



CARDIOLOGY, CARDIO-SURGERY AND TELEMEDICINE IN MONGOLIA



SECTOR | Health

DURATION | 60 months (November 2022 – October 2027)

TARGET GROUPS

Medical personnel involved in the treatment and management of cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels, and the general population of Mongolia, especially those suffering from CVDs

INSTITUTIONAL ANCHORAGE

Ministry of Health

SECTORIAL POLICIES AND REFERENCE STRATEGIES

- Mongolian Sustainable Development Vision 2030;
- Ten-Year State Health Policy (2017-2026).

BUDGET | EUR 8 560 000



CONTEXT

Cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of death in Mongolia. Since 2001, Luxembourg Development Cooperation has been supporting the government of Mongolia in addressing this major public health challenge through a series of successive programmes aimed at strengthening cardiovascular care nationwide.

OBJECTIVE

Building on more than two decades of achievements, the Cardiology, cardio-surgery and telemedicine project seeks to further improve cardiovascular health services at all levels of the healthcare system. The project places particular emphasis on prevention, innovation and sustainability, while continuing to expand access to quality care throughout the country.

APPROACH

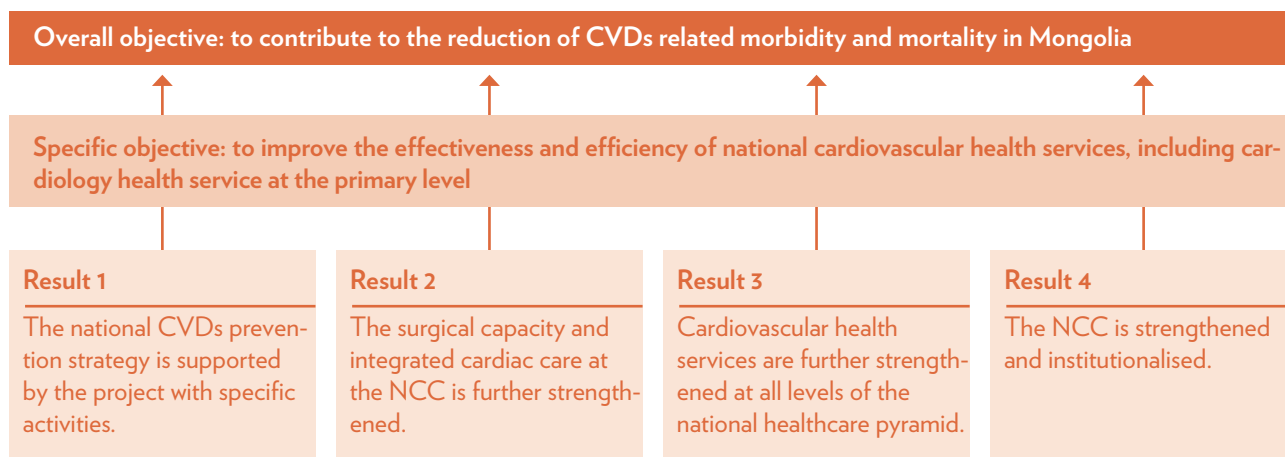
A key pillar of the intervention is telemedicine, an essential tool in a vast and sparsely populated country where long distances often separate rural communities from specialised healthcare services. By connecting provincial hospitals with national centres of expertise, telemedicine helps ensure timely diagnosis, appropriate treatment and continuous professional support for healthcare workers across Mongolia.

The project is implemented in close partnership with the Third State Central Hospital of Mongolia (Shastin Hospital) and its National Cardiovascular Centre (NCC), as well as with Luxembourg's Institut National de Chirurgie Cardiaque et de Cardiologie Interventionnelle, with the shared objective of improving the quality of cardiovascular care nationwide.

Together, these partners and the LuxDev team, strengthen the surgical and institutional capacities of the NCC, enhance cardiovascular services throughout the country and support the implementation of Mongolia's National Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Plan. Particular attention is given to addressing modifiable risk factors such as unhealthy diets, tobacco use, alcohol consumption and physical inactivity, while also promoting regional knowledge exchange through South-South cooperation, notably with the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

This project forms part of Luxembourg's broader engagement in Mongolia's health sector and is closely linked to complementary initiatives implemented by UNFPA and UNICEF. Together, these interventions contribute to a more integrated, resilient and equitable health system.

EXPECTED RESULTS



The project focuses on four expected results:

- prevention: primary prevention (avoiding CVDs) and secondary prevention (avoiding complications of CVDs among patients);
- tertiary care: high-quality cardiac surgery to complete an efficient and effective referral system for CVDs cases;
- secondary care: a solid network of well-trained cardiologists capable of treating most patients and effectively referring those in need to the tertiary level;
- policy and strategy development: the NCC plays a key role in supporting the Ministry of Health in implementing the comprehensive CVDs strategy.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The 2025 external mid-term evaluation confirmed that the project is delivering tangible outcomes across its four result areas. “Through a combination of clinical capacity building, public outreach, institutional strengthening and digital health innovation (the MN-Cardio platform), the project is effectively addressing systemic gaps in cardiovascular healthcare in Mongolia”. The evaluation highlighted the following achievements:

- the national prevention strategy for CVDs was supported through public campaigns, a comprehensive set of information, education and communication materials, as well as strategic advice;
- through formal training as well as on-site mentoring and coaching of the cardiac surgery team at the NCC of Shastin Central Hospital, the capacity for cardiac surgical interventions improved significantly, with a record number of complex surgeries undertaken in 2024: 422 open-heart surgeries performed while maintaining a post-operative mortality rate within internationally accepted standards, a historic milestone in Mongolia;
- provincial and district-level cardiovascular services were strengthened through continuous capacity-building efforts;
- the institutionalisation of the NCC and the relaunch of the updated and overhauled telemedicine platform (MN-Cardio) have enhanced the health system’s performance and reach, including in remote rural areas, supporting earlier diagnosis and treatment of CVDs.

CONTACT LUXDEV

Luxembourg Headquarters
Global programmes | 49-51, avenue de la Gare, L-1611 Luxembourg, LUXEMBOURG

