

MONGOLIA

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) products, using recycled plastic waste



Context

Mongolia faces unique challenges related to its vast territory, dispersed population and extreme weather conditions. **A third of its three million population leads a semi-nomadic lifestyle, constantly on the move in search of better pastureland for their herds.**

The country is also particularly susceptible to the **impacts of climate change**. In the last ten years, annual precipitation has decreased by 7 percent leading to a decline in water resources. Currently, in rural areas, **only 6% of the population have access to safely managed water services.**

To address this issue, UNICEF Mongolia has planned this innovative project to support the improvement of WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) services, outdoor open pit latrines and waste management.

Our solution

Mongolia has a few local producers who can recycle plastic waste into home products such as sofas, armchairs or garbage bins.

Based on this idea, UNICEF is exploring possible ways to engage those producers to include WASH products to the list, such as outdoor pit latrine parts, solid waste disposal containers/ bins or building blocks for construction of WASH facilities.

The project will be tested in 4 target areas; Bayankhongor, Gobi-Altai, Zavkhan and Umnugobi and will then be replicated in other provinces, aiming to reach nationwide coverage.



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UNICEF key activities



- Promote the usage of recycled plastic WASH products
- Support developing private-public partnership (PPP) models to produce WASH products using recycled plastics
- Support local authorities to rehabilitate/construct WASH facilities for public institutions (schools, hospitals etc...) and communities, using recycled plastic WASH products
- Document the best practices and support the replication of recycled plastic WASH products nationwide

Story from the field

“The kindergarten was built in 1989 and there has not been maintenance work ever since. When UNICEF started the renovation, workers found a layer of mold beneath the walls and ceilings. I believe now that we found and got rid of it, our children will have fewer respiratory problems, resulting in a higher attendance rate”, explains the kindergarten’s doctor Odgerel Surenjav

“I like that the bathrooms are now more accessible”, says Delgerjargal, a teacher.

“Before there were only four sinks, which were too big. Now there are six sinks in one of the 14 bathrooms, which means more children can wash their hands at the same time. That is very helpful for us, as we have over 880 pupils.”

“If we want to ensure that children can grow, develop and reach their full potential, we must provide them with good water and sanitation”, says Ulziisaikhan Sereeter, Early Childhood Development Officer at UNICEF Mongolia.



Financing examples

30,000 €

230 rural families will have access to improved outdoor sanitation facilities (latrines with plastic squatting plates etc...)

100,000 €

Purchase of equipment for plastic bottle recycling and production of WASH products

500,000 €

5 rural schools/hospitals will have access to improved indoor sanitation facilities (handwashing, toilets, showers, etc...)

1,000,000 €

10 rural schools/hospitals will have access to improved indoor sanitation facilities (handwashing, toilets, showers, etc...)



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