



“SDG ALIGNED BUDGETING TO TRANSFORM EMPLOYMENT IN MONGOLIA” PROJECT

STEERING COMMITTEE
Meeting minutes
 28 December 2021

The Steering Committee meeting was conducted from 10:05 AM to 12.05 on 28 December 2021.

Co-chaired by: Ms. Nashida Sattar, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP
 Mr. Zulphar Sarhad, Deputy Minister, MLSP

	#	Project Steering committee members
Present	1	Ms. Elaine Conkievich, Resident Representative, UNDP (represented by Ms. Nashida Sattar, DRR UNDP)
	2	H.E. Axelle Nicaise, EU Ambassador to Mongolia
	3	H.E. Ariunzaya Ayush, Minister of MLSP (represented by Mr. Zulphar Sarhad, Deputy Minister, MLSP)
	4	Mr. Narantsogt. S, State Secretary, MOF (Represented by Mr. Sanjaadorj, Head of Expenditure Division at Fiscal policy department)
	5	Ms. Erdenetsetseg, G, Deputy General Auditor
	6	Mr. Ganbaatar. Kh, Executive Director, MONEF
	7	Mr. Erdenebat. S, President, CMTU
	8	Mr. Vinod Ahuja, FAO Representative in Mongolia (represented by Ms. B. Altanshagai, Project manager, FAO)
	9	Ms. Claire Courtelle-Mulder, Director of ILO Office for China, and Mongolia (represented by Ms. Bolormaa. P, ILO National Coordinator in Mongolia)
	10	Ms. Narmandakh. M, Executive Director of Mongolian Food Industry Association
Absent	11	Mr. Bolorchuluun. Ts, Director of Strategic Policy and planning department (<i>There was another meeting at MOFALI</i>)
	12	Ms. Bulganchimeg. B, Deputy Director, NDA (<i>Restructuring process</i>)

Attendance: 84% (10 attended, 2 absent)

OFFICERS AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTING UNIT PARTICIPATING:

Ms. G. Zolboo	MOF, Head of Budget Consolidation Division
Mr. J. Tuguldur	Ministry of Finance
Mr. D. Enkhbold	Director, Performance audit department, NAO
Ms.E. Bolor	Program Manager, EU
Ms. S. Jigjidpurev	Technical Advisor, FAO
Ms. E. Munkhchimeg	Project Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, FAO
Mr. B. Munkhjargal	Project specialist, FAO
Ms. G. Pagmasuren	Project Communications Officer
Ms. M. Anujin	Project Finance and Administration Officer
Ms. L.Barkhas	Program analyst, UNDP
Ms.U.Buyandelger	M&E analyst, UNDP
Mr. G. Namuun	Communication Analyst, UNDP
Ms. D.Baasankhuu	Project technical advisor, SABTE
Ms. A.Myagmarsuren	Project Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
Ms. S. Delgermaa	Project Communications Officer
Ms. S.Zoljargal	Project Finance and Administration Officer
Mr. G. Ganzorig	Project Consultant
Ms. Ch. Dolgorsuren	Project Consultant
Ms. S.Munguntsetseg.	Project Consultant

The meeting was held with the following agenda:

- The PIU to introduce the project implementation progress of 2021
- To discuss and approve the project annual work plan for 2022
- To discuss other issues related to the implementation of the project and provide guidance and recommendations

PART 1: OPENING OF BOARD MEETING (*Annex 1*)

- The meeting started with the opening speech of Mr. Zulphar Sarhad, Deputy Minister, MLSP and he thanked all members for attending the meeting. He highlighted that the project is conducting timely technical support in promoting employment during the harsh time in Mongolia and noted that the past year's successful cooperation with the project and further expected progress would be most beneficial for youth and other vulnerable groups.
- His remark was followed by H.E. Axelle Nicaise, EU Ambassador to Mongolia and she highlighted that this technical assistance project is designed to further assist the Government of Mongolia in strengthening its governance of revenues to create inclusive and sustainable growth. As part of the employment transformation process, the project has been working effectively on improving existing public employment services by piloting new approaches on the ground with long-term unemployed people and youth in rural areas. As a technical assistance project is delivered to strengthen the capacity building for institutions, agencies, and departments to boost engagement in Public Finance.
- Ms. Nashida Sattar, DRR UNDP emphasized the strategic importance of the project interventions which enables us to further support the Government of Mongolia and Mongolian women and men on policy level transformations to increase employment and promote decent work in Mongolia through supporting efficient, accountable, and responsive delivery of public services in the Labor and Employment sector, supporting the modernization of Mongolia's Public Finance Management (PFM) systems and strengthening institutional capacities and

recognized that good work conducted by project with strong collaboration with Ministry of Finance and other institutions and agencies.

PART 2: PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT PROGRESS FOR 2021 AND NEXT 2022 YEAR'S AWP (Annex 2)

- The project progress of 2021 implementation and financial performance were presented by Ms. Barkhas. L, Program analyst, UNDP.
- Draft annual work plan and expected outcomes, and budget plan for 2022 were introduced by Ms. Barkhas. L, Program analyst, UNDP.

PART 3: MAIN POINTS AND ISSUES RAISED

- Board members emphasized that the project has achieved noticeable progress and congratulated the project team for making significant achievements in the last year despite many difficulties related to Covid.
- It was noted that progress in the TVET sector had been made by focusing more on curriculum-based costing that would support a high-quality and efficient system that meets the needs of employers. In addition, the TVET sector is moving to the Ministry of Education and Science, so it was important to include a representative from this ministry on the project board. (*Mr. Ganbaatar. Kh, Executive Director, MONEF*).
- It was emphasized that the board members should improve their responsibility and engagement in project implementation. Accordingly, members should assign specific tasks based on their experience and sector of responsibility and work to contribute their expertise and time to accelerate the project. (*Mr. Ganbaatar. Kh, Executive Director, MONEF*).
- Issues related to adequate funding for expansion into other sectors such as health and culture were raised. (*Mr. Ganbaatar. Kh, Executive Director, MONEF*).
- Questions were raised about how to ensure the multi-stakeholder engagement that will support and monitor the project implementation results to encourage the ownership of national stakeholders (*Mr. Erdenebat. S, President, Confederation of Mongolian Trade Union*).
- Questions were raised about better integrating the project objectives with other policy documents, such as Vision 2050 and governmental policies, to leverage the impacts of the project (*Ms. Narmandakh. M, Executive Director, Mongolian Food Industry Association*).
- The issues related to ensuring the success of past good agricultural practices under activity 4 and concentrating more on sustained adoption rather than the introduction of new practices (*Ms. Narmandakh. M, Executive Director, Mongolian Food Industry Association*).
- Emphasis was made on the update and refinement of occupational classifications and standards promoting a performance appraisal system (*Ms. Narmandakh. M, Executive Director, Mongolian Food Industry Association*).

PART 4: RESPONSES AND REFLECTIONS

- Deputy Minister, Mr. Zulphar, responded that TVET costing in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance for introducing performance-based financing was a very important contribution to further employment promotion and PFM reform and it was hoped that this was a good start.
- Ms. Narmandakh. M, Executive Director, of the Mongolian Food Industry Association, emphasized and agreed with Ganbaatar's comment that board members should work closely together to maximize project results.
- Deputy Minister, Mr. Zulphar emphasized that the project's involvement in other sectors of society, such as health and culture, will allow us to see further comparisons of the social sector.
- About the engagement of multi-stakeholders, all members are agreed upon the importance of timely information sharing for project progress and challenges among all stakeholders, and effective collaboration is essential.
- In addition, Mr. Sanjaadorj noted that MOF is fully supportive of the project since we are a key implementing agency; also we all need to understand that the success of the project depends on the roles and responsibilities of government agencies.
- Nashida clarified that UNDP was a little late in launching the project. COVID was one of the reasons, also there was a necessity to align the project with new policy documents emerging. It had spent much time looking at the Vision 2050, which was released last year.
- FAO project coordinator Altanshagai stated the importance of ensuring the success of past good agricultural practices and the project will put more focus on this aspect.
- Mr. Zulphar, Deputy Minister stated that my opinion coincides with the proposal of Narmandakh to review the professional standards. Further, it should be taken into consideration with the support of the project.

PART 5: CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

- AWP for 2022 was approved by the steering committee.
- All board members have agreed to fulfill their commitments to the project implementation
- No major changes were made by the steering committee in AWP for 2022

Annex part

Annex 1: Opening remarks



EU_Opening



MLSP_Opening



UNDP_opening

Annex 2: Project presentations



Project

introduction_Eng



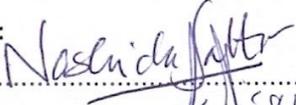
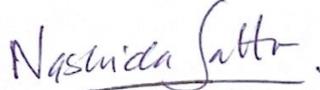
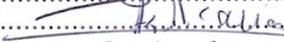
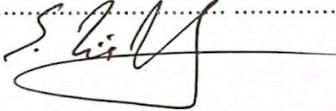
Project

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Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 am.

Approved by:

PB chair			/Ms. Elaine Conklevich/
PB Co-chair			/H.E. Axelle Nicaise/
PB Co-chair			/HE. Ariunzaya Ayush/