



Evaluation Summary



International
Labour
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Evaluation
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Promoting and building income security and employment services in Asia, Phase II – Final independent evaluation

Quick Facts

Countries: ASEAN and Mongolia

Evaluation: *Final*

Mode of Evaluation: *Independent*

Administrative Office: *ILO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific*

Technical Office: *DWT Bangkok*

Evaluation Manager: *Li Qingyi*

Evaluation Consultant: *Mel Cousins*

Project End: *December 2016*

Project Code: *RAS/13/08/JPN*

Donor & Project Budget: *Japan (US\$ 2,101,707)*

Keywords: *Social protection, pension scheme, unemployment benefit, social security, employability, rural employment*

Background & Context

Summary of the project purpose, logic and structure

The project has five objectives:

IO 1: Capacities and knowledge for the development and implementation of income security and employability measures for vulnerable groups are increased in Mongolia and ASEAN

IO 2- Assessment Based National Dialogue's recommendations on social protection and employment support endorsed by national stakeholders in Mongolia

IO 3 Concrete measures to improve employability and income security of the vulnerable workers, in particular young workers in Mongolia are adopted and tested at provincial and district levels

IO 4 –Concrete measures to increase old-age pension coverage for vulnerable groups, including herders, self-employed, and informal economy workers are decided

IO 5 – Integrated mechanism to coordinate policies and deliver social protection and employment support services, using the existing one-stop-shop network, are improved in Mongolia.

Objective 1 related to ASEAN (and, to a limited extent, Mongolia) while objectives 2-5 related to Mongolia.

The ILO is designated as the executing agency responsible to oversee the technical and administrative aspects of the project implementation. Project activities were either

directly carried out by the ILO, or implemented in partnership with or directly implemented by ASEAN partners and the stakeholders in Mongolia. A Tripartite Project Advisory Committee (TPAC) at the ASEAN level and a Project Steering Committees (PSC) in Mongolia have been established for overseeing the project development and providing necessary advice and support on a periodical basis.

Present Situation of the Project

The project ended in December 2016. An independent final evaluation has been conducted from April to December 2016.

Purpose, scope and clients of the evaluation

The main purpose of this evaluation is to assess the relevance, performance and success of the activities undertaken by the project. It also examined achievements, good practices and lessons learned from the project.

The independent evaluation examined the period of project implementation since project inception until end of June 2016. It covered both activities in Mongolia and at the ASEAN level.

Clients and users of the evaluation include:

- ILO Country Office for Mongolia,
- ASEAN Secretariat
- Tripartite partners
- ILO HQ and RO-Bangkok.

Methodology of evaluation

The evaluation addresses the overall ILO evaluation criteria such as relevance and strategic fit of the project, validity of project design, project progress and effectiveness, efficiency of resource use, effectiveness of management arrangement and impact orientation and sustainability. The evaluation also takes into account gender issues.

Several methods have been used to collect information including review and analysis of project and other relevant documents, etc. interviews with

ILO staff and key implementation partners; field visit in Mongolia, etc.

Main Findings & Conclusions

Overall, we can conclude that the project has been successfully implemented. At the ASEAN level, the project has contributed to raising the profile of social protection amongst the ASEAN Community building on the first phase of this project. This will now be taken further in the third (ESSA) phase. At the Mongolian level, with limited exceptions, most activities have been implemented in full although the sustainability of the project (despite the best efforts of the project) may be more questionable. In general the stakeholders have been very positive about the project and its implementation, including the professionalism of the project team. However, in terms of project design, there were limited links between the two components of the project and the Mongolian component may have been over-ambitious in taking on too many issues (i.e. social protection policy issues with MPDSP, rural capacity building in 2 aimags, and integration of services/One Stop Shop). It should be noted that the successful implementation was a considerable achievement for the project team given that there were, in effect, two largely separate projects.

Recommendations

Main recommendations and follow-up

- 1) ILO should be more realistic in what can be achieved in a project of this size and scope.
- 2) Gender issues should be specifically identified in the PRODOC.
- 3) The ASEAN component has identified issues which should be followed up in a separate project. In particular, the issue of the role of social protection in

disaster risk management is highly topical. This is an area where ILO could bring its practical expertise to bear in looking at best practices in this area across the range of countries it works in and how these can be adapted and adopted in ASEAN.