



FINAL REPORT SUMMARY

GoAL WaSH: Mongolia

Time period:	2010-2015
Main partner:	Ministry of Construction and Urban Development, Mongolia
GoAL WaSH grant:	USD 391,384



Context – the need | The GoAL WaSH programme (Governance, Advocacy and Leadership in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) was launched in Mongolia in 2010, in response to evidence that improved governance of the sector was a key requirement to accelerate achievement of the water and sanitation Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Despite impressive progress made towards the MDGs, access to safe water and adequate sanitation is still low in rural areas in Mongolia. A UNDP study from 2012 showed that in average, only 58 per cent of rural dwellers had access to safe water, while the sanitation coverage was only 22 per cent outside of cities.

Bottlenecks to sector governance identified at the start of the project were multi-layered. At the national level, the country lacked leadership and coordination, including in heading the acceleration of achievement of the MDGs. The coordination and oversight of Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) service issues were overlooked and there was no responsible entity at the central level for rural water and sanitation. At the local level, given the lack of public utilities service organizations in rural settlements or “Soum”, there was a need to put in place a suitable model for the management of WSS services. In addition, capacity gaps at the local level, particularly in operation and maintenance, constrained the implementation of the new WSS

management model and affected the provision of water supply and sanitation services.

The need for investments in the WSS sector called for enhanced sector advocacy that would benefit policy-making as well as service delivery. Finally, it was felt that stakeholders in the Mongolian water sector would benefit from learning from experience in countries facing similar challenges.

The objectives | Complementing the existing UN Joint Programme on Water and Sanitation in Mongolia, the GoAL WaSH programme provided resources to support sector coordination, sectoral reforms and developed a management model for WSS services in rural sub-districts. Additionally, GoAL WaSH provided support to develop an MDG Roadmap and standards on small-scale wastewater treatment facilities. The second phase of the project addressed local level capacity gaps in WSS service delivery, with a specific focus on operation and maintenance.

Action | The GoAL WaSH programme enabled consultancy services by both national and international WSS experts for the project duration, provided resources to support study tours, advocacy interventions, training courses and publications. More specifically, the programme supported the following actions:

- **Leadership and coordination:** Supporting the government efforts to establish monitoring systems for WSS, and to institutionalize WSS monitoring. Data is to be used for informing the development of programme and sector strategies and plans.
- **Roadmap to WSS-related MDGs:** Assisting the government in establishing and heading a Sector Working Group on MDG acceleration and ensuring that efforts are leading to increased focus on WSS.
- **Soum WSS services:** Organizing consultations with stakeholders at various levels on a suitable management model for WSS services at the local level; develop technical standards to enable proper use of facilities and improve water treatment systems.

- **Sector advocacy:** Gathering information, preparing and publishing advocacy materials and make the case to the Ministry of Finance and lead donors for increased investment in Water and Sanitation services.
- **Knowledge exchange:** Providing insights into theoretical background and practical expertise on low-cost decentralized water supply and sanitation options; contributing to regional and international information-sharing.
- **Capacity-building to implement the new water and sanitation service delivery model at the local level:** During the second phase of the programme (first quarter of 2015) the GoAL WaSH stepped up efforts to strengthen the capacity of Soum level service technicians and plumbers to ensure normal and safe operation of water supply and sewerage collection facilities.

Highlights | The governance focus provided by the GoAL WaSH programme was a useful complement to other water and sanitation initiatives. Through support provided by GoAL WaSH, WSS was put firmly on the institutional agenda in Mongolia.

- **Leadership and coordination:** Through GoAL WaSH funding, UNDP and the Ministry of Construction and Urban Development piloted a position of an officer in charge of Soum level WSS for two years. The function subsequently became a permanent position within the Mongolian civil service. The role is considered vital for coordinating Soum level WSS issues and ensure that government policy for water and sanitation is fully implemented in rural settlements. The Programme supported the establishment of a national integrated database on WSS provision and contributed to efforts to sustain the quality of monitoring. Comprehensive statistical data on WSS is now collected nationally at household level and central and local officers were trained to use the database. The database has been integrated into the comprehensive database established at the Ministry of Construction and Urban Development, and the Government of Mongolia has approved additional funding to expand it with Geographic Information System (GIS) feature.

- **Roadmap to MDGs:** The first phase of the GoAL WaSH programme was instrumental in the development and adoption of the MDG Roadmap to MDG 7 Target 16 in 2011, an essential policy document prepared in extensive consultations with sector stakeholders. Strategic guidelines were also developed to support the implementation of the Roadmap and policy recommendations. The key result of the Roadmap is the achievement of inter-sectoral coordination of WSS. The Roadmap was incorporated in the formal implementation and reporting system of all relevant ministries, roles were clearly assigned and sound financial commitments were made.
- **Soum WSS services:** A new management model for Water and Sanitation services at the local level was developed and became part of the national legislation. To support its implementation, the GoAL WaSH programme contributed to the development of a national standard on small-scale wastewater treatment facilities, and a guidebook on monotype design drawings and technologies for small-scale wastewater treatment facilities. The GoAL WaSH programme funded the development, publication and dissemination of an English-Mongolian Dictionary and Glossary on Water and Sanitation terminologies, based on the formally approved national standard for terms and terminology which was also financed by GoAL WaSH.
- **Sector advocacy:** As a result of the first phase of the GoAL WaSH programme, government investments in the water and sanitation sector significantly increased. The programme ensured that WSS was in focus in the new national programme on the provision of adequate housing and the renovation of rural settlement infrastructure.
- **Capacity-building to implement the new water and sanitation service delivery model at the local level:** The GoAL WaSH programme financed the organization of vocational education training courses in four Mongolian localities. The training used the curricula and training modules developed by the programme and was followed by a “training of trainers” course.



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