United Nations Development Programme Country: Mongolia

Project Document

Project Title

Overcoming Poverty through Legal Empowerment

(Phase 1)

UNDAF Outcome(s):

Democratic processes are strengthened through institution building, civil society empowerment, and enhanced accountability and transparency to reduce disparities and

human poverty

Expected CP Outcome(s):

(Those linked to the project and extracted from the CPAP)

Capacity enhanced for the promotion and protection of human rights and access to justice

Expected Output(s):

(Those that will result from the project and extracted from the CPAP)

Access to justice improved for the vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalized groups

Implementing Partner:

Responsible Parties:

Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs (MOJHA)

Ministry of Social Welfare and Labour, National Human Rights Commission, Office of the NHRAP Committee

Brief Description

The project objective is to introduce a new approach to poverty reduction and human rights protection through legal empowerment of the poor (LEP) in Mongolia. The project has two components/outputs: i) support to regional knowledge base and experience sharing on LEP initiatives; and ii) developing national LEP strategy that tackles specific barriers causing poverty in Mongolia.

This project will lead to a larger LEP project (phase 2), which will address the link between laws and poverty at the impact level, resulting in positive changes in the lives of poor people.

Programme Period: 2007-2011

Key Result Area (Strategic Plan): Democratic governance

Atlas Award ID: 00061445

Start date: 1Apr 2011
End Date 131Dec 2012

PAC Meeting Date 4 March 2011

Management Arrangements NEX

Total budge	t:	\$300,000
0 0	DGTTF UNDP TRAC Government	\$200,000 \$100,000
n-kind Con	tributions:	office space

Agreed by (Implementing Partner):

Nyamdorj Tsend, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs

Agreed by UNDP:

Sezin Sinanoglu, Resident Representative, UNDP

01 April 2011

I. Situation analysis

In the last two decades, poverty remained high in Mongolia with more than one third of the population estimated to be poor. As underlined in National the draft Country Programme Document (CPD) for 2012-2016, Mongolia is unlikely to achieve the target of halving poverty by 2015. Disparities in income are growing as is the gap between poverty levels in cities and rural areas. According to the Labour Force Survey for the second quarter of 2010, the unemployment rate and the percentage of people employed in informal sector in total economically active population were 9.5 and 10.2 respectively.

While poverty remains consistently high, annual GDP growth has been above 8 percent over the past few years. It is widely recognized that Mongolia's mineral wealth is both a blessing and curse. Apart from the economic risks related to 'Dutch disease', a rising trend in income disparities poses a risk of triggering conflict and violence. Enabling the growth of small enterprises and expanding livelihood options outside the mining sector is a vital necessity.

To tackle poverty, the Government of Mongolia has taken a number of measures, including creation of SME fund, creation of Employment Support Fund, establishment of micro-credit projects, tuition fee payment for vocational education students, and creation of partnership with Mongolian Employers' Federation. These measures aim at providing employment opportunities for poor people through better preparing them to meet the growing demand of the market. For those unable to work, a number of social welfare payments have been introduced.

However, most of these measures are effective only when poor people can access these services, when their rights are protected by laws, and when they know and can claim their rights and are able to take the opportunities available. This is the approach behind the concept of the Legal Empowerment of the Poor (LEP), advocated by Madeleine Albright and Hernando de Soto, co-chairs of the special Commission on this matter.

The concept of the legal empowerment of the poor is comprehensive and consists of four pillars; rule of law and access to justice, labour rights, business rights, and property rights. Poor people are not legally empowered if they cannot effectively access justice system. Poor people are also more prone to unsafe working conditions as they tend to be employed in the informal sector. They lack effective property rights and unable to take proper use of economic power of their property. Finally, businesses operated by poor people are denied legal identity, which means it is almost impossible to obtain credit and attract investment.

Thus, legal empowerment of the poor (LEP) is a concept which aims at contributing to poverty reduction through effective recognition and protection of rights; it is based on the assumptions that recognize that "poverty is man-made" and "by design or by default, markets, laws, institutions, and politics often fail to serve the common good, excluding or discriminating against poor women and men"². This is a process which allows poor people to use the law to advance their rights in relation to the state as well as the market.

As elsewhere, poor people in Mongolia rely more heavily on the informal sector which, by definition, is outside the legal protection. Informal sector is "both a cause and a consequence of their lack of effective legal rights"³. Informality arises as the costs of belonging to the economy's legal and regulatory framework exceeds the benefits. Rapid urbanisation and powerful interest groups dominant in electoral politics have increased the need for avenues to articulate and represent the interests of poor and marginalised people.

¹ Gini coefficient increased from 0.33 to 0.36 between 2003 and 2008, Draft CPD 2012-2016, UNDP Mongolia

² Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor, Making the Law work for Everyone, 2008, Vol.1, p.21

³ Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor, Making the Law work for Everyone, 2008, Vol. 1, p.25

In order to ensure effectiveness of legal empowerment measures, it is important to translate the ideas underpinning these pillars to the country situation and local conditions.

Legal empowerment of the poor is not completely new in Mongolia. In the past few years, the Government of Mongolia has taken several initiatives towards improved access to justice. With UNDP's support, the Government of Mongolia created Legal Aid Centres (LACs) in all 21 aimags, nine districts of the capital city, and six densely populated soums, providing legal representation to defendants of criminal cases. The creation of the national civil registration network and online database of essential registration information has made a significant step forward towards reducing registration related barriers for poor people and domestic migrants. Different forms of legal aid and dispute resolution systems, including law clinics and mediation, have been introduced and a law on legal aid is being drafted to further institutionalise legal protection for the most vulnerable groups of the society. The legal provision on payment of compensation for victims of some crimes adopted by the Parliament through amending the Law on Special Fund is another achievement in protecting rights of the poor. The National Human Rights Forum in December 2010 was co-organized by the Committee for the Implementation of the National Human Rights Action Programme, Federation of Trade Unions of Mongolia, and Mongolian Employers' Federation and focused on the private sector involvement in protecting human rights.

While many of these measures contribute to legal empowerment of the poor, there is no system or mechanism which systematically reviews the impact of laws on poor people either before or after they are approved. At the institutional level, there are no systematic and formal processes which evaluate potential barriers any regulation or procedure may cause to poor people and recommend removal of such barriers.

Despite the lack of the mechanism mentioned above, current opportunities for legal reform necessary for creating needed legislative environment should not be ignored. For example, Legal Aid Centres have the potential to identify laws and regulations that cause barriers to poor and vulnerable groups based on real cases. Those cases may serve as important sources of evidence for future legislative reforms.

Mongolia has affirmed its support to regional LEP initiatives. Mongolia's government is a member of the regional Legal Empowerment Asia Partnership (LEAP) established with DGTTF 2010 support to the Thailand Country Office. Regionally, Mongolia will take the lead role in LEAP in 2011. Mongolia appreciates the importance of a regional platform for addressing sensitive issues such as inter-country migration, refugees and the rights of ethnic minorities.

While building on results and lessons learned by UNDP's previous projects in human rights and access to justice, this project aims to contribute to poverty reduction and the protection of human rights of the poor and marginalized people in Mongolia, through introducing and implementing the concept of the Legal Empowerment of the Poor (LEP). Recognizing multi-dimensional nature of poverty, the LEP concept complements the ongoing poverty reduction efforts with a new innovative approach that emphasizes the role of laws, procedures or organizational processes in poverty reduction.

The project contributes to MDG1 on poverty reduction and MDG9 on democratic governance and human rights.

II. Strategy

Phased approach (Phase 1 and 2). This project constitutes a preparatory phase of a twostage assistance of UNDP Mongolia in the area of human rights and access to justice. This phased approach takes into account time required for raising awareness of the concept of LEP as well as developing a contextualized methodology for making impact level changes in legal empowerment of the poor. Separating this preparatory phase from the main project allows more systematic and realistic planning, and prevents the project from being too ambitious.

Human rights based approach. Human rights principles will guide all phases of the project implementation, including assessment, analysis, planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. As part of this approach, a methodology for formal screening of laws and regulations for their impact on poor people will be developed. This methodology will be used in the national legal drafting and policy development processes, and will contribute to building a national mechanism or a system which prevents adoption of new laws and regulations disempowering the poor. Since laws affecting the poor can be in any sector, participation of cross sectoral policy makers is essential in developing the methodology.

To complement the macro level process of screening laws and regulations, a methodology for identifying target groups and key legal empowerment issues through participatory and consultative processes will be developed. The methodology will use individual and group experiences and rely on poor people's own perspective. Poor and other vulnerable people will be key actors in development of such methodology. Results or findings of this bottom up approach will feed into the macro level process of screening of both existing as well as new laws and regulations.

Shift to a more proactive mode of access to justice. The operation of a network of legal aid centres (LACs) with UNDP support provided are DP intends to shift the focus of its ongoing assistance from a reactive mode of providing legal aid to a and proactive mode to support legal policy reforms, by incorporating LEP dimension. In this respect, this project will lay down a foundation for future LEP activities.

Gender considerations. In accordance with the Government of Mongolia and UNDP gender equality policies, this project will support incorporation of gender considerations in its activities as well as in methodologies to be developed. Gender analysis can help to identify vulnerable groups of poor people in need of legal protection.

Dynamic part of regional and international LEP initiatives. Since many countries in the Asia-Pacific region and other parts of the world have already been undertaking LEP projects, there is an ample opportunity to learn from each other, tackle a common challenge jointly, and develop a shared knowledge on what works and what does not. Developing a guidance note on methodology of identifying dysfunctional laws and regulations preventing LEP is one area where a shared knowledge base is needed.

As shown in the Results and Resources Framework below, the project has two main outputs: The **first** output is support to regional knowledge base and experience sharing on LEP, thereby promoting LEP initiatives in countries of Asia and Pacific region. Domestically, such experience sharing will also promote political support among decision makers and contribute to drawing the attention of the general public to legal empowerment.

The **second** output is development of LEP strategy in Mongolia. Having such strategy will enable implementation of LEP related activities in systematic, guided, coordinated, and sequenced manner, with clear objectives and shared understanding on how each activity will contribute to the overall impact level results, that is, reduced poverty. This is the core output that will result in a roadmap for LEP substantive activities. As such, the proposed strategy will incorporate all four pillars, including *labour rights*, *business rights*, *property rights*, as well as *access to justice*; however, the actual priority will be identified through participatory process informed by adequate research.

Developing LEP strategy will be preceded and complemented by awareness raising about legal empowerment as a poverty reduction strategy among stakeholders and potential target groups, including both rights holders and duty bearers. This will result in shared understanding of legal empowerment and its relevance to the country's current situation.

III. RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK

Intended Outcome as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resource Framework:

2.4. Capacity enhanced for the protection and promotion of human rights and access to justice

Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets:

4.2.1 Indicator: annual NHRAP review

4.2.2 Indicator: increased level of human rights awareness among police and prison officials

4.3.1 Indicator: training, advocacy and legal aid centers supported

4.3.2 Indicator: number/percentage of the poor and vulnerable who obtained effective justice remedies

Applicable MYFF Service Line: Democratic Governance

Partnership Strategy: Ministry of Social Welfare, National Human Rights Commission, Office of the NHRAP Committee, human rights institutions, civil

Project title and ID (ATLAS Award ID	Project title and ID (ATLAS Award ID): Overcoming Poverty through Legal Empowerment ID 00077829 (Award ID: 61445)	ward ID: 61445)	
INTENDED OUTPUTS	ACTIVITY RESULTS AND INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	INPUTS
Output 1. Guidance note on methods on identifying barriers to LEP developed as part of support to	 Develop a guidance note involving regional and international actors and incorporating human rights based approach; Host annual Legal Empowerment Asia Partnership (LEAP) Regional 	UNDP APRC MOJHA LINDP Mongolia	Total for Output 1: \$60,000
regional LEP knowledge building experience sharing efforts	.— m	00	Year 1: \$50,000 72100 \$3,000
Indicator: existence of a guidance note for use by LEAP countries	review;		71200 \$20,000 75700 \$25,000
Baseline: currently no guidance note exist			74200 \$2,000
Target::adoption and dissemination of a guidance note			Year 2: \$10,000 75700 \$10,000
Output 2. LEP policy and/or strategy developed through a participatory	2.1. Awareness on the concept of LEP raised among stakeholders and target groups	MOJHA MSWL	Total for Output 2: \$170,000
process	- Translate relevant LEP knowledge products available in English;	NHRCM	

Year 1: \$30,000 75700 \$10,000	Year 2:\$140,000 71600 \$5,000 71300 \$35,000 75700 \$60,000 74200 \$15,000 71600 \$10,000 74500 \$20,000	\$70,000	\$300,000
Committee for Implementation of the NHRAP	MOJHA MSWL NHRCM Committee for Implementation of the NHRAP Line ministries Legal Standing Committee of the SGH		
 Re-package existing LEP related studies conducted in Mongolia; Develop a design for short term training/workshop (for legal officers of line ministries, researchers, LAC staff, etc); Disseminate to stakeholders and potential target groups through corresponding channels; 	 2.2. Methodology for identifying key LEP issues and target groups through participatory and consultative process is developed Conduct 3-5 in-depth case studies (based on individual or group experience), tracking the impact of laws and procedures on target groups; Develop a methodology through participatory process; 2.3. Methodology for reviewing laws and regulations for LEP developed (based on the guidance note developed un output 2) Develop a methodology by adapting the guidance note developed as part of regional LEP initiative to local context; Conduct a pilot using the draft methodology; Develop a procedure for LAC use on documenting laws and regulations most often criminalizing the poor; 2.4. LEP policy/strategy developed Organize a national consultation on LEP (adapting the model and processes used in other countries in the region); Develop a draft strategy with implementation plan; Hold a national LEP strategy conference; 		
Indicator: existence of policy or strategy paper Baseline: currently no policy document Target: LEP policy or strategy adopted		Project administration	TOTAL

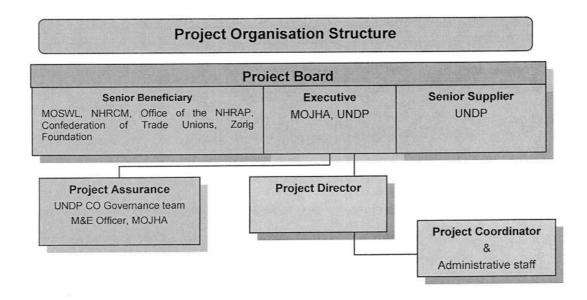
IV. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The project shall be implemented in the National Execution (NEX) modality and shall be managed in accordance with the rules and procedures outlined in UNDP POPP.

Overall responsibility for project implementation will be with the **Project Board (the Board)**. The Board will:

- provide policy guidance and monitor project performance (timely implementation of all components);
- review and appraise detailed project plans, including the AWP and Atlas reports covering activity definition, quality criteria, updated risk log and the monitoring schedule plan.
- review progress on a periodic basis in terms of the delivery of project results and benefits, approve progress reports and end-of-project report
- delegates any Project Assurance function as appropriate;
- agrees on Project Manager's responsibilities, as well as the responsibilities of the other members of the Project Management team;

Board members individually and collectively will ensure that potential risks in the project's policy and political environment that may undermine the achievement of project objectives or production of its outputs are removed or mitigated in a timely and effective manner. Hence, it is responsible for overall quality assurance of the project.



As Executives, the MOJHA and UNDP represent the ownership of the project and assume ultimate responsibility for its successful implementation. Project board meetings will be chaired by the Project Director and co-chaired by UNDP DRR. Other members of the Board will include Ministry of Social Welfare and Labour (MSWL), National Human Rights Commission (NHRCM), Office of the NHRAP, Confederation of Trade Unions, and Zorig Foundation, as representative of civil society organizations working in the field of human rights and access to justice. The Project Board, including Senior Beneficiaries, will pay a particular attention to incorporating the perspectives of intended beneficiaries in project activities.

The Project Director, the UNDP Programme staff for the project and the PM will participate in meetings of the Board without having voting powers. The Board meetings are open to representatives of (potential) third-party cost-sharing donor(s) and other development partners, as well as relevant civil society organizations, who will be notified of forthcoming meetings and provided with relevant documents in advance.

The Project Board decides on a consensus basis. In case a consensus cannot be reached, final decision shall rest with the UNDP Resident Representative. The Board is consulted by the Project Director (PD) for decisions when project management tolerances, in terms of time and budget, have been exceeded.

The **Project Director** will be responsible for project implementation according to an agreed work plan and within set budget ceilings. The PD will essentially be responsible for the successful running of the project, and for the delivery of outputs under this project document. The PD shall lead the coordination efforts between the concerned agencies and responsible parties. The PD will be responsible for all matters concerning the day-to-day running of the project on behalf of the Board, to ensure that the project produces the required products, to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost.

Project Assurance is the responsibility of each Project Board member and a function of objective oversight and monitoring which is independent of the project management roles. Project assurance support will be provided to the Project Board by UNDP Programme Officer and a designated staff from the MOJHA Monitoring and Evaluation Department.

Project Coordinator will carry out daily project management. The PC is expected to be a highly-qualified professional who apart from managerial expertise will also provide substantive technical and policy advice and inputs, where needed.

For this project, the Project unit of the ongoing Access to Justice and Human Rights (A2J&HR), including Project Director, Project Manager and Administrative Finance Officer (AFO), will concurrently work as PD, PC and AFO.

V. MONITORING FRAMEWORK AND EVALUATION

In accordance with the programming policies and procedures outlined in the UNDP User Guide, the project will be monitored through the following:

Within the annual cycle

- On a quarterly basis, a quality assessment shall record progress towards the completion of key results, based on quality criteria and methods captured in the Quality Management table below.
- An Issue Log shall be activated in Atlas and updated by the Project Coordinator to facilitate tracking and resolution of potential problems or requests for change.
- Based on the initial risk analysis submitted (see annex 1), a risk log shall be activated in Atlas and regularly updated by reviewing the external environment that may affect the project implementation.
- Based on the above information recorded in Atlas, a Project Progress Reports (PPR) shall be submitted by the Project Coordinator to the Project Board through Project Assurance, using the standard report format available in the Executive Snapshot.

- a project Lesson-learned log shall be activated and regularly updated to ensure on-going learning and adaptation within the organization, and to facilitate the preparation of the Lessons-learned Report at the end of the project
- a Monitoring Schedule Plan shall be activated in Atlas and updated to track key management actions/events

Annually

- Annual Review Report. An Annual Review Report shall be prepared by the Project Coordinator and shared with the Project Board and the Outcome Board. As minimum requirement, the Annual Review Report shall consist of the Atlas standard format for the QPR covering the whole year with updated information for each above element of the QPR as well as a summary of results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output level.
- Annual Project Review. Based on the above report, an annual project review shall be conducted during the fourth quarter of the year, to assess the performance of the project and appraise the Annual Work Plan (AWP) for the following year. In the last year, this review will be a final assessment. This review is driven by the Project Board and may involve other stakeholders as required. It shall focus on the extent to which progress is being made towards outputs, and that these remain aligned to appropriate outcomes.
- Final Project Review. Two months before the end of the project, the Project Coordinator must prepare a final Project Review Report. The report will contain coherent and structured assessment of progress based on the chain of results initially defined in the Resources and Results Framework (RRF), and will be discussed at the project Board final review meeting.
- Audit. The project shall be subject to management and financial audits in accordance with UNDP's POPP and National Execution Guidelines.

Quality Management for Project Activity Results

Activity Result 1.1.	Guidance not	te	Start Date: March 2011 End Date: Dec 2011
Purpose	To equip LEP in	nplementers with a general tool that can be	
		red knowledge base among LEAP countrie	
Description	Planned actions	to produce the activity result	
Quality Criteria		Quality Method	Date of Assessment
Clarity of guidanc understand)	e (easy to	Peer review	LEAP meeting
Proposing realistic me	thods		
OUTPUT 2: LEP polic	cy and/or strate	egy developed through a participato	ry process
Activity Result 2.1. (Atlas Activity ID)		n the concept of LEP raised holders and target groups	Start Date: March 2011 End Date: Dec 2011
Purpose	To create a go reduction	ood understanding on the importance	of using LEP for povert
Description	Preparation of	resource materials	
		of relevant existing studies in Mongoli	а
	Targeted disse	emination/awareness raising	
Quality Criteria		Quality Method	Date of Assessment
Relevance – selection materials should be Mongolian context and	relevant to	Check the content	At the stage of selecting the materials
Adequate communication/diss channel	emination	Check with the target groups	Before dissemination
Activity Result 2.2.	and target g	for identifying key LEP issues roups through participatory and process is developed	Start Date: Apr 2011 End Date: Apr 2012
Purpose	To prepare a t	ool that can be used in identifying LEF	issues and target groups
Description	case studies		
2.112.11.1	methodology		
Quality Criteria		Quality Method	Date of Assessment
Participatory		Feedback from stakeholders	Before adoption
Simple to use and revealing key issues		Feedback from stakeholders	Before adoption
Activity Result 2.3	Methodology regulations for	for reviewing laws and or LEP developed	Start Date: March 2011 End Date: March 2012
Purpose	To prepare a to implications	ool that can be used in reviewing laws a	nd regulations for their LE
Description			
Quality Criteria		Quality Method	Date of Assessment
Participatory		Record of participants	Quarterly
Simple and adjus	sted to law	Review by experts	Before the finalization

Activity Result 2.4.	LEP strategy	/ developed	Start Date: March 2011 End Date: May 2012
Purpose		this new concept (LEP) systematica	
	actions through	h well-thought through design	9800 1757 175
Description	National cons Strategy deve		
Quality Criteria		Quality Method	Date of Assessment
SMART		Review by stakeholders	Before adoption
With M&E mechanis	ms		
With clear division or responsibilities	f		

VI. LEGAL CONTEXT

This document together with the CPAP signed by the Government and UNDP which is incorporated by reference constitute together a Project Document as referred to in the SBAA and all CPAP provisions apply to this document.

Consistent with the Article III of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement, the responsibility for the safety and security of the implementing partner and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in the implementing partner's custody, rests with the implementing partner. The implementing partner shall:

- a) put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;
- b) assume all risks and liabilities related to the implementing partner's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.

UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of this agreement.

The implementing partner agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/committees/1267/1267ListEng.htm. This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Project Document".



Annex I RISK LOG

ď	roject Title: Overco	ming Pover	Project Title: Overcoming Poverty through Legal Empowerment	owerment	Award ID: 00061445	15	Date: 30 March 2011	rch 2011	
#	Description	Date Identified	Туре	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Mngt response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
-	Given existence of various disadvantaged groups, coordination of their participation in development of methodology may become unmanageable	March 2011	Organizational	The project may face excessive pressure to meet the demands of various groups P = 3 I = 2	Stay focused and stick to priority groups identified	Project Coordinator	UND		
0	Adoption of methodologies may be delayed due to political or procedural barriers	March 2011	Political Strategic	The project may not be able to mainstream the methodology into the law making process and the sustainability of the project will be jeopardized. P = 2	Ensure involvement of those who will adopt the methodologies from the very beginning to build ownership and commitment	Project Coordinator, MOJHA	UND		