



THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAMME IN MONGOLIA

ENKHTSETSEG BYAMBAA, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MONGOLIA

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Overview

Poverty and Nutrition in Mongolia + short history of the Food Stamps Programme



What are the impacts of the Food Stamps Programme

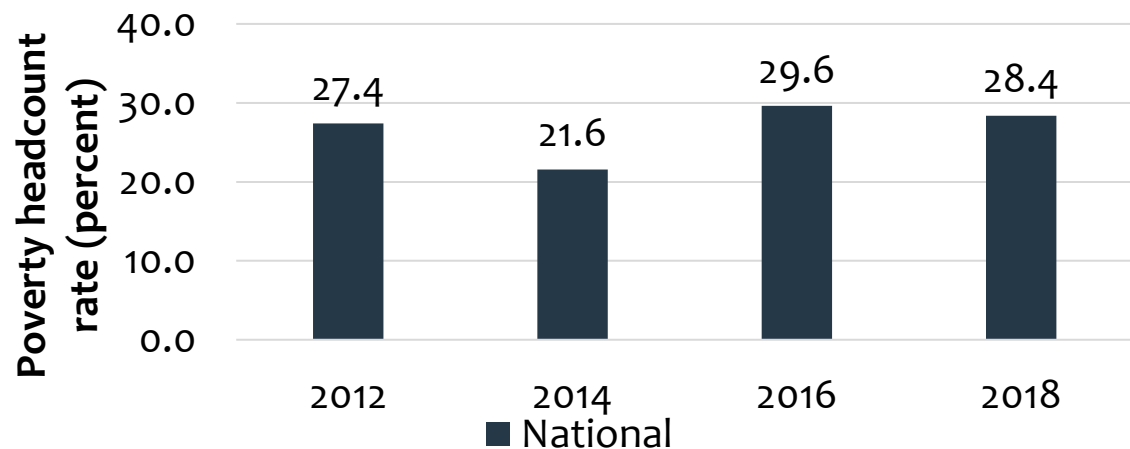


Food Stamps Programme and response to COVID-19



Food Stamps Programme within the Social Protection System

HIGH POVERTY RATE

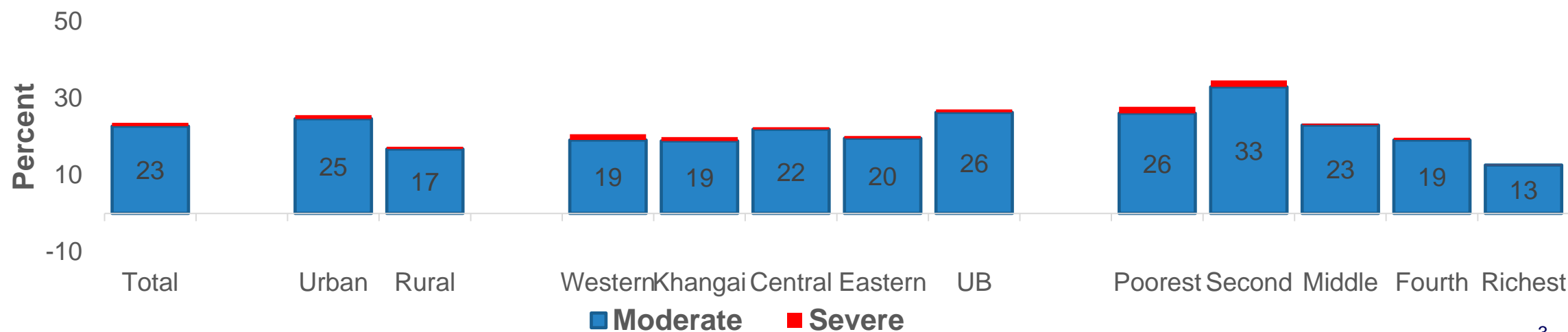


LOW NUTRITION STATUS

According to the results of the National Nutrition Survey V (2017):

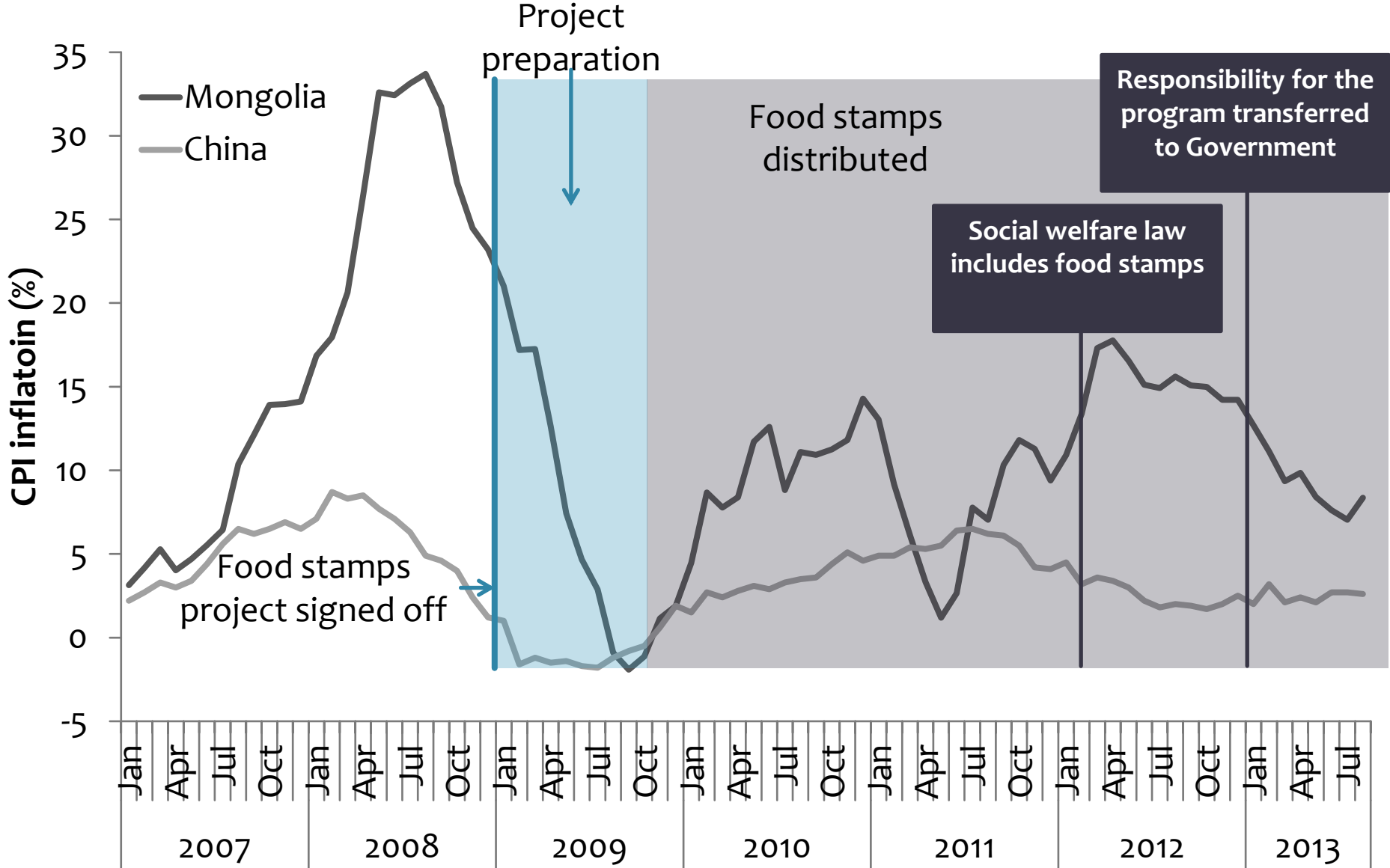
- the burden of malnutrition is high in Mongolia;
- lack of dietary diversity,
- and high prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies, food insecurity, overweight, and obesity pose serious consequences

Percentage of household population experiencing moderate to severe food insecurity, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale



Source, MICS, 2020

The Food Stamps Programme begun in a context of high inflation



FOOD STAMPS FACTS AND FIGURES BY 2021

Targets the poorest households

Aims to support the consumption of basic foods, with the expected impact, of 'reduced vulnerability to food insecurity of poor households'

Uses the Proxy Means Test (PMT) to identify eligible households

2.2 million population were registered in the Integrated Household Information Database (IHID)

176,000 individuals in 37,000 households receiving food stamps (poorest 7-8%)

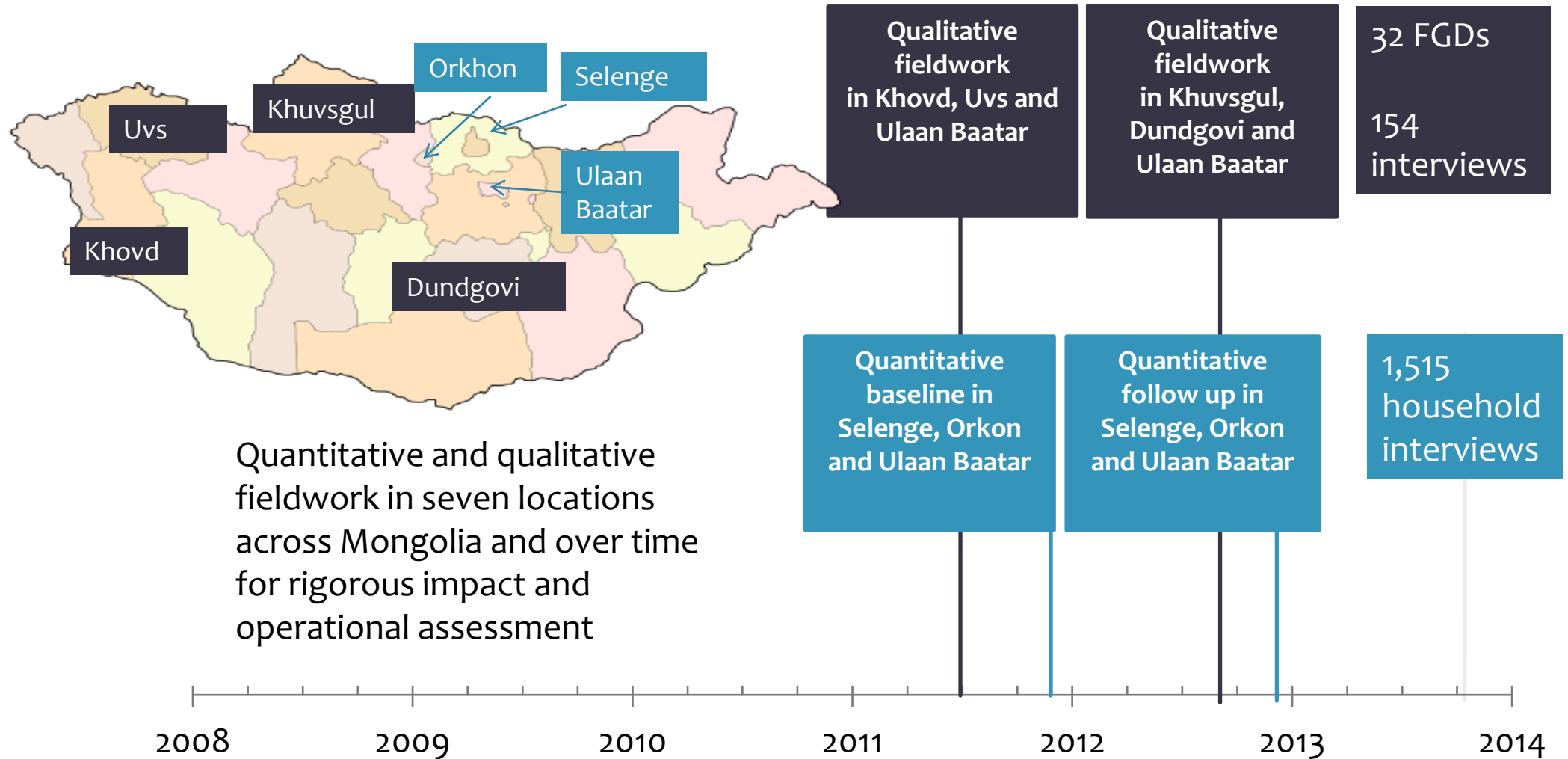
Specified list of ten high protein foods and staples can be redeemed

Pay MNT 16,000 (5.6\$) per month for adults (doubled during pandemic)

Pay MNT 8,000 (2.8\$) per month for children (doubled during pandemic)

100% electronic now and able to spent in any shop that issues VAT receipts.

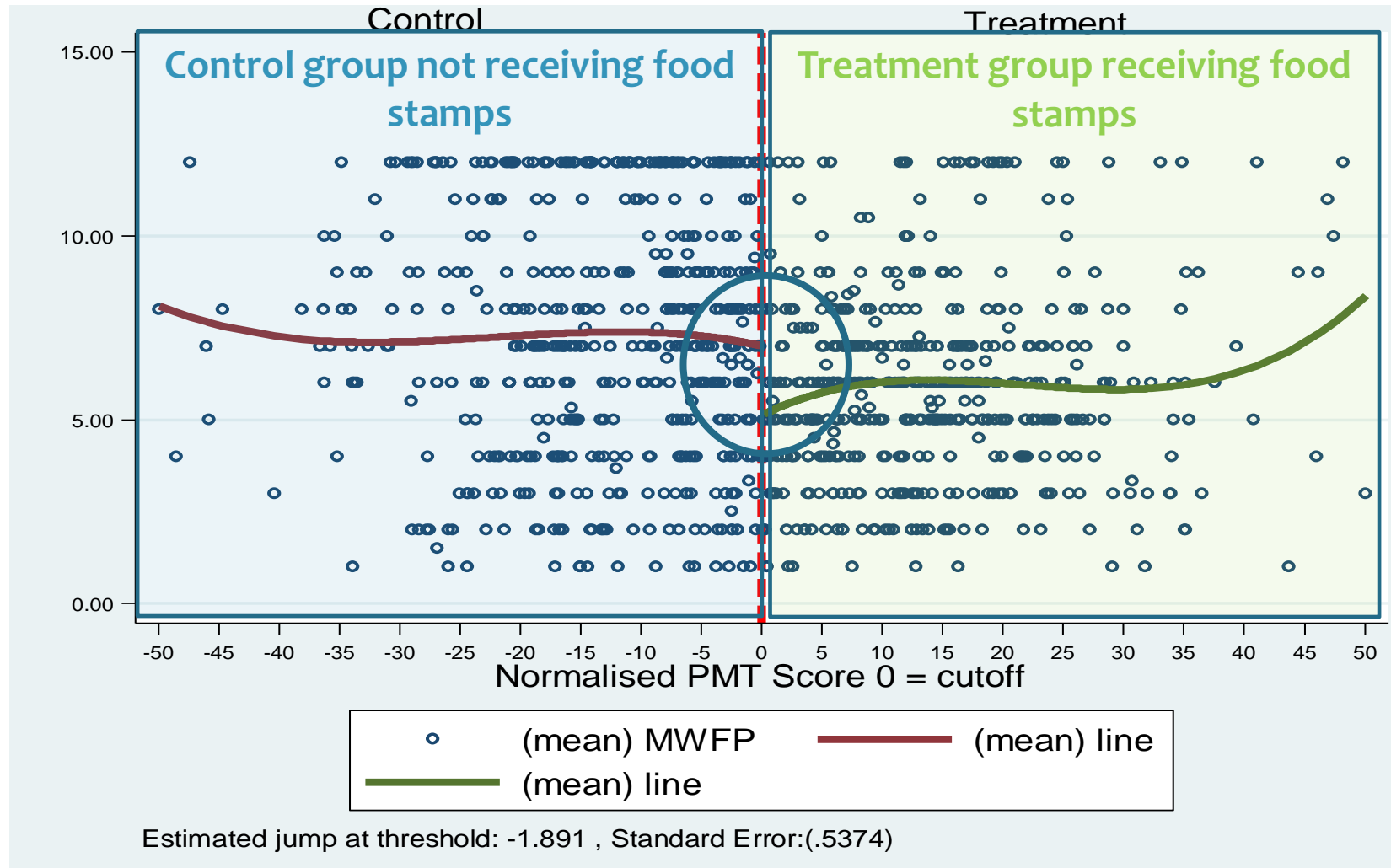
How was the Food Stamps Programme evaluated?



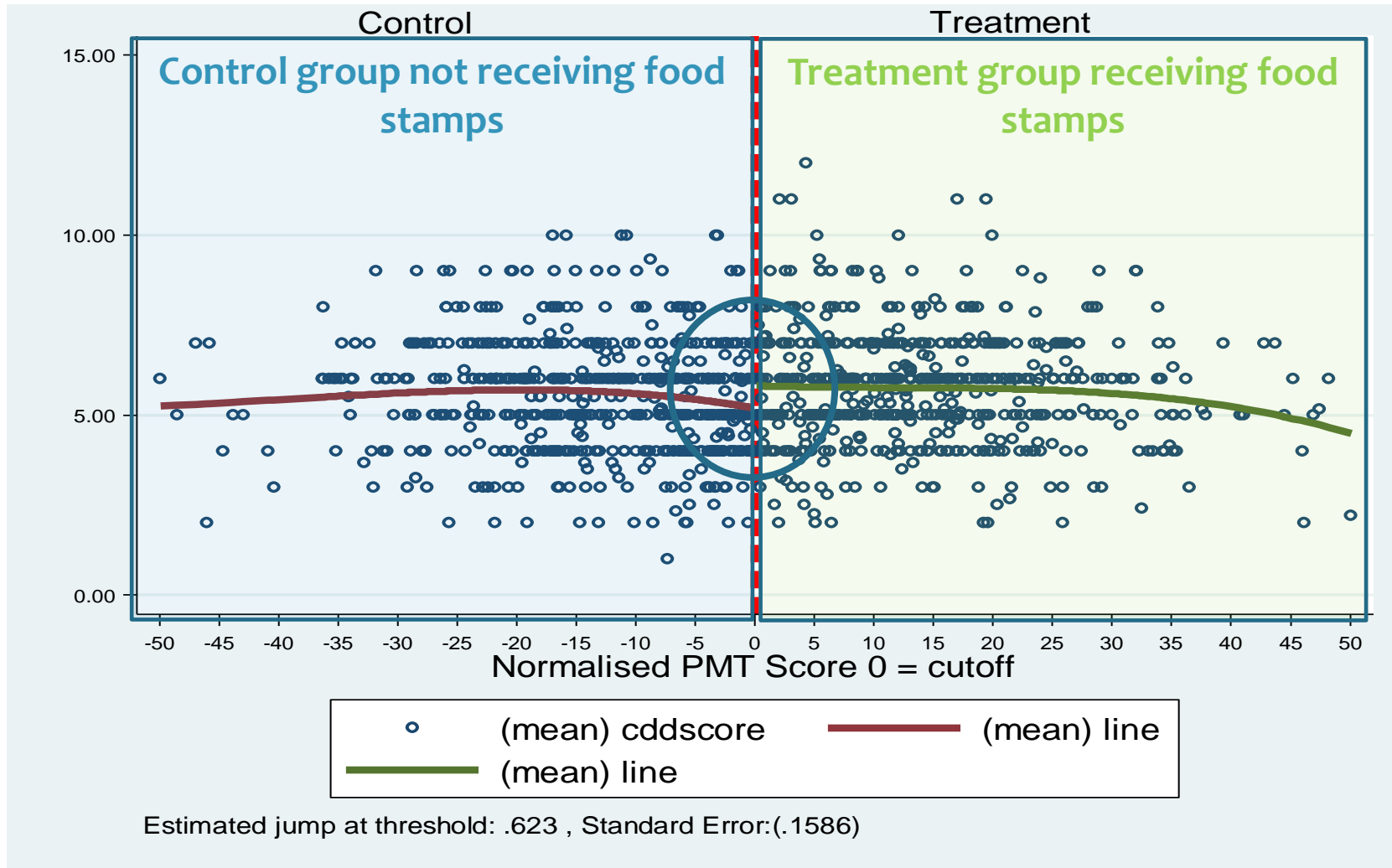
What are the impacts of the Food Stamps Program?

Impact area	Quantitative	Qualitative
Food security	Positive	Positive
Dietary diversity	Positive	Positive
Negative coping strategy	Positive	Positive
Self-esteem	Positive	Positive
Employment	No impact	Some positive examples
Health and education	No impact	Some positive examples in education

Households receiving Food Stamps have 1.9 fewer months without adequate food provisioning (MWFP)

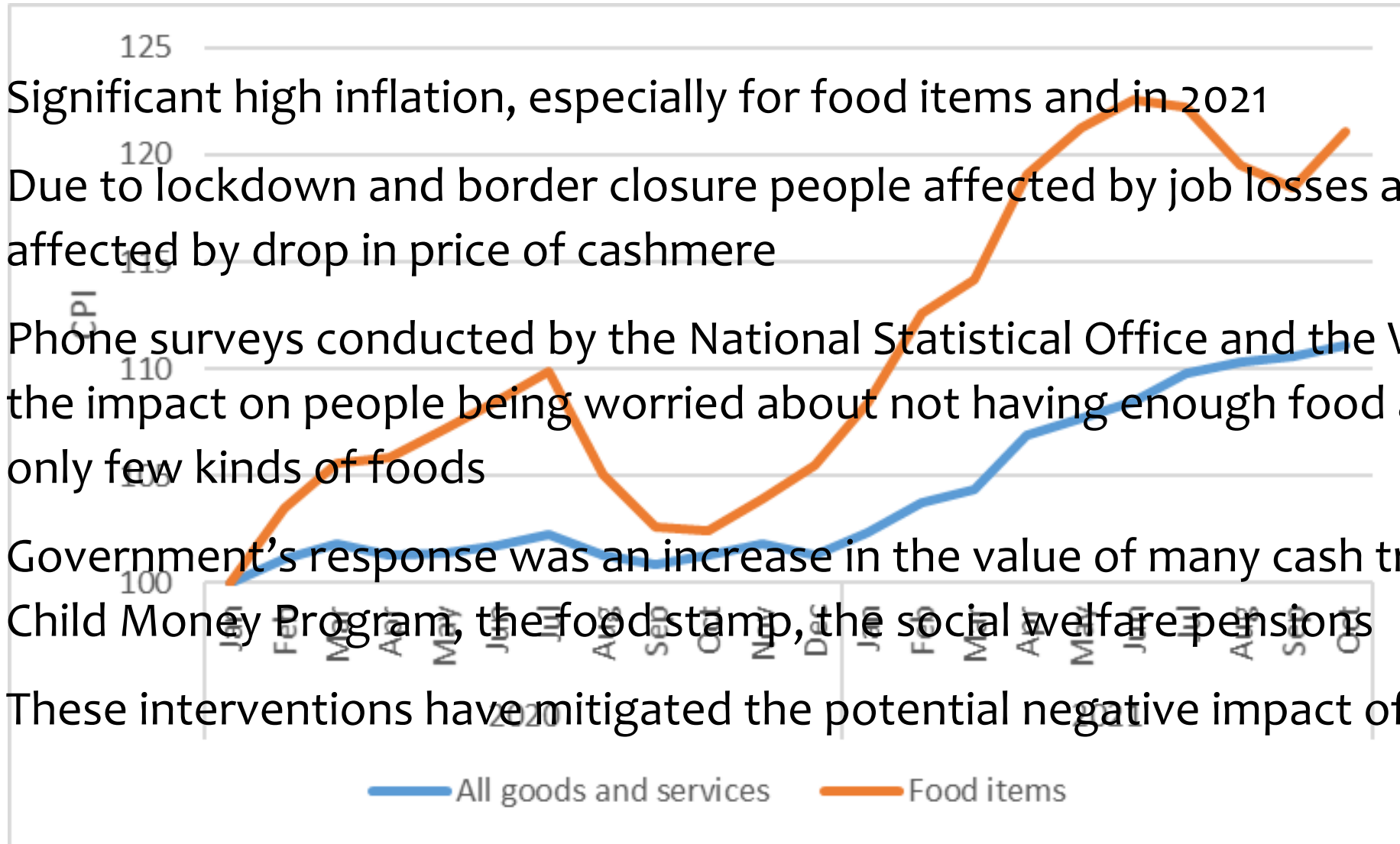


Children in households receiving Food Stamps have more diverse diets



Food stamps increased during the pandemic

- Significant high inflation, especially for food items and in 2021
- Due to lockdown and border closure people affected by job losses and farmers affected by drop in price of cashmere
- Phone surveys conducted by the National Statistical Office and the WB confirm the impact on people being worried about not having enough food and eating only few kinds of foods
- Government's response was an increase in the value of many cash transfers, the Child Money Program, the food stamp, the social welfare pensions
- These interventions have mitigated the potential negative impact of the crisis



Food stamps within the broader social protection system

- Compared to the Child grants the Food stamps have relatively low coverage, but focus on relatively poor and vulnerable households
- Their role is complementary to that of other programs allowing an increase in support to very poor households and those who have extra needs (for example with members with disabilities)
- The development of a social registry can enable not only the increase in the amount of food stamps, but also the number of people receiving them
- Beyond the pandemic, this can be of crucial importance to respond to shocks that often affect Mongolia, such as dzuds (particularly harsh winters) which cause massive losses of livestock

Food stamps in Mongolia – key takeaways

- Increasing food consumption (food security/hunger) and improving food intake and nutrition (quality/diet diversity/micronutrients) are different. Increasing food consumption is a necessary, but not sufficient condition to improve nutrition
- Social protection supports food consumption, but to succeed in nutrition, there is a need for complementary policies with behavioural change messages and control of food quality
- Food stamps in Mongolia not only improve food consumption, but also dietary diversity through the list of eligible items and their mean of payment
- The network of accredited shops where people can use food stamps is a way to monitor quality and availability of food items