

May 2014

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

Implemented by:



## VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROJECT

### FACTS

**Project name:**

Vocational Education and Training (VET) Project

**Duration:**

2012-2014

**Budget:**

CHF 3.6 million

**Target group :**

- Teachers and students of VET school
- Secondary school graduates
- Youth and unemployed adults

**Target area:**

Seven VET schools in six western aimags

A growing economy based on mining industries brings with it opportunities for better employment and incomes for Mongolians. However, many Mongolians, particularly youth and people in rural areas, are missing out on these opportunities because they lack the skills needed match the demands of the nation's growing labour market. In short, the present education system does not meet the requirements of the labour market and the economy. To bridge this gap, SDC, on request from the Government of Mongolia (GoM), launched a Vocational Education and Training (VET) Project in 2011. Supporting modern, high-quality, hands-on VET and skills development will deliver big pay-offs by reducing the present mismatch of skills in the labour market and by contributing to the diversification of the economy.



*Students of auto vehicle mechanics class at practice, VET school in Zavkhan*

### BACKGROUND

The GoM has placed importance on the VET system, shifting towards more manual and practical skills and away from theory-based and in-class trainings, and is supporting the creation of workplaces that more closely collaborate with the private sector. The GoM's efforts in VET sector reform are evidenced by the creation of an enabling legal framework

and institutions to carry out such reform. By 2015, the GoM aims to double the number of the students enrolled in VET schools, which currently the number of VET schools is 79 nationwide, with more than 42,700 students and 44 of which are public. The project targets seven VET schools located in the in the western region of Mongolia.

### PROJECT GOAL

To contribute to the better employability of young women and men through high-quality VET.

**SDC's Strategic Goal:**

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

### PROJECT FOCUSES ON:

1. **Organising public awareness-raising** and media campaigns to reverse the current negative image of VET, which is perceived by youth and the public at large to have a lower status and lower pay, and to foster a positive perception of vocational education;

2. **Supporting the development of demand-oriented curricula** in six regional schools in the western aimags by choosing one priority occupation in each of the six target aimags;

**3. Capacity building of the Regional Methodological Centre** as part of its mandate to provide continuous training for instructors of VET institutions, to conduct labour market surveys, and to upgrade the region's training curricula.

#### PROJECT RESULTS TO DATE:

##### Development of Occupations Standards and Curricula

The project is focused on the development of curricula for technical and vocational education. This involved the development of six Typical Occupation Standards based on which six occupations' Competency-Based Training Curricula were developed. The documents were endorsed by the Ministry of Labour.

Using these curricula, six VET schools in the target aimags will be able to provide more practice-oriented training for both women and men in the following six selected occupations:

- Dairy producer at Ulaangom Polytechnic College in Uvs aimag
- Fruit and vegetable preservers at Khovd Polytechnic college in Khovd aimag
- Subsistence mixed crop and livestock farmer at VET school in Bayankhongor aimag
- Auto vehicle mechanics at VET school in Gobi-Altai aimag
- Concrete worker at VET school in Zavkhan aimag
- Road worker at VET school in Bayan-Ulgii aimag



*Students from the dairy producer class at practice, Ulaangom Polytechnic College*

##### Private and public sector cooperation

Thanks to the facilitation of the VET Project, local governments, private-sector organisations such as the Mongolian Employers' Confederation, the Mongolian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other professional associations have demonstrated a commitment to VET sector development by signing Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) that have led to improved cooperation at the local level. The MoUs support more in-company trainings and more employment opportunities for VET school graduates.

#### PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

##### Demand driven VET

The VET Project brings together job-seekers and employers. One of the events held is a job fair, at which job-seekers, youth and students meet job-providers and receive information on employment opportunities. In 2013, in Uvs and Bayan-Ulgii aimags these events reached out to more than 700 employers and job-seekers, and more than 1400 secondary school students.

##### Pilot career guidance activities

The VET Project piloted the establishment of Career Guidance Units in VET schools in Zavkhan and Bayankhongor aimags, and provided trainings for VET school specialists, staff from the local Labour Department and Labour Exchange Office and employers, as well as provided equipment for the units.

##### Mutual learning - Twinning Programme

VET schools are learning from each other. A twinning programme is a programme that links VET schools in the region, providing opportunities for them to learn from each other about their experiences and best practices. In November 2013, the VET school in Bayankhongor aimag – which is recognised by the local government for its contribution to the aimag's socio-economic development - hosted counterparts from seven VET schools in the six western aimags to share their experiences in providing quality vocational training aimed at increasing the employability of local youth.

##### Management training for school administrators

To build the management capacity of the six selected schools, the project conducts school management trainings for VET school principals, training managers and coordinators from those target schools. The strengthened leadership skills of the school administrators result in targeted outreach to both students and employers.

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#### Implementing partners:

- Ministry of Labour
- VET sector councils
- Regional Methodological Centre in Zavkhan aimag
- VET schools in target aimags
- Mongolian Employers' Confederation
- NGOs and professional associations

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