Mongolia: Building Capacity for an Effective Social Welfare System

Project Name	Building Capacity for an Effective Social Welfare System
Project Number	51387-001
Country	Mongolia
Project Status	Proposed
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance
Source of Funding / Amount	TA: Building Capacity for an Effective Social Welfare System (formerly Capacity Building and Increasing Efficiency of Social Welfare Services)
	Technical Assistance Special Fund — US$ 600,000.00
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions
Sector / Subsector	Public sector management - Social protection initiatives
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Some gender elements
Description	The proposed knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will support improved capacity for social workers and social protection policymakers; better delivery and monitoring of community-based social welfare services; and more social policy research, policy dialogue, and advocacy. The TA is included in ADB's country operations business plan for Mongolia, 2020-2021 and is very strongly aligned with ADB's Strategy 2030's operational priority of addressing remaining poverty and reducing inequalities.
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	Mongolia's social protection system, especially social welfare (social assistance), has played a central role in fostering and protecting the country's gains in poverty reduction and human development, especially during periods of economic difficulties. Social welfare program coverage expanded from 2016 to 2018 - the number of social welfare beneficiaries and expenditure on social welfare benefits increased. The increase in expenditure is mainly attributable to the expansion of three of the largest programs: child money, food stamps, and mothers' benefits. Nevertheless, the poverty rate remained high in 2018. Many more people living just above the national average poverty line are vulnerable to falling back into extreme poverty. Mongolia's significant but fragile progress in social development underscores the need to strengthen social protection. The Social Welfare Law of 2012 defines four basic types of benefits: pensions, allowances, assistance and discounts, and services. Some are targeted to certain population groups, while others use the national poverty targeting system, a proxy means test. With several distinct social welfare benefits and service providers accredited by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection to provide community-based social welfare services, several challenges emerge. The system is complex and fragmented. Duplication and overlap of often very low benefit levels leads to inefficient use of scarce resources. Some programs are targeted to certain population groups (not necessarily all poor), others use the proxy means test, but inclusion and exclusion errors , a feature of any targeting system, are a significant source of grievances and complaints. Contracted community-based social welfare services reach relatively few people, and the quality of service delivery can be inconsistent. Contracting, management, delivery, and monitoring in particular need to be strengthened. On balance, the delivery of social welfare benefits and services to Mongolia's poor and vulnerable is less effective than it could be, which limits the impact on poverty and vulnerability.
Impact	Social welfare services provided to target populations in an equitable and inclusive manner
Outcome	Delivery of social welfare benefits and services for Mongolia''s poor and vulnerable improved
Outputs	Capacity of social workers and social protection policymakers improved Delivery and monitoring of community-based social welfare services strengthened Social policy research, policy dialogue, and advocacy supported
Geographical Location	Nation-wide

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects	
Environmental Aspects	
Involuntary Resettlement	
Indigenous Peoples	

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation	
During Project Design	
During Project Implementation	

Business Opportunities	
Consulting Services	ADB will engage the consultants following the ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and its associated project administration instructions and/or staff instructions.

Responsible ADB Officer	Karin Schelzig
Responsible ADB Department	East Asia Department

Responsible ADB Division	Urban and Social Sectors Division, EARD
Executing Agencies	Ministry of Labor and Social Protection Government Building-2 United Nations Street-5 Ulaanbaatar-15160, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	15 Oct 2019
Fact Finding	20 Nov 2019 to 22 Nov 2019
MRM	-
Approval	-
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	21 Nov 2019

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/51387-001/main
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