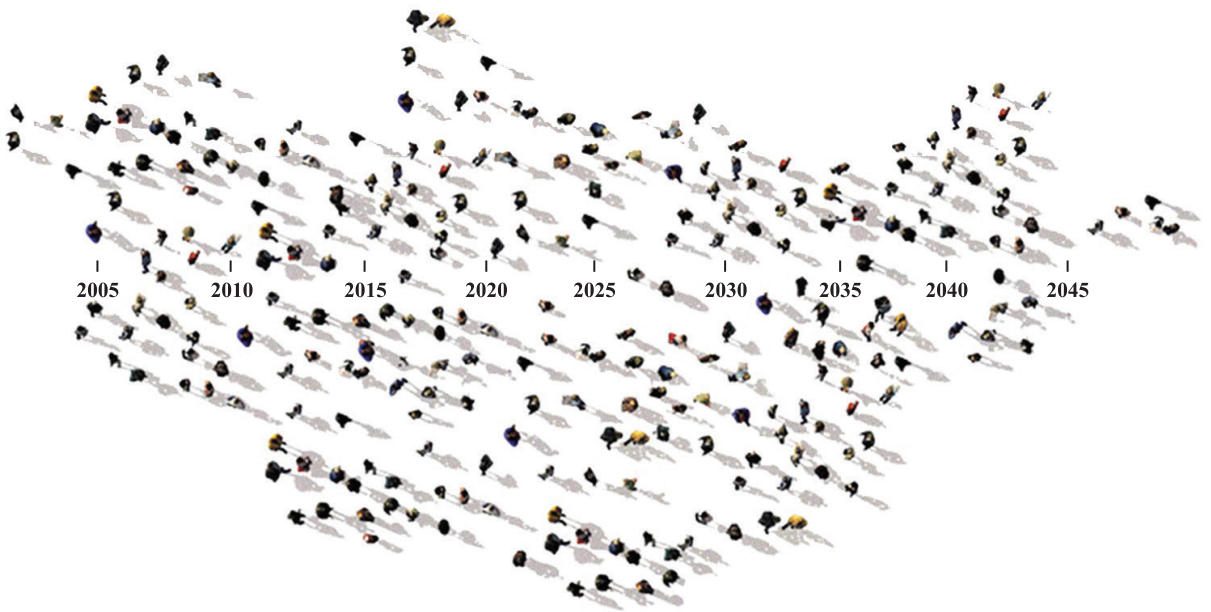


ANNUAL REPORT **2017/2018**



Independence

Quality

Impact

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IRM'S MISSION

To be the leading center of knowledge in Mongolia on development-related issues and to provide world-class independent research outcomes.

QUALITY POLICY STATEMENT

IRIM is committed to providing independent research products and services with the highest possible level of quality; that meet international standards and customer satisfaction at all times and using continually improving processes.

SERVICES WE PROVIDE

EXPERIENCE

RESEARCH - IRIM has research experience in a wide range of sectors, where professional and scientific approaches are applied. IRIM's staff are experienced in designing and facilitating innovative and inter-disciplinary research projects, drawing on both quantitative and qualitative approaches. Data quality assurance is conducted at every stage in research projects, and the latest versions of statistical analysis software are employed.

89
projects

MONITORING AND EVALUATION - Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) projects make up around one third of IRIM's portfolio. With an emphasis on evidence, and employing internationally accepted methodologies and methods, IRIM conducts independent analysis of the implementation of the government and the international organisations' projects and programmes. IRIM initiated the Mongolian Evaluation Network; making a commitment to integrate evaluation standards in Mongolia in collaboration with other members of the Network.

51
projects

TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS - IRIM's training packages cover current research theories and methods and are enriched by the application of extensive experience in the field. IRIM provides training on various subjects, including: transparent budgeting, civic engagement, organisational capacity-building, and horizontal learning methods. IRIM employs participatory and interactive methodologies in workshops. IRIM ensures success of the workshop (from beginning to end), developing training materials, conducting participants' needs assessment, documenting all procedures of the workshops and conducting satisfaction surveys. This provides for continuous improvement of performance of workshops' organization and facilitation.

15
projects

PROJECT MANAGEMENT - IRIM does more than research alone; implementing a wide range of consultancies and advocacy projects (to influence policy-makers) which include:

- Conducting analysis of development policy documents and providing recommendations
- Conducting internal and external, environment analyses and developing capacity-building and strategic planning activities.

16
projects

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO



Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary
IRIM President
Bekhbat Khasbazar



Chief Executive Director
Batsugar Tsedendamba

Mongolia entered 2018 with encouraging signs of success; reversing the longstanding economic downturn, implementing effective debt management, and recovering foreign direct investment. However, there are still many issues that need to be tackled to reach the sustainable development goals our country deserves.

In the economic domain, issues such as accelerating employment - with a focus on promoting equal participation in the labour market by women and people with disabilities, and reducing poverty - demand grounded solutions. Additionally, an improved legal environment and effective governance for wealth redistribution, especially from mining, need to be promoted for a fairer society.

Socially, we are struggling with the challenges of:

- strengthening good governance through capacity building of the government,
- increasing access to, and quality of, government services through innovative approaches,
- improvement of systematic protection of the rights for women, children, and people with disabilities and,
- fostering social and economic inclusion, for all.

Under the sustainable development agenda, awareness of environmental protection needs to be improved and environmentally-friendly practices need to be disseminated among all stakeholders and citizens. It is crucial that the regulatory framework for protection of the environment and rehabilitation of mining (industry and settlement affected areas) need to be improved; with the participation of stakeholders, and capacity of the stakeholders and government be improved.

It is apparent that public-private partnership, universal cooperation and coherence in action, are among the priorities to accomplish development objectives. Therefore, over the past 10 years since our establishment in 2008, IRIM has been striving to implement the Mongolian development agenda, with evidence. Evidence from independent and professional research, from results-based evaluation and from capacity building; and consultancy for better

coordination and results-oriented implementation. Furthermore, we continued and reinforced our cooperation with government at all levels, with development partners and civil society organisations. For example, in 2017 IRIM was elected as member of the National Gender Committee. We also worked to strengthen evidence-based development planning (and results-based monitoring and evaluation) and cooperated with the World Bank to build the capacity of local government to implement the M&E procedures of the national government. In addition, the Asian regional framework, on evaluation standards, has been introduced to Mongolian stakeholders with support from the International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation.

Besides these, we continued our cooperation with international organizations and the Government on social issues, such as: empowerment of children with disabilities (and improvement of their access to education), awareness raising among stakeholders, and gender equality in the environment sector. This continuous cooperation enabled the creation, accumulation and distribution of good practices in the areas where IRIM works.

With the aim of distributing Mongolian good practices more widely, IRIM joined the Asia-Pacific Evaluation Association (and now serves as a board member), joined the International Consortium for Social Well-Being Studies and the Central Asian group of the Innovation for Change Initiative.

None of our work would be possible without our clients, independent and professional consultants, researchers and partners - from every field - who aspire to bring about positive changes, and with a sincere belief in our vision.

As in previous years, we present this Annual Report to those who are interested in Mongolia's development issues - practitioners, researchers and decision makers - with our best intention to give a quick insight to IRIM's projects and some key findings from the previous year's activities.

May our readers' efforts in development during the next year continue Mongolia's advancement.

ABOUT US



IRIM was established in April 2008, with a staff of four people. IRIM delivers research, monitoring and evaluation, and training services; mainly for public sector clients, international organisations and donors. Through its work, IRIM strives to achieve real outcomes in solving some of the most pressing development issues.

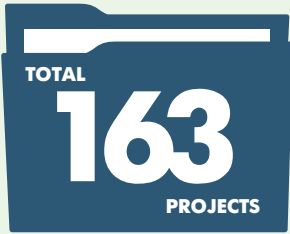
IRIM's research helps its clients to develop an evidence base to facilitate implementation of workable projects and policies. Work with clients also helps to improve their public governance practices, social development project implementation and the utilization of high quality data and evidence.

IRIM's current research and consultancy covers an increasing range of issues within governance, education, labour markets and mining, among others.

IRIM now has 24 permanent staff and more than 20 others on-call. The Institute's database of national and international experts comprises over 300 hand-picked experts.

Since IRIM's establishment, a subsidiary company - Marketing Innovation Research Institute of Mongolia (MIRIM) – has been formed; specialising in market research and surveys (tailoring projects to the specific needs of private sector clients).

IRIM IN NUMBERS



2008 April

2018 April



Governance



Education



Minig and Environment



Labor & Employment



Other



86

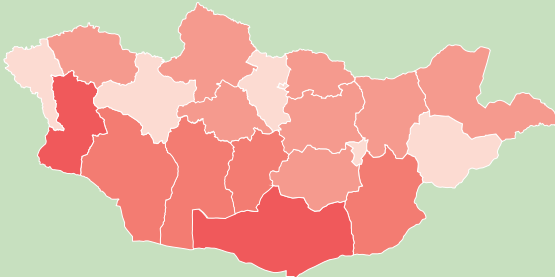
Clients



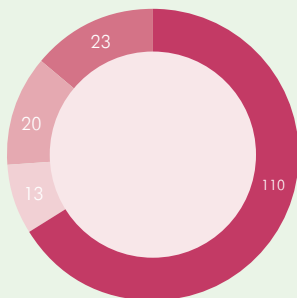
142

Partners

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED AREAS



Ulaanbaatar	124	Uvs	33	Zavkhan	28
Khovd	47	Selenge	33	Sukhbaatar	26
Umnugobi	40	Dornod	32	Orkhon	27
Darkhan-Uul	37	Khuvsgul	32	Bayan-Ulgii	25
Dornogobi	35	Khentii	29	Gobisumber	21
Bayankhongor	35	Arkhangai	29	Bulgan	18
Gobi-Altai	34	Tөв	27	Erliyan city in China 1	
Uvurkhangai	33	Tuv	27	Total 761	



International Organisations

Government

NGO

Private sector & person

IRIM membership



As a member of the International Sociological Association (ISA), IRIM affirms its commitment to the 'Code of Ethics', approved by the ISA's Executive Committee.



IRIM became a member of the African Evaluation Association (AfREA) in August 2016. Since 2017, IRIM has started working as an AfREA board member.



IRIM initiated the Mongolian Evaluation Network; that integrates government and non-government organizations' representatives, international experts and consultants. In collaboration with other members, IRIM is committed to practicing international evaluation standards in Mongolia.



In 2016, IRIM initiated the 'Subjective well-being study' for the first time in Mongolia. In October 2017, IRIM became a member of 'East and East Asian Social Well-being Research Consortium'.



IRIM became a freelance member of the National Committee on Gender Equality, in 2017. Representing CSOs and the private sector, IRIM is making efforts to ensure gender equality in social science sectors and mainstream gender equality in government policies.



In 2010, IRIM became an Executive Committee member of the 'Partnership for Social Accountability, Mongolia' and a member of the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia and the Pacific (ANSA-EAP).



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2008-2018



Establishment

2008

IRIM is a consultancy firm; founded by professors from the National University of Mongolia (NUM) and its graduates in 2008. Since its establishment, IRIM has committed to the development of better policies, strengthening the accountability of government organizations (and CSOs) and improving participation of the general public.

Initial experience in areas of accountability

2010

IRIM became a member of the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia and the Pacific (ANSA-EAP) and, for the first time in Mongolia, implemented the 'Mapping Social Accountability in Mongolia' project. Between 2016 and 2018, in collaboration with the World Bank, IRIM has still continued implementing the initiative to strengthen accountability of the Education, Health sectors of Mongolia.

Expansion of operations and strengthening human capacity

2012

IRIM, for the first time, hosted an 'International Development Volunteer' under the Australian Youth Ambassador for Development (AYAD) programme. Volunteers have since worked within organizational capacity building, for periods of six to 12 months each year. To-date, IRIM has hosted a total of four volunteers within the scope this programme.

In 2012, through the 'Living Standards Measurement Survey Using Proxy Means Test' project - that covered more than 40,000 households in three provinces (aimags) - IRIM expanded its experience in the areas of social welfare.

Increased independence, and further expansion of operations

2014

IRIM implemented projects in the areas of improved public services (less bribery and bureaucracy) and strengthening of good governance. IRIM's contributions, efforts and leadership in the sector, were recognized with the receipt of the 'Corruption-free good governance initiative; 2014' certificate, presented by the Independent Authority Against Corruption of Mongolia (IAAC).

IRIM founded a subsidiary company - the Marketing Innovation Research Institute of Mongolia (MIRIM) - which specializes in market research, surveys, and tailors projects to the specific needs of the private sector.

Initiation of the Mongolian Evaluation Network

2016

IRIM initiated the Mongolian Evaluation Network (MEN), for monitoring and evaluation; one of the specialisation areas of IRIM. Within the scope of the MEN, IRIM is continuing its commitment to introduce and implement international evaluation standards in Mongolia. In the same year, IRIM became a member of the Asia Pacific Evaluation Association.

2009

Initial experience in areas of governance

Implementing a number of major projects, IRIM expanded its experience in the field of governance; one of the main strategic orientations of IRIM. Examples include budget transparency (such as activities within the 'Glass Account' and 'Transparency of the government organizations') and providing capacity-building consultancy for the central government and local organizations.

2011

Mongolian delegate in the International Sociological Association

IRIM became a member of the International Sociological Association (ISA) representing the Mongolian Sociological Association and other domestic research institutes. IRIM has since been following the 'Code of Ethics' approved by the Executive Council of ISA. IRIM now presents results and findings of sociological research (conducted in Mongolia) at every four-year forum and annual conferences.

2013

Strengthened monitoring and evaluation

IRIM expanded its experience in conducting monitoring and evaluation of national, and international, projects and programmes implemented in Mongolia. For example, IRIM conducted independent monitoring and evaluation of the implementation and performance of the following project and programmes; such as:

- the 'Swiss Development Cooperation (2013-2016)' programme's 'One-stop shop', and
- performance evaluation of the 'General Authority for State Registration' and 'General Police Department'.

These monitoring and evaluation exercises have contributed to increased efficiency of the projects and programmes; ensuring transparency, and providing for learning from the previous lessons so as to contribute to planning future projects and programmes.

2015

Strengthened external relationships

IRIM started to strengthen external relations of the organization, and its dissemination activities. By expanding networks and external relations, IRIM has established the tradition to organize an annual reception at the end of every year. In 2017, IRIM addressed the demands for, and importance of, monitoring and evaluation of the progress made under the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030. IRIM organized the 2017 Annual Reception with the theme of 'Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and Mongolia: The role of independent evaluation'. The event served as a unique platform for different parties to strengthen collaboration in the field of evaluation.

2017

Adoption of ISO 9001:2015 quality management standards

IRIM formulated its mission; to increase research impact, bring out substantial changes in society and become a knowledge centre (not only in Mongolia but also in the region). This was encapsulated into 'To become a knowledge centre based on national experience' and associated with a five-year strategy to achieve the mission. In this regard, IRIM is implementing ISO9001:2015 quality management standards in its everyday activities.

In October 2017, IRIM became a member of 'East and East Asian Social Well-being Research Consortium' and used it to introduce the results of the Mongolian social well-being barometer study (conducted over the previous five years).

SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

MINING

IRIM has implemented over 20 research, monitoring, evaluation and workshop-based projects related to mining during the last ten years. Within such projects, IRIM studied issues related to mining governance, and social and economic impact; and organized national and local-level consultation workshops. With respect to mining governance issues, IRIM implemented projects related to:

- artisanal, small-scale mining conflicts connected to environmental issues,
- best practices of mining companies,
- open data in mining licensing, and
- HIV/AIDS prevention.

Other activities undertaken by IRIM, include:

- review of application of the rule of law principles within environmental governance of the mining sector,
- corruption risk assessment in the mining sector,
- impact assessment of the value of investments made by miners and traders in the local economy,
- contributions to economic growth in ASM-dependent provinces, and
- environmental impact assessments.

In addition, wide ranging consultation workshop - with the intention of building capacity, identifying sectorial issues and developing policies - were presented by IRIM, among national and local stakeholders.

Examples of projects implemented by IRIM within the mining sector include the following:

- **Population Perception Survey: Mongolia Water and Mining. 2013–2015.** In recent years, community and public media's attention have become focussed on water and mining issues, in relation to contrasting perceptions of various topics. In addition, there has been a lack of reliable data to be used for policy making. The survey gathered evidence on all stakeholders' perceptions of mining's impacts on the quality of, and access to, water. Based on the survey findings, meetings for developing the water management strategy were organised among all stakeholders.
- **National Consultation on Model Community Development Agreement Workshop. 2015.** IRIM organized a tripartite discussion (to receive feedback and comments on the model community development agreement workshop) among stakeholders, including: mining companies, representatives from the Ministry of Mining and Heavy Industry, and non-governmental organizations. Participants were divided into six groups and provided feedback accordingly. IRIM delivered recommendations (based on participants' feedback and comments) to the client.
- **Corruption Risk Assessment of the Mining Sector of Mongolia. 2015–2016.** An IRIM team adopted and used 'A Practitioner's Guide for Corruption Risk Mitigation in Extractive Industries' as developed by the UNDP. A total of 15 corruption risks are identified. The assessment team was subsequently included in the Working Group established by the 'Resolution of the Minister for Mining No. A/40' of 12 April, 2016 for developing 'Corruption Risk Mitigation Action Plan' and IRIM reflected assessment findings into the ensuing action plan.

EDUCATION

Although all Mongolian citizens have the right to learn, some groups (including migrants, herders, vulnerable children, and children with disability) have less access to, and opportunities within, secondary and higher

education. IRIM has undertaken various projects which contribute to the improvement of access to, and quality of, secondary and higher education for all; especially vulnerable groups.

Examples of projects implemented by IRIM within the education sector include the following .

- **Disability and Education. 2014–2015.** This research was one of the few nationally representative endeavours focused on the education issues of children with disability. As a result of the research, the existing education situation of children with disability, and stakeholders’ perceptions of various types of education systems, were identified. In addition, obstacles (and solutions) to providing an education to children with disabilities were identified.
- **Baseline and End line Survey of ‘Strengthening Schools to Nurture Effective School Readiness and Learning Experiences in First Grade Children of Mongolia’ project. 2015–2018.** Within the survey, parents’ (teachers’ and other stakeholders’) knowledge and perceptions on first graders’ learning skills and participation were identified. Schools’ mechanisms – related to the above - were assessed. The baseline survey contributed to the development of an action plan for the ‘Strengthening Schools to Nurture Effective School Readiness and Learning Experiences in First Grade Children of Mongolia’ project, which enabled evidence-based planning.
- **‘Higher Education Responsiveness to the Labour Market’ Consultancy Service. 2015–2018.** IRIM provided technical assistance for higher education institutes, and the MECSS, in designing, conducting and analysing: quarterly graduate tracer studies, annual labour market surveys, employer satisfaction surveys, and the preparation of user-friendly reports. The latter will be used to review higher education programmes and curricula, and provide career information and guidance for students. The reports will also contribute to development of industry training programs and joint research projects (through public-private partnerships).

GOVERNANCE

IRIM focuses on improving appropriate mechanisms, legislation and controls for the government’s activities, and for the integrity, transparency and accountability of public services in general. All IRIM’s work draws upon experiences gained from previous studies, as well as engagements with a variety of stakeholders; including: citizens, civil society organisations, policy makers and others. Governance projects account for around 50% of IRIM’s consultancy work.

Examples of governance-related projects implemented by IRIM include the following :

- **Glass Wallet. 2009–2010.** IRIM implemented a project - entitled the ‘Glass Wallet Project’ - for the Open Society Forum, aimed at strengthening local government capacity regarding budget transparency. For this project, IRIM provided support training and guidelines to local governments, helping them improve their budget transparency. IRIM also trained citizens and civil society organisations on ways of participating in government budget processes. The work in this area influenced the subsequent passing of the government’s ‘Law on Glass Accounts’ in 2014.
- **Evaluation of Government Agency Website Transparency. Since 2009.** In 2009 IRIM implemented a project evaluating transparency of government agencies’ websites; on behalf of the UNDP. Since 2014, IRIM has undertaken annual monitoring, to measure and evaluate implementation of the ‘Law on Information Transparency and Right to Information’ and the ‘Law on Glass Account’. As a result of these works, there has been a database of changes to the government website
- **Consulting Service. 2017.** IRIM has implemented several projects for improving planning and control within government agencies; in accordance with the government resolution #89 (enacted in 2017) ‘Common Procedures for Assessing, Monitoring and Evaluating the Implementation of Policy Papers and Operation of Administrative Bodies’. Within this framework, IRIM provided consultancy services for improving development planning and monitoring (in complying with the above provisions) by using ‘Integrated Results-Based Management’ of European Union.

IRIM also developed general guidance for organizing the ‘Citizen Satisfaction Survey’ in collaboration with the World Bank and with approval of the Cabinet Secretariat of the Government of Mongolia.

LABOUR MARKET

To reveal employers' demands, and know the skillsets of employees, the labour market must be systematically analyzed, and compared with planned areas of investment and economic priorities.

Examples of labour market-related projects implemented by IRIM include the following .

- **Assessment of the Labour Law. 2013.** IRIM undertook a nation-wide assessment of the implementation of the Labour Law to identify constraints, and opportunities for improvement. The survey covered formal and informal employment, and businesses of all sizes and from a range of sectors. A number of issues were identified, some of which were applicable to the population as a whole, while others were specific to particular social groups; such as people with disabilities. Based on the results of this work, the government subsequently revised the Labour Law.
- **National Labour Stability Survey in Mongolia (the National Barometer Survey). 2015.** The survey was to identify supply and demand in the labour market, using internationally recognized methods. Data were collected from 2,050 active enterprises; across all 21 provinces and nine districts of Ulaanbaatar. Labour market demands were defined, by economic sector, geographical region, as well as professional groups.

GENDER

Since its establishment in 2008, IRIM has accumulated considerable resources of data and evidence on gender sensitive policy-making, while striving to ensure gender equality in all areas of its operations. IRIM has been contributing to making legal (and policy) documents and programmes of Mongolia, gender sensitive and evidence-based; through its implementation of projects, research, advocacy, training and workshops. IRIM became a freelance member of the National Committee on Gender Equality in 2017.

Examples of gender-related projects implemented by IRIM include the following

- **Voter Attitudes Survey: Women's Opportunities to Access Political Decision-Making Position. 2008.** IRIM conducted a socio-political accessibility survey among voters; to collect baseline data required for the public relations strategy (to promote women's participation in politics). IRIM examined public opinion on: women's roles at the government decision-making level, social and psychological factors influencing respondents' opinions, recommended images for female politicians to minimize negativity from voters, and general policy directions to effectively communicate with the public.
- **Role of Media in Women's Participation in Political Decision Making. Mass Media Monitoring and Developing Indicators of Gender Sensitive Journalism. 2010-2012.** With broad involvement of gender experts, human rights activists and sector specialists, IRIM developed 'Criteria for gender sensitivity in media'. This was based on the results of the current gender sensitivity in mass media of Mongolia and international practice.
- **Attitude toward Gender Equality: A Survey Experiment in Multiple National Settings. 2013.** IRIM conducted this cross-cultural, cross-sectional, experimental survey, which focused on attitudes towards gender equality. Specifically, it investigated how religious affiliation, socioeconomic status, gender, and other factors may correlate with attitudes towards equality between the sexes.
- **Gender Assessment for the Environmental Sector. 2017.** IRIM provided consultancy services with two objectives; to identify the progress, achievements and challenges incurred in the first (implementation) phase of the strategy, and to develop recommendations necessary for development of the Action Plan of the Strategy (and effective implementation of the following phases). IRIM also provided an overview of the current situation of gender equality in the forestry sector, to serve as an evidence base for promoting equitable participation of men and women in environmental decision making.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

Nationally, approximately four per cent of Mongolians have disabilities, even though, a few of them involved in the service of education, employment and participated actively in social life. There is a lack of proper understanding of 'disability', poor inter-relationships within the inter-sectoral records (and statistics) and weak implementation of legislation (policies and programmes).

Examples of disability-related projects implemented by IRIM include the following.

- **Evaluation Study of Policies and Activities for Increasing the Employment of PWDs. 2016.** IRIM evaluated implementation of the policies and activities expected to increase the employment of PWDs, and developed recommendations to improve the implementation.
- **Brighter Future for Children with Special Needs. 2016–2017.** The project was implemented in collaboration with World Vision International, Mongolia. Activities were directed to ensuring rights to education, supporting inclusive education for CWDs and developed (and piloting) a screening tool to be used within primary and secondary schools.

IRIM HIGHLIGHTS; 2017

January

IRIM relocated to a new, larger office; expanding IRIM's operations.

1

February

IRIM initiated the Mongolian Evaluation Network

2

March

IRIM organized a consultative meeting on developing national evaluation standards (21 March, 2017). This meeting was part of the 'Launching and applying the ASEAN regional evaluation standard framework' project. This project was implemented by the Mongolian Evaluation Network in partnership with the Malaysian Evaluation Society and the Vietnam Monitoring and Evaluation Network. The Mongolian Evaluation Network is an IRIM initiative to create a common platform for those who work in evaluation, or who are interested and supportive of the field.

3

4

April

IRIM's Executive Director, Dolgion, attended the 8th conference of the African Evaluation Association. During the conference, she developed IRIM's cooperation with the Association.

May

IRIM was selected as a board member of the APEA.

5

6

June

IRIM conducted a performance assessment on the 'Local Development Fund' in 99 soums of five provinces

July

IRIM was awarded a grant to organize a conference themed 'Democracy in the 21st century: Challenges and the ways forward'

7

8

August

IRIM was commissioned by UNICEF, to conduct 'Real Time Monitoring of the Impact of Planned Fiscal Tightening and Changes on Social Welfare Spending'

September

IRIM conducted the 'Promoting Effective Governance for Mining Sector Development through capacity building in research and engagement' programme; funded by the Australia Awards Fellowship, in cooperation with, and hosted by, Griffith University.

9

10

October

IRIM, became a member of the 'International Consortium Social Well-Being Studies' IRIM's current Executive Director, Batsugar, attended the '2017 International Monetary Fund-World Bank Spring Meetings' in Washington, DC. USA.

November

IRIM's delegate - Ms Tselmegsaikhan Lkhagva, - attended the 90th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Sociological Society (JSS) at the University of Tokyo in Japan (4-5 November, 2017). Tselmegsaikhan was a recipient of a travel grant for 'Starting Scholars from Overseas'.

11

IRIM board member Ya.Byambasuren attended the International Trust Conference and presented 'Trust in Mongolian Society'.

12

December

IRIM organized its third (2017) Annual Reception with the theme of 'Planning and monitoring and evaluation: A way to improve policy effectiveness and efficiency.'

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017

IRIM PARTICIPATED IN THE 8TH AFRICAN EVALUATION ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2017



The Mongolian Evaluation Network will continue contributing to these efforts along with colleagues from APEA and other regional evaluation associations.

The African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) was founded in 1999 and is therefore one of the oldest regional associations in the world. This year, AfrEA organized its 8th International Conference in Kampala, Uganda. At the conference, regional associations from Africa (AfrEA), Asia-Pacific (APEA), Latin America (RELAC) and South Asia, met to discuss how to promote 'culturally embedded' evaluation. In Africa, a body of literature on the topic of evaluation rooted in local cultures has been emerging over the past decade. 'Made in Africa' and the Global South initiative may help us progress and create a framework to facilitate development.

IRIM IMPLEMENTED CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME IN COOPERATION WITH - AND HOSTED BY - GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY



Governance and sustainable development of mining and the environment are key areas of focus for IRIM. Within its mission to build capacity for research and consulting, and to deliver more positive impact within society, IRIM is conducting its 'Promoting Effective Governance for Mining Sector Development through capacity building in research and engagement' programme. The initiative is funded by the Australia Awards Fellowship, and hosted by Griffith University.

The course program aims to ensure that Mongolians benefit from a well-governed mining industry, utilizing Australian knowledge to assist with sustainable development. By planning joint research projects with the academics - on a range of topics; including inclusive economic growth, private sector governance and development and enhancing transparency and accountability in the mining sector - fellows will have the opportunity to work on these areas while being mentored.

Within the programme fellows Ts. Batsugar, N. Minjirmaa and T. Elberel will:

- improve their research skills in the area of mining governance,
- conduct research, and
- develop and publish research paper.

Fellows will also be engaged in knowledge sharing activities, to distribute their experiences and skills.

The concluding event of the programme was organized in December 2017 in Ulaanbaatar. At this event, fellows presented the findings of their research, and discussed results with the representatives of the

government, civil society, experts of Mongolian mining sector. Dr. Tapan Sarker, convener of the programme at Griffith University, participated.

IRIM will continue its commitment of contributing to the strengthening of mining governance - with research conducted in this area - and establish a sustainable mining network.

IRIM BECAME A MEMBER OF THE 'INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL WELL-BEING STUDIES'



In 2016, IRIM initiated the 'Subjective well-being study' in Mongolia, and by 2018 had presented the results and findings; at national and international conferences. In October 2017, representing Mongolia, IRIM became a member of the 'International Consortium of Social Well-Being Studies'. Under the MEXT Program (to support strategic research foundations at private universities) the Consortium was formed by the Center for Social Well-being Studies of Senshu University, in 2014. The research aimed to:

- investigate the current status, and mechanisms, of social well-being in contemporary East and Southeast Asia, by conducting cross-national questionnaire surveys in the region, and
- form an international research consortium consisting of universities and institutes in the region, for academic exchange on social well-being and other related studies.

As of 2018, seven member countries (Indonesia Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Philippine, Taiwan and Vietnam) have been working on collaborative projects. As a member, the research team of Mongolia is now able to conduct activities under four focus areas within the project, including:

- conducting cross-national questionnaire
- participating and presenting the results and findings at symposia and conferences
- publishing research results and findings in English (in their journal), and
- presenting research results and findings in Japanese.

IRIM ORGANIZED ANNUAL RECEPTION 2017



IRIM has organized 'Annual Receptions' since 2015, to provide participants with a platform to engage dialogue on relevant subjects. The 'Third Annual Reception' (2017) was organized with the theme of 'Planning and monitoring and evaluation: A way to improve policy effectiveness and efficiency.' IRIM raised issues such as: the need for improved linkages between planning and evaluation, increased participation of citizens and CSOs in planning and evaluation processes, and improved collaboration and partnership with attention to national development priorities.

IRIM INITIATED PROJECTS

SOCIAL COHESION AND SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING SURVEY IN MONGOLIA



CLIENTS' NAME

This is an internally funded IRIM in-house project

SURVEY OBJECTIVES

The general objectives were to establish a database of subjective well-being in Mongolia, gather evidence needed for policymaking in Mongolia and provide insights on how Mongolians evaluate their lives in a rapidly changing society. More particular objectives were as follows:

- Provide better measures of well-being.
- Provide better assessments of the country's comparative performance in various fields.
- Strengthen the evidence-base for policy making.
- Establish policy evaluation platform



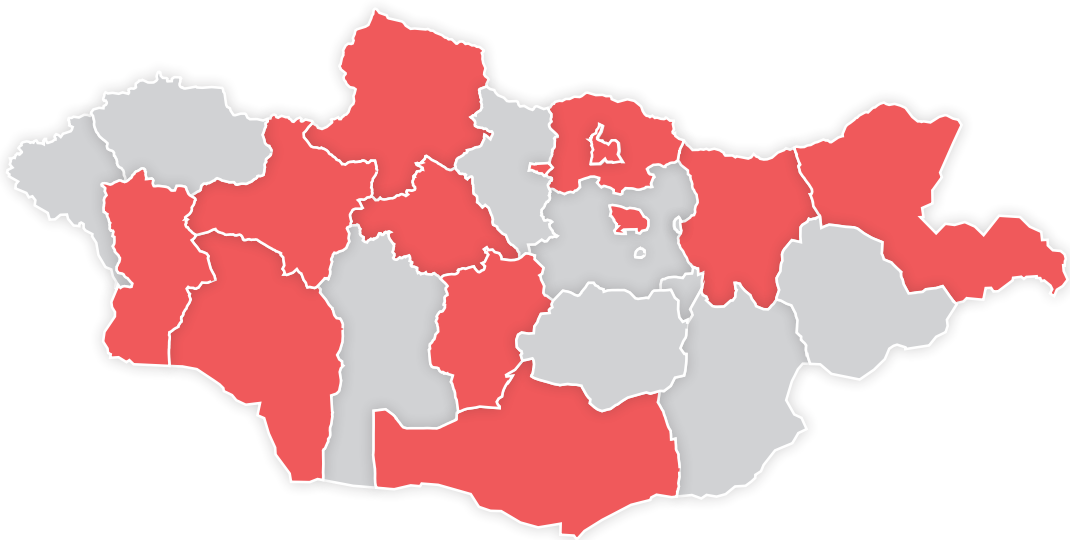
2016

June

2017

December

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE



Data collection was conducted in a total of 12 aimags, including Arkhangai, Govi-Altai, Darkhan-Uul, Dornod, Zavkhan, Orkhon, Umnugovi, Uvurkhangai, Selenge, Khovd, Khuvsgul, Khentii and Ulaanbaatar.

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE OF THE SURVEY

Notions of subjective well-being or happiness have a long tradition as central elements of quality of life, but until very recently these concepts were generally deemed beyond the scope of statistical measurement. Over the last two decades, however, an increasing body of evidence has shown that subjective well-being can be measured in surveys, that such measures are valid and reliable, and that they can usefully inform policy-making. This evidence has been reflected in an exponential growth in the economic literature on measures of

subjective well-being. Recognising the importance of subjective aspects of development, significant progress has been made internationally in well-being measures through internationally comparable surveys such as the Gallup World Poll, World Values Survey, The European Social Survey, Eurobarometer, Latinobarometer, Asian Barometer, and OECD Better Life Index).

Despite progress being made internationally in measuring well-being, there is still a lack of detailed studies about subjective well-being and social cohesion in Mongolia. Accordingly, in 2016, IRIM, as an independent research institute aiming to contribute to positive impacts in Mongolia, initiated

its own social survey on these topics. The data was to provide evidence on the following:

- The well-being of **people** rather than on the macro-economic conditions of economies
- The well-being of **different groups** of the population, in addition to average conditions.
- Measures of **inequalities in people's conditions**
- Well-being achievements, measured by **outcome indicators**
- **Objective and subjective aspects of people's well-being**

The Social Cohesion and Subjective Well-Being survey covers **representative samples and is internationally comparable. It is conducted in a consistent way, across different population groups and over time.**

In 2016, IRIM became a member of Social Well-Being Research Consortium in Asia. As a member IRIM is now able to conduct activities under four focus areas of this research project, which include (1) conducting cross-national questionnaire (2) participating and presenting the results and findings at symposia and conferences (3) publishing research results and findings in English at the journal (4) presenting research results and findings in Japanese at the journals.

IRIM will continue to share our results with academics, policy-makers and development practitioners in Asia and beyond.

SURVEY DESIGN

In developing the study tools, IRIM relied on OECD (2013), Guideline on Measuring Subjective Well-being. The questionnaire related to respondents' demographics, and factors relating to quality of life and material conditions. The questionnaire was comprised of five sections, namely: general SWB, life evaluation, eudemonic happiness, domain evaluation, and affect.

Life evaluation	a reflective assessment on a person's life or some specific aspect of it
Eudemonia	a sense of meaning and purpose in life, or good psychological functioning
Affect	a person's feelings or emotional states, typically measured with reference to a particular point in time

Between 2016 and 2017, data collection was conducted in 12 aimags and Ulaanbaatar, covering a sample size of 1825 respondents. In the surveys, cluster sampling, random cluster and intercept line sampling methods were employed. The data collections coincided with the major events of Mongolia in different times of the year. This way we can discern the trends in the data over time and identify the factors influencing people's happiness.

1. June 09, 2016 – June 20, 2016 – Parliamentary election 2016 (Summer)
2. September 08, 2016 – June 15, 2016 – Start of the school year (Fall)
3. February 01, 2017 – February 12, 2017 – 495 stake in Erdenet Mining Corporation (Winter)

FINDINGS

Table 1. General subjective well-being results by age groups, income quintile, areas and sexes (0-10 scales)

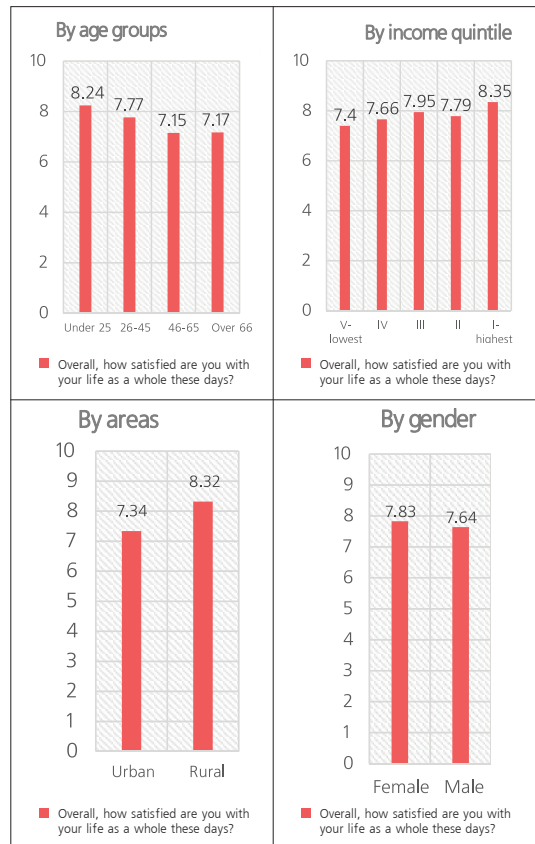
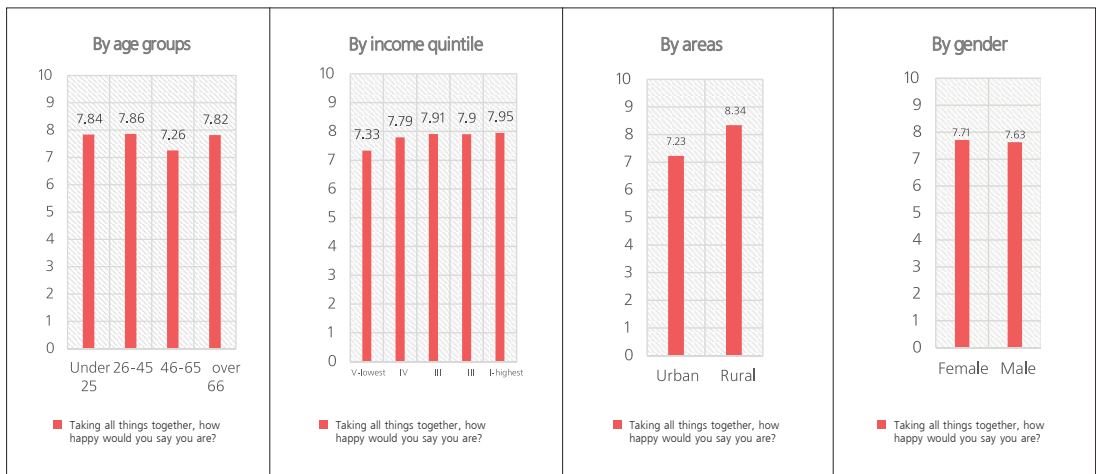


Table 2. Life evaluation results by age groups, income quintile, areas and sexes (0-10 scales)



CONCLUSIONS

The results and findings of the study (above) suggest that there were some differences related to age groups; for example, SWB declines with age. People working in state organizations had a higher SWB. When education level increased, SWB increased. Rural locations were associated with more positive effects and less negative effects. Overall, the average affect in rural areas was much

higher than that of urban areas. People were least satisfied with the country's economic and political situation, and most satisfied with their own personal (and personal group's) social life. To make more significant conclusions, there is need to repeat the survey.

IRIM will continue working on these surveys in the future and will focus on using the survey findings to informing policy discussions.

'LAUNCHING AND ADAPTING THE ASEAN REGIONAL EVALUATION STANDARD FRAMEWORK' PROJECT



CLIENTS' NAMES:

EvalPartners International

The International Organisation for Cooperation in Evaluation

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The objective of this project was to facilitate a consultative process between stakeholders involved in the 'Launching and adapting the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Evaluation Standard Framework' project for the purpose of creating a Mongolian Evaluation Standards Framework based on an evaluation standard framework template developed by ASEAN.



2017

March 17

2017

March 22

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

The consultation took place in Ulaanbaatar.

BACKGROUND

The development of the ASEAN Regional Framework on Evaluation Standards (ARFES) was an initiative of EvalPartners International and was managed by the International Organisation for Cooperation in Evaluation. The ARFES project was headed by the Malaysian Evaluation Society with four partners from the ASEAN region.

Developing the ARFES was urgently needed because of the lack of national evaluation standards in the emerging economies of ASEAN countries. There has been an increase in demand for evaluation in the medium to long-term among developing and emerging economies, however evaluation has been constrained by the lack of available evaluation expertise and standards. The intent of the ARFES project was to offer a common generic framework with a broad outline to enable each country to draw up its own national framework on evaluation standards. As a result, Malaysia and Vietnam now have their own national evaluation standard frameworks, based on the ARFES.

The Mongolian Evaluation Network is an initiative started by IRIM to create a common platform for those who work in evaluation, or who are interested in and supportive of the field. This network is the body responsible for implementing the 'Launching and adapting the ASEAN Regional Evaluation Standard Framework' project in partnership with the Malaysian Evaluation Society and the Vietnam Monitoring and Evaluation Network. This project aims to create a Mongolian Evaluation Standards Framework based on the ASEAN template framework.

PROJECT DESIGN

The Mongolian Evaluation Network facilitated the consultative process as part of the 'Launching and adapting the ASEAN Regional Evaluation Standard Framework' project. Participants included the following:

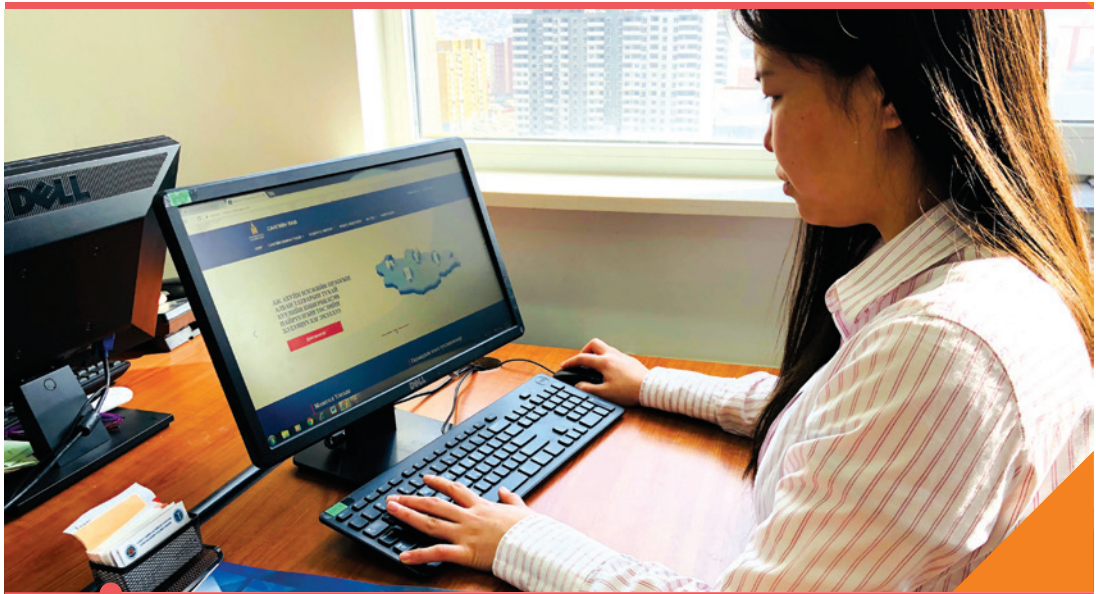
- Government officials
- Representatives of donor organisations
- Non-government organisations
- Academic institutes and universities
- Individual consultants
- Members and consultants of the Mongolian Evaluation Network

CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The consultation yielded productive discussion and valuable feedback on the ARFES as well as the Malaysian evaluation standard framework. Based on this discussion and feedback, the first draft of the Mongolian Evaluation Standard Framework was developed. The following recommendations and future directions came out of the meeting:

- The Mongolian Evaluation Network should be expanded and its operations strengthened.
- Cooperation between national government agencies, non-government organisations, donor organisations and independent consultants should be strengthened.
- The Mongolian Evaluation Standards Framework should be improved in terms of language and clarity and circulated once again among the participants of the consultation.
- Once there is a final version that has been agreed to and accepted by all the parties involved, it should be formally adopted and applied in evaluation practices thereafter.

ASSESSMENT OF GOVERNMENT AGENCY WEBSITE TRANSPARENCY



CLIENTS' NAMES:

The project was funded by IRIM.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The overarching objective was to assess the implementation of the 'Law on Information Transparency and Right to Information' and the 'Law on Glass Accounts' by monitoring the websites of regulatory and implementing government agencies and develop recommendations based on the results and findings.

The specific objectives were to:

- Assess the transparency of regulatory, and implementing government agencies' websites using indicators outlined in the 'Law on Information Transparency and Right to Information'.
- Assess the transparency of budget allocations and procurement, using indicators outlined in the 'Law on Glass Accounts'.
- Rank agencies' performance against indicators.
- Develop recommendations and a policy brief to foster transparent disclosure of information on government agency websites.



СУДАЛГААНЫ ХҮРЭЭ

The project was undertaken in Ulaanbaatar and covered 81 organisations' websites, including:

- Ministries (13).
- Government implementing agencies (17).
- Government regulatory agencies (ten).
- Administrative divisions of provinces (aimags, 21).
- Administrative divisions of Ulaanbaatar (11).
- State Great Khural and its departments (nine organisations).

BACKGROUND

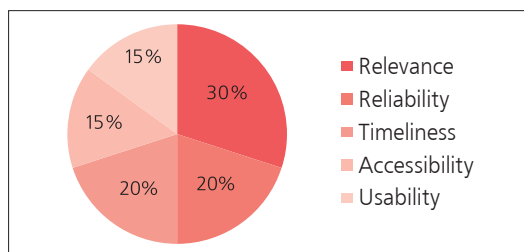
Transparency is one of the three pillars of good governance, and – at its simplest - means having nothing to hide. Information disclosed on the official websites of government organizations can ensure transparency of the organization. In order to improve transparency, the Government of Mongolia has been implementing Clause 16 of the Constitution of Mongolia, 'E-Mongolia Program', 'Law on Information Transparency and Right to Information' and the 'Government Resolution #143'. It has become IRIM's tradition to conduct the 'Web-monitoring Survey' every year to evaluate transparency levels of the government organizations.

PROJECT DESIGN

The project had three steps:

- Analyse each website's performance against indicators.
- Compare the results of the analysis with those from previous years.
- Rank the targeted government agencies' performance.

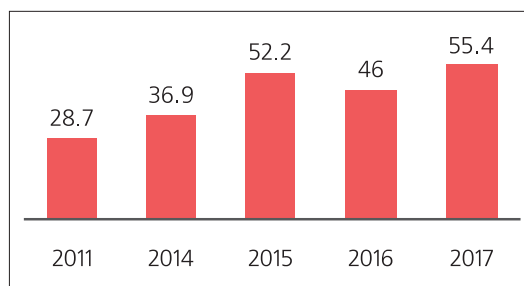
Weighting of Different Components



FINDINGS

There was a steady increase in transparency levels, of the government organizations; from 28.7% in 2011 to 52.2% in 2015; but a decline to 46.0% in 2016. Despite the increase to 55.4% in 2017, the level of transparency is still in the category of 'Transparent in some respect'.

Rating of Public Sector Websites; 2011 to 2017



With to indicators, the evaluation results were as follows.

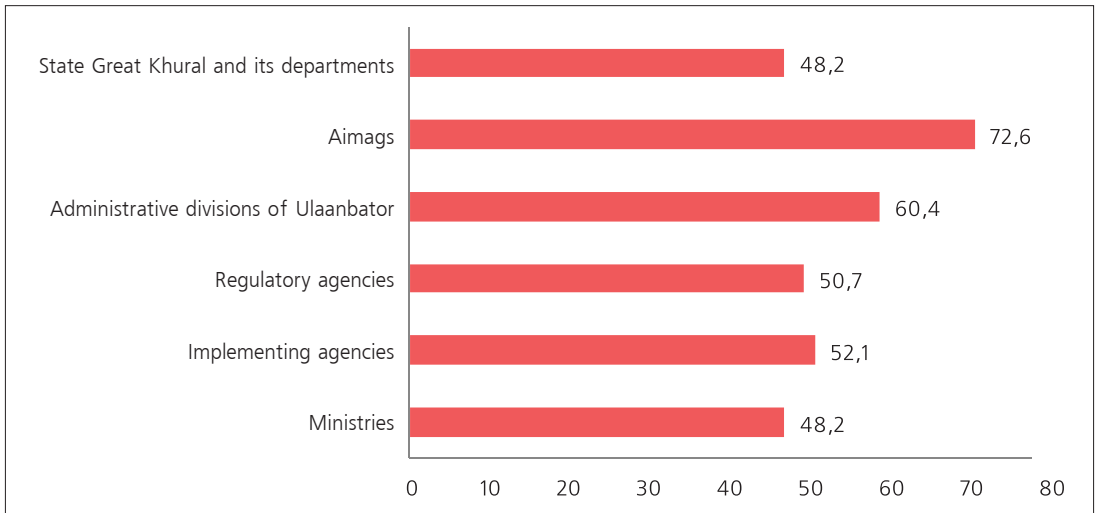
Performance of Government Agencies; by Selected Indicators (%)

Indicators	2011	2014	2015	2016	2017
Relevance	30.2	40.8	56.4	49	58.1
Reliability	9.2	13.9	47.1	55.8	55.1
Timeliness	7.2	28.8	39.5	41.5	38.5
Accessibility	44.9	37.8	44.7	37.2	60.2
Usability	59.8	28.8	39.5	41.5	69.3

The 2017 evaluation results show that 'accessibility' of the information disclosed on the websites of the government organizations, exhibited the highest increase among the five indicators. However, the 'timeliness' level declined to 38.5% in 2017

(from 41.5% in 2016), which makes rendered it the equivalent of 'closed'. Overall, the results indicate that government organizations have moved backwards on disclosing information in a timely manner.

'Transparency' Performance of Surveyed Government Agencies; 2017

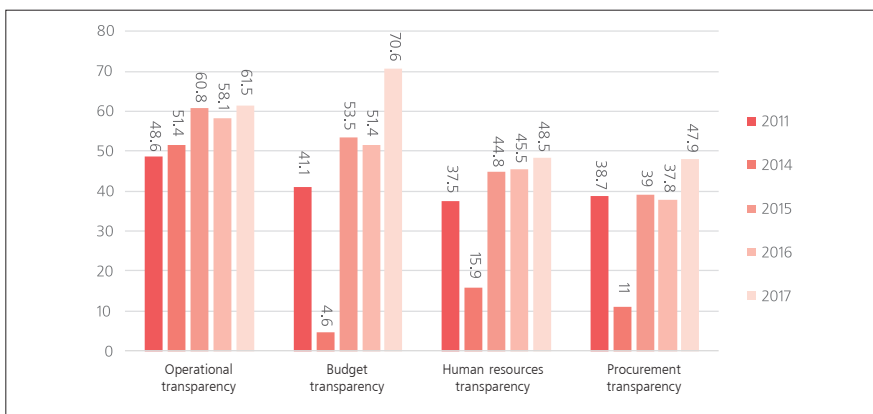


Transparency levels of the information disclosed on the websites of government organizations in provinces (aimags) was high enough to be categorised as 'transparent' while in all other locations the performances would only rate 'transparent in some respects'. The results were likely to have been affected by changes made in websites of these organization due to the government restructure. At the local (provincial) level, such affects are less than

at the central level.

The survey aimed to measure aspects of information - presented on organizations' websites - according to four indicators; as governed by the 'Law on Information Transparency and Right to Information' and 'Law on Glass Account'.

Aspects of Information Transparency; Indicators Scores (% , 2011 to 2017)



The main features for each of the four indicators development were as follows:

- In 2017, transparency of websites belonging to state organizations improved.
- There was a sharp improvement in the transparency of the budget allocation of agencies, increasing from 41.1% in 2011 to 70.6% in 2017.
- Transparency in human resource on the websites of organizations improved.
- The percentage of transparency in

procurement increased from 38.7% in 2011 to 47.9% in 2017.

In general, agencies were most transparent when it came to budget issues, and least transparent about procurement.

CONCLUSIONS

From the analysis, it was possible to identify a number of strengths and weaknesses in current government practices.

Strengths and Weaknesses of Government Websites

Strengths	Weaknesses
According to the 'Law on Information Transparency and Right to Information' and the 'Law on Glass Accounts', government agencies have generally improved their website transparency.	Information on websites is often unreliable, and out-dated.
All government agencies are able to provide information to citizens using their official websites.	The information stream is one-directional, lacking the receipt of feedback from citizens; therefore not providing for their participation.
Websites fulfilled technical requirements, therefore the government agencies access had increased.	Agencies tend to focus on the technical side of their websites rather than the quality, timeliness and appropriateness of the information.
The 'Glass Accounts' website is online and provides links. This has improved the scores for 'procurement' transparency and 'budget' transparency.	During changes of government, there are high turnovers of staff, leading to issues such as the sudden closure of some websites or dramatic changes being made. This negatively impacts transparency. Even though information is available via the Glass Account, it is often inadequate, missing files and other details.

IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS

A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

World Vision
Дэлхийн Зөн Монгол

IRIM
INDEPENDENT
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF
MONGOLIA



CLIENTS' NAMES:

World Vision Mongolia.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The main objective of the project was to empower children with disabilities (CWDs) in urban areas, and increase their access to education in regular schools. There were two intended outcomes, namely:

- Improve local identification standards and mechanisms to detect CWDs in regular schools.
- Empower families and educational organizations to access appropriate education services, learning resources, and personal development opportunities, for CWDs.

IRIM was responsible for undertaking work towards achieving the first outcome.



2016

June

2017

September

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Three districts of Ulaanbaatar; Bayanzurkh, Chingeltei and Songinokhairkhan.

BACKGROUND

In the 2014–2015 school year, the total number of primary and secondary school students in Mongolia was 505,816. Identified CWDs constituted two per cent of these (11,072). CWDs made up a significant percentage of school dropouts and many had very limited access to education, especially in rural areas. Nationally, approximately 30% (4,779) of the total number of school-aged CWDs (15,851) did not attend school.

Because of the quality of the data, the real number of CWDs in Mongolia was unknown. There were no established methods to detect CWDs. In most cases, regular school teachers relied on their personal experience in order to determine whether children had disabilities or not. In 2014, IRIM conducted a nationwide survey as part of a disability and education research project funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency Research Institute (JICARI). The survey found that data on CWDs was of poor quality and ambiguous.

Established in 2014, The Sub-Commission of Health, Education and Social Welfare (SCHESW) is the official organization for identifying and screening CWDs in Mongolia. Currently, the SCHESW is not working to its full capacity and most people in Mongolia are unaware of its existence. There was an urgent need to standardise the national screening tool used to detect CWDs at an early stage. It was intended that the screening tool developed by the project should be simple and easy-to-use, and help to identify which children should then be formally assessed by the SCHESW.

PROJECT DESIGN

The work consisted of the following activities.

- **Baseline survey.** Involving 312 questionnaires and 60 key informant interviews.
- **Desktop Review.** Regarding clauses related to CWDs in policy documents, laws and regulations; that are currently applicable in Mongolia

- **Comparison of best-practices in international jurisdictions.** Review of practices in four countries that have inclusive education policies; namely: Australia, Ireland, Thailand and the United States of America
- **Working group.** Consisting of specialists working in the education of CWDs, was responsible for developing appropriate screening tools and their trialling.
- **Trial of the screening tool.** Among 500 pupils in a total of three targeted districts.
- **Methodical Training.** For more than 120 health, education and social specialists.
- **Best Practice Competition.** Among nine targeted schools; rewarding best practices following adoption of the developed screening tool
- **Capacity building, training and mentoring service.** To improve the capacity of NGOs and state organizations, operating in the field of CWDs.
- **Final Evaluation.** 258 questionnaires, 33 key informant interviews, nine focus group discussions and nine case study interviews were conducted.

FINDINGS

A few selected findings, from among the many that were discovered; were as follows:

- **Baseline survey.** In 2015–16 there was no central body that assessed CWDs. A few members of the SCHESW were aware of assessment tools, but did not use them.
- **Desktop review.** The Development Department will become part of the Prime Minister's Office 'Council for People with Disabilities' with additional responsibilities, which may become under-resourced. Cooperation between stakeholders (including NGOs and government) and international organisations, was poor.
- **International best practice comparison.** School and special education centres in the

countries compared, often collaborated and responded to the needs of each individual student. Generally, regular schools had their own assessment team and they undertook screening and assessment of students at an early stage. If children need an in-depth assessment, this was usually completed at special education centres.

- **Working group.** An international identification tool (the 'Washington Group-Child Functioning Module' hereby referred to as CFM screening tool) developed by UNICEF was selected, and should facilitate the project's progress.
- **Trial assessment of the screening tool.** 158 children with functional difficulties were identified using the CFM screening tool. 71 of them had severe functional difficulties in one domain, while 87 of them had severe functional difficulties in more than one domain.



Best Practice Competition and Video Documentary. The top three schools were selected by competition, with 1st place going to the 121st school of Songinokhairkhan District, 2nd to the 17th school of Chingeltei District and 3rd to the 102nd school of Bayanzurkh District. A short video - based on the best practices from the competition – was produced and distributed.

- **Capacity Building Training and Mentoring service.** Fourteen representatives from five NGOs, and two sub-commissioners of targeted districts, participated in the training; followed by mentoring. Afterwards, participating organizations developed their own action plans.

- **Final Evaluation.** Sixty-seven per cent of the targeted organizations had integrated the clause (related to the usage of screening tools) into their activity plans and reports. The project ensured participation of teachers, parents and students; who played a critical role in making their understanding and awareness of CWD consistent and accurate.

CONCLUSIONS

Prior to implementation of this project, there were no tools or methodologies available for detecting CWDs. In most cases, CWDs were identified based on teachers' personal experience and other subjective assessments. The CFM screening tool can be a methodological support for teachers and social workers in definition of the CWDs and detection of the difficulties of students.

It is anticipated that there will be a range of positive outcomes from this screening tool. Firstly, widespread use of the tool will improve the quality of statistics related to CWDs. Secondly, it will allow for targeted assessments by the Sub-Commission of Health, Education, and Social Welfare; which should improve efficiency. Finally, the tool will allow for the identification of many CWDs who would not otherwise have been identified.

REVIEW OF THE APPLICATION OF THE RULE OF LAW PRINCIPLES IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE IN THE MONGOLIAN MINING SECTOR



CLIENTS' NAMES:

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The objective of this project is to assess the principles that government agencies apply to ensure environmental protection with regard to mining activities. The assessment includes both their legally mandated roles and implementation in practice. It also analyses the extent to which the existing legal and regulatory framework addresses rule of law principles, such as legality, accessibility and rights. In addition, the assessment aims to:

- identify specific rule-of-law related challenges, strengths and weaknesses in the services delivered by the specified agencies
- measure the performance and responsiveness of public service providers from a rights-based perspective, as well as the expectations and perceptions of the people using these services
- analyse the discrepancy between what is provided for by law and what is exercised in practice, in administrative processes such as Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA).



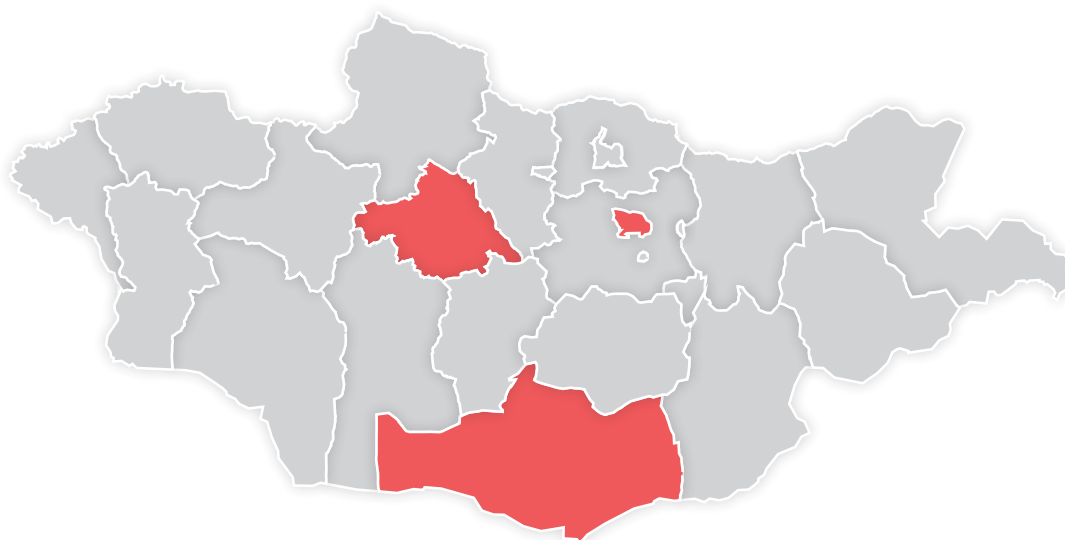
2016

September

2017

March

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE



The project is being undertaken in Arkhangai (Tsenkher soum) and Umnugovi aimags (Tsogettsetsii soum), as well as in Ulaanbaatar.

BACKGROUND

Mongolia's growth in its extractives sector has the capacity to bring much-needed resources to finance social and economic development. However, the management of the environmental impacts of the sector is one of the most critical challenges faced by many resource-dependent developing countries like Mongolia. This is often because environmental protection agencies, ministries that oversee environmental management and governments more broadly cannot fulfil their mandate for governing the sector. This mandate requires them to govern in a way that protects the environment, advances social progress, and accelerates sustainable growth. However, the exploitation of oil, gas and minerals is often associated with environmental degradation, conflict, corruption and human rights violations.

In order to assist countries in addressing these challenges, the UNDP has initiated a global project titled 'Environmental Governance for

Sustainable Natural Resource Management'. It provides targeted support to the ministries of the environment and mining and other relevant stakeholders in four countries: Colombia, Kenya, Mongolia, and Mozambique. As part of this new initiative, the UNDP is supporting a self-assessment of two government agencies, namely the Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism (MOEGDT) and the General Agency for Specialised Inspection (GASI) in their respective roles in enforcing environmental regulatory frameworks in the mining sector.

PROJECT DESIGN

The project is using a methodology developed by the UNDP in collaboration with a Swedish research institution, Falke Bernadotte Academy. The methodology is designed to analyse the level

of respect for rule of law principles in public administration along six dimensions—legality, accessibility, right to be heard, right to appeal, transparency and accountability.

The assessment consists of three parts. The first part is a formal mapping of laws and regulations, and a description of the institutional environment in which each particular government agency operates. A total of 17 laws related to mining, environment and administration are being reviewed.

The second part is a perception-based questionnaire that examines the specific challenges civil servants face in their working environment and in enforcing accountability mechanisms. The questionnaires are being conducted at all administrative levels down to the soum level. All civil servants in charge of environmental and mining issues at the MOEGDT,

GASI and their local branches (65 in total) are being included in the assessment.

The third part of the assessment is a perception-based survey of the service users of the two agencies who had been affected by decisions made by the agency. They include both citizens and entities. This means that the assessment covers mining companies, environmental impact assessment companies, non-government organisations working towards environmental protection, citizens such as herders, people with disabilities and poor and marginalised citizens who live in mining areas in the selected aimags and soums. A total of 147 users are being included in the assessment.

These three parts complement each other by cross-checking the data obtained through desk reviews and surveys.

CONSULTING SERVICE FOR IMPROVING GOVERNANCE AND BUILDING CAPACITY OF GOBI OYU DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT FUND



GOBI OYU
DEVELOPMENT
SUPPORT FUND



INDEPENDENT
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF
MONGOLIA



CLIENTS' NAMES:

Gobi Oyu Development Support Fund (DSF).

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The general objective was to improve the DSF's policy, its planning activities and to promote sustainable development of the organization.

Under the goal following four objectives of the components were included:

Component 1. Workshops: To give information to stakeholders and soum citizens about the fund and cooperation agreement, and to define the needs of the project

Component 2. Institutional development: To develop the fund's rules and regulations that will enable it to strengthen its capacity

Component 3. Monitoring and evaluation: To give fund staff M&E skills so that they can use them independently

Component 4. Consumer confidence index—research: To implement the fund's third strategic objective and evaluate whether the fund's activities are consistent with citizens' needs and have the citizens' trust. There will be a questionnaire that will have the following sub-objectives:

- to calculate the citizens' confidence index
- to make an assessment of citizens' needs
- provide information about the fund to citizens



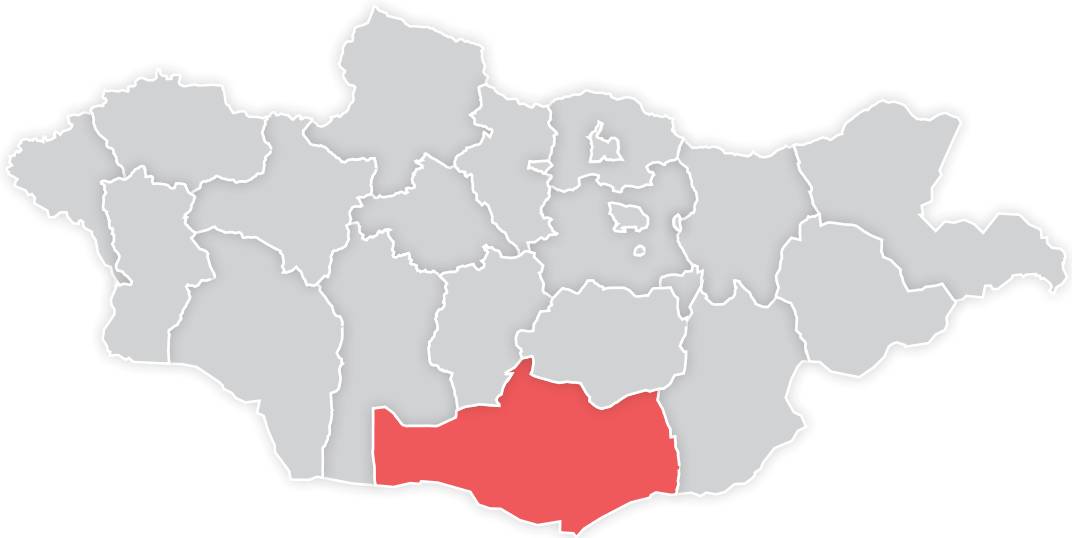
2017

March

2018

March

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE



Umnugovi province

BACKGROUND

A Cooperation Agreement was signed by Oyu Tolgoi LLC and partner communities - of Umnugobi province, and the districts (soums) of Bayan-Ovoo, Dalanzadgad, Khanbogd and Manlai - in April 2015. The agreement sets out how the parties will work together towards sustainable development for local areas; the first such model in Mongolia.

The Gobi Oyu Development Support Fund (DSF) was established as a standalone legal entity to implement the Cooperation Agreement. Oyu Tolgoi LLC makes multi-million dollar financial contribution to the DSF each year. The DSF aims to contribute to the sustainable development of Umnugovi and partner communities by supporting and delivering efficient projects and programmes that target areas such as: environmental management, water management, traditional livelihoods and pasture management, natural history and heritage, basic social services, and local business expansion support.

The number of projects and programmes requested by individuals and institutions had increased, their

scope overlapped and the quality deteriorated. Accordingly, the DSF planned to introduce a competitive system for selecting projects. Within this work, there was a need to change the existing policies and activities, according to the thematic schedules of the DSF.

PROJECT DESIGN

The following four components were provided under the consulting service.

Зураг 2. Зөвлөх үйлчилгээний ажлын ерөнхий хүрээ



- **Organizing workshops on each thematic schedule.** The workshops involved stakeholders, including representatives of the funding agency and local administration, citizens and experts. Policy and needs were defined on each thematic in the workshops.
- **Strengthening institutional capacity.** Based on the findings of the workshops and documentation, thematic priorities were selected. The process for implementing the policy, and the stakeholder engagement, were identified. Activities to improve relevant documents, and their processing, were implemented.
- **Capacity building for monitoring and evaluation (M&E).** The DSF's main activity was to finance projects. Therefore, it was necessary to strengthen the capacity to monitor projects' effectiveness. Training was organized, providing the skills and knowledge to conduct M&E. Two projects were selected for developing skills to evaluate ongoing and final activities and reporting skills.
- **Methodology for calculating trust index.** A standardised methodology for estimating the trust index and developing reports on citizens' trust index was developed for the DSF.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The following three years' priorities - for environmental management, water management, traditional livelihoods and pasture management, natural history and heritage, basic social services, and local business expansion support of the DSF - were developed, based on documentary analysis and nine workshops' results. The DSF enabled; to develop ToR and the selection of projects through competitive tenders. Planning was adopted to implement M&E for all projects, based on Umnugovi's citizens' needs.

The citizens' trust index will help to determine whether the DSF is financing projects connected to citizens' needs, and will be helpful for determining future operational plans.

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING



CLIENTS' NAMES:

The European Commission, represented by The European Union Delegation to Mongolia.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The main objective was to identify the current constraints and opportunities for the National Council of Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) as a result of the broader environmental context in which it operates. More particular topics of the Situational Analysis were:

- NCVET's history and the terms of its establishment.
- The roles of all relevant stakeholders and their current operational status. The structure of NCVET as well as the structures around NCVET (for example those that govern the way NCVET interacts with other stakeholders).
- Relevant laws, regulations and standards that govern the operations of NCVET.
- NCVET's funding mechanisms.



2017 April

2017 August

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE Ulaanbaatar

BACKGROUND

Strengthened leadership capacities of the AVET and support to the NCVET and Sector Councils is important to ensure an effective and coherent TVET modernization process. This is consonant with the reform agenda of Government of Mongolia, in alignment with donor-funded projects, and provides for inclusion of private investors.

PROJECT DESIGN

Data and information were collected using two methods; a desk study (literature review), and key informant interviews (KIIs).

Focus of Research Methods

Method	Primary Areas of Focus
Desk Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History and background of NCVET • NCVET's stated objectives • Legal context • Identification of stakeholders
KIIs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles of the various stakeholders • Stakeholders' operational status • Structure of NCVET • Structures in which NCVET operates • Funding mechanisms • Operational barriers and opportunities for NCVET

In addition, two consultation workshops were conducted with stakeholders:

- **First – Entry Consultation – Workshop:** At the start of the Situational Analysis; for a preliminary exchange of insights, and
- **Second – Closing Consultation – Workshop:** At the end of the Situational Analysis; to introduce the results of the Situational Analysis from the draft Final Report, and to get feedback from stakeholders.

Feedbacks from the Second – Closing Consultation – Workshop, was used to supplement the first (draft) version of the Final Report of the NCVET Situational Analysis.

FINDINGS

As a result of desk review, KII and the first consultative workshop, the findings of the situational analysis had introduced during the second consultative workshop. The findings were

as follows.

- Innumerable English language documents exist in regard to NCVET in particular (and TVET in general), however not all were easily obtainable; and relatively few were available in Mongolian. Improved access to such documents would facilitate the work of people engaged in TVET.
- The TVET Law was undergoing review during the course of the Situational Analysis, but most existing legislation related to the NCVET in particular, remained same as before.
- Many other components of TVET, depend upon oversight that should be provided by the NCVET.
- Lack of finance cannot be claimed to have limited meetings of the NCVET prior to 2016. Problems related to meetings (prior to 2016) appear to have been because public sector representatives were 'too busy' and staff

turnover

- Prior to 2016, the NCVET appears to have been not actively engaged in social dialogue; a key component of an efficient and effective TVET system
- The limited absorptive capacity within the government (previous to 2016) seems to be responding to changes in the Government and support from development partners. But the demand for institutional capacity-building is bound to increase if the Council continues to become more active.
- TVET does not yet exist as a system in Mongolia. There needs to be a unified approach - to TVET and general education in Mongolia – with ‘pathways’ that incorporate TVET into the mainstream education system and higher education through the Mongolian Qualifications Framework. Involvement of the MECSS is important.

The findings were duly endorsed during the course of the Second – Closing Consultation – Workshop, and used to initiate a SWOT analysis; to identify future follow-up actions to be adopted by the NCVET

CONCLUSIONS

The results of the Situational Analysis should be used to provide strategic options for future development of the Council. Accordingly, the initial recommendations of the Situational Analysis – also presented to the Second – Closing Consultation - Workshop for discussion, were as follows.

- The ‘Situational Analysis; Final Report’ presented to VETP for storage on its website (along with all other documents collected during the Desk Study) so as to facilitate future access and reference.
- NCVET should be tripartite; government, employers and employees (including people with disabilities).
- The Chairperson of the Council should be elected by members (not pre-appointed)
- Follow-up discussions with representatives of the National Development Agency and Ministry of Education and Science are necessary. These are two of the few TVET-related organisations that were not contacted during the KIIs.
- The activities of the Council should be supported by a credible Secretariat funded for its work and the organization of meetings through the foreign workers levy.

INTEGRATED RESULTS-BASED MANAGEMENT ASSIGNMENT



CLIENTS' NAMES:

The European Union - Economic Governance for Equitable Growth (EG4EG) Project - Mongolia.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The overall objective was to complete capacity building in the final stages of strengthening of the Mongolia Development Policy Planning Management Cycle; by improving the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the GoM's Development Programme implementation.

The work was conducted - by international consultant Dr Arunaselam Rasappan from Malaysia and national consultant Ch.Tamir from IRIM - within the Ministry of Finance (MoF). A cross-section of MoF officials (and their Routine/Periodical Planning and Performance Reports) were targeted. The consultants were expected to enhance understanding of improved M&E Reports/Standards – as required per Resolution 322/89 - while monitoring the Development Programme.



2017

August

2017

December

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE *Ulaanbaatar*

BACKGROUND

The EG4EG project started in 2016 with a scoping exercise, and analysis of the development planning arrangements in Mongolia. This resulted in recommendations for improved development planning and monitoring, in compliance with: the Law on Development Policy Planning (November 2015), Resolution 249 on Development Plan program formulation, and Resolution 322 on M&E of GoM Development Programmes. The latter was replaced by Resolution 89 in 2017.

The recommendations were piloted within the 'Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Development Programme'. The pilot aimed to align national policies with: an ex-ante impact analysis, costing and funding requirements, and incorporation within the GoM's annual budget. In this way, compliance with the GoM's M&E requirements was developed (in the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, MoLSW) within the scope of the Project. The pilot demonstrated the steps to be followed (and strengthened) linking the Development Policy Planning Law and the GoM's capability to formulate Development Policy Programmes.

In 2017 the EG4EG implemented to strengthen the next stage of the Development Policy Planning Management Cycle, by reinforcing the link between the Development Programme's implementation and M&E. This was done at the national level, and at the level of the MoF. Project design

IRIM employed an active engagement approach to consult and meet with key officials, and the work included training and coaching. The training consisted of three phases: exposure training, technical training and project planning training.

Coaching: the coaching was presented to representatives of five departments of MoF, namely: Economic Policy, Financial Policy, Treasury Policy, Public Administration and Fiscal Policy under the control of Tamir.ch who is national consultant. The participants were assigned tasks and gave presentations to the department they represented.

Training and meetings: Multi-stakeholder interactive hands-on workshop and training-workshop for giving information about IRBMA were conducted among relevant stakeholders. This facilitated the discussions with the officials.

The meetings were more of a consultation, about the integrated results-based management (IRBM) system and the associated approaches, tools, and techniques. This provided for demonstrating to the key officials the utility of the system, allowing them to assess it and to ask questions.

A pre- and post-test were used to assess evaluating outcomes of the each IRBM workshop. The test scores showed substantial learning improvement after the training.

FINDINGS

Beneficiaries gave positive feedback on the results of the consulting service and said it would improve future monitoring and evaluation practices of the MoF and GoM. As a result of the consulting service, there was an increase in the knowledge and ability of officials in applying the IRBM principles. Participants from the technical and exposure workshops showed marked improvements in their understanding, appreciation, and application of the principles, and used IRBM for their program strategic results planning and M&E. There was also interest and willingness to try out the IRBM system among the officials met in related (external) agencies; such as: the Cabinet Secretariat, National Development Agency, National Statistics Office, and the National Audit Office.

Findings related to the issues may not look that serious; as the Ministry is functioned smoothly with regularized performance monitoring and reporting going on. However, though the existing system looked satisfactory, it had challenges meeting the demands of contemporary development initiatives in an increasingly globalized economy.

CONCLUSIONS

Overall, the assignment significantly raised awareness among a cross section of MoF officials, on the relevance and importance of results-based management using the integrated approach under IRBM system. This included the strategic use of integrated results-based M&E (and results-based budgeting) for improving development results for the country.

RESEARCH ON THE LEATHER TANNERIES SUB-SECTOR IN MONGOLIA



CLIENTS' NAMES:

The Asia Foundation, Mongolia.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The objective was to gather information from at least 19 tanneries in Ulaanbaatar, and two others in Uvs and Darkhan provinces. The information would constitute the basis of a situational analysis, used to identify strategic options for development of the sub-sector and the prioritization of interventions.



2017

June

2017

October

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE *The project was undertaken in Ulaanbaatar*

BACKGROUND

Although the leather sector in Mongolia is relatively small in scale, it is widely accepted as a significant component of GDP; with scope for improvement, including greater employment and income generation. The sector has been characterised by major decline (since the collapse of the command economy) and fragmentation. Where previously there was one 'high throughput' public sector tannery, there are now many smaller, privately owned ones. In addition to all other constraints, smaller enterprises are faced with other challenges (now the characteristic features of modern leather production and processing internationally) such as:

- The global predominance of the Chinese leather sector.
- The high cost (of financing) of expensive machines.
- The advancing demand for high-tech effluent treatment systems.
- The need for skilled staff.

Despite its obvious significance, the leather sector in Mongolia is not well documented, nor well understood. At the time of writing, for example, national statistics on trade were incomplete. However, the few available older documents – mainly from two EU projects – confirm the longstanding shortage of progress within the leather sector. Hence the justification for the Survey.

PROJECT DESIGN

The methodology used was developed during the course of discussions between IRIM and TAF. Ultimately, a nine-part questionnaire (General, Business Operations, Capacity, Needs, Leathergoods/Shoes Manufacture, Tanning, Trade-related Information, Factories and Finance) was prepared, with a total of 43 questions. Similarly, the four-part key informant interview (General, Elaboration on the Questionnaire, Priority Issues and Identification of Strategies) consisted of eight questions. The two research tools were refined during the course of pretesting.

During the fieldwork (in July, 2017) the following were undertaken:

- 17 visits to companies (to complete questionnaires),
- 5 interviews conducted with key informants, and
- 6 documents collected.

Priority issues, opportunities and constraints, related to developing the tanneries sub-sector were identified, and strategic options developed.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The leather sector in general is characterised as a 'capital and material inputs (raw material, chemicals and technology) intensive' but is not particularly 'labour intensive'. Most respondents were sure that Mongolia had the 'quantity' of raw material (hides and skins) to supply the tanning industry. But this has to be qualified by reference to problems related to accessibility; namely:

- most hides and skins only become available during a very short, pre-winter cull,
- most hides and skins are traded with minimal sorting, and
- most hides and skins are derived from informal (non-commercial) slaughtering.

In addition, there was always the risk of a catastrophic losses in livestock ('dzud') which seriously disturbs the supply of hides and skins for up to four years at a time.

As Mongolian tanneries reported, though there is very limited scope to increase the supply of hides and (in the medium to long-term) there is massive scope to add value by processing the three-quarters of raw material that is currently exported with little processing. But to exploit this opportunity successfully (efficiently and effectively) would require much more information about the quality of the raw material. Respondents see that, a lot of attention is currently devoted to repairing (correcting) defects – quality issues – during the course of remediation in tanning operations; rather than eliminating the defects (pre-slaughter, peri-slaughter and post-slaughter) in the raw material. The scope to improve the quality (and hence value) of hides and skins – and facilitate tanning - though currently undocumented, is considerable.

CITIZEN INPUT SURVEY ON THE DECENTRALIZATION OF SERVICES



CLIENTS' NAMES:

The Asia Foundation.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The objectives were related to the Ulaanbaatar City Mayor's work plan for 2016-2020, and SDC's Urban Governance Project (UGP). Outcome 2 of the UGP - 'Streamlined approach is developed for the decentralisation of services' - consists of two outputs:

- '2.1. Process mapping for selected administrative services' and
- '2.2. Plans for improvement developed with relevant agencies for three selected services'.

The survey was (essentially) an examination of specific beneficiary groups; people using one or other of 14 selected administrative services in four locations within Ulaanbaatar. The results of the survey were expected to identify which services might be prioritised for decentralisation; from district level to sub-district (khoroo) level.



2017

August

2017

December

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Ulaanbaatar, Bayanzurkh, Songinokhairkhan, Sukhbaatar, Nalaikh

BACKGROUND

The UGP is implemented by TAF in collaboration with the MUB and funded by the SDC. The three-and-a-half-year intervention is due to run till December 2018, and the 'overarching goal is to have subnational governments that are empowered, democratic, and accountable to citizens, providing sustainable services responding to citizen's needs'. More particularly 'UGP will also support the municipality's administrative decentralization of pro-poor services, piloting the delivery of targeted social welfare services at the khoroo level. The municipality is planning to relocate (to khorooos) as many as possible of its services over the next few years; especially those aimed at poor and disadvantaged citizens, including women. The purpose of the survey was to identify and better understand how 14 services (prioritized by the city's land, archive and registration departments) were being received by citizens. This would provide citizens' views and perspectives on service delivery.

PROJECT DESIGN

A desk study of secondary sources of information was accompanied by interviews and discussions at four locations in Ulaanbaatar. Answers to 37 questions were collected from representatives of 100 households, and 300 visitors to one-stop shops. Similarly, 112 people participated in 14 focus group discussions; one for each of the administrative services targeted for examination. The information provided about the 14 services, was based on respondents' and participants' recollections from over the preceding year.

FINDINGS

People's assessment of their own experiences using the 14 services ranged from 'very good' to 'very bad'; centring on the equivalent of somewhere between 'good' and 'okay'. This was accompanied by a fairly high level of complaints - 7.5%, with

many others wishing to complain but not bothering – and innumerable suggestions on how the existing services might be improved. Examples of such improvements included:

- reduction of waiting times (queuing and being served),
- reduction of service duration/completion time (from the start of the process to the end),
- reduction of the number of follow-up trips,
- improved customer service generally,
- provision for payments by internet banking, and
- provision for use of services such as smart phones, mobile apps, etc.

These suggestions were included in peoples' proposals of idealised versions (process maps) for the administrative services; and will need to be addressed in all services, irrespective of which are ultimately selected for decentralisation. This would of course require attention to information from service providers; required to complete the selection of those administrative services to be decentralised.

CONCLUSIONS

Selection of the administrative services to be prioritised for decentralisation was difficult using conventional measures, since usage varied from as little as 2.0% (among those surveyed) to as much as 38.7%, and all services were likely to be more popular if they were to be available locally. Accordingly, other criteria were applied; such as, for example: service users' assessment (and ranking), the complexity of the service and the time involved. Based on this type of analysis, a variety of selections (of services suitable for decentralisation) were possible, including two high contrast ones, namely:

Selection 1. *'Inquiry for registration of real estate & proof of ownership', 'Inquiry of reference for previously notarized documents', and 'Inquiry of reference on the status of land ownership in*

Ulaanbaatar', and

Selection 2. *'Proof of the transfer of land ownership and the rightful use', 'Proof of rights for land ownership and use', and 'Registration of the legal entities'.*

Selection 1 included services that were generally well-regarded, quick, simple, and not the subject of any (proposed) idealised process map. Conversely, Selection 2 included services that were not well-regarded, slow, complex, and were already the subject of idealised process maps. Selection 1 offered the prospect of a quick and easy intervention to decentralisation, while Selection 2 offered a slower and more demanding one. The final choice was a topic for discussion in the Dissemination Workshop that took place after completion of the survey.

ANALYSIS OF THE GENDER EQUALITY SITUATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR (IN THE CASE OF FORESTRY SECTOR)



БАЙГАЛЬ ОРЧИН,
АЯЛАЛ ЖУУЛЧЛАЛЫН ЯАМ

IRIM
INDEPENDENT
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF
MONGOLIA

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



CLIENTS' NAMES:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), the Ministry of Environment and Tourism

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

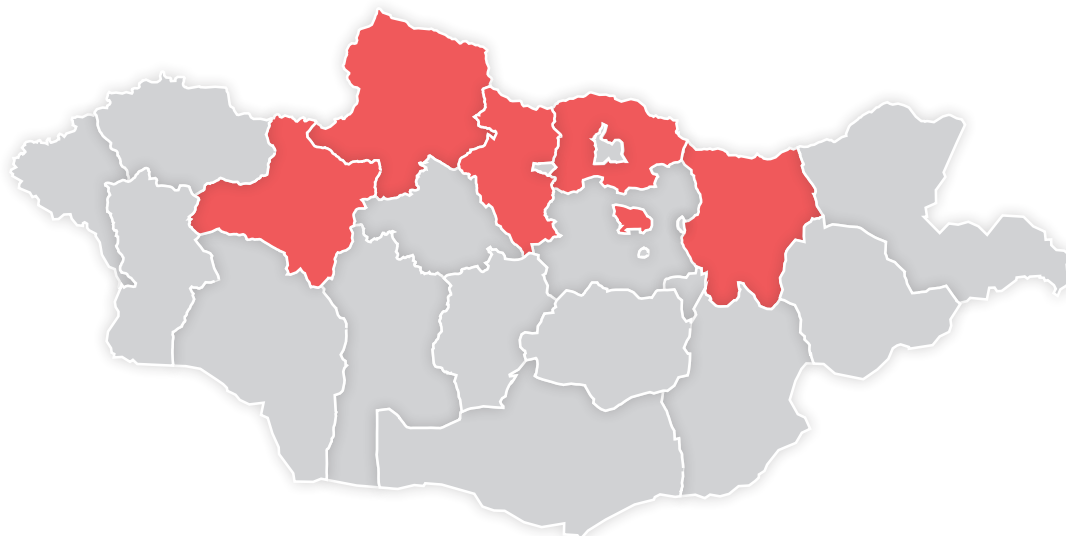
The work had two components, with separate objectives. The objective of the first component, 'Analysis of the gender equality situation in environmental sector (in the case of forestry sector)' was to provide an overview of the current situation of gender equality in the forestry sector to serve as evidence base for promoting equitable participation of men and women in environmental decision making and benefits. The second component of the project was an assessment of the Environmental Sector Gender Strategy (2014-2030). The assessment aimed to identify the progress, achievements and challenges in implementing the Strategy (with reference to the Strategy's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability).



2017 September

2018 February

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE



Ulaanbaatar and the provinces of Bulgan, Khentii, Khuvsgul, Selenge and Zavkhan.

BACKGROUND

Gender equality and women's empowerment have been recognised as 'fundamental principles in the fight against climate change' and it is becoming increasingly urgent for 'gender-responsive approaches to adaptation and capacity building' by the international community within the context of the Paris Agreement (2015) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (BMZ and GIZ 2017). In the case of Mongolia, ensuring local communities, men and women's participation in environmental decision-making and reducing the negative impact of environmental degradation on rural population is one of the key priorities of Mongolia. The Government of Mongolia (GoM) has been making progress in mainstreaming gender equality in all sectors including the environmental sector in line with Mongolia's Law on Promotion of Gender Equality (2011), Green Development Agenda (2014-2030) and Long-Term Sustainable Development Vision (2016-2030). The Government's consideration of gender equality in environmental sector is illustrated by its adoption of the Gender Strategy in Environmental Sector

(2014-2030) adopted in 2014 by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. Although Mongolian government has stipulated the importance of gender equality in the environmental sector, there is lack of research pertaining to this issue. Integrating gender into forest research is constrained by the broad perception that forestry is a male-dominated profession. Furthermore, because social benefits of forests are difficult to measure there is very little evidence and data about forest's social functions and its social benefits worldwide.

PROJECT DESIGN

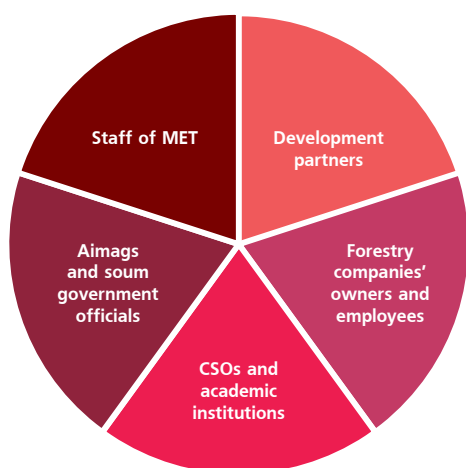
Component 1- 'Analysis of the gender equality situation in environmental sector (in the case of forestry sector)

The analytical framework of the gender analysis relies on the practical guide provided by the FAO's 'How to mainstream gender in forestry', the framework developed by the World Bank's world development report on gender and the the pillars of the Sustainable Development Goals that are economic growth, social inclusion and environmental

protection. It rests on the assumption that engaging women and men in forest management improves prospects for sustainable forest management, ensuring benefits are distributed equitably and enhancing the efficiency of policy implementation.

We examined the perceptions and stereotypes; roles and responsibilities of women and men in forestry; employment and industry situation in forestry; and governance and current level of sustainable forest management development in Mongolia. In so doing, we conducted semi-structured interviews in Ulaanbaatar and forested aimags from various stakeholders such as:

Figure 1. Stakeholders covered in the study



Component 2- Assessment of the Environmental Sector Gender Strategy (2014–2030)

The analytical framework of the Assessment used the OECD-DAC's evaluation criteria that are Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency and Sustainability. Furthermore, we assessed the Monitoring and Evaluation mechanism of the Strategy. Under these criteria, two separate tools consisting of 42 relevant questions were developed including the 'Staff survey' and key-informant interviews with the above mentioned stakeholders.

FINDINGS

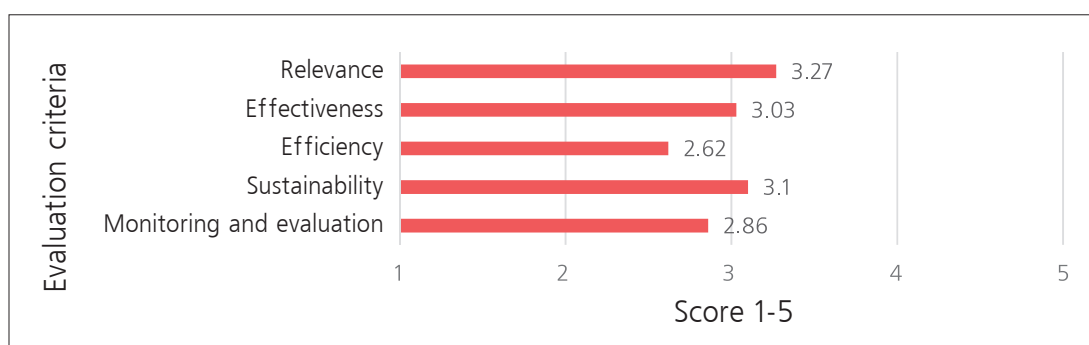
The Analysis of the gender equality situation in environmental sector (in the case of forestry sector) has shown the following trends in relation to forestry sector and gender equality:

1. The intersectionality of gender inequality needs to be addressed. Various forms of inequality are emerging in Mongolia, including an educational inequality among urban and rural areas as well as by gender.
2. Links between environment and people are mostly seen through the narrow lense of poverty and a broader view about social impact of forestry— for instance through well-being – are overlooked.
3. The legal framework and policy directions related to forestry focus more on environmental protection of forests, less on its economic functions and almost none on its social functions. Enforcement of the legislation related to gender and environment remains weak due to various factors including limited accountability and capacity (lack of knowledge and resources) of government institutions. The role of local government organisations is crucial in mainstreaming gender in forestry sector yet it is insufficient.
4. In the forestry sector, men participate more in physical or guarding works and women's participation is more in the reproductive activities. Stakeholders tend to regard forestry business in Mongolia as a male-dominant sector and this perception was higher among men.
5. Employment in forestry sector has gender, educational and age divisions. The participation of young people in forest user groups is low despite the fact unemployment rate is higher among young people.
6. There are a number of challenges the forestry companies and forest user groups face including but not limited to the lack of funding and access to finance, unfavourable market conditions, lack of capacity building and lack of participation in forest management due to limited knowledge about local authorities' responsibilities and functions.
7. The participation of women in environmental decision-making is lower than that of men. Support for gender mainstreaming activities is low at all levels due to lack of awareness and knowledge about gender issues.

The Component 2 of the study, namely the Assessment of the Environmental Sector Gender Strategy indicated that the implementation of the

Strategy was weak. Of the 21 indicators, only four (19%) had some activities conducted, primarily through donor-funded projects. Stakeholders, including the Strategy implementers (staff) highlighted the inefficiency of implementation, lack of communication, lack of monitoring and evaluation and absence of stakeholder engagement. Many of the donors and civil society representatives interviewed, tended to lack knowledge or awareness of the existence of the Strategy. Furthermore, there was a significant weakness in the design

of the Strategy, mainly due to weak formulation and inappropriate indicators and it did not reflect results-based management principles. The quality and appropriateness of the indicators (to assess the progress and achievement of the Strategy) were weak, making it difficult to track progress. The results of the Staff Survey conducted in MET show that that the overall evaluation of the Strategy ranged from 2.62 to 3.27 out of 5.



CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

It can be concluded from the Gender Analysis of the Forestry Sector that although women have necessary endowments (in education and health), the 'application of endowments' and 'opportunities to take actions, or agency' are not sufficient in Mongolia in general and in the forestry sector in particular. Therefore, recommendations to address these problems include:

1. Initiate dialogue and organise consultation meetings at national and subnational levels to discuss relevant gender issues and gaps in existing forest policies and practices.
2. To change negative perceptions and attitudes about gender equality and women through advocacy and capacity building programmes in alignment with the advocacy works organised by other institutions such as NCGE.
3. Challenges faced by FUGs should be addressed to develop more inclusive and gender-responsive SFM. For instance, detailed studies on the possibilities of increasing the benefits of FUGs from forest resources should be conducted and
4. To increase women's participation in environmental politics, both in formal political structures but also in other forms of civic engagement in environmental politics. Various measures can be taken for instance through ensuring the gender quota required by the LPGE is met in the environment public sector at all levels and coordinate with Civil Service Council to enforce its implementation and the general occupational health and safety standards should be improved.
5. To produce a gender-mainstreaming guideline in the environmental (forestry) sector. The guideline should include clear state action plan for implementing and integrating the gender strategy and focus

on how to integrate gender-equality in planning and budgeting process of the environmental sector.

6. To capacitate local government. Local government's role in the forestry sector is critical and they are at the end of the implementation cycle (responsible for the hands-on operations of plans, policies and strategies formulated by the sector). For successful implementation of the Environmental Sector Gender Strategy and other relevant policies requires that local government is adequately trained and capacitated on their role in ensuring gender mainstreaming in the sector.
7. To produce sex-disaggregated data about forestry sector employment. Sex-disaggregated and socio-economic data in the forestry sector (for instance, how many people are employed and engaged in the forestry related occupations) should be produced and made available. There should be more capacity building for officers in collecting and using data and documentation of best practices in mainstreaming gender should be improved not only among local government and MET but also among the donor-funded projects.

Overall, the Strategy was a relevant document in terms of policy and population needs, and its objectives were in line with key policy issues. The Strategy was more focused on mainstreaming gender at the national level and laying down the institutional capacity in order to do so. This was a suitable, achievable and relevant approach. There was consensus among the stakeholders about the importance and usefulness of the Strategy. In some cases, the Strategy served as a guiding framework for partners to work together on implementing activities within the gender equality framework in the environmental sector. Therefore, recommendations for improvement were:

1. Improving the design – logical framework of the Strategy
2. Clarify the status of the Strategy as a policy document
3. Develop potential list of projects and estimated costs, timeline
4. Coordination with NCGE and NCGE's support to gender councils and gender focal points
5. Engagement with donors and development partners
6. Strengthen engagement with civil society
7. Provide institutional mechanism to implement the Strategy
8. Improve knowledge transfer

ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE IN MONGOLIA (RAPID SURVEY)



CLIENTS' NAMES:

Zoological Society of London.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The general objectives were to measure changes in the quantity and scale of wildlife's use and trade; and the state of public awareness (and attitudes) toward wildlife's use and trade in Mongolia. Particular objectives included the following:

- Measure changes in the quantity and scale of wildlife's use between 2016 and 2017'.
- Measure public trust and attitudes to the legal environment of environmental protection.
- Measure public support of wildlife protection.
- Collect evidence and data necessary to implement the next phase of the project.
- Determine potential correlation of household survey and market survey.



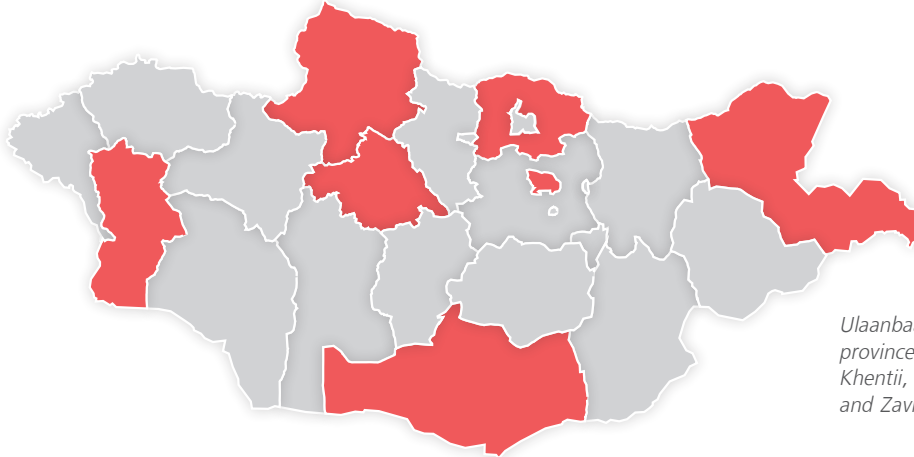
2017

September

2017

December

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE



Ulaanbaatar, and the provinces of Bulgan, Khentii, Khuvsgul, Selenge and Zavkhan.

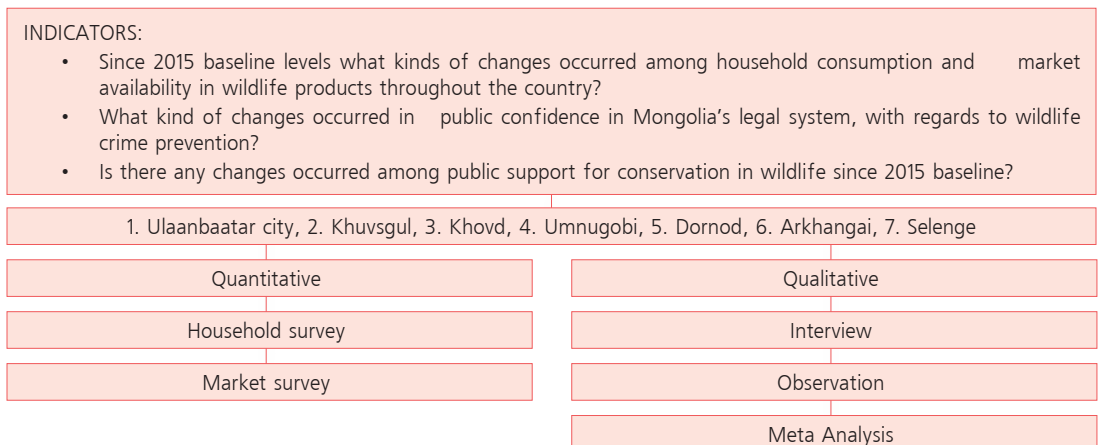
BACKGROUND

Illegal wildlife trade is emerging as a serious issue in the East Asian Region. Ensuring sustainable exploitation of the Mongolia's considerable natural resource was one of the key aspects of the Environmental Sector in 2006. It was important to understand the driving forces of wildlife trade, its scale and operation, and to identify successful solutions to address the illegal trade. In this regard Silent Steppe – 'The Illegal Wildlife Trade Crisis in Mongolia' (IWTCM) project (2006) was undertaken in Mongolia by the Zoological Society

of London. The Silent Steppe II project (2016) was the continuation of the Silent Steppe - 'The Illegal Wildlife Trade Crisis in Mongolia' 10 years later. The IWTCM delivered alarming facts, and suggestions, about Mongolia's wildlife conservation system. To measure the project's outcome, a household survey and market surveys were conducted nationwide in 2006 and 2016. The project contributed significantly to addressing the wildlife trade in, and from, Mongolia; seeking solutions to conserve Mongolia's unique and wonderful wildlife community. The project also engaged in ensuring that rural livelihoods were sustainable for people in the long term.

PROJECT DESIGN

The work was undertaken as follows.



FINDINGS

The study found that overall household consumption of wildlife products had decreased from the 2016 baseline. The number of wildlife species used by households had decreased by 26.5%: from 34 types to 25 types of species. Types of products had decreased 55.8%, from 414 to 183 in comparison to the ST-II-IWTCTL project data of 2016. The wildlife products' availability in households had decreased 20.1% since 2015. The study also revealed that the purchase of wildlife products had decreased by 2.5%, to a level of 17.5%.

CONCLUSIONS

There was little decrease in quantity and scale of wildlife trade from that of the previous survey results. Therefore, this shows that the government and other stakeholders have to pay more attention to illegal wildlife trade. Wildlife and the natural environment are vital to our future existence. Mongolian Wildlife Conservation processes demanding correlating procedures - between strategy, planning, monitoring and implementing - at all level. The study provides recommendations for further possible improvement in the environmental sector. Some of the recommendations developed relate to: (i) the legal and regulatory level, (ii) executive level, and (iii) public level. The recommendations were:

- Build sustainable sources (a wildlife conservation database) where all information is shared among collaborators: providing

updates on recent activities, ranging from legislation changes/implementations, to records of crimes conducted, (i).

- Improve the information delivery process on legislation changes (including causes and effects) to the public. It is crucial to develop a strategy on sharing transparent information among all wildlife collaborators, (i).
- Build and provide sustainable monitoring of wildlife conservation legislation, and its implementation, (i).
- Take the lead in implementing strategic issues concerned with combating wildlife crime in the region, and report periodically (sharing experiences, knowledge and best practices) among other communities (ii).
- Conduct monitoring of use (and effectiveness) of wildlife crime legislation, and recommend changes to legislation based on best practices (ii).
- Improve the information distributed to the public in order to build a single unified voice; in opposition to wildlife crime in the region) (ii).
- Take necessary measures for improving public awareness of illegal hunting and environmental safety issues (iii).
- Organize community units on a voluntary basis, to protect the local environment (iii).
- Provide some communication mediums/ devices for enabling better communication among locals, about their environment (iii).

EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL PROGRAM II ON PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF DISEASE CAUSED BY UNHEALTHY HABITS



CLIENTS' NAMES:

World Bank, Masam Project

City Governor's Office

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Objective of the evaluation is to increase access of citizens to public decision making processes and quality services through social accountability, by conducting external evaluation of the national program and its implementation in collaboration with Ulaanbaatar City and its three districts.

Scope of the external evaluation of the program prioritizes the cross cutting issue on health "Poor health outcomes related with lack of health knowledge and awareness among children and youth".



2017 August

2018 February

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE *Ulaanbaatar city; Bayanzurkh, Chingeltei, Songinokhairkhan districts.*

BACKGROUND

IRIM conducted an evaluation of the 'National Health Program' and the 'Second National program on prevention and control of disease caused by unhealthy habits' among adolescents and youths in Bayanzurkh, Chingeltei, and Songinokhairkhan districts, in collaboration with the 'Mainstreaming Social Accountability' project of the World Bank. The results of the evaluation would contribute to an improved evaluation methodology and design, increased capacity of government and civil society organizations to conduct similar evaluations, and enhanced quality of public services.

PROJECT DESIGN

Data collection was conducted at the three levels to answer three key questions; namely:

- Whether 11 – 15 year olds' surrounding (family, school, street) support healthy habits?
- Do 11 – 15 old children have knowledge, understanding of unhealthy habits? Do they obtain preventative habits?

The three levels were:

1. Sector knowledge

- Desk review (Document study / paper reports, websites)
- Expert interview (Ministry of Health, National Health Center, City Social Health Department, City Educational Department= Total 9)

- Specialist interview (District Health department, District Health Center, Khoroo Social Workers, Khoroo Doctors, School Principles, School Doctors= Total 30)

2. Children voices

- Case study (4 children, 2 boy, 2 girl)
- Children survey (2320 children)
- Focus group (4 focus group, 40 children)

3. Environment

- Mapping (6 schools and 500 meter diameter around each school)
- TV track (3 top viewed channels among youth: EDU, Movie Box, MNB)
- Observation (6 schools)

CONCLUSIONS

Evaluation of the National Program on Prevention and Control of Disease Caused by Unhealthy Habits II was unprecedented in Mongolia. The external evaluation was conducted on the National Program, employing the methodology and method developed by the project team.. The government agencies and non-governmental organizations are now able to use this methodology and methods to undertake external evaluations on national programs and sub-programs; in accordance with the Law on Development Policy and Planning.

DISSEMINATE FINDINGS OF LABOUR MARKET RESPONSIVENESS



БОЛОВСРОЛ,
СОЁЛ, ШИНЖЛЭХ УХААН,
СПОРТЫН ЯАМ



Asian Development Bank



CLIENTS' NAMES:

Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports, and the Asian Development Bank.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The overall objective of the project was to support and facilitate higher education institutions' (HEIs') efforts to conduct labour market related surveys independently, based on the experiences of a previous consultancy project. More particular objectives included:

- Assess the results of previous consultancy services (relating to the quality of the labour market survey, employer satisfaction survey and graduate tracer studies), observe the sustainability of the research, and develop recommendations based on the experiences.
- Implement a 'training for disseminating' survey methodology and design, that addresses HEIs' needs and demands
- Include gender sensitivity issues in relevant research areas and increase awareness of their significance.
- Create good practices that have been implemented by the Labour Market Survey of HEIs.



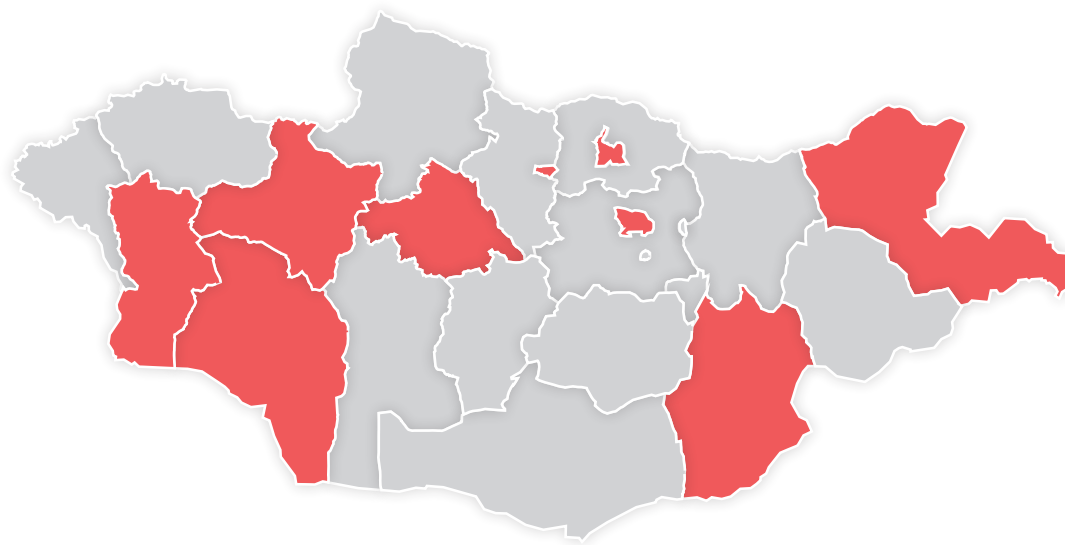
2017

December

2018

March

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE



Ulaanbaatar, and the provinces of Darkhan-Uul, Orkhon, Khovd, Zavkhan, Gobi-Altai, Arkhangai, Dornod and Dornogobi.

BACKGROUND

During the academic year 2016-2017, a total of 12,740 teaching staff worked and 143,684 students studied in 95 higher education institutions (HEIs) throughout the country. 91.4% of the students studied in the capital, and 8.6% of them studied in the provinces. Seventeen of the HEIs were state owned, 74 private and four were branches of foreign universities. Student enrolments were respectively, 91,798 in the state HEIs, 65,075 in private institutions and about 260 in branches of foreign institutions.

According to statistics issued by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Science, about 30.9% of graduates remained employed after graduation, this statistics were increased to 1.9 percent. Although demand for specialized/higher level skills exists in the labour market, higher education barely equips students with employable skills; with low-cost, low-quality programmes being offered by a number of HEIs. This results in a skills mismatch.

IRIM implemented the 'Higher Education

Responsiveness to the Labour Market' project financed by the Asian Development Bank (during 2015-2016). The project developed methodologies and guidelines to conduct labour market surveys (employer satisfaction surveys and graduate tracer studies) and piloted them at six higher education institutions; such as: Etugen University, Gurvan-Erdene Pedagogical Institute, Institute of Engineering and Technology, Mongolian University of Education, National University of Mongolia, and the Shine Medical Institute. IRIM will now implement implantation of these initiatives at all 95 HEIs in Mongolia. As a result of the project, training manuals and programs were developed taking into account the capabilities and specifics of particular HEIs.

PROJECT DESIGN

This project included the following activities:

- **Assessing the results of previous consultancy services.** The survey was to be

conducted among staff of HEIs participating in pilot survey, and HEIs from urban and rural areas participated in the dissemination training. The survey results would reveal improvements to be addressed in this dissemination training.

- **Defining training needs and develop a training plan.** A plan was to be developed for evaluating HEIs' knowledge and capacities. Based on the evaluation, training would be conducted at the appropriate level. The teachers would develop the training manual, programme and content of training, based on HEIs' capacities.
- **Organizing trainings.** The training would provide theoretical knowledge on how to organize the survey and how to reflect survey results in the training programme; and into the curriculum review, career information and guidance services and school-industry partnerships.
- **Advice, meeting and training evaluation.** In order to confirm knowledge was provided by integrated training and to develop a

common understanding, advanced training would be organized.

- **Exchanging experience within HEIs.** During training, HEIs were to share their experiences with each other. IRIM and HERP would support this. This activity was voluntary and would be organized among interested HEIs.
- **Preparing a broadcast demonstrates good practices.** This activity would be organized among HEIs, which had implemented labour market surveys, and good practices would be documented.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Within the scope of the project, the following were provided: guidelines and methodologies to integrate results and finding of graduate tracer surveys (and employers' satisfaction surveys, and labour market surveys) into HEIs' curricula reform (career guidance and consulting services, R&D, and curriculum review) and support to the HEIs' efforts.

END LINE EVALUATION OF THE 'STRENGTHENING SCHOOLS TO NURTURE EFFECTIVE SCHOOL READINESS AND LEARNING EXPERIENCES IN FIRST GRADE CHILDREN OF MONGOLIA' PROJECT



CLIENTS' NAMES:

Save the Children, Japan.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The objective was to review and analyse the implementation process and outcomes of the Project, with an evidence-based approach. More particular objectives included:

- Evaluate the performance of the key indicators against expected outcomes under each component in the project proposal (Phases 1, 2 and 3) as well as recommendations derived from the baseline survey;
- Identify best practices, lessons and challenges faced during implementation, and explore how those were overcome;
- Assess the impact, and the change in schools' readiness and adaptation of first-grade children resulting from the project implementation.



2017

December

2018

February

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Ulaanbaatar; Bayanzurkh, Chingeltei and Songinokhairkhan districts.

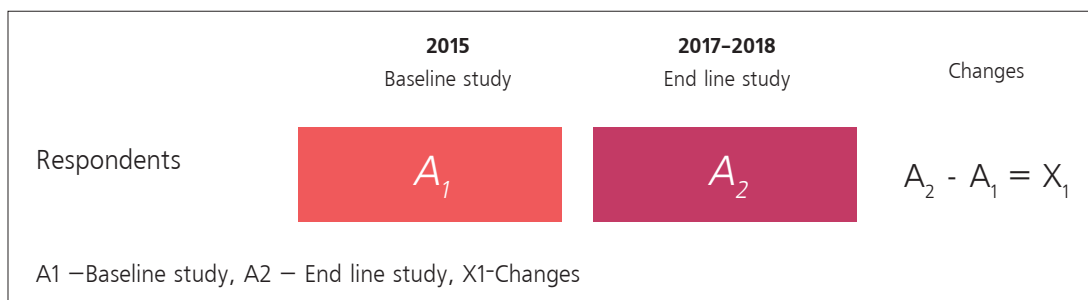
BACKGROUND

Save the Children Japan in Mongolia (Save the Children), in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports (MECSS) of Mongolia, received funding from the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs to implement a three-year (2015-2018) primary education project 'Strengthening Schools to Nurture Effective School Readiness and Learning Experiences in First Grade Children of Mongolia' in Ulaanbaatar City, Mongolia. The project covered a total of 24 schools in the ger areas of Bayanzurkh, Chingeltei and

Songinokhairkhan districts. The aim of the Project was to nurture and enhance schools' readiness and transitional competencies for first grade children, through transitional/start-up first grade programmes; offered at public schools in the target communities of Ulaanbaatar. The project undertook activities at school administrator, teacher, parent and policy levels.

PROJECT DESIGN

The general design of the evaluation was 'non-experimental' as shown below.



The end line study employed both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods.

Quantitative data collection methods were used for measurement of the project indicators. In addition, changes in perceptions, knowledge and practices were assessed through the findings of the quantitative data. Qualitative methods were mainly used for assessing the project's relevance, partnerships and changes in impacts. Moreover, best practices, lessons learnt and project sustainability were identified through qualitative methods.

A multi-stage sampling design was applied in accordance with the evaluation design and objectives. Firstly, schools to be used for data collection were selected. Secondly, respondents' groups were identified, and then a sampling group was selected from among them.

In total, 504 teachers and 500 parents were included

in the evaluation. Three focus group discussions, 38 key informant interviews and 10 case studies were also conducted within the scope of the evaluation.

FINDINGS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

This project was still in progress at the time of writing the Annual report, and therefore these sections could not be included at this stage.

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

THE PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP POLICY AND REGULATION DEVELOPMENT OF THE CAPITAL CITY



CLIENTS' NAMES:

Governor's Office of the Capital City.

United Nations Development Programme

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The objective of the consultancy service was to develop the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Policy and Regulation of the Capital City.



2017

November

2018

March

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

The project is implemented in Ulaanbaatar.

BACKGROUND

There is an obvious demand for identifying obstacles to implementing the public private partnership policy and its goals in the Capital City, and selecting the projects developed in line with the priorities of development policies and stakeholders' capabilities. Currently, there is a lack of policy and regulations required to run the PPPs' projects at the capital city level. Also, stakeholders' duties and participation are unclear and there is a lack of integration of activities, due to the lack of cooperation among stakeholders in charge of PPPs' projects. There is also a lack of common understanding among stakeholders.

These issues indicate there is demand for developing the policy and regulations on PPPs in the Capital City, and empowering stakeholders working on PPPs.

PROJECT DESIGN

The work was to develop the PPPs' Policy and Regulation within the Capital city, and the following activities conducted:

- Situational analysis;
- Development of PPP documents;
- Empowerment of human resource.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

As a result of the project, a situational analysis (on legal documents), current organizational structure, regulations and PPP projects was conducted. Within the situation analysis, discussions were conducted among the main stakeholders, including: the Governor's Office of the Capital City, Ulaanbaatar Development Corporation JSC and Ulaanbaatar Department of Industry and Innovation. As a result, issues and solutions towards implementation of PPP projects were identified.

Based on situational analysis findings, policy on PPPs of the capital city and its regulation were developed. Feedback and comments were reflected in the draft policy and regulations. Training topics (including concepts of PPP, international practices and identification of priority projects) were delivered to the implementing agencies of the capital city and the main stakeholders (including the Governor's Office of the Capital City, Ulaanbaatar Development Corporation JSC and Ulaanbaatar Department of Industry and Innovation. The policy and regulation will be submitted to the client after documents are finalized in accordance with feedback and comments received during the training and discussions.

The Governor's Office of the Capital City will be responsible for approval of all documents developed within scope of the project.

DEMOCRACY IN THE 21ST CENTURY: CHALLENGES AND THE WAYS FORWARD



CLIENTS' NAMES:

World Society Foundation.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The main objectives of this conference were to inform scientists and researchers with literature and technical achievements resulting from theoretical and experimental research on democracy, and to facilitate mutual cooperation and the sharing of experiences.



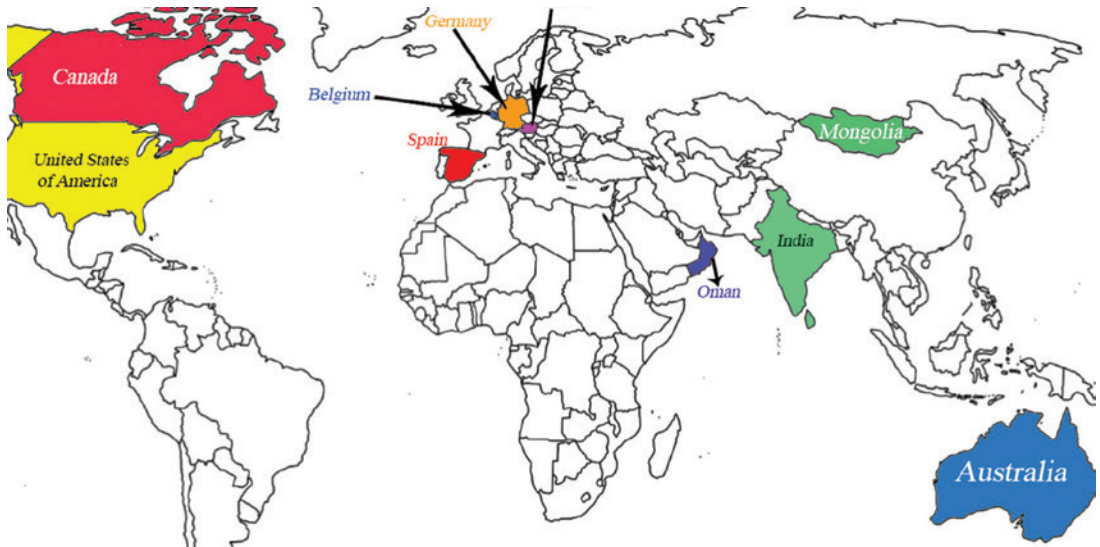
2017

September

2018

August

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE



BACKGROUND

The World Society Foundation was established in 1982 with the aim of encouraging and supporting research on global society. Until 2003, the main purpose of the Foundation's sponsoring activities was to finance entire research projects, focusing on the various processes of social integration and disintegration within worldwide systems; such as: world culture, world economy, world politics, and intergovernmental systems. It is currently oriented to the provision of grants for research papers on global social issues. Now, it is going to organize an international conference on 'Democracy in the 21st Century: Challenges and the Ways Forward', to be held during 9-10 July 2018 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

In East Asia, many countries have adopted democratic regimes; among them Mongolia, that shifted from a one-party communist regime to democracy. In early 1989, demand for democratic reform and resistance, were organized by civilian groups; leading to a peaceful transition. Hence the justification for organizing the conference in Mongolia.

CONFERENCE CONTENT

Scholar will engage with each other to discuss the main challenges and the ways forward in democratic processes. The participants will be able to share global and multi-disciplinary perspectives on the current debates and changes in democracy in Asia. The conference will include the following key topics.

- **Urban-Rural cleavages and democracy.** The impacts of rural-urban cleavages on democratic processes and foundations, political differences between rural and urban areas in Asia, freedom of information, human rights and gender in rural-urban settings, voter behaviour, political parties and the electoral system, social cohesion in rural and urban areas and democracy.
- **Civil society and democracy.** The role of civil society in democratic governance, the role of civil society in promoting democracy and good governance, citizen participation and public confidence, and the role of civil society in democratic consolidation in Asia.
- **Extractive economics, resources-rich**

countries and democracy. Governance transparency and accountability (corruption), how democracy works in a resource-based economic system, the relationships between natural resources, democracy and corruption, democratic governance and multinational corporations, political regimes and inflows of foreign direct investment.

Interested researchers had been submitting abstracts and full papers on the above topics. A Scientific Committee is responsible for selecting the papers, which is still on-going. Fifteen international researchers and three key note speakers will participate. One keynote speaker will be Ganbat

Damba; Chairman of the Board of the Academy of Political Education and Mongolia's Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany. Another, Steven Fish, is Professor of Political Science, University of California. The third key note speaker will be Tapan Sarker; senior Lecturer in the Department of International Business and Asian Studies.

CONCLUSIONS

Previously, papers were published in the conference proceedings every year. The project team is looking forward to doing something similar in after this year's conference.

BUSINESS INTEGRITY COUNTRY AGENDA



CLIENTS' NAMES:

Transparency International, Mongolia.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The objective was to reduce corruption through improved transparency, integrity, and accountability in business practices. In order to achieve the programme goals, each country sets its own goals and objectives including Mongolia, which is propose (I) an evidence-based reform agenda that seeks to improve the business integrity environment in the country and (II) ultimately reduce corruption in and from the Mongolia's private sector.



2017

October

2018

June

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Ulaanbaatar

BACKGROUND

In many countries, there is no comprehensive assessment framework targeted at reducing corruption in the private sector. Since 2016, Transparency International Global has been working to address this gap, through implementing Business Integrity Country Agenda (BICA); to improve integrity in the private sector. Alongside with Cambodia, Italy, Mozambique and Turkey, Mongolia has been working in the BICA project in 2018.

PROJECT DESIGN

This project has been conducting desk study, according to the methodology developed by Transparency International Global. The agenda evaluates 51 indicators within 15 thematic areas; studying relationships between public and private sectors, and civil society. The research evaluates the score of each of three sectors. Furthermore, cross-country comparison shall not be carried out within this research.

FINDINGS

Through the research, we IRIM established the National Advisory Group of nine advisors; to provide significant inputs for the development of all research materials, and to inform and ensure the research's validity at all stages. The first National Advisory Group's meeting was held in November 2017. The National Advisory Group has selected representatives that are well-respected amongst all stakeholder groups; of the public sector, civil society organisations, academia, and companies. The research is still in progress at the time.

CONCLUSIONS

BICA will launch its final report and publication in Mongolia and some specific countries on June 4th 2018. Through this research, the anti-corruption reform agenda will be developed and will facilitate steps to reduce corruption in Mongolia's private sector.

REAL TIME MONITORING OF THE IMPACT OF PLANNED FISCAL TIGHTENING AND CHANGES ON SOCIAL WELFARE SPENDING



CLIENTS' NAMES:

The United Nations Children's Fund.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The main objective was to evaluate the social and economic impacts of social welfare programme changes on vulnerable households. In order to evaluate the impacts, the monitoring team addressed the following research questions in the collection of data:

- What decisions related to social welfare spending (especially the child money program) does the Mongolian government make during real time monitoring?
- How are decisions implemented at the central and local government levels? Are there any delays, obstacles, and procedural issues?
- How do decisions impact upon vulnerable households, especially their behaviour spending on food, health, safety, and children's education?
- Are there any indications of impacts on children's wellbeing?



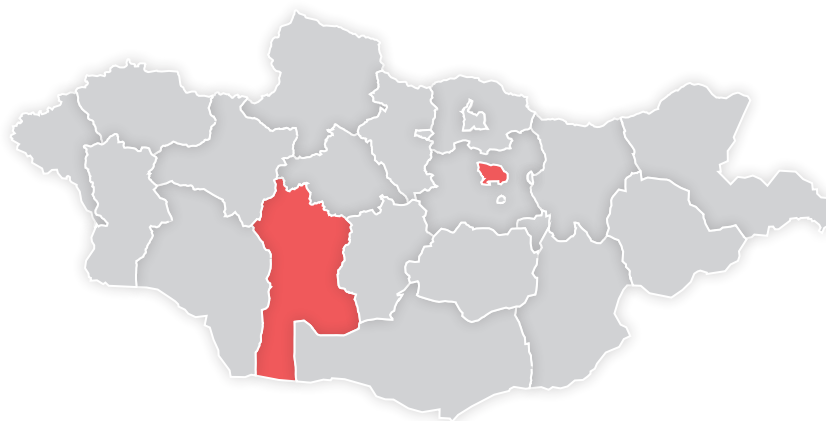
2017

September

2018

September

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE



*Bayankhongor province
(Gurvanbulag and
Erdenetsogt soums).*

*Ulaanbaatar (Bayanzurkh
duureg, 9th khoroo, and
Songinokhairkhan duureg,
7th khoroo)*

BACKGROUND

Between January of 2005 and December of 2017, the 'Child Money Program' supported all children. However, the program was amended to include only 40% of the poorest households in Mongolia (in accordance with the International Monetary Fund's Assistance Agreement). Problems, such as government changes, discontinuation of child money due to state budget, international agreements, and the inability to reach target groups, have all become the basis for implementing this project.

PROJECT DESIGN

The research is being conducted in two stages:

1. Surveying changes in social welfare policy, and
2. Surveying the impact of social welfare policies on households and children.

The monitoring measures nine indicators, through qualitative and quantitative methods. For quantitative methods, a questionnaire was conducted among target respondents every month. For qualitative methods, individual interviews were conducted in the following two stages:

1. Quarterly interviews with survey respondents
2. Individual interviews with industry experts; regarding policy changes and implementation of social welfare program (especially the 'Child Money Program').

Secondary sources of information, such as policy documents, other surveys and data on social welfare policies (especially the 'Child Money Program') were also examined.

Based on the population density, poverty index, inter-city distance, animal husbandry and artisanal gold mining indicators, and as agreed with the client, the data collection areas were determined as Gurvanbulag and Erdenetsogt soums from Bayankhongor aimag, 7th khoroo of Songinokhairkhan duureg and, 9th khoroo of Bayanzurkh duureg, from Ulaanbaatar. Target households were randomly selected, based on the 'Household Living Standards Measurement Survey', the number of children in households, status as single-headed households and whether they had a disabled family member.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

This project was being implemented during the writing of the IRIM Research Institute's Annual Report, and will be finalized in September 2018. Therefore, it is not possible to provide further information in this section.