

### *Improving education and socio- economic opportunities for vulnerable youth*

## BUILDING YOUTH RESILIENCE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN RURAL MONGOLIA

2019–2025 | US\$2.75 million grant

In Mongolia's rural areas, many young people face limited opportunities for employment and personal growth. With a labor market dominated by traditional herding, unpaid work, and informal self-employment, youth in these regions often lacks the skills necessary to pursue alternative livelihoods. To address this gap, the World Bank has launched the [Entrepreneurship-Focused Socioemotional Skills for the Most Vulnerable Youth in Rural Mongolia](#) project to equip disadvantaged young people with socioemotional and entrepreneurial skills to improve their school performance and prepare them for self-employment.

Funded by the [Japan Social Development Fund](#) (JSDF) and implemented by Save the Children Japan in collaboration with Mongolia's Ministry of Education and Science, the project focused on 25 soums (districts) across five aimags (provinces). Through a school-based and community-driven approach, it targeted both in-school and out-of-school youth, providing them with training to develop the socioemotional skills, such as self-confidence, resilience, teamwork, emotional regulation, problem-solving, and communication skills, which are essential for success in education and the workforce. By integrating these skills into existing educational programs and fostering strong local partnerships, the project sought to create a sustainable model for youth development.

The project has exceeded several of its initial targets. A total of 8,773 young people benefited from training in socioemotional and entrepreneurship skills, surpassing the original goal of 8,000. Of these, 5,107 were young women. In addition, 4,878 project participants successfully demonstrated the minimum required level of socioemotional skills, while 2,431 improved their business capacity through entrepreneurship training.

To ensure lasting impact, the project supported the establishment of entrepreneurial clubs, engaging over 2,147 youth in practical, hands-on business activities. Seven rounds of competitions were held, attracting nearly 2,877 applicants. A total of 1,398 young people, representing 343 teams, received financial support to launch small business initiatives, gaining firsthand experience in managing business projects. These efforts were complemented by training for teachers, with 415 educators trained to deliver socioemotional and entrepreneurship instruction, helping to embed these skills within Mongolia's education system.

The project has also worked to build local capacity and institutionalize its approach. Aimag- and soum-level councils have started developing sustainability strategies, ensuring that socioemotional skills training continues beyond the project's duration. In 2024, the curriculum was formally introduced into Mongolia's Technical and Vocational Education and Training schools, expanding its reach and reinforcing its relevance for youth entering the workforce.

By providing young people in rural Mongolia with the tools to develop resilience, self-confidence, and entrepreneurial skills, the project has laid the foundation for greater economic independence and social inclusion. Its success highlights the importance of investing in youth skills development as a pathway to broader economic growth and community resilience.

