

Promoting and Building Social Protection and Employment Services for Vulnerable Groups in Mongolia, Learning from ASEAN (MAPS)



AT A GLANCE

→ Partners

Ministry of Labour (MoL), Ministry of Population Development and Social Protection (MPDSP), Mongolian Employers' Federation (MONEF), Confederation of Mongolian Trade Unions (CMTU), ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Trade Unions Council (ATUC) and ASEAN Confederation of Employers (ACE)

→ Donor

Ministry of Labour, Health and Welfare of Japan

→ Duration

2014-2015

→ Target beneficiaries

Policy makers, managers and technical staff in Mongolia and ASEAN member States involved in the policy formulation discussions. Youth and elderly from Mongolia's herder families and informal economy, as well as un- and underemployed people in ASEAN countries.

→ Geographical focus

Mongolia and ASEAN countries



ILO/Japan
Multi-bilateral
Programme



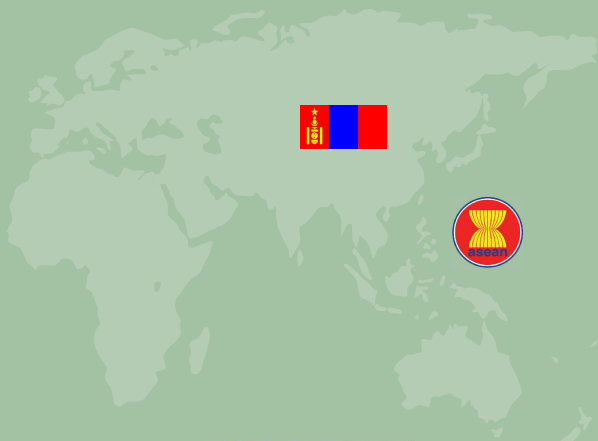
PROJECT OBJECTIVES

This project is the second phase of the *ILO/Japan Project to Promote and Build Unemployment Insurance and Employment Services in ASEAN*. The new phase will also be extended to Mongolia.

In October 2013, ASEAN member States adopted a Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection as one of the key priority areas to achieve growth with equity and "people oriented integration" by 2015. At country level, a number of ASEAN governments have already started designing and reforming their social security systems and employment services, including measures to provide protection to those who have lost their jobs. However, coverage provided by social insurance schemes very often remains limited to formal employment; hence innovative measures to tackle the needs of vulnerable workers are still needed.

In Mongolia, with its sustained growth rates, the government has measured the critical importance of strengthening social policies and establishing at least a social protection floor (SPF) to close development disparities. Mongolia has already in place a well ramified social security system, providing social benefits and services at each period of the life. However, the administration and delivery of social security benefits and employment services across a very sparsely populated country is challenging, leaving more than 80 per cent of herders, self-employed and informal economy workers with insufficient income security.

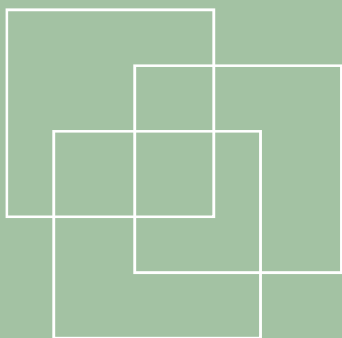
The project supports the shared need among the ASEAN and Mongolia's governments and social partners for further exploring, designing and implementing strategies and schemes that will increase access to income security and employment for vulnerable workers and their families. The project will also promote pro-active measures and reforms to expand the old-age pension coverage, in particular among herders, self-employed and informal economy workers in Mongolia.



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MAIN ACTIVITIES

In close collaboration with the Government of Mongolia and ASEAN Secretariat, the project will:

- Advocate for the establishment of social protection floors (SPF) and more comprehensive social security systems in ASEAN countries, in the framework of its economic integration by 2015.
- Facilitate knowledge sharing, capacity building and South-South cooperation among ASEAN countries and with Mongolia through regional seminars, experts' missions, and hands-on training activities on social security related issues.
- In Mongolia, guide the government and social partners to define their national social protection floor, through the conduct of an assessment based national dialogue on social protection and employment support.
- Raise awareness on the importance of social security among policy makers, social partners and stakeholders, as well as the general public, in particular young people.
- Support the government in its efforts to improve decentralization and integration of social policies and the delivery of a nationally defined SPF.
- Develop and pilot measures to improve the employability and income security of vulnerable workers, in particular young herders in Uvurhangai and Bayankhongor aimags.
- Propose measures to increase old-age pension coverage among herders, self-employed and informal economy workers, through training sessions, studies and national consultations.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Greater awareness and interest to develop social protection systems and increased understanding of the linkages between social security and employment support policies among ASEAN and Mongolia.
- Endorsement of the Assessment Based National Dialogue's recommendations on social protection and employment support by the Government of Mongolia.
- Adoption of concrete recommendations for the design of a national policy aimed at promoting employment, income security, and social protection for young people.
- Decision on concrete measures to extend old-age pension coverage to herders, self-employed and informal economy workers.
- Recommendations for the enhancement of decentralization and coordination mechanisms and for the integrated delivery of social protection and employment support services, using the existing one-stop-shop network, at central and local levels.

Contact information:

Ms Celine Peyron Bista
Chief Technical Adviser
ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
United Nations Building, Rajdamnern Nok Ave
Bangkok 10200, Thailand

Tel. +66 2288 1740
Fax. +66 2288 1023
Email: bista@ilo.org
Web site: www.ilo.org/asia

Contact information:

Ms. Baigalmaa Sanjjav
National Project Manager
ILO Mongolia
UN House, Room 105
United Nations Street-12
Sukhbaatar District
Ulaanbaatar-14201, Mongolia

Tel. +976 7011 0640
Fax. +976 1132 0625
Email: sanjjav@ilo.org
Web site: www.ilo.org/beijing