

Climate Justice: Overdue, but Not Impossible

Two lives reveal one inequity: those contributing least to climate change carry its deepest health and livelihood costs.

Bazarragchaa Tsogt¹, Ganzorig Munkhjargal¹, Mangala Namasivayam²

¹Mongolian Anti-Tuberculosis Coalition, ²APCASO

+2.1°C	428	8.1M	>70%	40%+
average warming in 70 years	TB cases per 100,000 people	livestock lost in the 2024 dzud	of land affected by desertification	of Mongolians are nomadic herders



CASE 1 • URBAN HEALTH

B.Tumee: Climate Change, air Pollution and Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis

Tumee, a 51-year-old man living in Ulaanbaatar, has lived with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) for more than seven years. Every winter, prolonged cold weather forces households to burn more coal for heating, while spring dust storms further worsen air quality. These environmental changes make breathing increasingly difficult, intensify respiratory symptoms, and limit his ability to recover and participate in everyday life. His story illustrates how climate change amplifies existing health inequities. Those already living with chronic respiratory diseases are disproportionately exposed to polluted air, making treatment, recovery and quality of life even more challenging.

"Fresh air is really great for the human body —it's like medicine for people."

"It's getting colder and colder... winter has been prolonged."



CASE 2 • RURAL LIVELIHOODS

Gonchighkhand: Dzud, Displacement and Loss

Gonchighkhand is a nomadic herder from Arkhangai Province whose family depended entirely on livestock for income, food and cultural identity. Successive extreme winters (dzud), combined with increasingly unpredictable weather, caused devastating livestock losses. The disaster forced difficult financial decisions, increased psychological distress, and threatened the family's traditional way of life. Her experience demonstrates that climate change is not only an environmental issue but also a driver of poverty, migration, food insecurity and declining mental health among rural communities.

"When you lose everything, you lose your wealth, pride and food in just a few months."

"I never thought that was climate change... I thought that's what happens when you are a nomadic person."

Different settings. The same injustice.



JUSTICE MEANS ACTING WITH — NOT FOR — COMMUNITIES

- 1 Clean air as health policy

Affordable clean heating, insulation, green space and stronger air-quality enforcement.
- 2 Resilient herding livelihoods

Early warning, locally led adaptation, food and income protection, and mental-health support.
- 3 Fair climate finance

High-emitting nations must fund solutions shaped by nomads, patients and local civil society.

Climate justice is overdue — but Mongolia’s communities show that locally led action can still protect health, dignity and ways of life.