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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

Implemented by:



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STRENGTHENING REPRESENTATIVE BODIES IN MONGOLIA

FACTS

Project name:

Strengthening Representative Bodies in Mongolia

Duration:

2017-2020

Budget:

CHF 3,610,000

- SDC CHF 3,135,000
- UNDP CHF 475,000

Target group:

- 8,099 elected representatives of local councils (hurals)
- 2,164 elected women representatives of local councils (hurals)
- 1,613 chairpersons of public meetings at bagh level
- National and local local council (hural) secretariats
- Citizens at sub-national level
- Marginalised citizens
- NGOs

Target area:

Nationwide

In the 2016 Local Elections, 57.1 percent of the 8099 representatives at aimag, city, soum and district levels 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 councils on their representative, legislative, oversight and budgetary responsibilities. This will assist local councils (hurals) 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.



Project stakeholders in the induction workshop. Bulgan aimag.

BACKGROUND

The promulgation of the new constitution in 1992 marks the beginning of the emergence of local self-governing bodies in Mongolia. Citizens Representatives Hurals (CRHs-local councils) have become a stable institution and played an important role in the consolidation of democracy. However, challenges remain in making them truly representative of local people, as a responsive and accountable institution. The legal framework established in the early transition period has not kept pace with the country's social, economic and political transformations. Laws are approved without sufficient consultations with local authorities,

thus making their implementation difficult at the local level. The organizational capacities of CRHs are constrained by limited resources available at their disposal, unclear mandates and lack of overall guidance. With significant turnover of the CRHs' members, there is a continuous need to update the knowledge of their duties and responsibilities as elected representatives. At the same time, citizens' ability to demand accountability from elected representatives is limited due to their low awareness about the functioning of local self-governing bodies, which make important decisions affecting their lives.

GOAL

Capacity of local Hurals to implement their decision-making, oversight and representative functions more effectively is improved; and recent laws and policies are translated into concrete actions aimed at creating opportunities for meaningful citizen participation in decision-making.

SDC's Strategic Goal:

To contribute to equitable and sustainable social and economic development 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. Legal framework for local governance is improved. The project will support legal reforms through developing reform options based on international comparative analyses and analysis of the real situation of Mongolia, creating a space for local authorities for dialogue with the central government and consensus building. As a result, the project will make contributions to the revision of the Constitution of Mongolia and LATUG with an aim to ensure better protection of the rights of local authorities, removing inconsistencies and duplications between laws, improved checks and balances between the local legislature and executive, i.e. address the current accountability deficits of local authorities towards citizens.

2. Citizens' Representative Hural have improved organizational capacity. The Project will support the functioning of Hural committees by streamlining procedures and developing template procedures, identifying best practices and disseminating them to other Hural through a variety of means including competitive small grants program and further development of local councils' integrated portal website www.khural.mn.

3. National training programme for local elected representatives is institutionalized. The national training programme for local Hural representatives, including the induction course for newly elected representatives, and other short courses for sub-groups of Hural representatives will be delivered based on a detailed assessment of the training needs including those of local councils in urban setting. The project will continue expanding this network of trainers and refresh their knowledge. It will support activities on citizens' awareness about the role of elected representatives on one hand and increased engagement of elected representatives with their constituencies on the other hand.

4. Improved capacity of the Parliament Secretariat to support representative bodies. The Project will assist the Parliament Secretariat in developing these new skills to fulfill important new roles in the legislative process introduced by the Law on Legislation through training of its staff, experimentation of new ideas and innovations, developing procedures and guidelines for legal review and monitoring of implementation of laws.

SUCCESS STORY:

The induction training was provided to all 8,099 local representatives elected to local hurals of 330 soums, 21 aimags, 9 districts and the capital city in 2016 with an attendance rate of 90% in 2016-2017. The training of elected representatives had impacts on **revitalising local Hurals,**

improving its internal functioning and openness to the public, as demonstrated by the increased number of Presidium meetings, establishment of council committees and regular meetings of committees, and the number of events, such as open days.

We understood from the training very well that hural must consult with citizens before making decisions. Representatives of our Khural decided to postpone a session requested by Soum Governor on mining-related proposal in order to consult with the citizens before deliberation.

Chairperson of Gurvanbulag Soum, Bayankhongor Aimag, 2017

Implementing partners:

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

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