

Implemented by:



CAPACITY STRENGTHENING OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNING BODIES

FACTS

Project name:

Capacity Strengthening of
Local Self-Governing Bodies

Duration:

2013-2016

Budget:

CHF 2,850,000

Target area:

Nationwide

Target group:

- Sub-national local parliaments (khurals)
- Citizens at sub-national level
- Sub-national governments
- Female local elected representatives
- Excluded citizens
- Central government ministries and agencies

In the 2012 Local Parliamentary Elections, more than 60 percent of the 8078 representatives were elected for the first time. This means there is a need for capacity-training for those who were newly elected and also for those who were re-elected in all of Mongolia's 330 soums (municipalities), 21 aimags (provinces) and nine district parliaments on their representative, legislative, oversight and budgetary responsibilities. This will help local parliaments (khurals) at the municipal and provincial levels cope with the challenges of decentralisation: 1) To identify, plan and prioritise local development funding needs and make inclusive decisions; 2) To improve local government transparency and accountability in order to manage public resources more efficiently and equitably; and 3) To increase access to, and improve the quality of, public services.



Sukhbaatar District Khural Meeting at discussion of its 2015 Budget

BACKGROUND

Mongolia has been undergoing a social, economic and political transition to democracy since 1990. With its decentralisation reform agenda, the government is aiming to support the consolidation of the country's fledgling democracy. A major component of the reform is the new Integrated Budget Law (IBL), which institutionalises a block grant (Local Development Fund - LDF) for priority investments in sub-national administrative units. However, like many other developing or countries in transition, Mongolia is facing major challenges in implementing policy

reforms. Capacity and expertise must be strengthened across the board to address the budgetary and financial oversight requirements in an economy that is growing on the back of an unprecedented natural resources boom. In particular, capacity strengthening of local parliaments (local self-governing bodies or khurals) with their mandated representational, legislative, oversight and budgetary roles is needed in order to manage increased discretionary power over resources for the benefit of citizens.

SDC's Strategic Goal:

To contribute to equitable and sustainable social and economic development in Mongolia.

PROJECT GOAL

A policy framework for decentralisation is created and local government capacity for service delivery is increased in Mongolia.

OUTCOME

Local self-governing bodies have the capacity and tools to fulfil their mandated representative, legislative, oversight, and budgetary functions in order to promote effective, inclusive and accountable local governance.

Outputs:

1. A National Training Programme for local elected representatives is developed and institutionalised. Output 1 will provide all elected members of aimags, soums, Ulaanbaatar City and district khurals nationwide with training on their core responsibilities (representative, legislative, oversight, budgetary) in order for them to understand and satisfactorily exercise these responsibilities. Technical assistance will be provided for the development of a National Training Programme and to establish the appropriate institutional arrangements for delivering the programme.

2. Improved downward accountability of elected representatives through the promotion of citizen participation in decision-making: Local governments are accountable to higher levels of government (upward accountability) and to citizens (downward accountability). Downward accountability can be improved by strengthening the oversight roles of local elected representatives, increasing awareness about the performance of local governments and directly involving citizens in decision-making processes beyond elections.

3. Increased oversight capacity of local khurals: Under this output, the project is aimed at institutional development within khurals to promote oversight and a monitoring role in order to ensure the horizontal accountability of local governments. The project will support the development of tools, protocols, procedures, reporting formats, manuals and training of trainers' manuals. These tools strive to codify knowledge and skills and to transform these into institutional capacity.

4. Lessons integrated into the legal and policy frameworks for local self-governance, supporting cooperation among khurals: Identifying best practices and experiences with their peers is a key part of khurals fully exercising their mandated roles and performing better in the future. The khurals will identify the legal challenges involved in performing their duties and propose amendments to the existing laws governing local self-governing bodies.

RESULTS TO DATE

Capacity Building Trainings:

The project provided trainings on seven selected topics to representatives of all 361 local khurals in 2014, with a more than 86 percent attendance rate of aimag-level khural representatives:

1. Constitutional and legal environment for khurals
2. Organising khural meetings
3. Local budget and financial administration
4. Citizens' participation
5. Ethics and the prevention of corruption
6. Environment and green development
7. Human rights, gender



A training for the khural members in Dornogobi, April 2014

Promotion of citizen participation:

The project provided grants to six local khurals with the aim of increasing citizens' participation in local decision-making.

Increased oversight capacity of khurals

Ten soum and aimag khurals received grants to support initiatives to improve their oversight functions, particularly for overseeing LDF implementation. Best practices, new ideas and interesting initiatives are being documented and promoted among other khurals through the www.khural.mn website and regional meetings.

Inputs to the development of legal and policy frameworks

Proposals to amend the legal environment for local self-governing bodies were collected from khurals and their representatives, and a consolidated version was forwarded to working groups tasked with developing draft laws for Parliament. The www.khural.mn interactive website integrating all 361 local khurals is being developed. Twenty-one aimag and nine districts khurals have developed their sub-sites and are uploading up to 12 news items and publications each day. This website is enabling the sharing of best practices and knowledge between khurals and their representatives.

Key partners:

- The Cabinet Secretariat of the Government of Mongolia
- The National Academy of Governance of Mongolia

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