



Mongolia: Sustaining Access to and Quality of Education During Economic Difficulties Project (Additional Financing)

Project Name	Sustaining Access to and Quality of Education During Economic Difficulties Project (Additional Financing)	
Project Number	50091-006	
Country / Economy	Mongolia	
Project Status	Approved	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Loan	
Source of Funding / Amount	Loan 4438-MON: Sustaining Access to and Quality of Education During Economic Difficulties Project (Additional Financing)	
	Concessional ordinary capital resources lending	US\$ 15.00 million
Operational Priorities	OP1: Addressing remaining poverty and reducing inequalities OP2: Accelerating progress in gender equality OP3: Tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability OP6: Strengthening governance and institutional capacity	
Sector / Subsector	Education / Education sector development - Pre-primary and primary - Secondary Public sector management / Decentralization	
Gender	Effective gender mainstreaming	
Description	The additional financing will scale up the scope of the ongoing project by increasing number of schools and kindergartens by nine and the overall project will have in total 30 schools and kindergartens to be constructed and expanded and provided with the required furniture and equipment for their operations. The impact and outcome of the overall project will remain unchanged from the ongoing project. The construction and provision of furniture and equipment will be added to Output 1 of the ongoing project: Gap in enrollment capacity of schools and kindergartens narrowed, but the remaining outputs will remain unchanged.	

Project Rationale
and Linkage to
Country/Regional
Strategy

As of school year of 2022 (SY), there were in total 859 schools in country of which 688 or 80.1% were public. Three free years of pre-primary education are provided at public kindergartens (985 or 69.7% of kindergartens). In 2021, the gross enrollment rate (GER) reached 97.0% for primary education, 96.3% for junior secondary and 96.7% for senior secondary education. In coming years, the high growth of school-age population is expected. The gap in enrollment capacity of schools and kindergartens remain to be persistent partly due to the lack of available seats at public schools and kindergartens. In five years or from SY2018 to SY2022, student enrollment in public schools increased by 23.5%, outpacing the rate of increase in the number of public schools (4.9%). Enrollments in public kindergartens moderately increased by 4.2%, though 96 more public kindergartens (10.8% increase) were newly opened. Ulaanbaatar saw a particularly significant expansion in student enrollment, recording a 38.0% surge in schools and a 6.8% increase in kindergartens, largely because of ruralurban migration. Three of the six schools that operated in three shifts in SY2022 were in Ulaanbaatar, and the average class size in Ulaanbaatar (33.5 in schools, and 30.2 in kindergartens) was bigger than the national average (30.2 in schools and 29.9 in kindergartens). Due to the increase in school-age population, there is a growing tendency in the number of schools with three shifts. Although according to the official statistics, there were only six schools operating in three shifts in SY 2002, this number is going to reach 68 in SY 2023 including 47 schools in Ulaanbaatar and 21 outside of Ulaanbaatar. As the gap in enrollment capacity of schools and kindergartens persistently exists nowadays, the government requested the additional financing of \$15 million to cover the funding gap for the construction and expansion of originally planned schools and kindergartens.

Impact

More accessible, more equitable, and better quality education system developed

Project Outcome

Description of Outcome

Access to and quality of pre-primary, primary and secondary education sustained during economic difficulties

The consulting firm has been onboard since March 2022. A required data and information for GIS based real-time information system were collected and initial analysis of current situation was conducted by the consulting firm under contract no. CS-04. The IT firm (package no. CS-04) has been onboard since March 2022 and reviewed the existing information systems for school and kindergarten buildings and facilities. Then developed the GIS based system and introduced to the MES. The investment of 2023 was planned based on GIS systems result in education sector. The data gathering process took a long time. Based on the current situation the validity period of contract No CS-04 has been extended until March 1, 2023.

Progress Toward Outcome

The system was improved reflecting MESs recommendations and the consulting firm suggested that cluster system is more suitable for schools in aimag centers and Ulaanbaatar city, not for schools in soums and kindergartens based on the analysis. The EA is now establishing a working group to review the plan and make a conclusion on whether the plan could be piloted within the project implementation period and use of the term cluster schools and kindergartens in the education sector. As of end of June 2022, individual consultants (IC-11/01: Senior budget specialist; IC-11/02: Budget specialist) completed their consulting services and supported the MES to manage the preparation phase for transferring the existing budget and other associated databases into digital system. The consultants (i) prepared the functional and non-functional requirements for the budget system and monitoring; (ii) developed budget forms and templates for schools and kindergartens; (iii) identified and validated the core business processes and analysis of the budget system; (iv) developed budget implementation module; and (v) developed procedure for drafting, receiving and consolidating the upgraded budget system.

For IC-07: ICT/PIU consultants contract was expired on 30 June 2022 and the contract was not extended as the consultant started working for the Education Evaluation Center.

Implementation Progress

Description of Project Outputs	Gap in enrollment capacity of schools and kindergartens narrowed
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)	
Geographical Location	Nation-wide

Safeguard Categories

Environment	B
Involuntary Resettlement	C
Indigenous Peoples	C

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects	<p>The IEE and public consultations were conducted on eight school and kindergarten construction and expansion sites during the original project processing. The project IEE has been updated with the details of new additional kindergarten and public consultations. An environmental assessment of the Murun kindergarten will be prepared and disclosed as part of the updated IEE. The existing generic EMP will be applied to the additional financing. The project will develop a site-specific Environmental Management Plan for the construction of all nine facilities.</p>
Involuntary Resettlement	<p>The project will not require any permanent and/or temporary land acquisition or resettlement. Due diligence reviews were conducted and confirmed that new sites under additional financing will not trigger LAR impacts nor any legacy issues. DDRs will be updated if any impacts are triggered during the project implementation.</p>
Indigenous Peoples	<p>The project seeks to sustain access to and quality of education for all kindergarten and school-age children, regardless of ethnicity. Measures to enhance inclusiveness and sensitivity, and maximize project benefits for all vulnerable groups, including ethnic groups, have been incorporated into the GAAP. The EA will manage the environmental and social impacts, and any required capacity support through the PIU Environmental, and Social and Gender Specialists who are engaged on full time basis. The safeguard monitoring reports will be disclosed through the ADB website on a semi-annual basis.</p>

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design

During Project Implementation

Business Opportunities

Consulting Services	<p>Single-source selection method will be applied for selection of individual consultants as continuation of the existing contracts under the ongoing project.</p>
Procurement	<p>Procurement of goods, works, consulting services, and non-consulting services will follow the ADB Procurement Guidelines (2015, as amended from time to time) and the Consulting Guidelines (2013, as amended from time to time). National competitive bidding method will be applied for procurement of goods and works for 10 packages.</p>
Responsible ADB Officer	Lonjid, Itgel
Responsible ADB Department	East Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Mongolia Resident Mission (MNRM)
Executing Agencies	<i>Ministry of Education and Science</i>

Timetable

Concept Clearance 10 Jul 2023

Fact Finding	03 Jul 2023 to 08 Sep 2023
MRM	-
Approval	23 Feb 2024
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	23 Feb 2024

Project Page <https://www.adb.org/projects/50091-006/main>

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