

“Promoting Sustainable, Holistic and Inclusive Developmental Support in Early Childhood in Mongolia” project

NEWSLETTER No.2

November 2025



Kato Shoko, Project Manager, hands over the equipment for the Child Development Room to Tsogzolmaa Ts, head of kindergarten# 320 in Bayanzurkh district, UB, October 21,

BASELINE SURVEY



297 participants contributed to the baseline survey, utilizing a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, including questionnaires, key informant interviews, and direct observations.

The baseline survey for the “Promoting Sustainable, Holistic and Inclusive Developmental Support in Early Childhood in Mongolia” project was conducted by Cognos International LLC between May and August 2025. The baseline survey included representatives from Family Health Centers (FHCs), Branch Commissions for Health, Education and Social Protection of Children with Disabilities, and kindergartens in the newly targeted facilities of the project, as well as parents of children attending these kindergartens. Representatives from the Central Commission the Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Education (MoE), and Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Protection (MFLSP) also provided insights at the policy level. 297 participants contributed to the baseline survey, utilizing a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, including questionnaires, key informant interviews, and direct observations.

The main purposes of the baseline survey was to assess the current situation of the policy environment on early identification and intervention of children with disabilities and beneficiaries working at or with FHCs, branch commissions, and kindergartens before the second phase of the project implementation, and to collect baseline information to measure change. In addition to these two objectives, the research team also identified key needs, priorities, challenges, and opportunities within the target population or area.

According to the survey findings:

- The capacity of FHC (Family Health Center) doctors to identify developmental delays and disabilities in young children is at a moderate level, and various factors, such as limited training for the doctors, inadequate medical equipment, poor infrastructure in the FHC building, weak collaboration, and low parental involvement, hinder early identification and access to necessary support at an early age.
- Although branch committees rated their performance at an average of 73%, the lack of clear policies and regulations, unstable human resources, and absence of a digital data platform prevent them from operating in an effective and sustainable manner .
- The target kindergartens assessed their ability to provide instruction and developmental support tailored to individual needs, including disabilities and developmental delays, at 64.6%. While parents’ awareness of early identification and support services is improving, challenges remain, such as decreased attendance at comprehensive health check-ups as children grow older and a lack of knowledge about where to seek help when developmental concerns arise.

➤ Within the project framework, regular policy dialogues involving representatives from three ministries are being organized to revise and improve relevant policies and legal documents, aiming to enhance the current policy implementation, strengthen the legal environment,

and foster intersectoral collaboration and commitment.

Based on the survey findings, activities are recommended across multiple levels, organizational for the family health center, kindergarten, branch commission, parental and public engagement, and policy development.

MASTER TRAINING ON “EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS AND DISABILITIES IN INFANTS AND TODDLERS”

September 2025

On 29, 30 September and 1 October, 2025, a training on "Early identification of Developmental Delays and disabilities in Infants and toddlers" was organized at the training hall of the National Center for Blood Transfusion in collaboration with the consultant team from the Mongolian Society of Perinatology NGO.

54 doctors and medical specialists, including general physicians, kindergarten doctors, pediatricians from general hospitals, and specialists from the Health Departments in the project target provinces — Bayankhongor and Selenge, as well as the districts of Chingeltei, Songinokhairkhan, and Bayanzurkh in the capital city participated in the training, enhancing their knowledge of early identification, diagnosis, and prevention of developmental delays in children.

During the first two days, the training

was attended by doctors from Family Health Centers and kindergartens from additional centers joining in the 2nd year of the project. On the final day, doctors and specialists from the 1st year target FHC consolidated their previous knowledge and reviewed the updated version of the training module, which they plan to integrate into their clinical practice. The training also provided an opportunity for healthcare professionals to share experiences and solutions for the challenges encountered in primary health care facilities when identifying developmental delays and referring children for diagnosis and treatment. By bringing together urban and rural, family and kindergarten doctors, the training aimed strengthen intersectoral collaboration and improve preventive measures against developmental delays in both healthcare and educational settings.



Participants practice identifying eye conditions using medical equipment supplied by the MOFA project for Family Health Centers. September 29, 2025, Training Room of the National Center for Blood Transfusion



Dr. B. Bayasgalan, consultant, introduces the "Mongolian Child Development Assessment - Morbas Table" September 30, 2025, Training Room of the National Center for Blood Transfusion



Participants of Y2 target FHCs with the consultants who led the training, September 30, 2025, Training Room of the National Center for Blood Transfusion



Dr. Tunggalag L., Consultant, introduces the updated version of the training module. October 1, 2025, Training Room of the National Center for Blood Transfusion

CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR BRANCH-COMMISSION MEMBERS

September 2025

Within the framework of the project “Promoting sustainable, holistic, and inclusive developmental support in early childhood in Mongolia”, a capacity building training for members of the Branch-Commissions for Health, Education, and Social Protection of Children with Disabilities from Bayanzurkh, Songinokhairkhan, and Chingeltei districts of Ulaanbaatar city was held on September 17 and 18, 2025, at the conference hall of the National Center for Blood Transfusion.

The training aimed to improve participants' understanding and knowledge of childhood disabilities, increase the role and responsibility of the branch commission in facilitating the inclusion of young children with disabilities in development support services, and promote interdisciplinary coordination, mediation, and participation in providing effective development support. The training was led by Dr. G.Soyolgerel, the project consultant team leader, and pediatrician R.Galbadrakh, a member of the consultant team.

During the training, officers from the Central Commission for Health, Education and Social Protection of Children with Disabilities from the Ministry of Family, Labor, and Social Protection, B.Yanjmaa and M.Mendee provided presentations and information on the policies, implementation, and budget allocation related to ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities, as well as on the activities of the Development Support Center for Children with Disabilities.

In addition, the training was organized in Bayankhongor province on October 8 and 9 by the project team in collaboration with

a member of the consultant pediatrician R.Galbadrakh. On Day 2, a practical session demonstrated a case-study conference (1) and developing a development support plan using the International Classification of Functioning, Health and Disability (ICF) for 3 young children with disabilities together with their parents (2). The active participation of doctors from family health centers, kindergarten directors, teachers, khoroo's administrators, and social workers made the training more innovative and effective. This training will also be held in Selenge province in end of October.



Group work on ICF, in Ulaanbaatar, 18 Sep 2025, Conference hall of the National Center for Blood Transfusion.



FHC doctor presents a child's reality assessment during a practical work of developing a support plan, in the meeting hall of MB hotel in Bayankhongor, 09 Oct 2025

MASTER TRAINING ON “INCLUSIVE TEACHING METHODOLOGY FOR PRESCHOOL EDUCATION TEACHERS” MODULE

August 2025

The master training on Inclusive teaching methodology for preschool teachers was successfully organized on 27-28 August in the training room of the Health Development Support Center. The training involved 23 preschool teachers and preschool education specialists from 3 districts in Ulaanbaatar, and Bayankhongor, and Selenge provinces.

The consultant team, led by J. Batdelger (PhD), developed the training module in 2024 and provided training for teachers.

This school year, 2025-2026, the module was updated under following themes:

- Strategies to support the different needs of the young children
- Social-emotional learning
- Transition period activity from kindergarten to primary school.



Participants share strategies to support children's diverse needs. Center for Health Development Training Room, August 27, 2025

These trainers will organize and implement the training at their respective kindergartens, districts, and national levels on how to provide a physical, psychological, and inclusive learning environment, develop and implement individualized learning plans, and prepare to support children with special need for the transition from kindergarten to primary schools.



Small group activity for participants to create an inclusive learning environment in classrooms. Training room of the Center for Health Development, August 27, 2025

MASTER TRAINING ON “IMPROVING PARENTAL KNOWLEDGE AND ENGAGEMENT IN SUPPORTING EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT” TRAINING MODULE

August 2025

On August 28–29, 2025, a master training on the module titled “Improving Parental Knowledge and Engagement in Supporting Early Childhood Development” was successfully organized. The workshop took place at the training room of Health Development Center II Building and brought together 37 active participants, including:

- 30 teachers from 10 target kindergartens in Bayanzurkh, Chingeltei, and Songinokhaikhan districts of Ulaanbaatar, and Bayankhongor and Selenge provinces
- Coordinators from 5 branches of the Association of Parents with Disabled Children (APDC)
- 2 teachers from the Development Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities in Bayankhongor province

Throughout the training, participants engaged in group work, video presentations, practical exercises, and discussions on the following topics:

- Strategies to increase parental involvement in early childhood education
- Developmental characteristics of children aged 0–5 and the importance of early identification
- Understanding children with diverse developmental needs

- Collaborative planning between teachers and parents for child development
- Using a Teacher–Parent Communication Notebook to support children with special needs

Upon completion of the workshop, participants were certified as trainers and have learnt how to facilitate the training to teachers and parents in their respective kindergartens.



Participants of the training, at Health Development Center II Building, Ulaanbaatar, 29 August, 2025



B. Norovdoo, Consultant, gives a presentation for participants, Training room Health Development Center II Building, Ulaanbaatar, 29 August, 2025

LOCAL PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING IN SELENGE PROVINCE

September 2025

On September 12, 2025, the second meeting of the Local Steering Committee of the project "Promoting Sustainable, Holistic and Inclusive Developmental Support in Early Childhood in Mongolia", was successfully implemented in Selenge Province, at the Milofa center.



The meeting was attended by **7 participants**, including representatives of the target organizations and members of the Local Steering Committee, which was newly approved under the Local Governor's Order No. A/222 of 2025.



The participants , meeting room at the Milofa Center, September 12, 2025



Participants discuss shared ideas during the meeting. Milofa Center, September 12, 2025

The meeting was attended by 7 participants, including representatives of the target organizations and members of the Local Steering Committee, which was newly approved under the Local Governor's Order No. A/222 of 2025. The committee consists of representatives from the Labor and Social Welfare Department, the Health Department, the Education Department, the Child and Family Development and Protection Department, the Association of People with Disabilities, and relevant specialists.

During the meeting, J. Ochgerel, field officer, presented the results of the project activities implemented since April 2025 and a detailed plan for future activities. During the meeting participants openly exchanged their opinions on the issues presented, jointly planned future activities, and agreed to work together in coordination.

THE EXCHANGE MEETING FOR MEMBERS OF THE “MONGOLIAN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT NETWORK”

October 2025

The “Mongolian Early Childhood Development Network” is a national network that unites more than 30 member organizations and was established in 2022. Since then, it has promoted cooperation, knowledge exchange, and the creation of new initiatives and partnerships among its members. The quarterly meeting was hosted by Save the Children Japan on September 24, 2025. The participants were introduced to the project activities for “PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE, HOLISTIC AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENTAL SUPPORT IN EARLY CHILDHOOD IN MONGOLIA” implemented at Kindergartenv No.117 and “Eeltei” Family

Health Center in Songino-Khairkhan district. During the meeting, Project Coordinator Ch. Purev-Ochir, and Head of Kindergarten No.117 P. Amarjargal, introduced their respective organizations, presented the project outcomes, and answered participants’ questions. After the discussion, participants visited the “Child Development Support Room,” a facility established through the project to support the learning and development of children with disabilities. They also visited the inclusive classrooms where all children study together, children with diverse needs and their peers, and observed the teachers’ strategies to promote inclusion.



The participants observed a classroom activity in KG#320, in SKH district, Ulaanbaatar, September 24, 2025

S. Nyamshur, Head of the “Eeltei” Family health center, which provides primary health care services to residents of the 8th khoroo of Songino-Khairkhan district, and the center’s doctors, gave a presentation on their organization and the outcomes of the project. They shared their best practices, including the methodology acquired during the training on early identification and development support for young children. Highlights included the establishment of a dedicated room for child health screening

and developmental assessments, as well as improvements in services for children aged 9, 18, and 36 months. The meeting brought together than 20 representatives from member organizations, including UNICEF, Lorinet Foundation, Asia Foundation, World Vision, Good Neighbors, OneSky, BMHC, and Enerliin Tuchee NGO. The participants expressed their appreciation to the project team for organizing the event and sharing the project outcomes and experiences.



Participants discussed ideas during the meeting. KG#320 in SKH district, Ulaanbaatar, September 24, 2025



S.Nyamshur, Head of “Eeltei” FHC presents the project activities, September 24, 2025



PROJECT GOAL

In the three districts of Ulaanbaatar, as well as in the provinces of Bayankhongor and Selenge, the foundation will be laid for local public service providers (family health centres, branch commissions, kindergartens, etc.) to promote holistic and inclusive early childhood development support.



PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. System improvement and capacity building of family health centres ;
2. Strengthening the capacity of branch commissions;
3. Capacity building and system development of kindergartens, along
4. Awareness-raising activities for parents and local residents ;
5. Policy advocacy for inclusive education nationwide;



DONOR:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan



PROJECT DURATION:

One year (March 2025- March 2026)



TARGET FHC/KG:

2024-2025

Areas	FHCs	KGs
Bayanzurkh district	"Achlankhui" Family health centre	32 nd KG
Songinokhairkhan district	"Eeltei" Family health centre	117 th KG
Chingeltei district of UB	"Enerengui Uilst" Family health centre	18 th KG
Bayankhongor province of UB	"Enkh burd" Family health centre	16 th KG
Selenge province of UB	"Emneh" Family health centre	6 th KG

2025-2026

Areas	FHCs	KGs
Bayanzurkh district	“Nemuulen” Family health center	320 th KG
Songinokhaikhhan district	“Anan” Family health center	81 st KG
Chingeltei district of UB	“Mend arivjikh” Family health center	83 rd KG
Bayankhongor province of UB	“Otoch Manal” Family Health Center	1 st KG
Selenge province of UB	“Nomt Khan” Family Health Center	3 rd KG

 BENEFICIARY NUMBERS:

Direct: 6,354 **Indirect:** 125,093



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