

PRIORITY ACTION AREA 4- EMPOWERING & MOBILISING YOUTH THROUGH A WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH

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Mongolia's population in 2019 was **3,171,860** and more than one million, youth aged 15–34 represent the **largest demographic group in the country**, constituting 34.9 percent of the population

Priority Action 4 of ESD for 2030 – Empowering and mobilizing youth looks at creating opportunities for young people and engaging them as key actors.

In the context of the Whole School Approach (WSA) how do we empower and mobilize our youth? We can do this by redesigning the student's learning experience-

1.A Whole School Plan- A coherent , strategic connected sustainability school- living and learning for sustainability. Not islands of good work by some champion teachers. Not random activities. A deeply connected approach.

2.A Futures Oriented Perspective – Supporting students to be able to have a vision for the future and then work backwards towards it with tangible steps.

3.Embracing complexity and not just problem solving- Helping students understand the reality and acquire the knowledge, mindsets, skills, values, tools and tactics to be able to bring change .

4.From EE to learning for Sustainability/ESD- Enabling students to go beyond understanding and analysing current problems like climate change, going beyond being observers to becoming change makers. EE creates deeper awareness but there is a massive leap needed to bring about change. It helps to raise awareness and concern , to communicate to others but how can schools bring about change so that we live sustainably?

5.Students' hands on experiences- learning from life around them and undertaking activities. Action learning.

6.Distributed Leadership- School leaders who create ownership and motivation in teachers and students about the school's action plan. A co-created and shared vision which the leader tracks and guides and where everyone has a role to play.

There are several good examples from the Mongolia ESD pilot schools but these are isolated instances of positive things happening in these schools and a systemic approach is needed where all aspects of the school are teaching for sustainability. A deeply connected approach where all the strands of a WSA are woven together.

The All for YOUth, YOUth for All was launched by Caritas Czech Republic in Mongolia, the Mongolian Youth Council, and the Center of Citizenship Education. The overall objective is to

enhance the capacity of youth-focused civil society organizations to empower youth to better integrate them into society and encourage greater participation in volunteerism among young people.

As of 2020, 116 young people (of whom almost half were female) have participated in capacity-building programmes from 46 civil society organizations engaged with the project. Furthermore, 27 young people have been involved in the mentorship programme and 23 trainers have participated in the job training programme .

Are we involving youth in the content development for youth in the 8 ESD themes ?

An example from Norway to demonstrate student agency.

Key questions to focus on to develop an effective way of empowering youth to become influencers and change makers are-

- How can schools give more agency to students in the Whole School action plan?
- How can Sub- TACGs partner with youth for the development of their aimags?
- How can media engage with youth to raise and spread awareness about sustainability ?