

Improving the Accessibility of Vocational Schools

The Inequality Challenge. Innovative Solutions to a Global Issue

The Challenge

Out of Mongolia's three million inhabitants, over 100,000 live with some type of disability. One-third of them live in the capital Ulaanbaatar, which also hosts the only Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) school that provides programmes to people with disabilities in six to eight occupations in a rather non-inclusive setting.

The other 85 TVET schools in the country do not provide such programmes nor is the accessibility for people with disabilities ensured at these schools. Due to lack of accessible school buildings, the majority of them currently do not have proper access to formal quality vocational education and, as a result, they are not able to benefit from employment opportunities or fair participation in the Mongolian value chains.

In addition, external experts and Disabled People's Organisations currently conduct accessibility assessments (of buildings) with a paper-based approach.

The Objective

The project aims at improving accessibility of vocational schools in Mongolia. As a result, people with disabilities will have a better chance of receiving a formal quality vocational training in an inclusive training setting and, thus, improving their employment options and living standards. Additionally, the planned activities help to increase public awareness and strengthen social inclusion of people with disabilities.

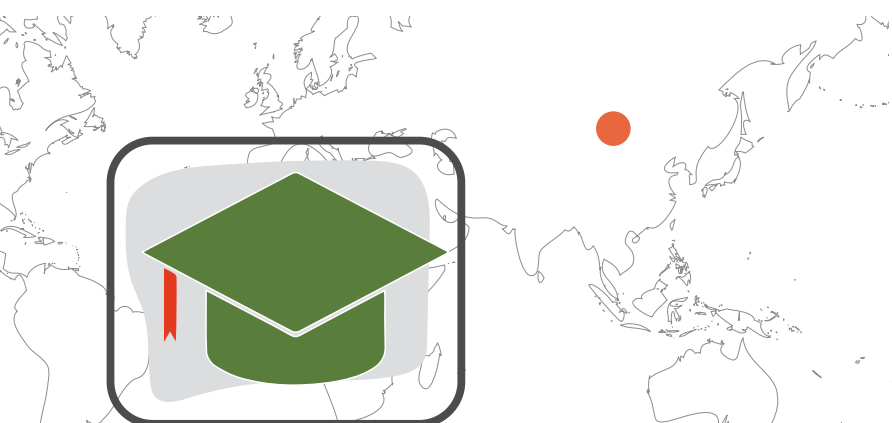
Project title	Improving the Accessibility of TVET Schools in Mongolia
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country	Mongolia
Implementing Organisation	Cooperative Technical Vocational Education and Training Programme (GIZ Mongolia)
Partner Organisations	Vocational Education and Training Partnership NGO
Duration	1 August 2018 – 1 September 2019

The Target Group

The project targets (young) people with disabilities. Additional beneficiaries are university and vocational students from the construction sector as well as unemployed citizens who will improve their employability through increased practical skills in the process of construction and renovation measures to increase the accessibility of selected vocational school(s).

The Approach

To increase transparency and enable vocational schools to perform self-assessments, the project will develop an 'Accessibility Platform' in form of a mobile application and a website. The digitalisation of the current paper-based assessment process will not only simplify the process and increase public awareness of vocational schools' accessibility issues, it will also serve as a verification tool for external accessibility assessors.



◀ Location of the Inequality Challenge's project:
● Mongolia

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The project will initiate a joint renovation competition (a 'Buildathon') among university students from the fields of Architecture and Civil Engineering to develop technical drawings and models for the required accessibility improvements based on needs as identified in the self-assessment of selected TVET school(s) using the Accessibility Platform. Students of vocational schools will then implement the selected improvement solutions as a form of practical training together with local unemployed citizens, for whom this will be a short-term skills training.

Upon successful external assessment of those improvements, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) in partnership with the relevant Disabled People's Organisations will award the selected TVET school(s) with an Accessibility Certification.

The Accessibility Certification, along with the promotion of the 'Buildathon' competition through social media and the involvement of university and vocational students, as well as unemployed citizens, increase awareness of accessibility issues among

a broader public and thereby contribute to strengthen social inclusion of people with disabilities.

The Milestones

- **February 2019:** UNELGEE ("Assessment") mobile application was successfully used to assess the accessibility of 4 TVET schools as well as public areas as part of the preparations for Mongolia hosting the 4th Annual Asia-Pacific Community Based Inclusive Development Congress in July 2019.
- **April – May 2019:** BUILDATHON Competition was successfully organised.
- **May 2019:** Accessibility improvements based on technical drawings from the winners of the BUILDATHON Competition have been started at the Construction Polytechnic College in Ulaanbaatar.
- **June 2019:** INCLUSION DAY to launch the Accessibility Platform and to announce Buildathon competition winners.
- **July 2019:** ASSESSMENT mobile application will be presented as a good practice tool at the 4th Annual Asia-Pacific Community-Based Inclusive Development Congress 2019.

About the Inequality Challenge

The Inequality Challenge supports innovative approaches that tackle inequality and the 'leave no one behind' principle of the 2030 Agenda with the ultimate goal to integrate and upscale those approaches into German Development Cooperation's portfolio. Initiated by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), it supports ten projects in India, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Mongolia, Jordan, Serbia, Nigeria, Mauritania, Brazil and Mexico with up to 100,000 EUR.

GIZ manages the Inequality Challenge. For further information, please visit www.inequality-challenge.com or contact Tiffany Sacher, fundmanagement@giz.de.

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