

September 2015

Implemented by:



In cooperation with:



Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FACTS

Project name:

Education for Sustainable Development

Duration:

2015-2017

Budget:

SDC – CHF 8'460'000,
Government
of Mongolia - CHF 4'360'000

Geographic coverage:

Mongolia (nationwide)

Target group:

Students, teachers, parents, public,
government, universities, civil society
organisations, private sector

The Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Project is supporting the ongoing integration of Education for Sustainable Development into the school system and in Mongolian society and the economy. Sustainable development means “development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. The Mongolian government has recognised the urgency of creating an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable future.

By engaging with key agents for change in this process, Mongolia will benefit from having an institutional and organisational framework that is conducive for sustainable development. A nationwide social movement is being fostered in the education system, including all 628 primary and secondary public schools. Educational institutions will in turn collaborate with communities and green businesses to mainstream sustainable development. Led by the country's own commitment and ownership, Mongolia's national reform of ESD is unique in the world.



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Eco-schools promote green communities

BACKGROUND

As a result of the mining boom, Mongolia is one of the fastest growing countries in the world. However, Mongolia's development also offers a lesson as economic growth alone doesn't lead to sustainable development. Minerals-dependent industrialisation brings with it threats to the ecological balance, including pollution, water shortages, land degradation, and exploitation of natural resources. With rapid urbanisation, Mongolian society is challenged by dynamic socio-

cultural changes, insecurities in everyday life and materialism. From these challenges, Mongolia learns the importance of shifting from a brown economy to green and equitable development. And in so doing, it recognises the importance of integrating sustainable development in its education system. The Government of Mongolia has initiated a comprehensive reform process to mainstream Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and to create a green economy.

SDC's Strategic Goal:

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

ESD CONCEPT

Education plays an essential role in building the adaptation and mitigation capacities of communities and nations. Dealing with the wellbeing of all four dimensions of sustainability - environment, society, culture and economy - ESD promotes efforts to rethink educational programmes and systems (both methods and contents) that seek to build sustainable societies. Quality education designed with

the purpose of empowering young people to address ecological, social, economic and cultural issues is crucial in preparing communities for a sustainable future. While fostering sustainable development through the education system, the ESD simultaneously applies an equitable sustainability approach for the whole of society, including vulnerable groups, public institutions, the business community, civil society, institutional and legal frameworks, and public awareness-raising.

PROJECT GOAL

ESD is integrated in the Mongolian school system, and a framework (institutional, legal and organisational) for sustainable development (SD) and green development (GD) is in place.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- ESD is integrated and adjusted in the curriculum of all 628 schools (grades 1-12)
- Awareness among leaders and the public (adults, youth, parents, the community and organisations) on ESD/SD/GD is increased, and selected companies and organisations are certified in accordance with ISO 14001 and key environmental standards.

Key results from SDC's previous intervention in ecological education

As one of the key actors promoting ESD in Mongolia's education system, SDC in Mongolia supported the establishment of Eco Schools within the Coping with Desertification Project from 2008. A nationwide movement among children to create a green environment in schools reached 177 schools in 11 aimags and in Ulaanbaatar, covering about 21 percent of public schools. Eco-schools have proven to be an effective tool for increasing environmental knowledge and the engagement of pupils, teachers and parents in local environmental issues, and associated behavioural change.



Teachers are the key drivers of promoting ESD.
Teachers' Training in Darkhan.

RESULTS TO DATE AND EXPECTED

- 628 schools in Mongolia are having ESD integrated into the regular curricula, which are in a process of continued revision;
- 468,000 students and 25,000 teachers (of whom 81 percent are female) are directly involved;
- 2,680 teachers will be trained and empowered to promote ESD through the 117 already established Eco Schools;
- National public institutions such as the Mongolian State University for Education, the Education Research Institute, the Institute of Teachers' Professional Development and Life-Long Learning Centres are supported and strengthened to mainstream ESD throughout the country;
- ESD principles will be integrated in schools' management and evaluation systems;
- Selected public and private organisations and/or companies will be supported in developing green businesses in accordance with internationally recognised standards such as the ISO14001;
- A ministerial task force headed by the Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism (MEGDT), reviewed the sustainable development indicators and fostered the implementation of the action plan for green economy.
- Mongolia is among the countries engaged in the Partnership for Action on Green Economy, an initiative led by different UN agencies such as UNEP, ILO, UNIDO, and UNITAR).

Partners:

- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Education, Culture and Science
- Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism

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