

May 2015

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

Implemented by:



## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

### FACTS

**Project name:**

Youth Development Project

**Duration:**

2013 - 2017

**Budget:**

CHF 4.7 million

**Target group:**

Youth

**Target area:**

11 provinces (Bayan-Ulgii, Uvs, Khovd, Zavkhan, Bayankhongor, Gobi-Altai, Orkhon, Darkhan-Uul, Umnugobi, Dornogobi, Dornod) and Ulaanbaatar city

**Co-funding partners:**

- Government of Luxemburg
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

The Youth Development Project (YDP) will assist Mongolia in building the resilience of young men and women and reducing their vulnerability in the face of rapid social and economic change. It will focus on youth in mining areas, and vulnerable young men and women in urban areas and the western aimags. The YDP will enhance the life skills of over 250,000 youth, equipping them with skills for a responsible and productive life.



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*Youth learn life skills at Youth Development Centres*

### BACKGROUND

Life skills, or soft skills, are vital in encouraging healthy relationships, families and society. Life skills education improves young people's decision-making and respect for the choices and rights of others, including greater self-control and management of anger and frustration. Consequently, improved life skills can have a direct impact on reducing gender inequality and gender-based violence (GBV). Mongolia has long-entrenched negative gender stereotypes that lead to discrimination,

harassment and other negative impacts on women and sexual minorities. Thus, integrating life skills into formal educational curricula is vital in changing these persistent social norms and engaging men and boys who are influenced by stereotypes that condone violence, bullying and patriarchal power relations. As a result, young people with improved life skills have substantial potential to become agents of change in reducing gender inequalities and other social injustices.

**SDC's Strategic Goal:**

To contribute to equitable and sustainable social and economic development in Mongolia.

### PROJECT GOAL

Young men and women with strengthened life skills for positive, responsible and self-reliant behaviour.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

1. Increased availability of life skills education for young men and women.
2. A GBV prevention model is institutionalised and the capacity of educational staff is built to reduce incidences of GBV and to foster positive gender relations.
3. The improved and extended provision of youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services.
4. Policies, behaviour change communications and advocacy are in place to address youth issues.

## RESULTS TO DATE:

The State University of Education has introduced a "Health and Life Skills Education" subject in its curriculum, providing two credits for all students throughout the university (3000 students) for their second year of studies. The project comprises the content and methodology for teaching a set of 12 psychosocial skills for youth.

Thanks to trainings in teaching life skills education and continuous support provided through YDP, 25 national trainers and 324 provincial-level trainers are ready to offer high-quality life skills trainings for youth at the TVETs, general education schools, lifelong education centers, colleges, as well as the Youth Development Centres (YDCs) that have been established with project support in all target sites.

Of the 14 YDCs that were planned to be opened, seven were inaugurated in the western aimags in 2014 in partnership with central and local governments. As of 2014, a total of 86,207 (44,018 female and 42,189 male) youth in the 15-34 age group have access to the YDCs. The YDCs will provide



Youth Development Centre,  
Darkhan-Uul aimag

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life-skills trainings, among such other youth-empowering activities as information and counseling on health, employment and relationships, and the promotion of youth participation in decision-making.

As a part of its broader public awareness-raising activities, YDP supported the "White Ribbon" Campaign (16-days of activism against GBV), led by the National Centre Against Violence, helped to raise awareness about GBV issues. The Mongolian President held a "Together against Violence" meeting in Citizens' Hall of Parliament House in December 2013 after receiving hundreds of advocacy postcards from youth who were following the campaign. The President spoke out against the perpetuation of violence in society and urged all sectors to come together to address this deeply entrenched social issue.

The development of a GBV prevention module has been completed as part of the Life Skills education programme.

With YDP support, the methodology for creating the GBV prevention model mechanism for educational settings has been developed by MONFEMNET – a network of NGOs for women's well-beings - in collaboration with other NGOs, educational institutions and international organisations. The "Safe School" methodology has been piloted in four schools in Bayan-Ulgii, Zavkhan and Umnugobi provinces, and in Chingeltei district, Ulaanbaatar.

With YDP support, the first National Strategy on Adolescent and Youth-Friendly Health Services has been developed by the Ministry of Health in conjunction with key stakeholders. In addition, an undergraduate training manual on adolescent health and adolescent-friendly health services has been developed for medical students. Seven new adolescent and youth friendly clinics were established in the Khan-Uul and Bayangol Districts, the National Centre for Maternal and Child Health, and the Student Campus in Bayanzurkh district of Ulaanbaatar, and in Umnugobi and Dornogobi aimags, and Tsogtsetsii soum in Umnugobi aimag.

The YDP has established 14 youth clubs for Youth Peer Education (Y-Peer) and trained more than 375 peer educators and their trainers in order to promote peer-to-peer outreach of youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services. Y-Peers are mainly working in the areas of sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender and STI/HIV prevention.

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