

Mongolian Development Centre

Grant Type: *Dollar*

Grant Amount: *\$55,000*

Organization: *Mona Foundation*



What was the objective of your grant or initiative?

In 1990, after the fall of the Soviet Union, Mongolia abruptly changed from a socialist system to a democratic, market-based economy. The swiftness of the change created an economic crisis that led to increased unemployment, poverty, and the loss of educational infrastructure.

The objective of Mona Foundation's grant to the Mongolian Development Centre was to:

- Support their work in rebuilding Mongolia's early childhood education infrastructure by helping to develop and rebuild preschool facilities, train teachers, and educate parents.
- Do capacity-building for youths by working with middle- and high-school students to cultivate moral and ethical reasoning and decision-making abilities, and allow them to lead in the process of their own development.

The Mongolian Development Centre also encourages development through locally funded community banking, such that members also use their resources for service to the community.

What was your approach?

Since 1999, Mona Foundation has been dedicated to supporting grassroots educational initiatives around the world and raising the status of women and girls. Mona Foundation forms long-term relationships with grassroots agencies and organizations in the field to provide assistance as those agencies and organizations achieve their own vision of development in their communities.

The effect of this strategy has been dramatic. Several of our partner projects have built from quite humble beginnings to full-fledged, effective, and recognized educational institutions, including three that have reached university status.

What were the outsized results?

This year, 7,300 children from 182 classes in 41 kindergartens and 360 teachers were served by the Early Childhood Development program, representing a 24% increase in the number of children, a 25% increase in the number of classes, and a 23% increase in the number of teachers participating since last year.

The Junior Youth program currently serves 657 youths in 30 junior youth groups. A total of 61 youth were serving as facilitators last year.

In the Community Capacity Development program, 11 community banks are operating with 220 members with assets from within their own communities. The banks set aside part of their profits to help with community needs.

