

Mid-Term Review Management Response – Australia Mongolia Extractives Program Phase II

Summary of management response

We (Ulaanbaatar Post) agree with the broad thrust of the evaluation’s findings, conclusions and recommendations with these being used to guide activities over the over the remainder of this phase of the program.

Recommendation	Response	Action plan	Timeframe
<p>Strengthening CSO engagement: Over the final period there is a need for stronger focus/ greater emphasis on CSOs to ensure the objective of AMEP II is addressed fully. In selecting activities going forward the focus on CSOs AMEP II could have a closer look at leveraging the success it has had in building partnerships with both government and industry to create opportunities for effective collaboration with CSOs on joint activities (such as around mining affected communities and/or the social dimension of mining drawing on the experiences, for instance, of OT and ERD Resources).</p>	Agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AMEP II needs to better define and distinguish the difference between NGOs (Civil Society Organisations representing communities directly and indirectly affected by the mining) versus professional associations representing extractives sector professionals. It should make concrete plans for how to engage with each group more meaningfully and effectively so that they are empowered with a similar level of interaction to that which has been provided to government and industry. AMEP II should capture the results of this renewed emphasis the annual and final reporting. - AMEP II will place a stronger emphasis on civil society organizations that are defined as representing communities or public while continuing work with professional/thematic associations. - AMEP II will develop a Civil Society Stakeholder Plan (CSSP) to activate engagement with civic society organisations . The plan needs to be aligned with Stakeholder Gender and Inclusion Plan (RV2) to ensure inclusive engagement and collaboration of the two civil society streams for empowerment and active interaction and collaboration with industry and government. - AMEP II through its current and ongoing consultations with CSOs, will use the CSSP with the objective of engaging each group in meaningful dialogue, leading to the development of a key CSO focused activity to be included in the AMEPII Annual Workplan 2023-2024. 	<p>Underway in the remaining period of the program AMEP II will design and implement a CSO Stakeholder Consultation Plan as an integral part of AMEP 2 Annual Workplan</p>
<p>Improved Transparency/Access: AMEP II needs to be transparent about the CfP process (i.e. be clear about the selection</p>	Agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ensure greater transparency, AMEP II should inform and consult with representatives of government, industries and CSOs as relevant when selecting and prioritising calls for proposals. 	<p>In the next three months by May 2023 AMEP II will provide a</p>

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<p>process, ensure selection is an inclusive process drawing on a wide range of all stakeholders, and provide follow-up information to applicants, especially those whose proposals were rejected). A regular follow-up on the selection process for all stakeholders including applicants would ensure transparency and build further trust with stakeholders. By demonstrating it is accountable the program will also address CSO concerns about a perceived lack of transparency. To enhance its role in the sector AMEP II should continue to ensure that decisions made (especially those related to project selection) are transparent, and that it communicates its decision making clearly to stakeholders. The program should consider including independent members of the Advisory Committee, and representation from MMHI and CSOs, in the selection process. This will further enhance transparency and trust-building with different stakeholder groups.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Post will seek, from AMEP II, a strengthening of the preliminary meeting including advice on who AMEP has consulted and what was the basis for selection of activities as part of the submission of the draft annual plan. - AMEP II will review the need for a formal call for proposal given the remaining time and need to focus on finalising the remainder of the program. - AMEP II will undertake a review and follow-up on past and current activities with a view to better highlighting the impacts of the program and improving the overall transparency and access especially for CSOs. This may be through the continuation of its' current "grassroots" community level pilots, with increased levels of civil society and citizen participation. 	<p>Civil Society Stakeholder Plan (CSSP), that will ensure greater CSO participation in the Annual Workplan for 2023-2024.</p> <p>CSOs will design, manage, and implement a CSO focused activity to be included in the Annual Workplan for 2023-2024</p>
<p>Improved Monitoring Framework Need for the updated ToC/ Logic Model to be revised in line with what has already been spelt out in the most recent Annual Report, to ensure that it reflects that ambition of the program, and to ensure reporting is aligned</p>	Agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AMEP II should revise the Theory of Change and Logic Model and incorporate these changes into the monitoring and evaluation framework to provide concrete and substantive indicators in line with the overall outcome and annual outcome/outputs. The indicators should use objective data and evidence assessed as accordingly with partners and implementers against the baseline indicators. 	<p>In the next three months by May 2023 AMEP II will revise the d M&E that will reflect an improved quality of AMEP II reporting to Post and inform whether</p>

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with the revised logic model and meets the reporting needs of DFAT, especially at outcome level		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Risk Matrix needs to be updated with more substantive data rather than focusing on operational/logistics. Risks should be prioritized with ranks and rates and an explanation of the measures taken and their results - AMEPII will strengthen the M&E framework with the hiring of an external expert who will provide ongoing support to the national team and specifically the local M&E Research Officer. 	original assumptions remain valid and long-term policy support is in place.
<p>Greater Visibility/Publicity</p> <p>Greater visibility/ publicity needed on key achievements (and a better sense of what still needs to be addressed in the sector). Bearing in mind that increased collaboration is an implicit outcome statement of the program, AMEP II could work on explicitly documenting the real change that project activities have contributed to (i.e. demonstrating the added value AMEP II has delivered to the sector). This could also include disseminating information/ publicising exemplary projects/ good practices, and sharing stories of the impact AMEP II is having on the sector (i.e. beyond the direct beneficiaries of activities). Furthermore, based on the Project experience (achievements and challenges with respect to collaboration), AMEP could produce a ‘documentary’ of real cases and practices on failed and successful collaborative efforts from which the sector can learn and leverage for future efforts to improve the investment environment.</p>	Agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Post will seek from AMEP II efficient and effective communications of the activities and results of AMEP II with due recognition of Australian aid contribution. The recognition should go beyond the use of Australian aid logo. - Post will seek from AMEP II reporting their key activities and results easily accessible to public through appropriate means as such as results workshops, social media and websites with improved access and “catchy” messages. - AMEPII will implement a separate activity during 2023-2024 focused on communication highlighting the program’s collaborative initiatives, achievements, success, and lessons learned over the years. - AMEP 2 will update its Communications Plan reflecting MTR recommendation. 	<p>Underway AMEP II will update or make communications plan as a part of existing FY22-23 and upcoming 23-24 annual plans. The plan will aim to increase the access of reports, research and other reference materials</p> <p>AMEP II has supported to produce and increase awareness of Australian aid visibility among partners and public.</p> <p>AMEP will seek additional M&E expertise to assist with this work. DFAT has approved a reduction in the number of activities to be undertaken in order to fund this role.</p>

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<p>Greater Public Diplomacy To ensure greater public diplomacy value the program should engage more deliberately with the Embassy to ensure greater collaboration between AMEP II and the Embassy on issues of mutual interest, including promoting dialogue between key stakeholders in the extractives sector and the senior officials in the Embassy. A practical way of doing this might be to convene a quarterly/bi-annual informal event where senior officials from the Embassy meet with the key lead implementing partners to exchange activity related information.</p>	<p>Agree</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Post will seek AMEP II improve public diplomacy/communications to enable Post to use the opportunity of enhancing the Australian aid recognition and networking among the stakeholders in the extractives sector and communities. - AMEP II should plan monthly events where Post may be represented such as workshops and consultative sessions. - Post will seek AMEP II to organise and hold quarterly meetings for Post with key implementing partners and stakeholders to share updates and exchange views. - AMEP 2 will send a separate monthly update with a list of important events where Post should be represented. 	<p>Underway AMEP II will provide a regular update on Post/AMEP II representation opportunities and meetings.</p>