



Strengthening Representative Bodies in Mongolia

Overview

Implementation period:

2017-2020

Target groups:

361 CRHs country-wide, 8099 local representatives (2164 female / 5935 male), CRH secretariats and Parliament Secretariat staff

Implementing Partner:

Parliament Secretariat of State Great Hural of Mongolia

Main donor:

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Budget:

SDC: 3,300,000 USD

UNDP: 500,000 USD

Background

The promulgation of the new Constitution in 1992 marks the beginning of the emergence of local self-governing bodies in Mongolia. **Citizens Representatives Hurals (CRHs)** have become a stable institution and played an important role in the consolidation of democracy.

However, challenges remain in making them truly representative of local people, as responsive and accountable institutions. The legal framework established in the early transition period has not kept pace with the country's social, economic and political transformations. Laws are approved without sufficient consultations with local authorities, thus making their implementation difficult at the local level. The organizational capacities of CRHs are constrained by limited resources available at their disposal, unclear mandates, and lack of overall guidance.

With significant turnover rate among CRHs' members, there is a continuous need to update their knowledge on elected representatives' duties and responsibilities. At the same time, citizens' ability to demand accountability from elected representatives is limited due to low awareness about the functioning of local self-governing bodies (CRHs), which make important decisions affecting their lives.

Project Summary

The **SRBM Project** adopts a comprehensive three-pronged strategy for capacity development of local self-governing bodies, addressing simultaneously the interrelated levels of legal and institutional environment, the organisational capacity of Citizens' Representatives Hurals (CRHs), as well as the individual competencies of elected CRH representatives. In addition, the Project assists the Parliament of Mongolia in translating recent laws and policies into concrete actions which aim at creating opportunities for meaningful citizen participation in decision-making, mobilising support of CRHs in awareness raising and monitoring the implementation of recently approved laws.

The Project builds on the foundation laid by the "Support to Participatory Legislative Processes" and "Capacity Strengthening of Local Self-governing Bodies" projects, which were both implemented by the Parliament Secretariat with support from UNDP and SDC from 2013 to 2016.

Goals

SDGs

1 NO POVERTY



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



SRBM Project aims at four overarching goals:

1. Improved legal framework for local self-governance
2. Citizens' Representative Hurals have improved organisational capacity
3. National training programme for local elected representatives is institutionalized
4. Improved capacity of the Parliament Secretariat to support representative bodies



The national induction training was delivered to 7377 CRH representatives after the 2016 local elections (SRBM/UNDP, 2017).

Expected results

Revision of the Law on Administrative Territorial Units and their Governance (LATUG) and other laws

Issue based research
Regional and national forums on local governance

Development of standard procedures and performance management framework for CRHs

Small grants to improve CRH oversight and representation
Institutionalization of khural.mn
Citizens' awareness about CRHs

Induction training to all CRH representatives

Leadership, Women Leadership and thematic training
Institutionalization of national training programme

Capacity building of Parliament Secretariat's staff in legal analysis, research, etc.

Development of procedures and guidelines
Support to public consultations and joint monitoring of laws

Improved legal framework for local self-governance

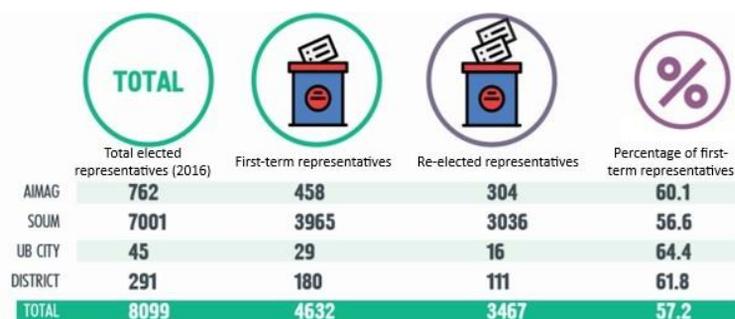
CRHs' improved organisational and individual capacities

Improved capacity of the Parliament Secretariat to support representative bodies

By 2021, governing institutions are more responsive and accountable to citizens, while effective participation of young people and realization of the rights of the poor and marginalized are ensured

Results (intermediary)

- ❖ Under the previous project, an induction training programme for newly elected local representatives was developed and rolled out nationwide for the first time in the history of CRHs. The induction programme is a two day training covering the following areas: legal framework of local self-governing bodies, CRH procedures, local budget and finance, protection of environment and land management, citizen engagement.
- ❖ Between November 2016 and March 2017, the induction training was delivered to 91.1% (7377 out of 8099) CRHs representatives who had been elected in local parliamentary elections in October 2016 .
- ❖ Training activities have helped revitalise CRHs. Their internal functioning and openness to the public are improving, as demonstrated by the increased number of Presidium meetings, establishment and regular meetings of council committees, and the overall number of events organized, such as open days.
- ❖ SRBM continues implementing the competitive small grants programme to promote CRHs' best practices in carrying out oversight and including citizens in decision making. Launched under the CSLSB phase, the grant scheme proved to be an effective means to stimulate CRHs in experimenting new ideas in a resource limited context.
- ❖ The integrated website for CRHs www.khural.mn is one of the most tangible results of the project. The website connects 361 CRHs at all levels and provides a broad range of information from profiles of representatives, structure and decisions of CRHs, best practices, and news. The website has also become a learning platform for CRH members to share their experiences and for citizens to learn about the decisions of their CRHs.



Percentage of local representatives elected on their first term in local CRHs in 2016 elections. (Data: SRBM/UNDP, 2017)

Main stakeholders

- ❖ Citizens' Representatives Hural
- ❖ Standing Committee on State Structure of Parliament
- ❖ Parliament Secretariat
- ❖ Cabinet Secretariat
- ❖ National Academy of Governance of Mongolia
- ❖ NGOs

"We understood from the training very well that Khurals must consult with citizens before making decisions. Representatives of our Khural decided to postpone a session requested by Soum Governor on mining-related proposal in order to consult with the citizens before deliberation."

~ Chairperson of Gurvanbulag Soum, Bayankhongor Aimag, 2017

Contact details

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