



# Improving Victim-Centered Investigations and Prosecutions of TIP Cases in Mongolia



Mongolia is a source, transit, and destination country for women, men, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. While the Mongolian legal environment has significantly improved in combating trafficking in persons (TIP), weaknesses remain in victim identification, victim protection, and compensation to the victims. The Asia Foundation is committed to collaborating with key stakeholders to improve and strengthen investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases based on a victim-centered approach.

The Asia Foundation, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs (MoJHA) and the Law Enforcement University of Mongolia (LEU), is implementing a project aimed at supporting and solidifying the Mongolian government's legislative and structural reforms. This will be done by designing and conducting a comprehensive training program for law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, border protection officers, and immigration officials on best practices in supporting more victim-centered investigations, prosecutions, and better victim identification and protection. To increase sustainability of the project activities, the stakeholders will integrate new curricula into their regular training practices to combat TIP nationwide.

The government of Mongolia has passed number of recent laws to strengthen its commitment and coordination of efforts to combat trafficking and enhance victim protection, which include the Law on Combating Trafficking in Persons (2012), the Law on Victim and Witness Protection (2014), and the revised Criminal Code (2016). Current legislative and struc-

tural reforms in Mongolia present promising opportunities to advance a holistic approach to combat TIP in Mongolia. However, the MoJHA and its line agencies face many challenges. Law enforcement, judges, prosecutors, border protection officers, and immigration officials have uneven general understanding of TIP and recently adopted legislations to address trafficking. Coordination and information sharing among these agencies are also weak as they have limited experience in working together to apply a victim-centered approach. Law enforcement officers sometimes lack critical skills needed to sensitively engage with victims and witnesses of TIP crime. Prosecutors have insufficient expertise in collecting and presenting evidence in court for TIP cases. Border protection officers need more practical training on identifying potential victims at the borders and how to engage with referral networks to support the victims.

## PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of the two-year project is to improve victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP cases in Mongolia.

*The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Headquartered in San Francisco, The Asia Foundation works through a network of offices in 18 Asian countries and in Washington, DC. Working with public and private partners, the Foundation receives funding from a diverse group of bilateral and multilateral development agencies, foundations, corporations, and individuals.*



**Objective 1: Enhance the use of victim-centered strategies and cooperation between law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges**

The Asia Foundation and the LEU will work together to conduct action research on the use of victim-centered approaches in addressing TIP cases in Mongolia. Based on the action research, The Foundation, MoJHA, and LEU will develop a victim-centered training curriculum and train law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges to improve their technical skills and increase their cooperation.

**Objective 2: Improve TIP victim identification and response by border control officers and immigration officials**

Based on the action research and the updated and expanded curriculum, The Asia Foundation will design a training program for border protection officers and immigration officials and conduct comprehensive training on identifying potential trafficking victims, protecting victims and proper engagement with referral networks to support the victims.

**PREVIOUS ANTI-TRAFFICKING EFFORTS**

The Asia Foundation has been at the forefront of addressing human trafficking issues in Mongolia since 2002. Building government capacity is a

hallmark of the Foundation’s anti-trafficking approach in Mongolia. The Foundation successfully implemented anti-trafficking projects and initiatives including organizing public awareness campaigns against TIP, supporting the Mongolian government’s effort to combat TIP and conducting series of trainings to strengthen and improve skills and abilities of law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges to inspect and prosecute perpetrators while supporting the victims. Furthermore, the Foundation supported establishment of the Anti-Trafficking Sub-Council within MoJHA as well as passing of National Program to Combat TIP, which was adopted by the Mongolian government in May 2017.

**PROJECT DURATION**

April 2017 to March 2019

**FUNDER**

The U.S. Department of State-Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

**PROJECT PARTNERS**

Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs; Law Enforcement University



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