



Strengthening Democratic Participation and Transparency in the Public Sector



In the last two decades, Mongolia has achieved certain success economically and socially, yet corruption and bureaucracy have been thwarting the development. Public services are plagued by lack of transparency, accountability, conflict of interest, and corruption. Management of public resources and assets are ineffective and inadequate. Increasing good governance, transparency, and accountability is essential to reduce corruption and bureaucracy, which contributes to the efficiency of managing and distributing public resources effectively. Ultimately, these will contribute to the long-term sustainability of the country's economic growth and social wellbeing.

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION AND TRANSPARENCY IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR (STEPS)

STEPS seeks to promote more effective, accountable, and transparent government for the management of public services and resources by strengthening transparency and accountability. STEPS projects are based on democratic participation of monitoring and active cooperation between the government institutions (ministries and agencies) and CSOs, private sector, and citizens. The project supports the legal environment such

as policies and laws, management and organizational reform, new ideas and initiatives, which contribute to fight against corruption. The project will pay special attention to human rights and a gender equality approach.

PROJECT OUTCOMES AND RESULTS

The project aims to reach the following outcomes:

OUTCOME I

- Increased awareness of public sector corruption and transparency issues demonstrated by citizens, CSOs, and the business community.
 - Increased availability of reliable data on public and private perceptions of corruption and research on specific sectors or agencies.
 - Enhanced knowledge of citizens, CSOs, and the business community on the prevalence and types of corruption.

OUTCOME II

- Enhanced scrutiny by citizens, CSOs, and the private sector of public sector performance
 - Enhanced capacity of CSOs to implement more informed, innovative, and targeted transparency and anti-corruption initiatives.
 - More active business community promoting transparent and ethical business practices based on survey results.

OUTCOME III

- Increased capacity of central and municipal government institutions to advance policy reforms and implement anti-corruption plans.
 - Enhanced knowledge of central and municipal government institutions on the prevalence and types of corruption.
 - Transparency and anti-corruption reform action plans developed and improved by central and municipal government institutions.

STEPS continues to collaborate with public, private and civil society stakeholders in order carry out anti-corruption initiatives through the implementation of innovative ideas and approaches that focus on improved quality, impact, and sustainability. With all stakeholders, STEPS developed joint action plans on good governance and corruption for 2016-18, focusing on ensuring participation in the law-making processes, monitoring of the effective implementation of laws and rules, and demanding accountability from government offices and officials.

Other key activities of the project include annual benchmarking surveys, the *Survey on Perceptions and Knowledge of Corruption* (SPEAK) and the *Study of Private Perceptions of Corruption* (STOPP). These surveys are well-regarded by citizens, public institutions, civil society, and the private sector as

PARTNERSHIP FOR TRANSPARENCY

Partnership for Transparency (PTI) is a network of individual NGOs that operate in various governance issues, which was established with support from The Asia Foundation's STAGE project in 2013. The Foundation continues supporting PTI under its STEPS project. PTI member Public Administration New Initiative NGO is now monitoring and scrutinizing the "Glass Account" law's implementation in education sector of Mongolia. This is one of the seven grants that STEPS has awarded to PTI members in the first half of 2016.

an objective source of information on corruption trends and information. STEPS is also conducting a set of detailed, in-depth studies focusing on education, banking, and law enforcement and other sectoral studies to better understand the root cause of corruption in the public and private sector. Due to the longitudinal design, the surveys provide long-term changes and trends in perceptions and attitudes, and they trigger invigorated and critical dialogues on issues of transparency, accountability, and corruption 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.

Project Duration: : January 2016 - December 2018

Funder: Global Affairs Canada

Implementing Organization: The Asia Foundation



HEADQUARTERS

465 California Street,
9th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94104 USA
Tel: (415) 982-4640
Fax: (415) 392-8863
sf.general@asiafoundation.org

WASHINGTON, DC

1779 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Suite 815
Washington, D.C. 20036 USA
Tel: (202) 588-9420
Fax: (202) 588-9409
dc.general@asiafoundation.org

MONGOLIA

Orient Plaza
3rd Floor
G. Chagdarjav Str. 9
Ulaanbaatar, 14210
Mongolia
Tel: 976 (11) 330-524
Fax: 976 (11) 311-497
mongolia.general@asiafoundation.org

www.asiafoundation.org

08/16