



Mongolia: Supporting the Development of an Education Sector Master Plan

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| Project Name | Supporting the Development of an Education Sector Master Plan |
| Project Number | 51103-001 |
| Country | Mongolia |
| Project Status | Approved |
| Project Type / Modality of Assistance | Technical Assistance |
| Source of Funding / Amount | TA 9376-MON: Development of the Education Sector Master Plan (2017-2030) Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction US\$ 600,000.00 |
| Strategic Agendas | Inclusive economic growth |
| Drivers of Change | Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions Partnerships |
| Sector / Subsector | Education - Education sector development |
| Gender Equity and Mainstreaming | Some gender elements |
| Description | The proposed knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will support the development of an education sector master plan (ESMP) in Mongolia through capacity development, research and development, and policy advice to improve planning and management of the education system. The Government of Mongolia has requested the TA from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to develop a long-term education sector plan which defines a clear roadmap towards the goals set forth in the Mongolia's Sustainable Development Vision 2030 (the Vision 2030). ADB provided technical assistance for the development of the first ESMP, 2006 2015 and its update, 2009 2015, and has been one of the major development partners in the education sector in Mongolia since the late 1990s. During the mission conducted in June 2017, ADB and the government reached agreement on the objectives, scope, implementation arrangements, costs, and consulting service requirements. The TA is included in ADB's country operations business plan, 2017-2019 for Mongolia. |

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy

Mongolia's education sector underwent a decade of reforms (2004-2015) associated with the restructuring of the education system from a 10-year (4+4+2) into a 12-year (5+4+3) system in line with international standards. During this reform period, the first ESMP, developed jointly by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports (MECSS), development partners, and other stakeholders, guided and coordinated their interventions in the sector. There was also an institutionalized mechanism led by MECSS Education Donors' Consultative Mechanism (EDCM) to review progress in ESMP implementation and discuss issues related to the education sector with development partners. The ESMP and EDCM helped reduce overlaps and ensure synergies between different interventions supported by development partners, increased predictability and sustainability in policy directions, and enhanced accountability. Notwithstanding, the EDCM ceased to function in the early 2010s due to lack of institutional leadership and the first ESMP expired in 2015. Since then, there has been no education sector plan developed based on solid assessments and broad consultations with development partners, and no mechanism for education stakeholders to gather, jointly review, and discuss progress and issues in the education sector. Underlying is the fundamental issue weak capacity and systems to plan and manage the education sector based on detailed studies and assessments and to make education policies and reforms more credible, accountable, and sustainable. This issue further involves inadequate staffing, and frequent management and staff turnover at MECSS and associated institutions.

As Mongolia faces severe economic difficulties, negative effects of the lack of long-term planning for the education sector have been amplified. Although the kindergarten-aged population has been growing by 10% 25% annually since 2009, and school-aged population, by 8%, timely investments were not made to meet the growing demand for education. As a result, the enrollment capacity of kindergartens and schools has now been overstretched, resulting in large classes with more than 30 students (occasionally, 40-50 students) at schools and kindergartens, and schools operating in two and three shifts in Ulaanbaatar and some aimag centers. Unless long-term planning and forward-looking investments are made, progress in the net enrollment rates at pre-primary, primary, and junior secondary levels may be reversed, as kindergarten-aged population is further projected to grow until 2019, and school-aged population, until 2025. The lack of long-term planning also led to difficulties with the introduction of elective courses at senior secondary level in the school year 2016/17, especially at small schools with only a handful of students in senior secondary level (grades 10-12). A new loan is planned in the country operations business plan, 2017-2019 for Mongolia to mitigate these negative effects and support forward-looking investments.

Sluggish economic growth has also accentuated the importance of skills and human resource development. As youth unemployment rate rises, poor employability of senior secondary and higher education graduates has increasingly become an issue. Likewise, as the current economic difficulties have highlighted the need for investments in science, technology, and innovation to diversify the economy, strengthening research and development in higher education and developing science and technology human resources have become a priority. Addressing these issues requires a concerted effort in the long-run.

The Vision 2030, approved by the parliament in 2016, sets out broad directions and goals for the education sector until 2030 in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 4. However, there is at present no detailed plan which identifies concrete actions in a rational sequence to attain the goals of the Vision 2030, supported by a credible and comprehensive framework for expenditure. Moreover, due to lack of an evidence-based, long-term education sector plan, operations of development partners are at present uncoordinated. In this context, the joint development of a new ESMP by MECSS and its associated institutions, development partners, and other stakeholders can fill the gap, while opening up new possibilities for adopting a sector-wide programmatic approach to education sector development in Mongolia.

Impact Access to, quality and relevance of education improved

Project Outcome

Description of Outcome Education system planning and management strengthened

Progress Toward Outcome

Implementation Progress

Description of Project Outputs Management and coordination mechanisms for ESMP development established
In-depth education sector studies and reviews of international experience and lessons completed
ESMP and expenditure framework developed

Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)

Geographical Location

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects

Involuntary Resettlement

Indigenous Peoples

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design

During Project Implementation

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| Responsible ADB Officer | Maruyama, Asako |
| Responsible ADB Department | East Asia Department |
| Responsible ADB Division | Urban and Social Sectors Division, EARD |
| Executing Agencies | <i>Ministry of Education, Culture, Science & Sports Government Building-III, Suite # 514, Baga toiruu-44, Sukhbaatar district Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia</i> |

Timetable

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|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Concept Clearance | 28 Jul 2017 |
| Fact Finding | 18 Jun 2017 to 23 Jun 2017 |
| MRM | - |
| Approval | 18 Sep 2017 |
| Last Review Mission | - |
| Last PDS Update | 18 Sep 2017 |

TA 9376-MON

| Financing Plan/TA Utilization | | | | | | Cumulative Disbursements | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|--------|--------------------------|------|--------|
| ADB | Cofinancing | Counterpart | | | | Total | Date | Amount |
| | | Gov | Beneficiaries | Project Sponsor | Others | | | |
| 0.00 | 600,000.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 600,000.00 | - | 0.00 |

Project Page <https://www.adb.org/projects/51103-001/main>

Request for Information <http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=51103-001>

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