



M.Nyamdori,

### THE IMPACT OF THE UK GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL WORK IN **MONGOLIA**

T.Tsendsuren, PhD, associate professor, Mongolian National University of Education(MNUE),

Department Social Work, <u>tsendsuren@msue.edu.mn</u>

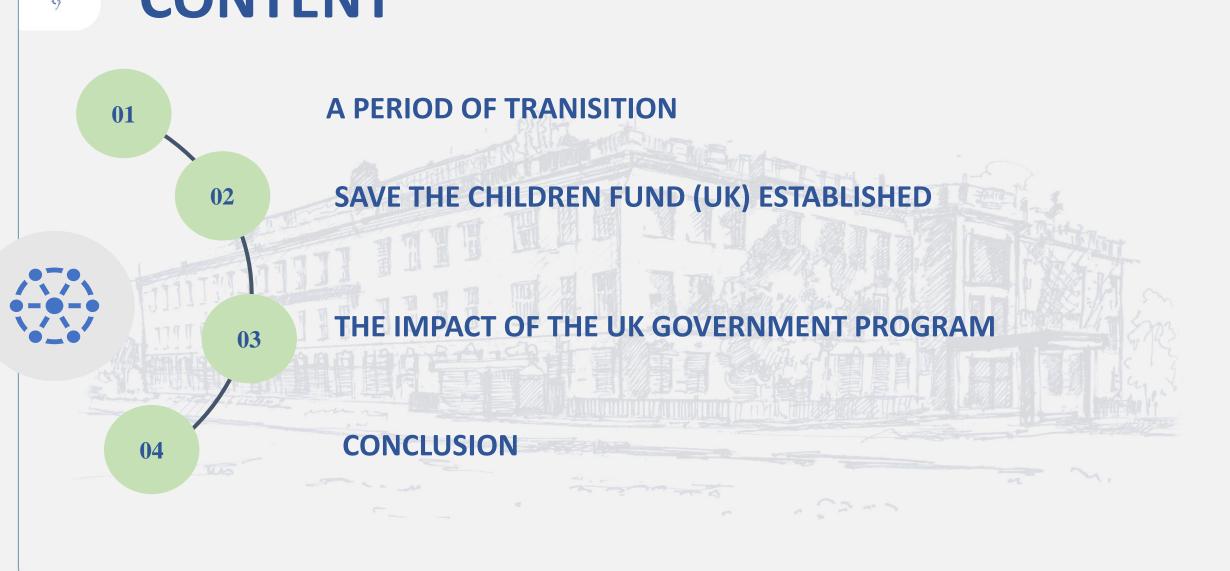
Kh. Ulziitungalag, MNUE, Department Social Work, ulziitungalag@msue.edu.mn

MNUE, Department Social Work, nyamdorj@msue.edu.mn





# **CONTENT**





## A PERIOD OF TRANSITION

- Mongolia underwent a major transformation since 1990, transitioning from a centrally-planned economy to a democratic country with multiple political parties.
- However, this change dealt a heavy blow to factories as the Soviet Union, which accounted for over 90% of Mongolia's foreign trade, disintegrated.
- As a result, Mongolia lost access to loans and foreign aid, markets for its products closed, and trade balances suffered.
- Due to the shortage of keys, equipment, and raw materials, factories are unable to function efficiently. This has led to the privatization of government property, a decline in agricultural production, and the shutting down of factories



# SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND (UK) ESTABLISHED

- During an official visit to Mongolia in August 1993, Princess Anna of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland established the Mongolian government and the Save the Children Fund.
- In 1994, the Foundation's Representative for the Save the Children Fund (SCF) of England (UK) began working for the well-being of Mongolian children.
- During the transition period, poverty, street children, and the problem of child labor were significant social issues that needed to be addressed. Children's organizations played a crucial role in tackling these issues. In 1994, the first child workers were trained to implement the "Child Center Development" curriculum.
- This training aimed to equip these workers with the necessary skills to effectively address the social issues affecting children



- In 1997, the British government's partnership program provided technical support and assistance to establish the State Pedagogical University (now known as the Mongolian National University of Education).
- It started as the Center for Social Work Training, Research, and Methodology and began preparing professional social workers in Mongolia at a bachelor's level for the first time.
- In 1999, the Mongolian government initiated the process of employing social workers in all general education schools .
- This decision laid the foundation for the country's social work system, with the employment of school social workers starting in the 2000-2001 school year. The number of social workers employed in each school and their corresponding salary fund were also determined at that time.



#### **CONTINUNE**

- The SCF(UK) has been instrumental in promoting the establishment of a legal framework for the workplace of school social workers. It has also influenced policy development, created a child friendly educational environment that rotates to protect children from abuse, harassment, discrimination, and neglect and is currently developing and implementing a model for school social work services.
- In 2001, Teachers College in the Dornod Province of the State Pedagogical University of Mongolia and the National University of Mongolia in the Hovd Province established social work training and research centers supported by the Save the Children's Fund.
- The first graduates of the bachelor's degree in social work at the State Pedagogical University of Mongolia began training at those centers. In the early stages of development, the first departments and units of social work aimed to develop basic knowledge, skills, and professional attitudes of social work until the standard of higher education for social work was adopted.



- Currently, 16 universities of all types of property are preparing social workers at bachelor, master and doctoral levels, developing social work policy documents and evidence-based practices.
- Today, higher social work education programs have become more accurate in identifying the knowledge and ability to deliver professional services at micro, mezzo, and macro levels.
- The qualifications for professional training, graduate knowledge, skills, and attitudes are reflected in the curriculum of universities. They are implementing the goals and objectives of the social work program based on government policies, laws, acts, rules, regulations, and instructions.
- The outcome of the Program to Support Social Work, which was launched in 1997
  in the framework of direct technical support and assistance from the UK
  Government Partnership Program, has been able to impact not only the education
  sector but also the social welfare, prison, health and child protection sectors.



School social work	Social work of sums, khoroo	Social work of welfare	Social work of health	Social work of prison
<ul> <li>1999, pilot project</li> <li>In some schools in 2000,</li> <li>All schools in 2000-2001</li> </ul>	From 2001	From 2006	From 2003	From 2004
2001, 2009, 2020 School social worker job description approved by MOES.	In 2006, the Social Welfare Law provides social work services directed to vulnerable people.		2014 - Approved job description in provincial and district general hospitals, clinical central hospitals, and specialized centers.	In 2004, within the framework of the legal reforms, the General Department of Judicial Execution created a new social worker position at the prison.
950 school social workers	Social worker: 330 soums, 152 khoroos, 1200 in the welfare sector		Around 50 health social workers	70 social workers in prison



• In Mongolia, Save the Children's Fund based strategies for the development of social work have been able to develop local capacities, prepare national trainers and practioners and determine the state of social work tailored to the country's conditions, which have succeeded in short-term systemic changes and contributed to the development of social well-being.

• In the past, the public's understanding of social work has changed, and among professionals, the question "What will be the model of social work services? What is the development trend of social work in Mongolia" is still

being studied in terms of theory and practice.

• On the other hand, when the professional origins of social work were first introduced in western countries, they were criticized for becoming a professional practice based on western culture and and an alternative approach of social work was explored.

• The UK Government Partnership Program has demonstrated that social work is an independent scientific with specific professional approaches and service

models based on scientific knowledge, professional ethics and values.



• Since 2007, our department has jointly with SCF focused on the development of child protection services and the child protection system, and has developed basic and advanced child protection curricula, which have been included in the higher education standards of social work and implemented.

 Another effect of this work is that Mongolia today approves child protection policies (faculty of the department worked to develop the child protection policy), and implements child protection policies at the kindergarten, general education schools, and vocational training schools.

• As a result of the above cooperation, we focused on the issue of child protection at the policy level, trained experts at the decision-making level from the primary level, jointly implemented training and influence work to change the public's approach to child rearing, and were able to form a stable basis for the development of the child protection system.



## **CONCLUSION**

- A social work project implemented within the partnership program of the British Government has developed a new profession of social work in Mongolia.
- Today, social work in Mongolia has grown to become an independent scientific field and profession.
- The results of this cooperation not only contributed to the development and science of social work, also contributed to the implementation of social work programs in accordance with international standards, but also to improve the coherence of theory and practice.
- As a result, the UK Government Partnership Programme and SCF (UK) support have enabled us to learn from social work education and practice in countries such as the US, UK, Russia, India, Japan, and Hong Kong and to work with international consultants. Learning from social work experiences in other countries has influenced the development of social work in my country.



## **CONTINUNE**

- The faculty members of the Department of Social Work supervise projects for SCF (UK), putting theory into practice, gaining experience, and promoting public understanding of social work.
- The UK government partnership program established the foundations of the child protection system in Mongolia and is currently working to strengthen and develop it.
- Department of Social Work is now recognized not only in Mongolia also but internationally and is a member of the International Association of Schools Social Work.
- The UK government's partnership played an invaluable role in laying the foundation for professional social work in Mongolia, which has led to the current level of development it.

