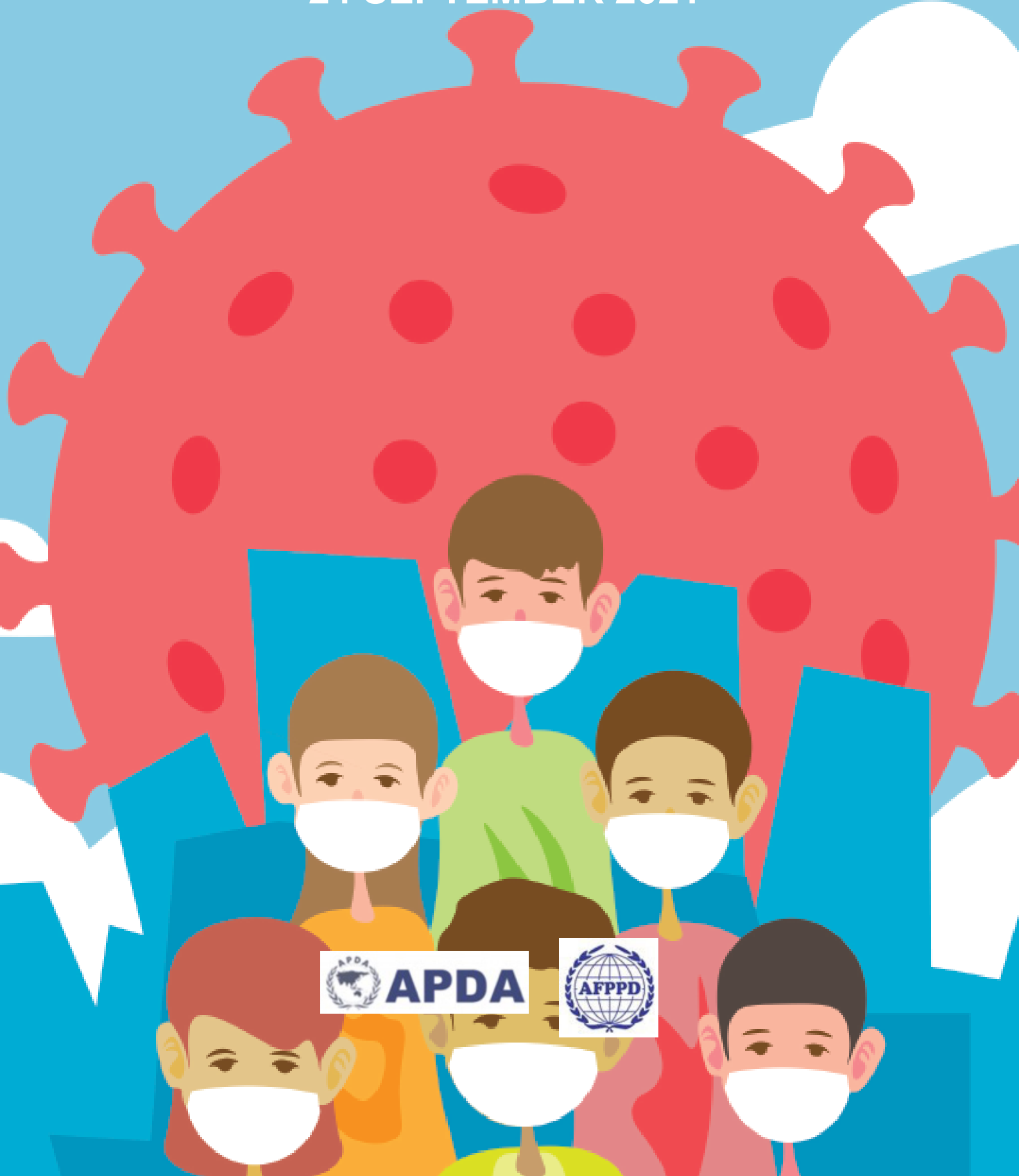


# ONLINE SEMINAR ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON YOUTH

24 SEPTEMBER 2021





# Online Seminar on the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Youth

12:00 - 13:40 (Tokyo time)

24 September (Friday) 2021

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## Welcoming remarks

### **Prof. Kiyoko Ikegami, Interim Executive Director, AFPPD**

Prof. Ikegami welcomed the participants to the seminar. She noted that while the young population is every nation's future, they remain vulnerable due to various factors, which sometimes affect their ability to plan their own life. With this as the backdrop of the seminar, she encouraged the participants to join in the ensuing discussion after the presentations.

## Opening addresses

### **Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi, MP, Japan, Chair of AFPPD**

Hon. Takemi, through a video message, acknowledged the participants and speakers, and wished everyone's safety against COVID19.

As AFPPD Chair, he underscored that youth engagement was adopted at the AFPPD General Assembly as one of the organization's three strategic pillars for 2021-2025.

He noted that COVID-19 had created an "inequality pandemic", with rising disparities in and between countries. Youth were often the heroes of the pandemic working in health care and essential services. He recalled a success story in India where an AFPPD-member MP initiated a youth-led social activity where more than 500 youth volunteers established a telephone consultation/counselling system on COVID-19. These youth helped the Health Ministry coordinate medical service providers and bridging them with the patients by utilizing unified data-based information on available beds in medical facilities. This youth-led volunteerism resulted in saving the lives of over 10,000 patients, 700 of whom were serious cases.

AFPPD Chair, Hon. Keizo Takemi, shares his hope for AFPPD members to be able to share good practices highlighting youth participation in social activities to serve as inspiration for possible adoption by other countries.

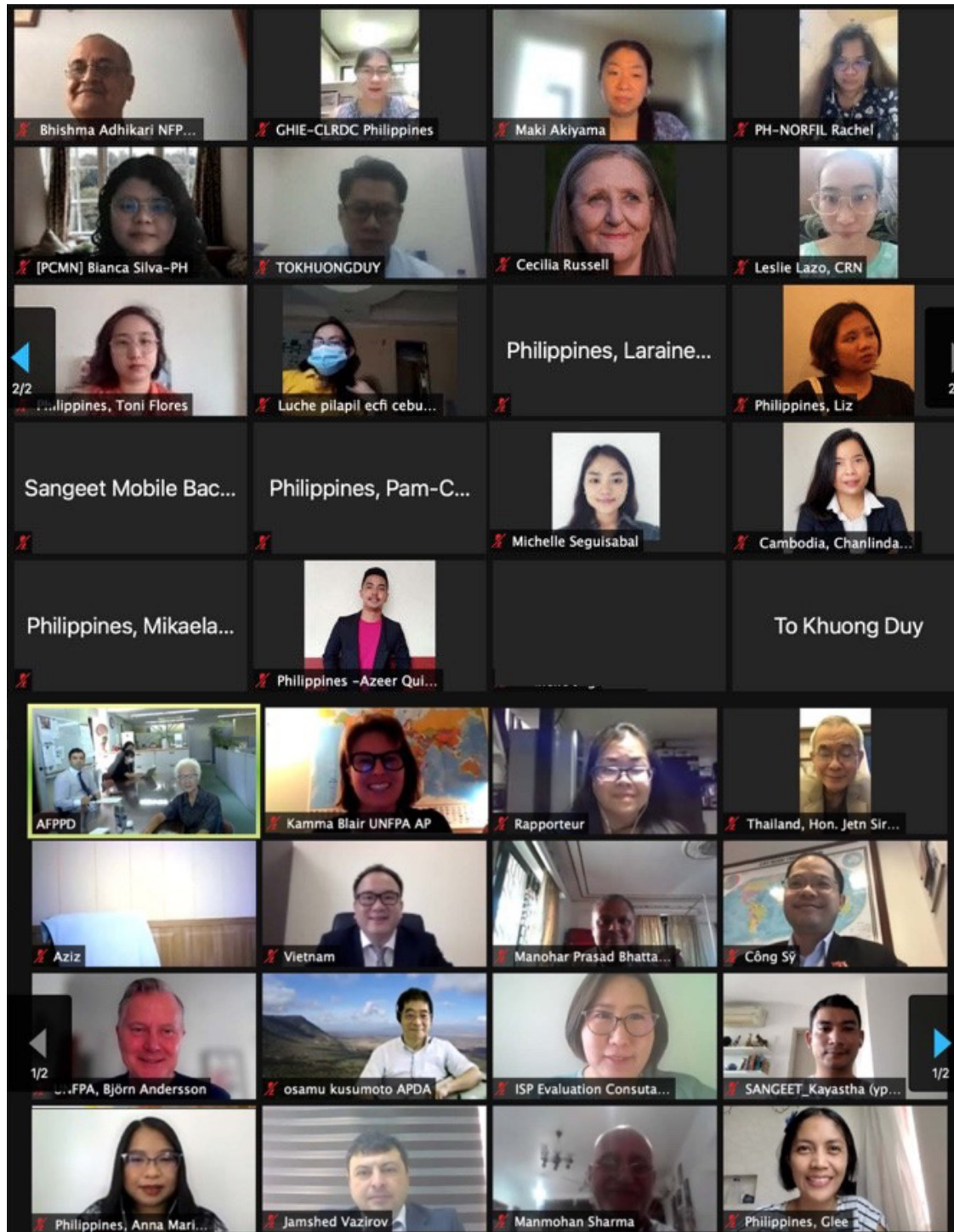
### **Mr. Björn Andersson, Regional Director, UNFPA APRO**

Mr. Andersson recognized the positive role of young people in COVID-19 response in their communities through their innovative approaches that inspire social progress and drive political change. However, he raises concern about young people focus on supporting their families during the pandemic, some of them get left behind. He emphasized that as inequalities are exacerbated by the current health crisis, young people who were already vulnerable are particularly badly impacted. In order to address this, UNFPA stepped-up its efforts in Asia and the Pacific, which included essential information and services for sexual and reproductive health. It also worked with youth networks to develop online portal for COVID-19 support, including on sexual and reproductive health, family planning and HIV services in more than 20 countries in the region.

UNFPA developed helplines for gender-based violence, and mental health counselling. It sustained its support to humanitarian actors and youth-led organizations. UNFPA and youth-led organizations developed Youth Against COVID-19 campaign that aims to teach people worldwide about COVID-19 and what they can do to keep their friends, families, and communities safe. Mr. Andersson said these were a few examples of how the organisation could drive change.



## GROUP PHOTO

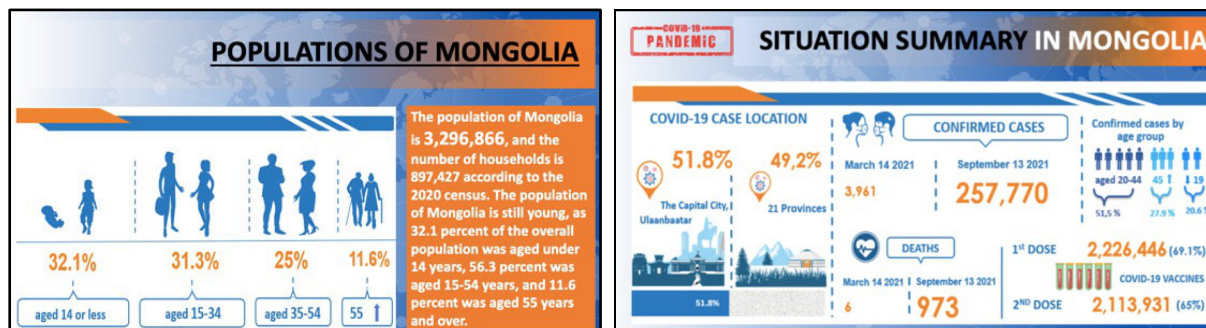




## PART 1

### Situation of Youth in Asia and the Pacific Region under COVID-19: Overview, Online Schooling, Unemployment, Political participation

Ms. Nandinchimeg Magsar, Mongolia



Ms. Magsar said the Mongolian Government introduced a range of legislation and a comprehensive response plan worth 10 million MNT for economic recovery and health protection during the COVID-19 pandemic.

People in Mongolia are aware of prevention strategies, and a survey showed most people are aware of the benefits of handwashing, wearing masks and avoiding large gatherings. While youth spent quality time with family and on self-development activities, there were downsides. Access to health services was disrupted during lockdowns. The results of a survey showed that during the lockdown, 23% of adolescents had insomnia, 28% had depressive symptoms and 23% anxiety.

From February 3, 2020, all levels of education shifted to non-classroom training such as TV lessons and online learning. This became a challenge as only three out of five students could attend their TV lessons regularly, and 15% could not participate in their lessons for various reasons, including a lack of TV or internet.

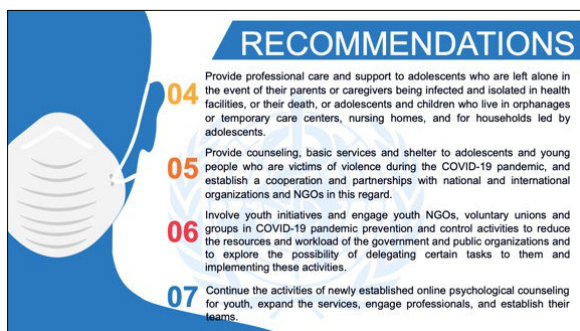
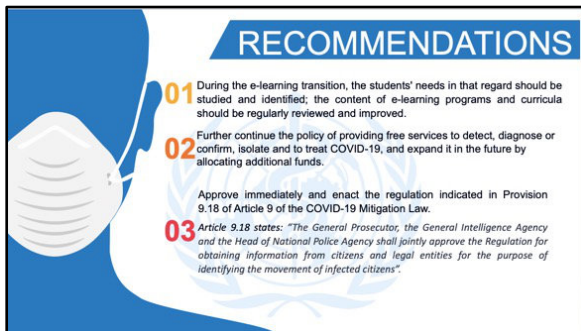
In total, 170 TV lessons for all subjects from Grade 1 to 12 were prepared, and 4,800 hours of TV sessions with sign language were broadcast. UN agencies supported access to youth-friendly health services and information through e-counselling during lockdowns, including sexual and reproductive health, family planning, and mental help.

In partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science, the UNFPA Mongolia supported the development of engaging and interactive health education with 14 modules produced.

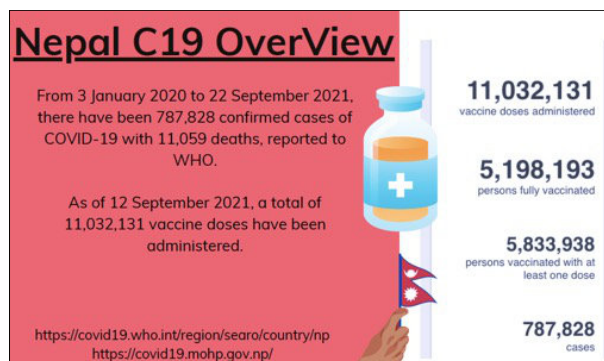
Economic recovery loans of about USD 700 were offered to small and medium enterprises, and additional funding USD175 million was allocated to implement an employment programme targeted at the youth, including professional skills training.

Ms. Magsar recommended young people be provided with counselling and shelters for those victims of violence. Online counselling should be expanded.





## Mr. Sangeet Kayastha, Nepal



Before COVID-19, Nepal was a progressive country because it had a youth policy, and its constitution also recognised the rights of the LGBTQ community.

However, when a high-level committee under the Prime Minister was set up to manage COVID-19, young people were not represented, nor were there key focus areas for them. Nevertheless, the Government and the World Bank jointly launched a project to promote youth employment.

When the pandemic hit, a significant number of Nepali migrants lost their jobs, and many had been forced to either go on unpaid leave or return home before their contracts were over. It is estimated that 20% of Nepalese abroad are at-risk of being unemployed, or have not received their wages and other benefits and are deprived of access to basic services, including health facilities. The Government promoted the repatriation of migrant workers but at their own cost.

Schools and colleges closed in March 2020, and the Government of Nepal requested educational institutions to subsidise academic fees. The University Grants Commission provided funding for online classes to universities. Online classes were started, but primarily private schools and colleges implemented this. The government educational institutions were slow to implement relevant policies and exact plans in this respect remain unclear.

To help ease the burden of communication, the Government asked Internet service providers to extend discount on customers' voice and data packages. It is recommended that there should be tax relief, and there should be a reduction in internet costs.



In terms of political participation, the COVID-19 lockdowns effectively put a stop to opportunities for involvement.

While women and children were seen as key beneficiaries, youth were not, leaving them behind.

The Government established COVID-19 helplines and youth participation picked-up. They were involved at the local Government and municipality level in raising awareness on COVID-19 and vaccination programme.

<p><b>Overall Findings and Recommendation</b></p> <p><b>International and Domestic Migration:</b></p> <p>In The effort to bring back migrant workers from foreign countries were limited and very slow. The Government should utilize the funds which were collected from migrant workers as migrant worker welfare funds to bring back the migrant workers who are still stuck in other countries, as well as utilize the funds to provide support for their rehabilitation within the country as a majority of migrant workers and returnee migrant workers are young people. Similarly, the government should maintain proper data on internal migration to provide key support in future pandemic and humanitarian contexts.</p> <p><b>Emergency Response and Relief:</b></p> <p>Emergency relief was very slow and limited in all parts of the country. Mainly in the rural communities, the response was limited. Young people were not prioritized as the realization of their needs was limited. Adding to that, shelters for migrant workers or people affected by COVID-19 were limited and not enough in number. Thus, preparedness should be done in advance using proper data.</p> <p>19</p>	<p><b>Overall Findings and Recommendation</b></p> <p><b>Information Sharing :</b></p> <p>The sharing of information mostly focused on safety measures for COVID-19 and counting the number of people infected and killed by COVID-19. Other information such as how to be mentally healthy during the pandemic or how to get relief was very limited. The Government should better prioritize information sharing and uniformity among all sectors.</p> <p><b>Communication and Internet:</b></p> <p>The tax of more than 23% on internet and telephones was also a barrier and it affected online education and the sharing and receiving of information. Thus, the government as well as the private sector should reduce the taxes and fees during such conditions as movement of people was limited during lockdown and communication was the only method for education and information sharing. (students package were promoted later with complex process)</p> <p>20</p>
<p><b>Overall Findings and Recommendation</b></p> <p><b>Education:</b></p> <p>The COVID-19 Pandemic showed the differences between the private and government sectors. Through everyone, including adolescents and youth, were affected, adolescents and young people who were admitted to government and community-run educational institutions were much more affected in comparison to private sector education. Thus, steps should be taken by the government to reduce the differences between the education sectors. Many educational institutions did not follow government directives to reduce or not take the fees. Thus, strong action is required by the government and a proper class timeline should be imposed.</p> <p><b>Health</b></p> <p>The COVID-19 Pandemic showed the lack in the health system and how we the focus was only given much to Covid19. The policy and system to keep other services open. More adolescents and young people were not kept in priority which need to be kept as a priority especially in country such as Nepal. Youth Friendly Services should be kept as priority.</p>	<p><b>Overall Findings and Recommendation</b></p> <p><b>Employment</b></p> <p><b>Tax Reduction</b></p> <p><b>Proper Research</b></p> <p><b>Local Loan</b></p> <p><b>Migration Support</b></p> <p><b>Others</b></p>



## Ms. Anna Marie Alhambra, Philippines



On March 16, 2020, the Philippines was placed under "community quarantine".

The effect of the pandemic on the youth (15-24 years old) is glaring:

- difficulty in accessing health services
- mental health challenges while trapped inside their homes
- loss of jobs
- closure of schools and universities and abrupt shift to distance learning

Two key legislations: Bayanihan To Heal as One Act (Bayanihan 1) and Bayanihan to Recover as One Act (Bayanihan 2)

- Bayanihan 1 declared a state of national emergency over the entire country and start of the Social Amelioration Program (SAP)
- Bayanihan 2 allocated budget to reduce the adverse impact of COVID-19 and to mitigate the economic costs and losses

Ms. Alhambra said that a state of National Emergency was declared in March 2020, and the Government started a programme where about 18 million low-income families in the country received subsidies. Budget was also allocated to ameliorate the economic costs and losses of Filipinos due to the pandemic.

Ms. Alhambra said that pre-pandemic, there was a high functional literacy rate for both males and females, and the unemployment rate for youth was decreasing. However, high adolescent birth rate was already a challenge and the school closures exacerbated the situation. Cases teenage pregnancy increased, a study by the Philippine Commission on Population and Development found. This is also attributed to the lack of access to sexual and reproductive health services and information. Moreover, another study showed that girls fear that they will not return to school after the pandemic.

Since the pandemic started, youth unemployment rate began to increase. It was 14.7% in July 2019 and was 22.4% in July 2020. This means that 1.7 million Filipino youth are unemployed. During the lockdown, youth working in wholesale, retail, food service, construction, transportation, and storage were most affected because everyone was asked to stay at home. Highly disturbing is that there is still a 14% reduction in working hours, which means less income and less economic activity for the youth. While there were programmes for formal and informal workers and Filipinos working abroad, there were no specific support programmes for the youth. There were, however, guidelines of the Department of Labour and employment on alternative work arrangements to prevent the youth from being laid off.

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted education, and schools remained closed. As of September 2021, the Philippines is one of the only two countries globally without face-to-face classes. The other is Venezuela. Despite the mix method of distance learning – synchronous and



asynchronous - the Department of Education's data from October 2020 to January 2021 shows that there was still high enrolment, and it actually increased by 6% from last year to early this year. Distance learning involves the use of gadgets, and according to a survey, the lack of access to these gadgets was the main reason why some students could not enrol in their schools. A survey conducted by UNICEF indicated that parents observed that children learnt a little less with online learning compared with face-to-face classes. Even apprenticeships and internships were displaced, affecting the youth.

The Government provided some assistance to students in crisis by giving subsidies and allowances for children of the poorest of the poor, and some budget for digital education, infrastructure, and to support alternative learning modalities were allocated.

Looking at political participation pre-pandemic, the youth were highly involved in the informal political sphere, including activism and protests; but the lockdowns affected this. Nevertheless, because of the youth's advanced knowledge and skills in navigating new technologies and social media platforms, Filipino youth were able to initiate their projects – including mobilising when there was a shortage of personal protective equipment for frontline workers in hospitals.

Youth-led organisations also initiated other events, including online webinars, to process feelings and anxieties and share credible information on COVID-19 online to counter misinformation.

**COVID-19 pandemic has posed new challenges to the youth**

Two key legislations: **Bayanihan 1** and **Bayanihan 2**

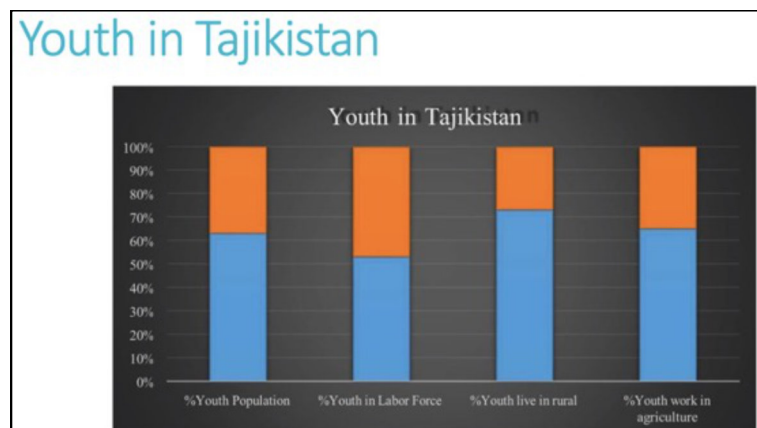
 <p><b>Education</b></p> <p>Social Amelioration Program and budget suggests that there is some assistance targeted to the youth</p> <p>Guidelines on the safe reopening of schools is essential</p>	 <p><b>Employment</b></p> <p>With the increase in youth unemployment rate and the work-from-home setup, additional budget for displaced workers may address unemployment and policies on the alternative work arrangements are necessary</p>	 <p><b>Political Participation</b></p> <p>As some laws on youth are still under deliberations, such as the Adolescent Prevention Bill and bill to establish a local Population and Development Office, consultations with the youth can still be conducted with the initiative of the parliamentarians and other stakeholders</p>
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**COVID-19 pandemic has posed new challenges to the youth**

- ▷ The country can still reap the benefits of the demographic dividend because of the huge share of young population. This is an opportunity to accelerate economic development.
- ▷ The Philippines must accelerate investment in education, health, employment, and in empowering the youth.



## Dr. Vazirov Jamshed, Tajikistan



Dr. Vazirov's methodology included a desk survey and interviews with members of parliament, representatives of the UN Office in Tajikistan, especially the UNFPA, the Committee of Youth and Sports – a key government institution responsible for youth policy and youth, promotion, and development.

Youth constitutes over two-thirds of the population, and the country has a high literacy rate of nearly 100% to 99.8%.

The economy is predominantly agriculturally driven and employs about 65% of youth of working age. However, due to the low employment opportunities, the majority of Tajikistan's population sought employment abroad, mainly in the Russian Federation and other countries where they can find jobs.

Despite strong efforts to improve the lives of youth, the COVID-19 situation had adverse effects. The Republic of Tajikistan was a pioneer in developing a strategy for youth development. A new strategic document for youth for the next five to 10 years is under consideration. Sadly, COVID-19 became a major threat to the country's education system. The country was not ready to switch to online education, and doing so was a major challenge.

Another challenge was poor internet infrastructure. The cost of internet is very steep. As a matter of fact, they have the most expensive internet connection, not only in the region but in the world, considering per capita income. Thus, most of the population was not connected.

There was support from international organisations such as the Asian Development Bank, which provided a grant of US\$20 million for the youth, women, and migrant labourers in June 2020 to improve their skills. The Japan Fund for Information and Communication likewise provided a grant of US\$1.5 million for information and communication.

Some labour migrants lost their jobs. In 2019, remittances from migrant workers accounted for 30% of the GDP, but by 2021 this had declined by half. Almost every family in Tajikistan was affected by this loss of income.

Youth were engaged in micro, small and medium enterprises and small businesses and they were the most affected by the pandemic. A survey showed that the slump hit 63.1% of small and medium-sized enterprises, and many had to close. About 85% have recorded a decrease in sales volume, and up to 25% had to temporarily suspend their activities.



Nevertheless, the pandemic created new business opportunities. Many youths became engaged in delivery services and home-based care, selling and sewing original reusable masks and other online services.

The Government took unprecedented measures to fight COVID and established an anti-COVID operational headquarters under the Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan.

In terms of support, the Government provided some economic aid to the vulnerable, and there was some easing of taxes and interest rates.

Youth volunteer groups were established and engaged by both Government and NGOs. They raised awareness on preventative strategies, food distribution to vulnerable families and operating hotlines for those affected by COVID-19, including emotional or psychological support.

Dr. Jamshed said the pandemic unveiled the country's shortcomings and unpreparedness. It was hoped that the next round of strategic documents would reflect on the findings and lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Conclusion

The Covid-19 pandemic had an amplified effect on the socio-economic condition of Tajikistan

Youth were affected due to the lack of employment opportunities and possibilities for online education during the lockdown

Women headed households, disabled people, elderly people were in high risk zones during the pandemic

The Government support was there complemented with voluntary movements of youth

The country still needs support to overcome the consequences of the pandemic, especially to protect the youth and the vulnerable segments of the population



## PART 2:

### Q & A and Discussion

**Moderated by Dr. Farrukh Usmonov, APDA Japan**

*Questions and comments were invited from the floor.*

**Mr. Manmohan Sharma, Executive Secretary of IAPPD, India,** noted that the problems raised by all the speakers are common elsewhere. He added that the COVID-19 pandemic was becoming endemic and would last longer than expected. He suggested that experts like AFPPD and APDA keep this subject on the agenda in the longer term.

The participant from Vietnam wanted to know whether the COVID laws in Mongolia on innovation had specific regulations or articles.

**Hon. Jetn Sirathranont, MP, Thailand and AFPPD Secretary General,** asked Mr Kayastha whether the laws relating to youth organisation could mitigate COVID-19 in Nepal. He also wanted to know how the final examinations were managed.

He also asked Dr Vazirov to respond to his comments about the impact of online learning because he noted that children don't only go to school to learn but also make friends and learn to manage emotions. Could he give his opinion on the ongoing pandemic and the disruption of schooling?

**Dr. Osamu Kusumoto, Secretary-General, Executive Director, AFPPD,** wanted to know from the consultants how to prioritise these issues into a country's policy.

#### *Responses from the consultants:*

**Ms. Alhambra (Philippines)** responded that parliamentarians need to consult the youth on critical national issues and concerns. The youth can articulate which issues should be prioritised amidst many competing priorities.

**Mr. Kayastha (Nepal)** said policy wasn't sufficient. They established a National Council in Nepal, which could get involved in different departments to manage the disease. This council included a broad group of people, including political parties.

Regarding exams, Nepal also did not have a broad reach of technology, so exams were delayed and written at times when there were low incidences of the pandemic.

Regarding online education, the health ministry in Bhutan published online guidelines not to replicate or overthrow the old system but to help young people learn about sexual and reproductive health or gender-based violence.

**Dr. Vazirov (Tajikistan)** said the pandemic unveiled weaknesses in policies and his country's approaches to crises. Tajikistan has a national development strategy until 2030, but, in his view, it was time to reconsider the practices – not only for education but for all sectors in the country which need to work in a coordinated fashion.



He agrees with the comment that the pandemic is becoming endemic, however, a crisis situation in one country can affect the situation of other countries.

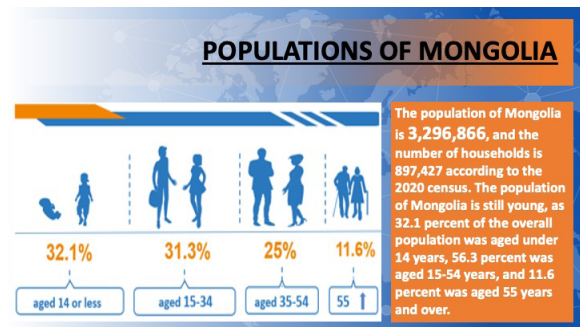
**Ms.Magsar (Mongolia)** enacted a COVIDmitigation law last year. In terms of education, there were regulations to reduce the tuition prices and dormitory fees, or postpone charging for the tuition. There is also a need to regulate and monitor online and TV education.

The COVID mitigation plan provided support for the youth by giving training and providing lower mortgage rates for the youth. Small and medium enterprise owners and service providers benefitted from lower interest rates.

All the presentations can be accessed in the AFPPD and APDA websites.

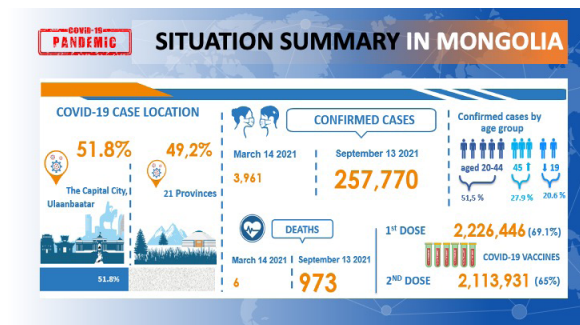


## Presentation: Ms. Nandinchimeg Magsar <Mongolia>



### LEGISLATION AND POLICY REFORMS DURING THE PANDEMIC

- ❑ A new Law on combating COVID-19 was adopted and enacted.
- ❑ Enhanced (heightened) level readiness and public emergency readiness regimes are being enforced.
- ❑ Government of Mongolia has introduced to the implementation of the comprehensive response plan worth 10 trillion MNT for economic recovery and health protection during COVID-19 situation.
  - Two trillion MNT loan for small and medium enterprise (SME) owners and service providers with an annual interest rate of 3% and a three-year term.
  - 500 billion MNT to provide 5000 youth with training programs, including acquiring professional skills, health education, and active life habits; the participants in this program will receive a one Million MNT scholarship.
  - Three trillion MNT will be allocated for the project "Youth I, II and III" in which districts will be built in Ulaanbaatar at the first stage, including land acquisition, construction of unified design apartments, and the offering of soft mortgages loans.



### COVID-19 IMPACT ON YOUTH HEALTH

**HEALTH IMPACTS**

THE MAJORITY OR 51.8% OF THE INFECTED WERE AGED 22-44

1 in 3 person who manifested hospitalized treatment did not receive health care

**IMPACTS**

- Insomnia 23%
- Depression 28%
- Anxiety 23%

- ❑ According to a survey (Mongolia COVID-19 household response phone survey 2020), almost everyone knows and follows measures to prevent infection, such as washing hands (94%), wearing face masks (93%), avoiding handshakes (97%), and avoiding public gatherings and events (96%).
- ❑ Access to health services was disrupted during the Public Emergency Readiness regime or lockdown.
- ❑ 23 percent of adolescents reported insomnia, 28 percent reported depressive symptoms, and 23 percent reported anxiety.
- ❑ Adolescents' social needs are paramount; thus, their inability to spend quality time with friends and peers have led to stress, depression, and poor communication skills.

### KEY MEASURES

- The Ministry of Health is organizing a "COVID-19 situation" press conference every day, and providing the latest information to the public on a regular basis.
- As of 2 September 2021, a total of 4,429,335 vaccine doses have been administered.
- Adolescent clinics provided online counselling on issues related to sexual and reproductive health, family planning and mental health to young people.
- The Authority for Family, Child, and Youth Development launched two new hotlines with professional counselling to address the psychological and mental issues faced by children and youth and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic related measures on their daily life.

### COVID-19 IMPACT ON YOUTH EDUCATION

**EDUCATION IMPACTS**

ACCESS TO ALL LEVELS OF EDUCATION IS DISRUPTED

174,000 STUDENTS CANNOT ACCESS TECH & LEARNING

MORE TIME FOR SELF-DEVELOPMENT

**STUDENT'S CONDITION**

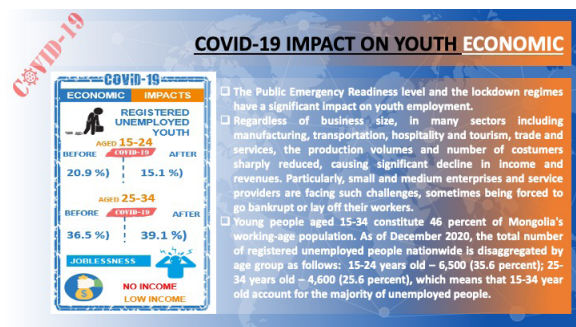
HIGH TECH LOW TECH NO TECH

- ❑ From February 3, 2020, students at all levels of educational institutions were shifted to non-classroom training activities such as TV lessons and online learning. This became a novel and serious challenge for both education system workers and for students.
- ❑ Only 3 out of 5 students were able to regularly attend their TV-lessons, and 15% could not attend their lessons at all due to being occupied with chores at home, the lack of TV or internet access, or having a disability.
- ❑ Young people have more free time, and they can spend the time gained dealing with disease prevention, personal hygiene, and self-development, also their self-study skills have improved.
- ❑ On the other hand, youth are acquiring some negative habits as well: spending long hours staring at the TV, computer, and smartphone screens, using the Internet and playing video games.

### KEY MEASURES

- A total of 170 TV-lessons for all subjects from Grade 1 through to Grade 12 were filmed and prepared, and a total of 4,800 hours of TV sessions with sign language support were broadcast on 15 different TV channels. TV lesson sessions for special needs, health, non-formal and lifelong education
- UN Agencies has supported continued access to adolescent and youth-friendly health services and information through e-counselling during the lockdown. Adolescent clinics provided online counselling on issues related to sexual and reproductive health, family planning and mental health to young people.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES), the UNFPA Mongolia has supported the development of engaging, interactive content on health education, which is supported by TV-based learning. A total of 14 health education modules have been produced.





**KEY MEASURES**

Ministry of Labor and Social Protection has endorsed guidelines to (through Youth Development Centers) provide information, training, advocacy, intervention activities, counseling, and services to support adolescent and youth personal development, health, education, employment, and access to a safe environment to develop. Considering the COVID-19 pandemic situation, these institutions conduct most activities through social media and websites.

Two trillion MNT (700 M USD) loan for small and medium enterprise (SME) owners and service providers with an annual interest rate of 3% and a three-year term.

500 billion MNT (175 M USD) to provide 5000 youth with employment training programs, including acquiring professional skills, health education, and active life habits; the participants in this program will receive a one Million MNT scholarship.

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**CONCLUSIONS**

- The Government of Mongolia adopted and enacted the COVID-19 Mitigation Law in the beginning stages of the pandemic. This Law specifically addresses the issue of youth education, training, and tuition fees. Based on this law as the legislative framework, related decrees and regulations were enacted to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and to create favorable conditions for the population, including young people, to deal with the new situation, as well as to provide certain assistance and support to businesses.
- At this very time, when many young people are facing real difficulties such as finding new jobs, starting a new business, or switching to another sector, the Mongolian Government is committed to implement measures to support youth employment, as a part of "To save the economy and health" program and is allocating 500 billion MNT for this purpose and 3 trillion MNT in soft mortgage loans for young families.
- So far there are no instances of Government engaging youth NGOs and assigning them tasks to officially share the implementation of measures and cooperating in the fight against the pandemic. However, several youth NGOs initiated their own fundraising and humanitarian campaigns to help poor, vulnerable families and children in challenging conditions.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, few serious human rights violations in Mongolia were reported because of the lack of coordination between the relevant government agencies at all levels, lack of prompt and comprehensive systems of exchange of information and decision making, and the slow multi-step response process.

**CONCLUSIONS**

- Based on the experience dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic over the past year, it can be concluded that many Mongolians, especially young people, do not have enough capabilities and resources to cope with wide-ranging emergencies, including natural disasters and pandemics, and there is a lack of resilience.
- Many children and young people in Mongolia realized and apprehended that knowledge and education can be obtained from a distance and/or online. They developed a variety of skills, personal good practices and useful habits related to e-learning. However, the transition to distance e-learning was not smooth for all: children of remote herders or from low-income families without access to the Internet or computers cannot equally participate in such distance learning.
- The current pandemic of COVID-19 has several unique features and shows that in overcoming the challenges faced and successful recovery policy implementation, not only the health sector alone, but also the multisectoral cooperation, coordination, and partnership in many areas, including the economy, employment, and social security, are important.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- During the e-learning transition, the students' needs in that regard should be studied and identified; the content of e-learning programs and curricula should be regularly reviewed and improved.
- Further continue the policy of providing free services to detect, diagnose or confirm, isolate and to treat COVID-19, and expand it in the future by allocating additional funds.
- Approve immediately and enact the regulation indicated in Provision 9.18 of Article 9 of the COVID-19 Mitigation Law.



Article 9.18 states: "The General Prosecutor, the General Intelligence Agency and the Head of National Police Agency shall jointly approve the Regulation for obtaining information from citizens and legal entities for the purpose of identifying the movement of infected citizens".


**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Provide professional care and support to adolescents who are left alone in the event of their parents or caregivers being infected and isolated in health facilities, or their death, or adolescents and children who live in orphanages or temporary care centers, nursing homes, and for households led by adolescents.
- Provide counseling, basic services and shelter to adolescents and young people who are victims of violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, and establish a cooperation and partnerships with national and international organizations and NGOs in this regard.
- Involve youth initiatives and engage youth NGOs, voluntary unions and groups in COVID-19 pandemic prevention and control activities to reduce the resources and workload of the government and public organizations and to explore the possibility of delegating certain tasks to them and implementing these activities.
- Continue the activities of newly established online psychological counseling for youth, expand the services, engage professionals, and establish their teams.



## Presentation: Mr. Sangeet Kayastha <Nepal>







### Policy review on the impact of COVID-19 among Young People in Nepal

Sangeet Kayastha

Independent Researcher, Nepal  
Coordinator, Y-PEER Asia Pacific Center, Thailand  
Commissioner, High Level Commission in ICPD25, Global

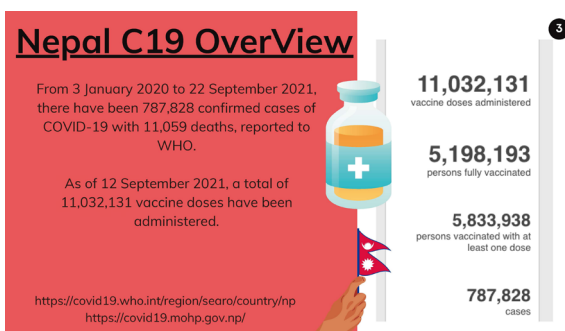
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## Table of Contents

Summary of the Study

1. Overview
2. Methodology and Limitations
3. Key Findings
4. Involvement of Young People
5. Recommendation of the Study



## Methodology and Limitations



- 1.Desk Review**  
During the desk review, all socio-economic data (policies, strategies, reports, regulations, and other related documents) have been reviewed.
- 2. Desk Review**  
Key Informant Interview with CSOs, UN Agency, Youth Organisations, Young People Affiliated with Government Mechanism

## Key Findings

1. Policies related to Young People and Health (Pre-COVID-19)



#The **National Youth Policy** of Nepal was promulgated in 2009 and was then reformed in 2015 to ensure youth development.

#**Youth Vision: 2025** was approved on 5th Oct 2015 by the Council of Ministers of the Nepal government.

#Articles 18.2 and 51.j (7) of the **Constitution** contain provisions for youth rights relating to participation and empowerment in Nepal, as well as protection from discrimination.

## Key Findings

1. Policies related to Young People and Health (Pre-COVID-19)




#**National Youth Council Act, 2072(2015)** was adopted at the initiative of the Ministry of Youth and Sports

#However, the age of **Youth in Nepal remains 16 and 40 years of age**, which accounts for over 40.3 per cent of the country's population, according to the Population and Housing Census Report of 2011.

## Key Findings

2. Policies Related to Youths and Adolescents in Nepal (in the context of COVID-19)



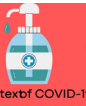
#The Nepal Government formed a **High-level Coordination Committee** on 29th February 2020 under the leadership of the Deputy Prime Minister to coordinate the preparedness and response efforts. (Youths - 0)

#A **sub-committee** was also formed (Include few young people)

#**Youth Employment Transformation Initiative** project was jointly launched on July 20,2020 aligned with the Prime Minister Employment Program and **World Bank**.

## Key Findings

2. Policies Related to Youths and Adolescents in Nepal (in the context of COVID-19)



#**No specific policies** have been formulated particularly **for youth** during the COVID-19 crisis.

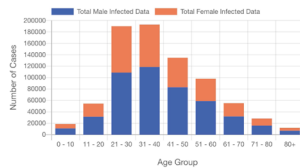
#On 20 August 2021, a **new high-level committee** led by the Minister of State for Health was established to deal with both Covid-19 and non-Covid cases with not much clear focus on Youth.



## Key Findings

### 2. Policies Related to Youths and Adolescents in Nepal (in the context of COVID-19)

Date: 2020-01-01 / 2021-09-23



The only specific data linking COVID19 and Youth

Source : MOHP, Nepal



### Steps taken by the National Government to reduce Impact of COVID-19 on young people

#### A. Education

- In response to COVID-19, the Nepal government cancelled **all academics, and schools and colleges** were closed from 16th March 2020
- The Government also requested that educational institutions **subsidize academic fees** for the year but are not completely regulated Decision

The **University Grants Commission** of Nepal provided an amount for **online classes** to 300 bodies of 11 Universities across the country. A number of NRs. 146.25 million has been provided to 112 bodies of Tribhuvan University while Rs. 1.5 million has been distributed to various bodies of other universities for online education during the pandemic.



### Steps taken by the National Government to reduce Impact of COVID-19 on young people

#### A. Education

- Other Universities such as Kathmandu University continued their academic year **and exams** despite restrictions using alternative methods, whereas, at others, such as Purbanchal University and Tribhuvan University, the curricula and exams were affected

- A similar situation for private and Government schools existed. Students from Government Schools were more affected as very few government schools moved **online Education**. Due to lack of access to ICT materials and internet facilities, many young people especially, marginalized and young people living in remote areas were highly affected.



### Steps taken by the National Government to reduce Impact of COVID-19 on young people

#### B. Employment and Economics

In Nepal, the unemployment rate for youth aged 15-29 is 19.2 percent (UNDP, 2018).

National Labor Migration report of 2020, the total number of Nepali migrant workers in age group 18-35 in the year 2018/19 and 2017/2018 were 182,298 and 274,081, respectively. A study by the Foreign Employment Board (FEB) to estimate the number of migrant workers expected to return home and those who **had lost jobs** showed at least 127,000 Nepali migrants will return to Nepal once travel restrictions are lifted, while another 407,000 are expected to return from 37 different countries.

The COVID-19 Crisis Management Centre (CCMC) estimated that 1.3 million Nepalese working abroad wanted to return home during the pandemic.



### Steps taken by the National Government to reduce Impact of COVID-19 on young people

#### B. Employment and Economics

-A significant number of Nepali migrants have lost their jobs as a result of COVID-19, and many have also been forced to either go on unpaid leave or return home before their contract period is over. It is estimated that some **20 percent of Nepalese** abroad are at risk of being unemployed. Workers have not received their wages and other benefits either and are deprived of access to basic services, including health facilities while working and living at the risk of infection

-**Repatriation was promoted by government of migrant workers on own cost**

- The governmental also asked **Internet Service Providers** to **extend a 25% discount** to customers on data and voice call packages



### Steps taken by the National Government to reduce Impact of COVID-19 on young people

#### C. Health

-Youth Friendly Health Services and Services such as Counselling, Abortion Centers were **closed due to lockdown**

-In Major hospitals, the regular SRHR checkup including the departments linking SRHR and other issues were **reduced incapacity or closed**

-The **suicide rate** increased by 20-30 percent after the lockdown was imposed including increase in youth.

-**Most focus was awareness and announcement** in public, national media and social media was on COVID19 and other issues were left untouched.



### Steps taken by the National Government to reduce Impact of COVID-19 on young people

#### D. Awareness and Sanitization

-**Most focus was on COVID19** in terms of awareness but less on mental health, GBV, Online Education, Others

-**Helpline numbers related to COVID19** was promoted by Government and many organisations



-Similarly, **Mental Health Hotline** was promoted by many Organisations







## Involvement of Young People During Covid19 by

17

<b>By Government including Local Government</b> 	The Ministry of Youth and Sports mobilized 1473 youth for spreading awareness of COVID-19. Local Municipalities also involved youth volunteers to raise awareness on COVID19.
<b>By UN Agencies in Nepal</b> 	UNDP mobilized over 50 youth volunteers under its COVID-19 Response Initiative. Organising Webinars and awareness through social media.

## Involvement of Young People During Covid19 by

18

<b>By Civil Society and Youth Organisations</b> 	More Visible and Diverse beyond Covid19 Awareness Raising Awareness in Mental Health Raising Awareness on Gender Based Violence and other issues
<b>Individuals and others</b> 	Food Distributions Others

## Overall Findings and Recommendation

### International and Domestic Migration: Emergency Response and Relief:

19

In The effort to bring back migrant workers from foreign countries were limited and very slow. The Government should utilize the funds which were collected from migrant workers as migrant worker welfare funds to bring back the migrant workers who are still stuck in other countries, as well as utilize the funds to provide support for their rehabilitation within the country as a majority of migrant workers and returnee migrant workers are young people. Similarly, the government should maintain proper data on internal migration to provide key support in future pandemic and humanitarian contexts.

Emergency relief was very slow and limited in all parts of the country. Mainly in the rural communities, the response was limited. People were not prepared as the realization of their needs was limited. Adding to that, shelters for migrant workers or people affected by COVID-19 were limited and not enough in number. Thus, preparedness should be done in advance using proper data.

## Overall Findings and Recommendation

### Information Sharing : Communication and Internet:

20

The sharing of information mostly focused on safety measures for COVID-19 and counting the number of people infected and killed by COVID-19. Other information such as how to be mentally healthy during the pandemic or how to get relief was very limited. The Government should better prioritize information sharing and uniformity among all sectors.

The tax of more than 23% on internet and telephones was also a barrier and it affected online education and the sharing and receiving of information. Thus the government as well as the private sector should reduce the taxes and fees during such conditions as movement of people was limited during lockdown and communication was the only method for education and information sharing. (students package were promoted later with complex process)

## Overall Findings and Recommendation

### Education: Health

21

The COVID-19 Pandemic showed the differences between the private and government sectors.

Through everyone, including adolescents and youth, were affected, adolescents and young people who were admitted to government and community-run educational institutions were much more affected in comparison to private sector education. Thus, steps should be taken by the government to reduce the differences between the education sectors. Many educational institutions did not follow government directives to reduce or not take the fees. Thus, strong action is required by the government and a proper class timeline should be imposed.

The COVID-19 Pandemic showed the lack in the health system and how we the focus was only given much to Covid19.

The policy and system to keep other services open. More adolescents and young people were not kept in priority which need to be kept as a priority especially in country such as Nepal.

Youth Friendly Services should be kept as priority.

## Overall Findings and Recommendation

### Employment Local Loan Tax Reduction Migration Support Proper Research Others

22

Thanks to participants and organisers !!



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# Presentation: Ms. Anna Marie Alhambra <Philippines>

24 SEPTEMBER 2021

## Situation of Youth in the Philippines under the COVID-19 pandemic

Anna Marie V. Alhambra, M.Sc.

### 1. OVERVIEW

3

## Introduction

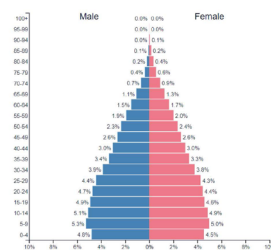
THE PHILIPPINES HAS REAFFIRMED ITS COMMITMENT TO THE GOALS OF ICPD IN 2019.

- full implementation of laws on reproductive and universal health care
- intensify efforts to reach the demographic dividend
- improve the economic conditions of the country
- increase investment on reproductive health care and other interventions

IN MARCH 16, 2020, THE COUNTRY WAS PLACED UNDER "COMMUNITY QUARANTINE".

- The effect of the pandemic on the youth (15-24 years old) is glaring:
- difficulty in accessing health services and mental health challenges while trapped inside their homes
  - loss of jobs
  - closure of schools and universities and abrupt shift to distance learning

2



Philippines' total youth population: 29.4 million or 27% of the total population (109 million based on the 2020 Census)

Age Group	Women	Men
15-19 years old	5.1M	5.3M
20-24 years old	4.8M	5.0M

4

The Philippines has a young population.

- ▷ Has high adolescent birth rate
- ▷ High literacy rate for both male and females
- ▷ Youth unemployment is decreasing

But 14.7% of youth belong to poor families in 2018

5

### 2. EDUCATION

6

Schools remain closed in the Philippines.

The delivery of education is mainly remote or distance learning—online, modular, or blended learning.



7

The Philippines remain one of the two countries without face-to-face classes.

- ▷ Still high enrollment, at 87 percent in November 2020
- ▷ Majority (80 percent) are in modular distance learning
- ▷ 6 in 10 students use devices

Barriers in remote learning: costs of prepaid load, internet connectivity issues, having old gadgets, gadget sharing in the household, household chores

8



The Philippines remain one of the two countries without face-to-face classes.

- ▷ Increased in anxiety among adolescents during the pandemic
- ▷ School closure contributes to teenage pregnancy

Young girls became vulnerable to unintended pregnancy with the lack of protective setting of the school along with the limited access to SRH and education

9

### 3. EMPLOYMENT

10

Youth unemployment rate increased by half.

From 14.7 percent in July 2019, youth unemployment rate increased to 22.4 percent in July 2020.

1.7 million youth Filipinos are unemployed.



11

Youth are often put in vulnerable position due to lack of job tenure.

- ▷ 27 percent of the youth employment population are unemployed in 2020
- ▷ Most affected youth are from wholesale, retail, food service, construction, transportation and storage
- ▷ 14 percent reduction of youth's working hours
- ▷ 75 percent of apprenticeships and internships, mostly for the youth, are entirely displaced

12

### 4. POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

13

“

...youth are more inclined to participate in informal political processes. Activism, protests and campaigns are common avenues; youth are often driving forces behind reform movements.” (UNDP, 2015, p.12)

14

Mobility restrictions affected youth participation.

But youth's advanced knowledge and skills in navigating new technologies, the Internet, and online platforms and applications appears to serve as their advantage during the pandemic



15

Youth has been active in volunteer organizations and in online spaces.

- ▷ youth leaders initiated their own relief efforts
- ▷ youth-led organizations also help address the difficulty in accessing reproductive health commodities (i.e., condoms) and conducted webinars
- ▷ in online spaces, youth also shared their opinions and address misinformation
- ▷ as restrictions slowly eased, activism in the streets become visible again

16



# Thank you!

17

## Presentation: Dr. Vazirov Jamshed <Tajikistan>

### Online Seminar on the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Youth

Engaging youth in managing the impact of Covid-19 in  
TAJIKISTAN

### Contents

1. Methodology
1. Situation of youth in Tajikistan
2. Online schooling
3. Unemployment
4. Political participation

### Methodology of review

The methodology included Primary and Secondary data collection approach:

- **Desk review:**
  - assessment of Tajikistan's approach to youth policy and ensuring decent living conditions for young people (in particular within the period of late 2019 through early 2021);
  - general policies and legal acts adopted in Tajikistan in response to the COVID19 pandemic;
  - official data made publicly available

#### Interviews:

- Interviews with the representatives of the Parliament of Tajikistan
- Interviews with the UNFPA Project Officers in Tajikistan
- Interviews with the representatives of the Committee of Youth Affairs and Sports under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Interviews with NGOs and other state owned structures about the organization of youth volunteering movements during Covid19

Although preparation of the review was focused on the actions of the country's parliament, because a prompt response is the prerogative of the executive authorities, the data presented in the review primarily describes actions and decisions taken by the country's executive authorities. Engagement of youth as volunteers in managing the impact of COVID-19 is also separately outlined.

### Overview: Situation of youth in Tajikistan

Youth aged under 30 constitute two thirds of the country's population

Literacy rate is 99.8%

The economy is predominantly agriculture driven and employs 65% of working age youth

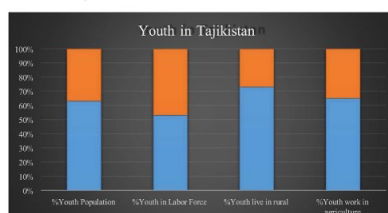
Due to low employment opportunities, majority of youth seek employment abroad

The Government undertakes measures to support the youth and works on creating the conducive policy.

The governing laws are: the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Youth and Public Youth Policy" dated July 15, 2004, and the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Volunteer Activities" dated September 19, 2013.

At the policy level there is the State Strategy for Development of Youth Policy in the Republic of Tajikistan that was in effect until 2020, the State Program for Promoting Patriotism and Strengthening the National Mentality of Youth in Tajikistan for 2018-2022, the National Program for Youth Social Development in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2019-2021, the State Strategy of the Youth Policy in Republic of Tajikistan, and the State Program on Population Employment Promotion

### Youth in Tajikistan



### Situation of youth in Tajikistan

Along the population, the youth and women, including disabled people were in the high risk zone.

Due to Covid-19 pandemic online schooling was an option for schoolchildren and students but the country was not ready to make a swift switch due to the lack of adequate infrastructure to act in crisis situation, and least developed IT infrastructure in the education establishments coupled with high cost of internet and low digital literacy skills.

Tajik students studying abroad had to adjust to new realities and continue their education online, but this was not the case for students domestically.

High costs for internet affected the family budgets.

Schools started closing before the official closing period but alternative education means were not provided. According to UNFPA, students did not absorb about 30% of the education program. This mostly affected the school and university graduates.

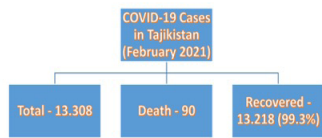
The Ministry of Education jointly with the UN and EU worked to ensure quality and inclusive uninterrupted learning for children, parents and communities during Covid-19. This included developing online learning mechanisms, equipping schools with computers and internet access, training teachers to deliver online education, etc.

In the end of June 2020, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) had granted a grant of US \$30 million for Tajikistan to improve the skills of young women and labor migrants in order to improve their employment and wages. It will be aimed at the support of employment agencies and migration services (work center). This grant was complemented by the Japan Fund for Information and Communication Technology with an additional grant of US \$1.5 million.

Labor migrants, mostly youth, returned home and were deprived from making income. If in 2019 and earlier the remittances constituted nearly 30% of the national GDP, in 2020 and early 2021 it sharply declined by half.



## Status of Covid-19 cases in TJK



## Political participation: Regulatory framework

Covid-19 was officially recognized by the Government in April 2020.

The Government took unprecedented measures to fight Covid-19: establishing the Anti-Covid Operational Headquarters under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister; restricting flights; introducing lockdowns of major public places; masks, social distancing, single payments to vulnerable families, etc.

**The following regulations were adopted by the Government:**

"High level of preparedness in the work of institutions of the healthcare system and social protection of the population of the Republic of Tajikistan to prevent the transmission and spread of the new coronavirus (COVID-19)" and "Additional sanitary and anti-epidemic measures to prevent the penetration and spread of the new coronavirus (COVID-19) in the Republic of Tajikistan".

"Action Plan of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan to strengthen antiepidemic measures during the period of a new coronavirus infection (COVID-19)" and "Guidelines for medical, sanitary and social servicing for suspected and infected patients" were developed and approved.

Decree of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan No. RP-1378 of May 1, 2020, "On three months payment equivalent to one monthly salary additional allowance to the current salary of healthcare and social protection of the population workers directly involved in the process of diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 in medical and quarantine institutions".

On July 4, 2020, the Parliament adopted amendments to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On the Adoption and Implementation of the Code of the Republic of Tajikistan on Administrative Offenses".

## Unemployment

63.1% of Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) reported of being affected by the pandemic. Many of them had to close down.

85% reported of decrease in the volume of sales of goods and services, and 25% were forced to temporarily suspend their activities.

Vulnerability levels have increased dramatically.

The pandemic opened new business opportunities where mostly the youth in urban areas were engaged (delivery, home-based culinary, sewing reusable masks, and other online services).

## Political participation: Economic support

1.6 billion Somoni of additional funds were allocated from the state budget to the health sector for purchasing of medicines and medical equipment, establishing temporary hospitals and supporting health workers.

For full and timely recovery of people infected with COVID-19 in the country, more than 30 hospitals with 7,000 beds were used, and 5,400 doctors and medical workers were mobilized. Additionally, 16,000 beds were installed in 92 medical institutions.

Also, in order to support vulnerable groups in society and domestic entrepreneurs, tax and credit benefits and privileges and compensation payments were provided for a total of more than 450 million somoni.

In 2020, to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic, the country's credit institutions provided low interest loans in the amount of 2.3 billion Somoni for 260,000 clients, while the industrial sector was provided with loans of over 4 billion somoni.

To improve the social conditions of the population, as of September 1, 2020, pensions, wages of public sector workers, and scholarships were increased by 15%, wages of law enforcement officers and military personnel were increased by 10%, and pensions of the various groups of disabled people increased 20%-30%.

## Youth participation in fighting Covid-19

The Youth initiative groups were established across the country and took active participation in fighting Covid-19. They were engaged by the Government and non-government organizations in:

1. Spreading the protective and sanitary items in public places
2. Awareness raising actions on preventive measures at schools, universities and public places
3. Distributing food items to most vulnerable families
4. Operating hotlines to consult the infected people
5. Helping elderly and disabled to meet their daily needs in shopping, paying bills, cleaning houses, etc.



## Conclusion

The Covid-19 pandemic had an amplified effect on the socio-economic condition of Tajikistan.

Youth were affected due to the lack of employment opportunities and possibilities for online education during the lockdown.

Women headed households, disabled people, elderly people were in high risk zones during the pandemic.

The Government support was there complemented with voluntary movements of youth.

The country still needs support to overcome the consequences of the pandemic, especially to protect the youth and the vulnerable segments of the population.

Thank you for your attention



## Programme

### Online Seminar on the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Youth

12:00 - 13:40 (Tokyo time)

24 September (Friday) 2021

12:00-12:10	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b> Prof. Kiyoko Ikegami, Interim Executive Director, AFPPD								
	<b>Opening</b>								
	<b>Opening Addresses</b> Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi, MP, Japan, Chair of AFPPD <video message> Mr. Björn Andersson, Regional Director, UNFPA APRO								
	<b>Photo Session</b>								
12:10-13:10	<p>Moderator : Dr. Farrukh Usmonov, APDA</p> <p><b>Part 1: Situation of Youth in Asia and the Pacific Region under COVID-19:</b> <b>Overview, Online Schooling, Unemployment, Political participation</b></p> <p>Presenter: (15 min. each)</p> <table> <tr> <td>1)&lt;Mongolia&gt;</td><td>Ms. Nandinchimeg Magsar, Consultant</td></tr> <tr> <td>2)&lt;Nepal&gt;</td><td>Mr. Sangeet Kayastha, Programme, Consultant</td></tr> <tr> <td>3)&lt;Philippines&gt;</td><td>Ms. Anna Marie Alhambra, Consultant</td></tr> <tr> <td>4)&lt;Tajikistan&gt;</td><td>Dr. Vazirov Jamshed, Consultant</td></tr> </table>	1)<Mongolia>	Ms. Nandinchimeg Magsar, Consultant	2)<Nepal>	Mr. Sangeet Kayastha, Programme, Consultant	3)<Philippines>	Ms. Anna Marie Alhambra, Consultant	4)<Tajikistan>	Dr. Vazirov Jamshed, Consultant
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3)<Philippines>	Ms. Anna Marie Alhambra, Consultant								
4)<Tajikistan>	Dr. Vazirov Jamshed, Consultant								
13:10-13:40	<b>Part 2: Q &amp; A/ Discussion</b>								
13:40	<b>Closing Remarks</b>								

Rapporteur: Ms. Nenita Dalde, Manager of Advocacy and Partnership of PLCPD



## Participants' List

No	Title	Name	Country	Position
<b>AFPPD National Committees on Population and Development</b>				
1	Hon. Dr.	Jetn Sirathranont	Thailand	MP, Secretary General of AFPPD
2	Hon.	Dinh Cong Sy	Viet Nam	Vice Chair of the Committee for foreign affairs
3	Hon.	Pham Trong Nghia	Viet Nam	Permanent Member of the Committee for social affairs
4	Ms.	Chanlinda Mith	Cambodia	Deputy Director of the Department of National Affairs Research of the Secretariat General of the National Assembly
5	Mr.	Manmohan Sharma	India	Executive Secretary of IAPPD
6	Mr.	Azri Norfikri Aziz	Malaysia	International Relations and Protocol Officer
7	Mr.	Manohar Prasad Bhattarai	Nepal	Ex MP
8	Mr.	Bhishma Adhikari	Nepal	NFPPD General Secretary
9	Mr.	Rahim Shah	Pakistan	Assistant Director (IR), Deputy Speaker's office Secretariat of the National Assembly
10	Mr.	Abduaziez Qohhorov	Tajikistan	Advisor, Parliament of Tajikistan
11		TOKHUONGDUY		
<b>Presenter</b>				
12	Ms.	Nandinchimeg Magsar	Mongolia	Consultant
13	Mr.	Sangeet Kayastha	Nepal	Consultant
14	Ms.	Anna Marie Alhambra	Philippines	Consultant
15	Dr.	Vazirov Jamshed	Tajikistan	Consultant
<b>Related Institutions</b>				
16	Ms.	Cecilia Russell		Inter Press Service (IPS)
<b>UNFPA APRO</b>				
17	Mr.	Björn Andersson		Regional Director of UNFPA APRO
18	Ms.	Kamma Blair		Regional Programme Specialist (Disability, Parliamentarians, Knowledge Management, Innovation) of UNFPA APRO
19	Ms.	Maki Akiyama		UNFPA APRO



No	Title	Name	Country	Position
<b>Asian Forum for Parliamentarians' on Population and Development (AFPPD)</b>				
20	Prof. Dr.	Kiyoko Ikegami	Japan	Interim Executive Director
21	Ms.	Yoko Oshima	Japan	Assistant to Interim Executive Director
22	Ms.	Eri Osada	Japan	Staff
23	Ms.	Nenita Dalde	Philippines	Rapporteur
<b>The Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)</b>				
24	Dr.	Osamu Kusumoto	Japan	Secretary-General / Executive Director
25	Ms.	Hitomi Tsunekawa	Japan	Chief Manager, International Affairs
26	Dr.	Farrukh Usmonov	Japan	Assistant Manager of International Affairs/Senior Researcher