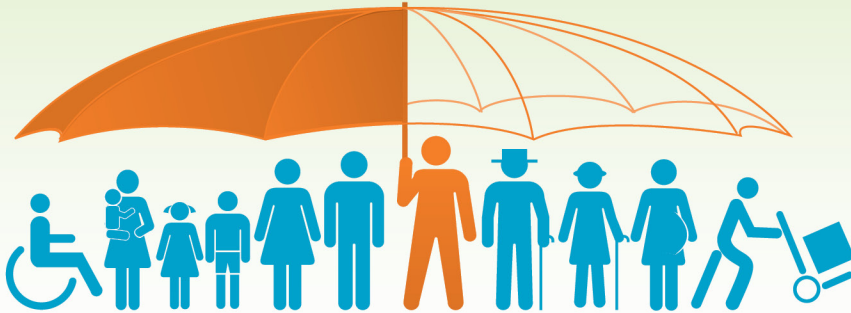


ADB



**ASIA-PACIFIC**  
**SOCIAL PROTECTION WEEK 2023**  
**Social Protection in a Changing World**

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ADB Loan 4052-MON: Second Shock-Responsive Social Protection Project (SRSP2)

# The Mongolia Graduation Pilot Program (MGPP)

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# Program Overview

1. The MGPP started June 2022 and will close in June 2024.
2. Building on a foundation of social welfare benefits, MGPP provides a holistic set of poverty reduction interventions that aim to address the multiple facets of deprivation.
3. Executing agency: Ministry of Labor and Social Protection (MLSP). NGO Implementing Partner (contracted by MLSP): the Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS)
4. MGPP is a pilot. MLSP's stated policy objective is to help poor and vulnerable households move from welfare to work. Government of Mongolia is interested in scaling up the approach nationwide, if successful. This requires a rigorous evidence base.
5. The MGPP is reaching 1,520 beneficiaries in 3 districts of Ulaanbaatar who are also beneficiaries of the government's food stamp program and child money program



# Program Description

- **Main objective:** to support 1,520 working-age adults (aged 18–55) in poor households with holistic support that leads to economic inclusion, diversified livelihoods, and poverty reduction.
- **Who it targets:** households that met the basic selection criteria: at least one household member of working age, must receive food stamp and child money grants. Also, they have not been involved in a similar livelihood's programs.
- **Main components:** 5 pillars of graduation = social protection, coaching & mentorship, livelihoods promotion, social empowerment, financial inclusion.
- **MRCS workplan:**
  - Output 1: Detailed program workplan based on the methodology
  - Output 2: Coaching staff selection and capacity building
  - Output 3: Impact evaluation methodology and M&E approach with graduation criteria
  - Output 4: Targeting verification process and beneficiary training
  - Output 5: Household enterprise selection & asset procurement based on market assessment
  - Output 6: Baseline and endline survey of treatment and control group

# Lessons from implementation: NGO and Government

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER PERSPECTIVE	GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE
<b>MAIN OPPORTUNITIES</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff capacity on Graduation</li> <li>• Linkages with existing services</li> <li>• Digital monitoring platform</li> <li>• Partnerships with local training institutions</li> <li>• Dedicated coaches</li> <li>• Technical support on RCT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperation between Government, NGOs, and community</li> <li>• Increased NGO capacity</li> <li>• New approaches on 'Welfare to Work'</li> <li>• Positive mindset among beneficiaries</li> <li>• Linkage with markets and other local services</li> </ul>
<b>MAIN CHALLENGES</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enterprise matching from list of livelihoods</li> <li>• Higher market value of assets</li> <li>• Complex procurement procedures</li> <li>• Household refusals in the program</li> <li>• Monitoring treatment and control groups</li> <li>• Conducting baseline survey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High number of beneficiaries</li> <li>• Lack of experience of Government and NGO on Graduation</li> <li>• Problems with selection of households – moving, refusing, and not selecting proposed livelihoods</li> </ul>



# Research findings so far

- Verification survey identified 4,139 eligible households
- Randomized controlled trial (RCT) design assigned 3,035 households into treatment and control groups
- **Baseline survey descriptive statistics:** 33% have a family member with a disability, 34% have a female head; share of household spending on food is 47% and on housing 27%. Main source of income: wages. Few households had a business at baseline. Some differences observed between the 3 districts in the study.
- **The program is increasing women's economic empowerment:** 70% of beneficiaries are women. Empowerment through livelihood diversification and skills development efforts such as building technical skills and linking with market actors, savings groups, household financial management book recording.
- **The program is increasing resilience to climate change:** through indirect efforts such as linking with the community disaster risk reduction trainings and programs that are held by the MRCS in cooperation with local authorities and government agencies.
- Endline survey planned for Q3 2024.



# Thank You

