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SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA IN MONGOLIA PROJECT



PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- **Project period:** 2018 - 2021
- **Main objective:** To support the government in achieving the SDGs through aligning the long-term development priorities implementation with the medium-to-short term planning mechanisms. **Focus area:** Inclusive growth, Sustainable Development Goals
- **National counterparts:** Cabinet Secretariat, National Development Agency, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs, Ministry of Health, National Statistical Office, Ulaanbaatar City Mayor's Office
- **Project fund:** United Nations Development Programme in Mongolia – US\$ 800,000

Total resources required:	\$800,000	
Total resources allocated:	UNDP TRAC:	\$ 230,000 (year 1)
	Government:	
	In-Kind:	
Unfunded:	\$570,000	

CONTENTS

1. Introduction and Situation Analysis

The main objective of the project is to support the implementation of the Agenda 2030 on SDG acceleration through reaching the following results: (i) multi-stakeholder partnerships are established to support innovative approaches for SDG acceleration; (ii) planning, budgeting, M&E and financing frameworks aligned with 2030 Agenda, and (iii) data eco-system strengthened using innovative approaches to facilitate evidence-based solutions and accountability.

2. Project Performance and Results

2.1 Contribution toward Country Programme Outcome

Contributing to the UNDAF Outcome 1:

By 2021, poor and vulnerable people are more resilient to shocks and benefit from inclusive growth and a healthy ecosystem

Contributing to the CPD output 1.1:

National and sub-national medium-term plans and budgets, as well as sector plans, prioritize achievement of SDGs and sustainable development, with corresponding monitoring and oversight processes with reliable data in place

2.2 Achievement of Project Results/Outputs

Key Result Area 1:

Multi-stakeholder partnerships are established to support innovative approaches for SDG acceleration

Capacity of parliamentarians and committees strengthened to support SDG implementation

High-level Consultation SDG achievement in Mongolia

On June 25th of 2018, under the Prime Minister's auspice, a High-level SDG consultation was organized by the Government of Mongolia with UN support. Government counterparts discussed Mongolia's roadmap to reach the SDGs, and essential elements such as policy coherence, data readiness and institutional set-ups. UN agencies anchored these initiatives by MAPS mission findings to focus on SDG-aligned policy planning, budgeting and monitoring. The ministries and agencies in Mongolia were tasked with strengthening their capacities and coordination in aligning policies with the SDGs/ SDV and streamlining SDG indicators in their reporting. Government agencies were informed about Mongolia's acceptance by the UN to report on SDGs at the 2019 High-Level Political Forum.

Partnerships strengthened with private sector, civil society and population groups based on their needs

As Mongolia readies to present its first National Voluntary Report on the progress of the SDGs implementation in the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in June 2019, the process of its formulation presents an opportunity for public, private and civil society organization to come together and reflect on their collective actions and investments in the SDGs implementation over the last 3 years.

In Mongolia, the private sector accounts for approximately 77% of total employees, 94.5% of capital formation, and 78.7% of the GDP³. These figures suggest that private sector is the engine behind Mongolia's development. Its business approaches and practices will determine extent to which Mongolia's development will be sustainable, going beyond economic indicators.

In the current discourse and actions to implement SDGs in Mongolia, the role of the public sector and development partners is often over-emphasized, with a systematic mechanism for gauging private sector contributions to be yet establish. Bringing private sector to the fore of the SDGs implementation gives Mongolia an opportunity to move beyond concepts of corporate social responsibility and focus on sustainability at the core of the private sector growth strategies and business models – be it in livestock commodity production, crop farming, tourism or energy sectors.

UNDP collaborates with the civil society and private sector representatives to align the efforts to contribute to SDG achievement in Mongolia. The project in collaboration with the Corporate Governance Development Center and Konrad Adenauer Foundation works with some private companies to create Sustainability Dialogue, which will serve as the platform to share the insights, best practices and information on private sector contributions towards DDGs in Mongolia. The UNDP will provide expertise on measuring their impact on SDG implementation. The UNDP-supported research institutions and civil society organizations provide analytical background on the country SDG progress and defining the development accelerators. The studies on aligning the current planning and budgeting system with the SDGs create important foundation for introducing planning mechanisms aligned with the SDV/SDGs. The project works with UN agencies, GIZ, EBRD, Asia Foundation and other development partners on aligning the UB city SDGs targets with their action plans in area of green development and municipal governance.

Empowering communities and strengthening the representative power of elected bodies plays an important role in revitalizing functions of local Khurals. UNDP supported the representative bodies in Mongolia by extending training to all 8,099 local representatives elected to local khurals of 330 soums, 21 aimags, 9 districts and the capital city in 2016 with an attendance rate of 90% in 2016-2017. Trainings aimed primarily at improving internal functioning and openness to the public, as well as served as a useful platform for a dialogue on development priorities. In addition, to the formal reporting by the Government on SDG / SDV progress, civil society representatives maintain oversight of the SDG progress. In February of 2018, civil society representatives drafted the guidelines for preparing the Voluntary National Review to be presented at the UN High Level Political Forum in 2019. The 1st multi-stakeholder meeting to discuss the review preparation will take place in September 2018.

Key Result Area 2: Planning, budgeting, M&E and financing frameworks aligned with 2030 Agenda

Making the budget process more SDG-informed

UN agencies – working with ADB in Mongolia – support the national counterparts in realizing the principle that the budget is the most important expression of the Government's long-term priorities. The pilot work is being implemented at the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Health to strengthen the links between the annual budget allocations and long-term development objectives, as articulated the SDGs, the SDV and the Government's new Three-Pillar Policy and other health sectoral plans. As a result of this pilot, the Government of Mongolia and the Ministry of Finance aim to roll-out guidelines on preparing SDG-informed budgeting and institutionalize them in the budget process formulation from 2020 on-wards. This re-design of the budget programme structure will enable to match better with sector and local policies for the medium and short term. The progress in 2018 within the pilot joint project of MOF and MOH were:

- New SDG Budgeting templates for Marginal Budgeting developed.
- SDG targets mapping for health sector completed.
- Expenditure trends analysis as means to SDG-informed budgeting for next budgets, e.g. discrepancy between health SDG trends and budget allocations by aimags are revealed (see the graph).
- Methodology Pack for short- and long-term reforms is developed (pending discussions and approval at the Ministry of Finance)

Strengthened institutional coordination mechanisms

The project supported to strengthen the capacity of the institutions involved in the implementation of the SDV, in particular the NDA, Ministry of Finance and the Cabinet Secretariat. The NDA requested to start with review of vertical and horizontal policy coherence at ministerial level to assess the effectiveness and impact of proposed policies on sustainable development.

In 2016, the NDA requested UNDP and UNDESA assistance with economy-wide modeling tools that analyze connections between macroeconomic variables, impacts on sectors, energy generation and consumption, as well as water and land services. The relevant Computable General Equilibrium (CGE)-based model is being institutionalized at the NDA, and two rounds of training were conducted for the expert team within the Government. The model simulation results will be applied to develop the SDG-aligned medium-term plan, currently under formulation in Mongolia

The Government with the assistance of UNDP approved methodology by the Government Resolution 2018/294 for assessing policy coherence and identifying policy targets.

Alignment of national and sub-national strategies, policies supported

Coherence analysis and policy target setting: As of 2017, 162 policy documents at the national and local level are being adopted. Many of them constitute competing strategies, policies and programmes without consistent links to the long-term development vision, or sufficient resources and monitoring. The National Development Agency (NDA) has identified that out of 169 global SDG targets, 21.3

percent are fully covered by Mongolia's Sustainable Development Vision 2030 (SDV), while 24.3 percent of SDV targets are partially aligned with the SDGs and 9.5 percent of SDV targets are not applicable to SDGs. 45 percent of SDG targets are not reflected in SDV at all.

The UN & UNDP supported the NDA in reviewing the coherence of existing sector policies, with the water sector selected as pilot area. Current policies pertaining to the water sector were reviewed from a legal, planning, and monitoring perspective. The review used the “network analysis” developed by Stockholm Environmental Institute (SEI) to demonstrate the positive (and potentially negative) links between various water sector goals and directly or indirectly related policies. In December 2017, SEI5 experts conducted training on the methodology for NDA staff, line ministries, and research institutions. Based on this, NDA developed a generic methodology on (i) coherence analysis and (ii) SDG target- setting to be used for Mongolia's medium-term plans, identifying links as well as trade-offs between targets, in light of existing resource limits. This approach has been consulted with all ministries and agencies and further tested and refined in a series of consultations with Government agencies, business associations and academia. The generic methodology was adopted by the Cabinet in November of 2018 and is expected to systematically underpin planning and policy formulation processes of the Government of Mongolia. The success of the sectoral plans depends on a relevant agency performance, therefore, according to the newly approved Civil Service Law UNDP support the government top develop a methodology to prepare an organization’s business plan.

SDGs Localization

In Mongolia, where over a half of the country's population lives in its capital city Ulaanbaatar, the country's achievement of SDGs will hinge on its progress in the capital city alone. While the SDGs include a stand-alone goal on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements (SDG 11), in Ulaanbaatar continuous progress on achieving targets across the whole SDG agenda is critical. Even though at the present there is no integrated planning process in place systematically involving local Governments participation in setting national priorities, strategies and institutional frameworks and capturing their contributions, initial steps have been taken in establishing one.

In 2016, UNDP and Ulaanbaatar City signed a Memorandum of Understanding, providing an overall framework for localizing SDGs. The city indicated that in order to achieve SDGs, a “dynamics unusual” (DAU) scenario is needed, instead of business as usual (BAU). The UB city Working Group, along with UNDP project consultants, provided a sketch of what UB could look like in 2030, if we continued the historical path of development, or introduced incremental improvements. The team reviewed the current policies and programs from an SDG perspective, prepared a roadmap for aligning with the SDGs/SDV and defined the SDV aligned policy targets for 2030. In addition, a detailed review of available data was conducted. At the city level, 126 target indicators for 17 goals were defined, and 284 monitoring indicators were proposed. As of end of 2017, data for 39.4% of them is readily available, 38.4% can be computed with some efforts, and 4.9% need to be introduced newly. Moreover, a review and prioritization of UB's roughly 70 investment projects from the perspective of their contribution to achieving the SDGs in the capital city was carried out. A series of consultations were held at the city level. The initial comments and feedback on critical issues of the city such as enhancing monitoring of air quality and improving treatment of non-communicable disease were received from the citizens. The inter-departmental working groups have agreed on the current SDG roadmap, which will be approved by the City Representatives Council. The aimags play an important role in leaving no one behind and advancing the SDGs, thus UNDP and GIZ support the local governments to develop their long-term vision in line with SDV, while stressing on importance of economic diversification, resilience and environmental and social sustainability. Particularly, the national experts lead this process Orkhon, Uvs, Bulgan and Sukhbaatar aimags to exemplify the gaps in the development planning and budgeting in at the local level.

The total of 100 million tugrug for UB city SDGs localization in the 2019 UB city budget was approved by Citizen's Representative Khural formalized with 20/17 of City Citizen's Khural in 2018 which approved 2019 budget of UB city.

http://ulaanbaatar.mn/Files2/2019tusuv_20181210125907.pdf

The agenda for UB city SDGs roadmap and its implementation on 2019 was included in UB city socio-economic guidelines which was approved by the decision 19/16 of Citizens Representative Hural..

<http://ulaanbaatar.mn/Files2/2019%20онд%20батлагдсан%20НЭЭХҮЧ.pdf>

On 7th September of 2017, the working group headed by the Deputy Governor of UB city was established to oversee the development of the SDV/SDG roadmap. The working group includes representatives of sectoral divisions as well as of the National Development Agency (NDA), National Statistical Office, Ministry of Finance.

In 2018, nine -subgroups which based on the SDG goals was established by the decision of the Deputy Governor of UB city. The sub-working groups headed by members of main working group which was established in 2017 and included officials of UB city Governor's Office, directors or deputy directors of UB city agencies and researchers

SDG awareness raising, the advocacy and experience sharing was important for informing and influencing the relative authorities and officials of the Government and civil societies to participate in formulation and implementation of the SDV/SDGs initiatives and contribution to increased ownership by authorities. Journalists trainings were conducted on reporting for SDGs inviting 1 journalist from all provinces, in cooperation with the Press Institute – the media training organization. Several interviews were broadcast by a TV channel (Eagle TV), focusing on specific issues related to SDGs, inviting subject experts and representatives of UB city. In order to strengthening the capacity of local governor office, several trainings are organized in 2018. For example, on November 5th of 2018, the consultation meeting on the draft of UB City Sustainable Development Roadmap 2030 was organized. In this meeting, a total of 70 participants including officers of UB city Governor's office, main implementing agencies, representatives of the Ministry of Finance, UNDP, Statistics Office, and researchers participated. On December 20, 21th of 2018, informative trainings for officers of Nalaikh district and Songinokhairkhan district were successfully organized.

Effective localization of SDGs in local level also requires citizen's participation. Thus, on December 25th of 2018, total of 250 representatives of UB city residence discussed the draft of "Ulaanbaatar city Sustainable development goals". This discussion meeting was open for all interested citizens. The brief information about all discussions and trainings were posted on the www.ulaanbaatar.mn web site and some of them released by TV channels including UB TV.

Key Results Area 3:

Data eco-system strengthened using innovative approaches to facilitate evidence-based solutions and accountability

Innovative solutions developed to fill data gaps, particularly for SDG 16

SDG 16 "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels" has 12 targets and 23 indicators. In Mongolia, the data on governance and justice are mainly compiled from the administrative records, the Household Socio-Economic Survey and other surveys. Currently, the data collection sources and methodologies for 18 indicators need to be newly established in Mongolia.

UNDP is working closely with Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs to develop a set of indicators and the methodology for estimates with active participation of relevant stakeholders, signed LOA in 2018. Three categories of indicators underpin national SDG16 monitoring systems to provide a more comprehensive picture of the specific challenges faced by the country in implementing SDG16: (i) Global indicators, as officially adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission; (ii) Other relevant internationally comparable indicators; and (iii) Mongolia-specific indicators developed either by government through the national statistical system or by non-official data producers such as civil society, research institutions or the private sector. These indicators will be compiled using traditional and non-traditional sources

SDG data platform and performance dashboard developed

The project is closely working with NSO on development of an online data platform which will include all SDG indicators with the appropriate level of data disaggregation. The dashboard is build on existing data platforms and over time seek to integrate other data platforms/ data streams for it to evolve into a performance dashboard. The general structure is developed and on progress to operationalize.