



Mongolia: Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of Public Utility Services Organizations

Project Name	Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of Public Utility Services Organizations	
Project Number	54008-001	
Country	Mongolia	
Project Status	Proposed	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance	
Source of Funding / Amount	TA: Strengthening the Institutional Capacity and Autonomy of Public Utility Services Organizations Technical Assistance Special Fund US\$ 745,000.00	
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth	
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions Partnerships	
Sector / Subsector	Water and other urban infrastructure and services - Urban policy, institutional and capacity development	
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Effective gender mainstreaming	
Description	The knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will assist the Government of Mongolia in strengthening the institutional capacity of public utility service organizations (PUSO) and will enhance sustainability of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)-financed investments by improving technical capacity of PUSOs for provision of reliable and safe water supply and wastewater services.	
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>Currently, 205 PUSOs provide water supply, wastewater, and partially, district heating services to residents and public and business entities in urban settlements across Mongolia. PUSOs employ 10,950 staff, of which 40% are women and 42% work in aimag and soum centers. Of total PUSO staff, 18% are engineers and technicians, who manage and coordinate O&M of the systems. Women constitute 29% of engineers and technicians employed by PUSO. Acute funding constraints for capital investments and poor O&M have led to dilapidated infrastructure and ineffective services due to high losses from leaks, frequent breakdowns, and excessive repair costs. These limitations have undermined consumers' confidence and their willingness to pay for the services, and have increased the reluctance by the Urban Water Supply and Wastewater Services Regulatory Commission (the Regulator) to raise service tariffs, further constraining financial and institutional performance of PUSOs. Regular skills development of PUSOs' technical staff and dissemination of knowledge and information on updated standards, norms and regulations on construction and operation of facilities are essential for sustaining an effective and efficient performance of the sector. At the academic level, training for water supply and wastewater engineers is provided by the Mongolian University of Science and Technology, whereas technicians (plumbers, laboratorians, electricians, etc.) obtain professional qualification from technical and vocational education training centers. Further enhancing skills and accreditation of the PUSO staff are the responsibility of the Training, Research, and Information Division of Construction Development Center under the MCUD. However, the division's capacity and disperse training topics make it impossible to organize regular and targeted sessions for PUSO employees. To address the PUSOs institutional capacity and the skills obsolescence, the Regulator established the Training Center for Public Utility Services Sector (Regulator's Training Center, RTC) in 2020. The RTC is in its early formation stage and needs the support in developing training concepts and modules and equipping training classes. The RTC has a separate unit, which focuses on community awareness, education, and communications and on dissemination of best practices across the PUSOs. This TA is designed to establish an effective mechanism for technical training of PUSO staff. It is in line with the civil society recommendations for ADB to support the development of a professional training center for PUSOs staff.</p>	
Impact	Urban water supply and wastewater services in Mongolia improved.	
Outcome	Knowledge and skills of PUSO technical staff applied,	
Outputs	Policy advice on PUSO technical training strategy finalized Capacity of the Regulator's Training Center strengthened	
Geographical Location	Nation-wide	
Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects		
Environmental Aspects		
Involuntary Resettlement		
Indigenous Peoples		
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation		
During Project Design	Stakeholders have been consulted during the project design	
During Project Implementation	Stakeholders will be invited to provide feedback on the TA reports, PUSO training strategy and annual training plans and during the development of training modules.	
Responsible ADB Officer	Badarch, Tuul	
Responsible ADB Department	East Asia Department	
Responsible ADB Division	Mongolia Resident Mission	

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	03 Nov 2020
Fact Finding	04 Nov 2020 to 06 Nov 2020
MRM	-
Approval	-
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	13 Nov 2020

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/54008-001/main
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