



# “For the Rights of All Children”

*Children’s Report to the UN Committee on the  
Rights of the Child - Mongolia*



2015

## Contents:

Foreword .....	3
Methodology .....	3
Chapter 1. Civil rights and freedoms .....	4
Chapter 2. Family environment and care .....	8
Chapter 3. Health and welfare .....	10
Chapter 4. Education, leisure, cultural events .....	13
Chapter 5. Child and labour .....	18
Children's analysis of survey on rights of the child:.....	19
In family settings .....	19
In school settings.....	22
In dormitories .....	24
Photos of report writing process .....	27

## Foreword

We, the children who reviewed this document, would like to extend our greetings to all you kind-hearted people who are dedicated to working for the rights of the children. Children are indeed the light of our future, and today we hope you receive this report on the rights of Mongolian children with gladness.

One in three persons in Mongolia is children. According to 2014 Statistics, 35.5% of the 2,995,949<sup>1</sup> people in Mongolia are children or adolescents between the ages of 0-19 years. Thus, it is our responsibility to write this report on how the rights for a third of our country's population are being implemented and protected. Through this report, we believe that we are contributing to the improvement of the rights of over a million children in Mongolia.

Mongolia was among the first nations to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which was the first step from the Government of Mongolia towards committing itself to the fulfilment of children's rights in our country. We would like to highlight that children's rights may remain a void commitment without due legislation to safeguard the rights of the child in their entirety. But without efforts towards implementation of such legislation, without political will to ensure children's rights at all levels of governance, and without approval of laws on the protection of the rights of children together with the necessary budget, this commitment means very little. The rights of the child may not be fulfilled if the government and individuals lack the ability to see children not only as future citizens but also today's citizens who need special protection and if the government and individuals are unable to accept and recognise children as individuals with their own views and beliefs.

We believe that protection of the rights of children in practice requires activities in all sectors of society, all legal relations and all areas of business to strive to meet the best interests of children. Also, the approval of legal acts that aim at implementation of the UNCRC with their required budgets must be in place for the protection of these rights. Also we believe that the rights of children can be fulfilled in our country if every individual knows their duties regarding children, as outlined by law, if the state manages and monitors the implementation of these laws effectively.

## Methodology

The report was written with the participation of 108 children between ages of 11-18 and 3,285 children were involved in the surveys. Children from Khovd aimag in the Western Region, Dornod aimag in the Eastern region, Dundgobi aimag in the Gobi region, Uvurkhangaï aimag in the Central Region and children from the capital met in Ulaanbaatar city as representatives of the children of Mongolia to discuss how children's rights are being implemented in Mongolia. They brought documented examples of violations of rights and developed solutions for the problems themselves. The children from the capital and in all four regions of Mongolia, discussed topics of education, culture, leisure, health, social welfare, family environment, care, civil rights and freedoms and working children. This report includes information on violations of the rights of children through interviews and focus groups together with the ideas the children brought about to solve these issues. In addition, three types of questionnaires were used to survey students from the 7th and 10th grades at schools, children residing in dormitories, children studying at life-long education centres and disciples of monasteries in Ulaanbaatar and Erdenet as well as in Khovd, Dornod, Uvurkhangaï, Dundgobi, Bayan-Ulgii, Arkhangai, Khentii, Sukhbaatar and Khuvsgul aimags. The data from the surveys was analysed for final conclusions by children. The survey of the fulfilment of children's rights in family environments was given to 1,198 children, the survey of implementation of children's rights at schools was given to 1,893 children, and the survey of children's rights in dormitories, shelters and monasteries was given to 194 children. All these surveys have been reviewed and conclusions developed to paint a clear and concise picture of the main issues of child rights in the country.

Report team children  
1 July 2015

## CHAPTER 1. CIVIL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

### 1. We, children, are not only tomorrow's citizens but also today's

Many of our rights as children are violated. This includes our rights to be considered citizens of our country, to be registered in civil registration, to participate, to hold and express our own views and beliefs, to address adults and institutions to have our issues solved, to receive answers about how our issues are solved, to have our personal confidentiality of correspondence protected and to be able to receive necessary information from various sources and institutions.

### 2. There is nowhere to seek civil rights assistance

Most of us children think that we should call the police if we need protection of our rights violations. Often the police are contacted only in cases of crime prevention, or for victims or suspects of crimes. However, the rights of children are violated daily in open as well as hidden ways, but in many cases we do not know where to complain about these problems and in reality, there is no entity responsible.

### 3. Children are unaware of their rights

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child should be communicated to children as they are the rights holders as well as adults who are duty bearers; however, such activities are not carried out. Even if this was communicated at some time in the past, those children who heard have now grown up as adults and today's children do not know their rights. Thus, because children do not know their rights; they cannot recognise violations or fight for protection of their rights.

### 4. Children come into conflict with the law and are imprisoned due to their unawareness of the law

At our interview visit to Prison #411, the only children's prison in the country, in June, 2015, there were 22 underage child prisoners incarcerated. Many of these children come into conflict with the law because they are not taught right and wrong actions, and are unaware of criminal and legal violations. It is regretful that the actions to explain the fault instead of imprisonment are lacking.

Investigations of children frighten them and in many cases cause them to commit crimes again as they are interrogated along with adult criminals and detained with offenders who have committed very serious crimes. No separate room is used for interviewing child victims of violence and rape.

In practice, children are interrogated many times concerning the same crime, and this increases their stress.

*"Do we become crime victims*

*For coming from the shanty towns?*

*Are we sentenced most severely*

*For coming from poor families?*

*My parents visit their child criminal*

*Spending all what they save for coal...*

*How I want to be near them*

*To enjoy their love and happiness*

*And be thankful for my fate*

*Of being born as a human." – from verses written by D., 17 year old boy*

### 5. The principles of child participation are violated

Children's voices are not taken seriously and only listened to without being understood. Even still, many adults do not respect and support children to grow into active and confident citizens.

*"They selected me from my school because they wanted to meet representatives of children, so I participated in the activity. He asked what problems children face and I thought he was going to solve our problems. We told him that we have to choose a far, roundabout path to reach our school because we are afraid of stray dogs that we meet if we choose the straight path, also it is difficult to walk in winter because the paths are slippery due to lack of drainage. Also we are frightened because there is no lighting in the streets of the ger district areas. Since then 2 years have passed. Nothing has improved since he talked with us, it seems that adults listened to us but did not act." - O., 12 year old girl* Still there is an unequal participation of children based



*on the age, gender, physical status, characteristics and livelihood. Limitation of the participation rights of children hinders their rights to protection of their rights and their opportunities of decent leisure, expression of their views and development in accordance to their interests. The adults with authorities are reluctant to continuously support children's rights by their policies and their resources.*

Still there is unequal participation of children based on the age, gender, physical status, characteristics and livelihood. Limitation of the participation rights of children hinders their rights to protection of their rights and their opportunities of decent leisure, expression of their views

and development in accordance to their interests. In addition, authorities are reluctant to continuously support children's rights by their policies and resources.

Children are scared because they usually get reprimanded for expressing their views and beliefs. Adults force children to take part in the activities they organise, against the will of children. For refusing to participate in the activities favoured by adults, children are scolded and pressured to participate. All these acts breach the principles of child participation.

### 6. The budget environment is not child-friendly

Budget is an important tool of ensuring implementation of the rights of children. It is known that enforcement of the law diminishes if its budget and ways of implementation are unclear. There is lack of procedure of obligatory inclusion of children's issues in planning, discussions and approval of the state budget and there is no institution to monitor whether the funds allocated for children reach the target children and whether they are sufficient for ensuring equity. Moreover there is no participation of children in these processes. There is no commitment to consider children's problems at the decision making levels because children are not allowed to vote in elections, therefore it is necessary to create participatory methods for children to deliver their voices to the legislature.

### 7. The Laws of Mongolia contradict on the definition of the age of children

The Laws in Mongolia do not have a provision for people under the age of 18 years to exercise their rights and freedoms. This is the reason why there is no establishment to receive requests and complaints from children. The provisions that allow children to work from the age of 15, hold a civil identity card from the age of 16 and to exercise civil rights and duties from the age of 18 make the ways of utilisation and interpretation of the laws obscure. For example, there is no regulation of how the issues of social insurance of working children should be managed. There is no legal provision that children are subject to taxation, however, children receiving awards at competitions and contests are made to pay income tax.

### 8. Children are still exposed to violence

Ideally, children are born and raised surrounded by their parents' love and enjoy the happiest life in their families, however, it happens that children suffer and some die due to the violence of their own parents. It is unfair that a person who hits another adult is penalised by law, but people who hit their children, or use physical force towards their children, receive no punishment. Child violence is more frequently committed by people close to the children, and not strangers. We demand to prohibit corporal punishment by law.

*"While their mother was at work, the father tortured his two year old daughter and four year old son by biting and strangling them throughout the day. This case shocked the public. And just a year before this, there was a horrible case in which a father injured his five year old son with a chopping knife." – Press news, 2013<sup>2</sup>*

*"A four year old girl was hit by her father and step-mother, was taken to the hospital with her whole body bruised and her brain severely damaged. She died shortly afterward." - Press news, 2015<sup>3</sup>*

*"Methods of hitting children without visible wounds and scars are becoming widespread. Some monks hit children wrapping their hands in fabric. They whipped me with leather ropes for placing incense in the burner incorrectly. Whipping with leather makes the skin redden, but leaves no scar." (E., 14 year old boy) We demand strict prohibition of physical violence against children in all settings.*

We demand strict prohibition of physical violence against children in all environments.

### 9. Children with disabilities are discriminated

The number of educators trained to work with children with disabilities is insufficient and still the infrastructure to tailor teaching to their specific needs is underdeveloped. The very existence of so-called "special schools" is a discrimination and segregation of children with disabilities from the rest of society and we believe it is necessary to train all teachers to be able to work with all children, regardless of disabilities. We demand that the entire society recognise that children with disabilities also have skills, competencies, views and beliefs, and deserve to have a bright future with no discrimination.

*"First, I was glad that the school accepted me just like the other children. It is very difficult to enter the school with a wheelchair. I refrain from drinking tea in the morning, because nobody will help me to the toilet at school. I sit in the back row of the classroom with my wheelchair. The teachers do not explain me the lessons that I don't understand and they don't grade my academic achievement in a fair manner. I don't want them to have pity on me, I just want to learn and be graded like the other children." - A., 12 year old girl*

*"Because the chances to obtain a profession are very scarce for children with disabilities, especially for visually impaired children, many of them desire to succeed in sports and performing arts. When we, visually impaired children, participated in a performance art contest and won the monetary award, the money was handed to the coaching teacher. When the monetary award was announced, we estimated the amount of the share per each child. Then the teacher called the children into his room and gave everyone envelopes thick with money. We all rejoiced at that moment. When we opened the envelope at home to rejoice with our family, we found that banknotes of ten and twenty tugriks (5-10 cents) were put in the envelope to make it feel thick. The amount was some 2000 tugriks (\$1 USD). We were afraid to tell this to the coaching teacher because we thought if we said this to the teacher, he would say that we were lying, he would scold us and then would not let us take part in any contest again. Unfortunately we don't know where we should complain." - E., 14 year old boy*

### 10. Civil registration and citizenship

We suggest that registration be made at the delivery hospital and the birth certificate is given there to make it easy for families who live in remote areas and low-income households to register. This must then be directly connected with the national registration which, in turn, connect to the statistics database. Children receive a birth certificate which they do not use for anything and they keep it until they reach the age of receiving a civil identification card, the birth certificates do not have the photo of the children and do not indicate their blood type.

In case it is lost, it is impossible to make an inquiry in the digital system. Only civil identification cards and passports can be searched in the digital system, thus if a birth certificate is lost, it is very difficult to have it re-issued. As children from mostly Kazakh region of Bayan-Ulgii aimag said, children whose Mongolian citizenship was terminated by their parents, face many difficulties if they decide to claim citizenship in Mongolia.

### 11. The rights of children to receive information are breached

Printed news and information do not reach children of remote rural areas and remote districts in a timely fashion. Thus, there are negative consequences such as receiving information late, unclear information, and receiving information that does not suit their ages. In all press and media, there is little space and time for articles and programmes for children.

Besides information from the press and media, children receive information at their schools and other information directed to all children according to their economic status because of the ability of low-income families to access such information. Thus, only informed children can participate.

Children are unable to receive information they need from government organisations independently. Many times when children ask things they need to understand, adults get angry.

Information does not reach children with hearing impairments. Once a child is diagnosed with a hearing impairment, there needs to be training for the parents and caretakers to teach them how to communicate with their child. There is no printed information on the rights of children for visually impaired children to read. In order to ensure the rights of children as the rights holders, information needs to be disseminated to the all children in ways they can understand.

The use of information and communication technologies offers many positive opportunities as well as obstacles. Protection of the children's right on the internet requires regulations to ensure a balance between the right of child protection and the right to express their views.

### 12. The rights of children to choose their faith are violated

The mass media mostly delivers information on Buddhism. Children have to choose their faith by the decision of their parents and grandparents. Adults directly influence the choice of children. The rights to education of some children are breached as they are brought to monasteries to be disciples. It is necessary to provide general education to children in the monasteries. There are cases of violation of the rights of children under pretext of religion.



*"I like going to the church. Besides religious activities, there are opportunities to play, have lunch and learn how to play musical instruments, which I like a lot. Many children go to our church. The teachers at our church tell us to bring our friends and classmates and we are required to bring 2 other children each week" - A child member of a Christian church<sup>4</sup>*

*My mother is a shaman and when she is in a trance, she becomes a "different person". She said that I didn't follow her, tied me to a chair and hit me until my shoulder was dislocated. She took me out of school saying that I didn't need school. Now I work." - Ts., 14 year old boy*



*"There are adult monks, adolescent monks and children in the monastery. Young monks sometimes are bad examples, showing children how they steal from the altar, and offerings. When children who studied in monasteries enrol in mainstream schools, they face a lot of difficulties as they are far behind in school subjects." - E., 14 year old boy*



### SOLUTIONS:

1. Provide legal protection to the civil rights of children
2. Establish an institution to receive and solve requests and complaints of children without any delay. It should be accessible to all children regardless of their household economic status;
3. Continuously promote the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
4. Explain all laws related to children in ways easy for children to understand;
5. Introduce alternatives to confinement and explain the harm of the crimes to children;
6. Institutionalize support for child participation at all levels of governance, make it the duty of responsible officers, include this in their job descriptions and make them responsible in case of failure;
7. Accept opinions of the children in planning and discussion of the budgets of local development funds;
8. Create an institution to monitor whether the funds allocated for children reach the target children and whether they are sufficient for ensuring equity and ensure children's participation in this monitoring;
9. Legally prohibit corporal punishment;
10. In teacher training, provide all of them with skills necessary to work with children who have disabilities;
11. Perform civil registration at the delivery hospitals and issue birth certificates there, making it directly connected with the national registry and national statistics;

12. Make it possible for children to inquire about their birth certificates on the digital system;
13. Increase the time and space of programmes and articles for children in all forms of press and media;
14. Disseminate information to children using all possible methods to reach all children;
15. Create regulations to provide equitable protection of the rights of children to protection and expression of their beliefs online;
16. And combat violations of the rights of children under the pretext of religion as well as activities that are publicly inappropriate.

## CHAPTER 2. FAMILY ENVIRONMENT AND CARE

### 13. Many children lack a child-friendly family environment

All children deserve to grow up in their families experiencing love and affection. In cases where they are not living with their families, children should be cared for by caretakers, their basic needs should be fulfilled and they should be able to exercise their rights. Many children miss out of having a caring family environment due to the harsh social and economic conditions, high unemployment rates for their parents, inadequate parenting skills as well as divorce.

### 14. Many children do not live with their parents

When parents leave for employment abroad or for employment in distant regions at mines or farms, they leave their children with other families without any official agreement concerning their care and protection. Also, in order to enable their children to study at school in a bigger city some parents pitch their ger in the yard of another family placing responsibility on older siblings to care for the younger children. All these activities led to new terminologies such as "child-led household"<sup>5</sup> or "children to be watched"<sup>6</sup>. Moreover, children are separated from their parents when the parents are crime suspects, are sentenced, or become severely ill. In case of divorce when the parents establish new families, the children have to grow up in a different family or move between several families.

In a "child-led household", the children have to be the caretakers of their younger siblings, having no caretaker, with all household members deprived of the right to live in a safe and healthy environment. They are at risk of being bullied by their peers, discriminated by society, and become crime victims or suspects themselves. As for "children to be watched" or children living in another family, they also experience these risks and, in addition, they have to perform the hardest household chores of the host family, suffer physical and psychological abuse, and deprivation of their needs resulting in breaches of their rights to education and participation.



"I'm a student; I live with my two younger primary school siblings in the yard of another family. My parents live in the countryside; they send us necessary money once a month." -L., 17 year old boy

"I've never met my father. My mother married a foreign man and lives with him abroad. I live in Ulaanbaatar with my grandfather. My mother sends me money and clothes, but I miss my mother a lot because I've lived separately from her for six years." - A., 14 year old boy



"I've been living with my mother since my parents divorced. Both my mother and father married different people. Sometimes I stay with my mother, sometimes I stay with my father, and sometimes with my granny." -N., 16 year old girl

### 15. Children still suffer violence in their families

It is regretful that child violence is now more frequently committed by people close to children, such as parents.

"A three year old boy lost his life at hands of his own father. It was B., 42, of Songino-Khairhan District, the man who was in a drunken rage, beat and killed his son. The boy was rushed to the hospital, but died while in the ambulance." - Press news, 2015<sup>7</sup>

"My father hits me a lot. He does it for not cleaning our home, for not obeying him, when I make mistakes and when he has to explain things to me." - A., 12 year old girl

"A girl's parents sank into poverty and became dependant on alcohol. They treated her like a boy, making her work outside the home, then they drank with the money she earned. When she went to play, her mother would find her, hit her and bring her back. Even now her parents still drink. The girl was sent to a shelter in the capital. She could have lived a happy life if her parents did not drink." - Excerpts from group discussion of aimag children



We demand legal prohibition of corporal punishment.

### 16. There is an increasing need in psychological counselling for children and families

Because children frequently get scolded and hit by their parents, they are deprived of opportunities to talk openly with their parents about the problems they face and to receive parental advice. Thus, children are unable to share their issues and consult with their parents who are supposed to be their closest allies. Because of the insufficient care of these parents, the rights of children are constantly breached. Parents pour out the stress and troubles they have suffered during the day on to their children, committing physical and emotional abuse toward their children.

"The parents of T., 16 years old boy, are wealthy and they are always busy. They care for their children and never leave him in need of anything. Thus, they provided only the material needs of their child and never realised what kind of a human their child was growing into. However, T spent the money on the wrong things, and made poor decisions now he has committed a crime." - From a public discussion

### 17. Many children are afraid at home due to alcoholic parents

"My father and mother always drink alcohol. It's hard to go to school after being beaten. Other children say mean things to me because of this. Sometimes I want to live separately from my parents because of these difficulties, and sometimes I even want to die." -E., 14 year old girl



"Our survey detected that each child in Mongolia lives with a 32% level of fear. If this indicator increases a further 20 %, then it will mean readiness to commit any action harmful to oneself and to the others. Mostly 12-16 year old children approach us with family issues. Consequently, four children committed suicide during the last two months. If their parents spent only 10 minutes to talk with them, such tragedies wouldn't happen. When parents get divorced, children blame themselves. The characteristics of Mongolian children are that they are resilient to psychological pressures. They think they should

tolerate and they should adapt. There is no culture of step-by-step solving their psychological problems in our country. Emotional stress is thus accumulated and then explodes one day. Psychological consultation services are needed to prevent these events. Nobody is compensated for psychological damages, it's not legislated." – Interview with a psychologist from the National Institute of Psychology

#### SOLUTIONS:

1. There should be a specialized psychologist in every soum, district, bagh, khoroo and school in order to ensure the fulfilment of children's rights in the family;
2. Support the psychological counselling service for children and families with a legal framework;
3. Provide education of good parenting and knowledge of family planning to parents;
4. The state should support the parents with adequate employment opportunities and support conditions for children to live with their parents;
5. Promote positive methods of discipline;
6. Enforce consequences for parents who commit violence against their children;
7. Employers should allocate time for employees to fulfil their parental duties with measures to ensure that overtime is not required frequently;
8. And, the state should provide assistance to children from poor and vulnerable households and continuously implement activities to promote alcohol-free families.

## CHAPTER 3. HEALTH AND WELFARE

### 18. Bribery to give birth

It is not an exaggeration to say that in Mongolia children face corruption from the very moment of their birth. Expectant mothers always worry about which hospital they should give birth at and with which midwife they should use so that both the mother and the baby will be healthy. Although it is not always pronounced openly, it is common knowledge that giving gifts and bribing hospital staff guarantees quality natal and prenatal services.

### 19. Parents continue to violate children's rights to safe and healthy growth

Children continue to receive injuries for preventable causes. Children's rights to safe and healthy living are breached because of the careless and irresponsible attitude of parents, their lack of good parenting skills, insufficient access to kindergartens, leaving their children with other people because of work in distant areas. We worry that insufficient knowledge on prevention of injury and disease, weak health education, and a low sense of responsibility of parents leads to injury and disease in children.

"A two-year old boy fell from the 10th floor and died in the capital on the 16th of June 2015." – Press news, 2015<sup>8</sup>

"At the National Burn Care Centre, 32 deaths were registered as for October 2013 of which 28 were children of the age of 0-5 years." – From a documentary, 2013



### 20. The quality and access of medical care is inadequately available

The quality and access of health care is very poor in remote areas, therefore the rights of children of remote areas to timely medical aid is not fulfilled because going to a central area for treatment is too costly. Because there is lack of comprehensive and quality care in the soum centre as well, the health costs of children of remote rural areas is always higher than those of urban children. Thus disparity in health service continues to exist.

"With a toothache, I came to the soum doctor on a motorcycle with my father. The doctor examined me and said that I should go to the aimag hospital. At the aimag hospital we were told that the treatment would take a few days. Because my parents' friend's family that live in the aimag centre were absent, we had to stay in a hotel. Then I realised that it is very difficult if we don't care for our teeth because the costs are very high. If the soum hospital had sufficient capacity and quality service, we would not encounter such high costs." – O., 15 year old boy

### 21. The living environment still imposes risks to children's health

Climate change and environmentally detrimental human activities lead to increased desertification in our country. Many households and schools in the country with scarce resources of clean potable water use outdoor latrines which contribute to soil contamination. Also, there is still no alternative to raw coal as a method of heating and many households burn waste to heat their homes due to a lack of income which increases air pollution. Thus, practically every child gets sick in winter.

"In 21st century Mongolia, most of the children live in homes with pit latrines. Soil contamination affects our potable water." G., 14 year old boy

Constant respiratory illness is viewed as a normal in the country, and this should not be.

"A child, 17 years old, spent 6 months with viral inflammation of his upper respiratory track. He attributed it to a common cold, kept going to school and played football. His condition deteriorated daily until he could not even ascend a stairway without being totally exhausted. One day he suddenly fainted and was brought to the hospital. The ECG indicated disruptions of his heart beat that threatened his life. The cardiac muscles contractibility had severely reduced down to 20%. A cardiac MRI and biopsy confirmed dystrophy of the cardiac muscles caused by viral infections. Now the patient is waiting for a heart transplant. Some viral infections of the respiratory track damage the cardiac muscles and cause cardiac deficiency." – From doctor's notes.

### 22. Children with disabilities

The number of children with disabilities is increasing annually. The reasons of why children are born with disabilities and why children who were born healthy and are becoming disabled has not been researched satisfactorily. The number of children with disabilities was 11,400 in 2014 which constitutes 11.4 % of the total number of disabled persons. Among the children with disabilities, 67.1 % have natal disabilities while 32.9 % have acquired disabilities. If the parents and caretakers were more attentive, caring and responsible, there would not be as many acquired disabilities. Children with disabilities are unable to receive comprehensive rehabilitative treatment. The lack of settings, infrastructure and transport vehicles meeting the special needs of people with disabilities hinders fulfilment of their rights. It is necessary to increase the number of rehabilitation centres, train doctors and teachers in rehabilitation treatment and assign them to work in rural areas.

"I often visited a public hospital to check my glasses prescription. However, because I was young, I didn't know that my prescription was not accurate. Wearing those glasses, I fainted during gym class. When I regained consciousness, my eyes couldn't see well and I could only shapes and certain amounts of light. The doctor who failed to provide me with the correct prescription still works at the public hospital and I am now 90% blind." – B., 16 year old boy

### 23 Health insurance and disparity

The Law on Health Insurance outlines that the state covers the health insurance of children under the age of 16 and, in case of school students, up to the age of 18. This provision discriminates children between the ages of 16-18 who do not go to school. Although the health insurance of children up to the age of 16 is covered by the state, quality services are not available using this insurance, it takes too much time, thus in order to receive timely quality service, they have to go to expensive, non-state hospitals.

### 24. Reproductive health

Because many children will be parents in the future, they should be able to grow up without preventable chronic diseases in their childhood. Children should have access to adequate healthcare when they get sick and the knowledge on reproductive health should be provided with quality training

on the subject of Health. This subject should be taught in connection with Human rights. Also children should learn from this subject what sexual abuse is and how to defend against it.

Sexual abuse and living without parental supervision contribute to adolescent pregnancy in girls. Nowadays many children become university students at the ages of 15-16 and live in dormitories or with other families among adults, these only exacerbate the problem.

### 25. Alcohol and drug consumption

The cases of children being addicted to alcohol and narcotic substances including inhalation of gases are on the rise. Children start using these substances to relieve their stress, or do so due to peer pressure. The number of crimes involving children is also increasing. Crimes involving children increased by 2.9% in 2014 compared with the previous year and the number of children falling victim to crime increased by 1,576 or 5.7%.

*"There was a case that one man came from the city to our aimag, gathered local children and made them inhale natural gas. One child fainted as soon as he inhaled it and was taken to the hospital, they say his lungs had been severely injured" – Discussion of children in an aimag centre.*

*"The law prohibits selling alcohol and tobacco to children. However, we found that the boys, our classmates, drank alcohol. We asked how they were able to purchase alcohol and they said they paid some money to a taxi driver and he bought alcohol for them"- Discussion of children in an aimag centre.*

### 26. Family health centre and school physicians

Because the number of migrants is increasing, the number of patients per family doctor is also on the rise. The public has insufficient knowledge about prevention of diseases. The school doctors possess very insufficient knowledge on the rights of children, are unable to provide the urgently needed care to the school children and rarely give the children information on prevention of illnesses. Children find it extremely difficult to visit a doctor by themselves if they suddenly get sick far from home.

*"It is very difficult to be served at the family health centre. I have to walk over 500 meters to visit the family doctor. That path is very slippery in winter, smells bad in spring, is very dusty in summer, and also there are a lot of stray dogs that often attack me. Therefore, I'm afraid to go to the family health centre." – A., 17 years old boy*

### 27. Quality nutrition

The quality of the meals in kindergartens and lunch of the schools should be improved; they should contain more nutritious food rather than cheap carbohydrates. Now, only lunch is provided for primary school students, but all children should have access to quality lunches at school.

### SOLUTIONS:

1. Strictly prohibit bribery at hospitals and ensure bribed staff members are never able to work in that hospital again;
2. Continuously disseminate knowledge on prevention of injuries and contagious diseases;
3. Parents, guardians, care givers and everyone who works with children should be responsible for their health and safety;
4. Develop quality health care facilities in the soums;
5. Introduce and disseminate the technology necessary for early diagnosis of disabilities;
6. Conduct a nationwide research study to identify the causes of disabilities;
7. Provide indoor restrooms at schools on the outskirts of the capital and of rural areas, provide shower rooms with hot water in dormitories;
8. Decrease the price of electricity and introduce alternatives to raw coal as a method of heating in winter;
9. Conduct research on the reduction of air pollution, make health of the people priority, take sufficient actions in these areas, provide strict monitoring and auditing of the budget allocated for this purpose;
10. Develop settings, infrastructure and transportation to meet the special needs of children with

disabilities;

11. Increase the number of rehabilitation centres and prepare doctors and teachers to work in rehabilitation in rural areas;
12. Create a rights-sensitive institution that accepts and solves complaints of individuals in connection with health care services;
13. State should cover the health insurance of all children up to the age of 18 regardless of school attendance;
14. Improve the quality of the subject of Health Education, employ specialized teachers for this and include teaching on issues of human rights;
15. Reach a common understanding of who a "child" is in society. Communicate the harms of alcohol, tobacco and narcotic drugs clearly, bring persons who make children consume alcohol, tobacco and narcotic drugs and the persons responsible for providing them with these items responsible under the law;
16. Increase the number of the doctors in family health centres in correspondence to the number of the population, including migrants;
17. Improve the nutrition of the meals for children at school;
18. Provide by law the ability of all children to have adequate eating breaks during the school day.

## CHAPTER 4. EDUCATION, LEISURE, AND CULTURAL EVENTS

### 28. Discrimination still exists in education

Education is the most powerful tool in the world to eradicate inequity and disparity. However, we are dissatisfied due to the inadequacy of the implementation of some procedures in education settings. Also, ignoring those principles creates disparity leading to violation of the rights to quality education of children from low income households, households with many children, disabled children, and children from remote rural areas.

Although it is stated that every child should receive basic education free of charge, children have to pay in order to access quality education. .



*Our hearts are breaking at the silent spreading of discrimination of children based on their economic status by teachers in schools and kindergartens.*

### 29. A long-term education policy is missing

Children are in a losing position for lack of any long-term government policy on education and a lack of consistency and continuity of the government policies. Children are expected to study at school for 12 years and there are 3 political electory terms within this period. The policies change according to the outcomes of elections and this negatively affects children's right to education.



*"Textbooks change almost every year and the uniforms made of low quality materials that cannot withstand washing are priced high. These cause financial hardship to many households. If we fail to purchase those costly uniforms, our children are not admitted to the classroom. They expelled my child from the classroom after two days as we could not afford the new uniform." – Ts., mother of 4 children, 45 years old.*

### 30. Not all children access preschool education

The right to quality education free from discrimination is breached from early ages before school. Many children find themselves left behind without school preparedness because of poor access to kindergartens. In 2014, 30% of eligible children could not enrol in a kindergarten.

*"My younger sibling goes to kindergarten. In order to enrol her, my parents had to pay money and beg the teacher. That was because it was already full of children who had already registered and was in a different district. Because the kindergarten that covered our own area was already overcrowded, we looked for and found this kindergarten. Also my parents had to queue outside the kindergarten all through the night in order to register my sister." - B, 14 year old boy*

### 31. Children's rights are violated in basic education

Schools conduct their training with different curricula and at different quality levels, however only one standard is used in the examinations. The implementation of the right to basic education is in disparity concerning the quality of education. There should be a single quality standard for public and private schools.

There is no control of how effectively teachers use the hours of the lessons to provide the educate students properly. Children tell that the some teachers waste time just making the children write copy from textbooks, talking on their phones or tell children about their personal lives.

The elective subjects finish late in the evening because of the insufficient number of classrooms. We worry that children walk after school to their homes late in dark streets, in dangerous conditions and it is frequent that they fall and injure themselves.



Knowing in the beginning of the academic year which topics are to be taught at which hours in the current year, children will be able to monitor the quality and the effectiveness of the utilisation of time. Children have no opportunity to assess the skills of the teacher and to express their concerns.

Though the school is the setting where, besides the right of the children to education, the other rights such as health, safety, protection and participation should be fulfilled. Problems of teacher and student relations and poor quality performance of teachers are becoming widespread. Many teachers exhibit deliberate hindrance against children to freely express their

views and concerns. They insult, emotionally abuse, neglect and elicit bribes through selling textbooks as well as better grades. Children do not know how to report these problems and how to achieve protection of their rights.

Also we are concerned that children often are injured and infected because of insufficient hygiene in the school settings, pollution of their environment and a lack of safety. Emotional pressure and physical abuse from teachers and peers at school alienate children in their school. Children of vulnerable groups are excluded from school due to financial issues. It is important that a child is attending school; it is not important what they are wearing.



*"Children bully each other at school, also, children are scared of getting scolded by the teacher when they come without doing their homework due to the lack of the textbook or if they are unable to give the teacher the money for cleaning the classroom because of the financial hardships in the family. Once I came to school without doing my homework in Maths because I didn't have the textbook. There are only eight textbooks for Maths in our classroom. Because I couldn't complete my homework, the teacher threatened to exclude me from the next math class. This was very hard on me, now I'm scared every time I see the teacher. Respecting the teacher is one thing, but fear is different. We are very afraid of some of the teachers" - B., 14 year old boy*

Children are discriminated against in school settings on the basis of where they migrated from and what they wear. This stress lays heavy on many children.



*"When I first came to Ulaanbaatar in 2012 and enrolled in the 7th grade, the boys in my class would stop me after the school, demand money and threaten to beat me if I wouldn't bring money the next day. I told the teacher that they were threatening me. The boys then hit me saying 'why do you tell the teacher'. So I went to another school." - L., 14 year old boy.*

If we are to develop children, it is necessary to develop child development programmes with consideration of the age of the children what their specific needs are. The libraries need to be accessible to children and need to be continuously enriched with new books. Children should be able to access their school gymnasium free of charge.

### 32. The road to the school is dangerous for children

Many children go to their schools on icy roads lined with aggressive stray dogs that lack sufficient lighting. Some of these roads are also near dangerous construction sites. Although school is far for many children, school buses are not sufficiently available, and yet in places where there are buses for children, adults ride on them leaving no room for the children.



*"When I was on the 3rd grade, I was bitten by a dog while walking to school in the morning. Because my mother did not receive her wage that day, I didn't have money for the bus fare." - O., 11 year old boy*

*"A construction crane machine fell in the capital city in September 2012 and killed a little girl on her way to school. Shortly after this tragedy, another accident took place at another construction site. A steel pole fell on the head of an eighteen year old university student and he died immediately." - Press news*



*"When school student B. was walking to school in September 2014, the ground under his feet collapsed because of damage to the hot water transmission line which had softened the ground. A total of 90% of his body was burned. Such burns could not be treated in Mongolia, thus he had to go abroad for treatment. Nobody was held responsible for this incident." - Community discussion in Dornod aimag*

Traffic accidents around schools are common because of the lack of signage for pedestrian crossings on the roads near schools.

### 33. Educational rights of children with disabilities are being violated

If children with disabilities wish to study in mainstream kindergartens or schools along with other children, there are very few teachers who are skilled to work with their specific needs. However, we think establishing special schools and segregating these children is a form of discrimination too. Even when they allow children with disabilities to study in mainstream schools, they do not write their names in the school registration and do not grade their achievements and we see it as a refusal to work with children with disabilities and refusal to provide them quality education.

*"Only the textbooks for our Mongolian Language class was printed in Braille. We can only listen to the other subjects. Why shouldn't children with visual impairments learn the sciences?" - E., 18 year old boy*



“The school environment doesn’t fit the needs of children with physical disabilities. There are a lot of difficulties starting with the design of the doors, exits, toilet, etc. Therefore, parents find it impossible to send their children to school.” – Mother of a 12 year old boy with a physical disability

“There is a teacher in the special school who scolds a child born with a hearing disability for not hearing and not understanding the subject taught. Imagine how this would affect the confidence of a child who hardly even communicates with his parents? “– S., mother of a child with a hearing impairment Society does not accept children with disabilities as citizens who can develop and have useful skills. It is necessary to organise training meetings to identify their special needs and to prepare them for independent living in the future.

### 34. The dormitory environment is not child-friendly

Children have no opportunity to communicate with their parents in case their rights are violated in the dormitory. There are frequent cases wherehouse parents of the dormitories are irresponsible and leave their work place on weekends forcing older children to care for younger children. Still there is lack of full implementation of the rights of the children in dormitories, as well as very little listening to their voices and ensuring their participation.

### 35. Children’s right in the higher educational setting is not being considered

Now children become students of universities, institutes and colleges before the age of 18. Teachers and parents automatically think of such children as adults already. They need knowledge on protection of the rights of children.

“There are frequent cases of not taking into account the still low capacity of these children to withstand strenuous activities. Students are made to run in cold weather, climb mountains, are kept at the university to late hours, are made to wait a lot. It is necessary to consider that underage children are with adults in the higher education settings. They are still children although they are university students.”- N., university student, 17 year old girl

“I became a university student at my age of 16. My parents say to me ‘Because you’re now in university, you’ve got to be independent. Thus I began working in the evening to earn the money for my immediate needs. I met my boyfriend at work. Then I chose a path completely different from my dream. Now I’m pregnant, I don’t know whether my boyfriend will live with me.” – A., 17 year old girl

“Almost every year one girl gets pregnant in our dormitory. Many of the underage boys drink alcohol. Parental care and supervision are needed for all children under the age of 18”- A., 17 year old boy

### 36. Leisure and cultural events for children are insufficient

There are few places for children’s leisure and development in Mongolia. Although there are playgrounds for young children, safety is still an issue there. Adolescents spend most of their free time in PC game centres. There are a lot of adverse effects of it because they become addicted to PC games; they steal money in order to play, fail to come home, continuously playing the game day and night. There is no limitation of the play time and there is no information on how to play PC games in a controlled way.

There is no control of what kind of information children are receiving online. In many cases children frequently get insulted and humiliated on social media.

“We need places for our leisure time. Because the equipment on the playground outside our school is not intact, 3 children have injured their heads.” – A., 11 year old girl

Many children wish to enhance their gifts and talents in the arts however the parents are reluctant to support these endeavours. Cultural events require funding, the participation rights of children are breached because their participation in contests and competitions are restricted by household finances.

It is getting widespread to force children to perform for events. Often, children are made to participate symbolically in various activities. During the preparations for such events, parents face unexpected costs such as for transportation and costumes. Children are made to waste a lot of their time in rehearsals, and some are forced to rehearse for many hours, sometimes without food.

“When cultural events are organised at school, we encounter lots of problems such as money for props, identical costumes, etc. Teachers demand money without understanding the employment situation of the parents, whether they have been given their wages or not. Also, some teachers force us to buy tickets for the shows regardless of our wishes.” – From a discussion of aimag centre children

There are few programmes for children on the TV, also there are no programmes tailored for each age group or for children from ethnic minorities in their native languages. There are few educational shows to help children of minorities to inherit their languages, traditions and customs.

### SOLUTIONS:

1. Provide free quality basic education to all children regardless of their economic status;
2. Develop a system of responsibility to eradicate discrimination of children on the basis of their parents’ income, prestige and economic status;
3. Maintain a long-term education policy;
4. If uniforms must be worn, provide them free of charge. It is important that children attend school, it is not important what they wear;
5. Communicate the legal provision on the responsibilities of teachers to students and parents;
6. Knowing in the beginning of the academic year which topics are to be taught and at which hours so children will be able to allocate their time effectively;
7. Introduce teacher assessment mechanisms to monitor quality of teachers;
8. Legally prohibit unethical practices like selling academic grades and forcefully selling school books and material to children
9. Develop child development programmes based on children’s age, psychological capacity and with their consultation;
10. Let children use the school physical training rooms and the performance arts halls free of charge;
11. Increase the number of school buses for children;
12. Create pedestrian crossings near schools and equip them with appropriate signage;
13. Print all school textbooks in Braille for children with visual impairments and extend the hours required by children with visual disabilities to take examinations;
14. Equip dormitories with stationary telephones and post the emergency telephone numbers;
15. Build awareness of the teachers of universities, institutes and colleges on the rights of children;
16. Establish child development complexes in all 9 districts of the capital and in 21 aimags rather than allocate one single room as a “child development room;”
17. And support children of ethnic minorities in the learning and inheriting their native languages, customs and traditions.

## CHAPTER 5. CHILD AND WORK

### 37. Children are doing jobs that are too difficult for their age

Children are obligated to work at jobs that are difficult for them because they have to support their sick parents or provide food for their household. Instead of learning at school like regular children, they have to ride racing horses, push carts, carry goods, wash cars, play in performances, work as conductors in the buses and beg on the street.



“U, a 12 year-old girl lives with her grandmother and older siblings. Because her brother is sick with cancer, she and her sister work at the garbage dump to earn money for his surgery.”

“E, a 12 year-old boy, lives at the garbage dump with his mother and brothers. He thinks he was born at the garbage dumping Ulaanchuluut. He has never been in school. He has seen no other places.”

### 38. Children engaged in horse racing

Incidents of open and hidden exploitation of child labour are increasing and the actions to eradicate the worst forms of child labour have been ineffective. The work of child-riders of racing horses is a form of the hazardous child labour that is still practised openly. Still there are no legal provisions that separately provide for the occupational safety of child-riders of race horses and compensation to be paid by the responsible party in case of damages to the health and lives of these children. In many cases, in addition to riding the horses in races, these children also work continuously without time limit caring for the horses of the employers that call themselves "horse trainers." These children work to train and prepare their horses for the races without wages. We demand that this practice be abolished.

"G. is 14 years old. His family has four members. He is in the 8th grade at the soum school. He rides the horse of his father's friend. A grand rehearsal of horse trainers took place in his soum on 29 January, 2014 in which 34 horses raced. The local administration was not notified of this rehearsal by the Association of Horse Trainers. G. raced a horse in this rehearsal and he was hit and injured by a jeep that was following the race. He received timely medical aid and his health improved due to adequate treatment. He went to Ulaanbaatar on the 7th of February, 2014 with his parents for treatment. An eye specialist said he needed surgery on his eye. The injury was classified as severe, thus a criminal proceeding was initiated against the driver who hit the boy. At the moment, the boy stays at home under the care of his parents." - Aimag public discussion.



### 39. Exploiting children gifted in sports and performing arts are becoming widespread

It is becoming widespread to exploit children gifted in sports and arts, and also there are still cases of people earning income from the labour of children with disabilities. We demand halting exposure of children to sexual exploitation.

"There was a grand festival of the Western Region and the children gifted in the arts from our school were made to rehearse almost for half a month. The organisers of the festival demanded every child to wear the same costume, and they charged the price of the costume to their parents. No food and drink was provided to the children during the rehearsal days. After the festival, they collected all the costumes saying they would need them for the next event" - M., Father of a 14 year old girl.

### 40. Unequal treatment of the same work of adults and children

As for legal forms of work, we demand to ensure employers practice fair and equal treatment of both adults and children regarding wages and insurance. The parents, older brothers and sisters, and adult friends of children continue to exploit children as cheap or even free labour.

"Because of family difficulties, M., a 16 year-old boy, went to the city for employment. He worked as an assistant worker at a construction site for less than a month. He did the same tasks as adult workers, but his wage was lower. However, later on he was not even paid at all. He had to eat dog meat and sleep in entrances of apartment blocks as he had no money." - Discussion of aimag children.

### SOLUTIONS

1. To eradicate all worst forms of child labour;
2. To provide mobile education and regular health services to children in labour;
3. To prohibit horse race gambling and winter races by law;
4. To prohibit exploitation of children gifted in sports and performing arts, earning income from the labour of children with disabilities by law;
5. And to practice fair and equal treatment of both adults and children regarding wages and insurance.



## SITUATION ANALYSIS OF CHILD RIGHTS

### IN FAMILY ENVIRONMENT

This study involved 1,198 urban and rural children who answered 25 questions.

#### 1. Is your family a peaceful and fully protected environment?

This question was designed to reveal whether there is a failure of parents to provide attentive care to their children and what the family atmosphere is like if there are unemployment, poverty, or alcoholism. We worry that 6.7% of the children answered that their family is not a protected environment.

#### 2. Are there any cases that you have missed classes for family circumstances and for household chores?

The findings demonstrated that 4 in 10 children lag behind in their studies due to household chores. The household chores mostly include looking after their younger siblings, carrying water, chopping firewood and cleaning home. In some cases, father comes home drunk, behaves violently, instigates quarrels and fights not letting the family sleep at night and this situation hinders the children from doing their homework, attending the school and causes them to fail in the academic achievements.

#### 3. Do your family members constantly care for and encourage your learning and development?

The findings demonstrated that although the parents care for their children and provide necessary support, their care for the children from the point of view of children's rights and ensuring fulfilment of their rights is insufficient. The attendance of fathers in the regular meetings of parents is low; they mostly focus on their jobs and pay less attention to the upbringing of their children.

#### 4. Have you ever had an injury? (Burn, falling from a height, freezing and other)

In Mongolia, children often receive injury in traffic accidents, thermal burns or electric shocks when they stay home unsupervised, or freeze on the way from dormitory to home vice versa in winter. We worry a lot that young children often get burn from hot cooking pots and are delivered at the hospital.

#### 5. Have there been cases that you were embarrassed about your family and hid your family from your friends?

One in four children is embarrassed about their family and hides it from their friends. This means standard of livelihood is not at the desirable level of those children wishes. Also children worry about being discriminated by their peers.

#### 6. Are you able to tell your family about a problem you are facing from the beginning and do you receive their support?

29% of the children are unable to tell their problems to their families.

#### 7. Do you know how to prevent from fire when you are at home?

Often children suffer fire at home because the parents lock them at home alone. 22% of the respondents did not know how to prevent themselves from fire, and there is no information about it. Therefore, it is necessary to organise awareness raising activities among children on prevention of these types of injuries.

#### 8. Have you been sexually abused?

The findings demonstrates high incidence of abuse and violence in Mongolia. The state should take action on the issue as the abuse and violence crimes are often committed by the relatives and close people of the children. This type of crime does not decrease because the penalty to the offenders is vague. 20% of the respondents said that, to some extent, they have encountered this type of violence. Still there are insufficient training and communication on how to prevent sexual abuse, how to defend the victims, and where and whom they should file complaint.

**9. Have you been beaten at home?**

Parents in Mongolia continue to corporally punish their children and to believe that hitting their children is a method of bringing up their children. Unfortunately young parents do not worry about hitting their children because they were themselves beaten by their parents in their childhood. Moreover parents are often stressed from their work and show frustrations to their children. Thus children become targets of beatings by their parents and elder siblings who are the most beloved people of the children.

**10. Have there been cases that the adults in your family treat you unfairly?**

Children said that because they are children, they were treated unfairly not only by their family but also in other environment. Children were told members to be quiet, not to interfere in the talks of adults, and they are scolded "you don't know anything". 27% of all children have been sufferers of unfair treatment and they continue to suffer emotional and physical violence.

**11. Do you eat enough every day?**

Nutrition is the basic need of children. Malnutrition entails many negative effects such as failure of understanding of the school subjects. One in every five children is unable to receive sufficient nutrition at home.

**12. Do you know where to complain and seek assistance if you suffer from family violence?**

Today the fulfilment of the duty of the state to communicate and promote the Convention on the Rights of the Child and introduce children to their rights is still insufficient. For this reason, children are unaware of their rights being violated. Also they still do not know where they should seek assistance in case their rights are violated. Because family violence is committed in pressuring environment where children cannot communicate and report it., it aggravates even more severely. 28% of the respondents do not know where they should seek assistance in case they encounter violence in their family.

**13. Do your family members involve you in preventive health checks quarterly? -**

Prevention of morbidity is also insufficient in Mongolia. The number of parents bringing their children to health checkups every quarter of the year is very low. One in every two children is not involved in the quarterly health checks.

**14. Do your family members pick you up when you come home late?**

It should be highlighted that the children's rights to safety and protection are deprived because of poor care and attention of the parents.

Because some schools in Ulaanbaatar have classes in 4 shifts, children often go home late. Children have to walk in poorly lighted streets; therefore, sometimes they victim of the violence in dark corners. 31% of the children walk alone at night. The adults in the family do not pick them up.

**15. Do your family members care and ask where you are?**

The family members of 2 in every 10 children do not ask where their children are.

**16. Does your family spend for you the social welfare benefit the government gives you? Or do they save it for your future?**

It is good that the government transfers cash to children; however, how the benefit is spent is questionable. One in every 7 children cannot spend that money for oneself, and cannot take part in making the decision about its spending.

**17. Do your parents provide you seasonally appropriate clothing?**

The climate of Mongolia is severe and it has 4 sharply different seasons. This situation requires purchasing clothes for every season and this burdens the family budget. 17% of the responding children are not provided with appropriate clothing to the season.

**18. Has there been any quarrel in your family because of alcohol?**

High rate of alcoholism brings a lot of problems in families. Alcohol is sold in any shop in Mongolia and it common that alcohol is sold to children. Also almost every shop in the ground floor of the apartment block is selling alcoholic beverages. Because of these causes, alcoholism does not decrease. We worry that alcohol consumption is increasing among the underage children in the recent years. Also quarrels and conflicts caused by alcoholism within families are increasing.

**19. Are there cases that your family members take and use items of your personal use?**

The rights of children related with their privacy and confidentiality are often breached in Mongolia. The survey findings demonstrate that 22% of the children lost their belongings as they are taken without their permission from them. Numerous problems occur to children due to the loosing of the confidentiality in their personal information. This kind of violation happens not only at home but also at school and in other environments. This is one of the causes of suicide among children.

**20. Do your parents spend time to participate in parents meeting of your school?**

Because parents have much work, their attention to the education of their children, including attendance of the meetings of parents, is weak. Therefore, there is poor mutual understanding between parents and school. Parents often do not know about their children's performance at school and how their further development needs to be supported. 22% of the children answered that their parents do not attend the meetings of parents.

**21. Do your parents respect and support your dreams and your choice of your future profession?**

When children come to the high school, suddenly they have to choose their career. Because at this moment the influence of parents prevails over the wishes and interests of the children, this negatively affects their future. It is difficult to learn the profession that a child did not want and many students leave the university before graduation. Only 16% of the children are sure that their parents respect their career wish and interests.

**22. Do your family members always take part in the events that are important for you and do they encourage you?**

41% of the children answered "Yes". Children need to be supported and encouraged to pursue their dreams and interests, and they should be sent regularly to arts and sports clubs. Although the parents do wish to support them, they are unable to send their children to those clubs because of high fees.

**23. Did your family restrict your playing and spending time with your friends, thus, making you feels lonely?**

The survey findings demonstrate that 18% of the children are deprived of their rights to play and leisure by their parents. Also the number of playgrounds are reducing day by day.

**24. Do your family consult with you on changing your school, moving your house and other issues?**

45.6% of children responded that their parents consult with them about such issues. There is high rate of rural-to-urban migration in Mongolia. Also often families move from the city to rural areas to work at the mines. They do not ask their children about changing their schools but children spend much time to adapt to the new classmates and those reasons lag back in the studies.

**25. Do you know about the procedure of receiving and solving of complaints and request from children?**

58% of children answered "I don't know". The implementation of one of the very important rights of children, the right to raise their requests and complaints, is insufficient. No information is given on this right's fulfilment. Even there is no legal framework for raising complaints by children and National Committee for Human Rights and the National Authority for Children have worked on this issue; there has been no significant outcome up to date. Although NGOs have made some initiatives on receiving complaints from children, there is no government support for involvement of masses of children.

## IN SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

We conducted a survey of 25 questions to understand exercise of children's rights at school. The study involved 1,416 children.

### 1. Is your school a safe and fully protected environment for the students?

One out of five children were answered that school is not safe and protected environment. We concern that school is not safe and protective environment for children.

### 2. Do students receive sufficient information for their learning and progress?

2 in every 10 children lack to receive sufficient information for their learning and progress. School fails to provide equal information on learning and school activities to its every student.

### 3. Are students discriminated at school and in other environments for their clothing or for other reasons?

From findings one in three children suffer discrimination in the school environment

### 4. Do all students of your school enjoy equal conditions in taking part in the regular educational activities and using the classrooms and learning materials?

Participation in educational activities and using the classrooms and learning materials is not sufficient at some schools. 47.0% of children answered "Yes". The educational activities should support and develop students in all aspects, but fulfilment is insufficiently.

### 5. Does the collective of your school protest any action of humiliation of someone's dignity or cases of discrimination at school?

62.3% of the respondents stated that there is no control and protest against humiliations and discriminations in the school environment. It indicates that there are cases of insulting the dignity of children in the school environment.

### 6. Do children who have experienced stress with their dignity damaged, help other children?

While 34.7% of the respondents of our survey answered "Yes", and 17.0% answered "Very rarely". It indicates that more than half of the children do not support their friends to overcome hard times.

### 7. Is the school environment supportive for your development?

While 6.9% answered "No", 20.5% answered "Almost not" or "Very rarely".

### 8. Do your school try to solve conflict amicably without any violence?

10.6% answered "No", 14.5% and answered "Almost no". It indicates that one in every 4 children solves conflicts by violent way. Solving issue by violence demonstrates that the ability of the children to understand one another is weak.

### 9. In case of incidents of discrimination or violence, are the school procedures able to solve them in an appropriate manner?

While 11.0% answered "Rarely", and 3.3% answered "No". It indicates that one in 6 children thinks that the school is unable to solve problems by its rules and procedures.

### 10. In case of issues to be solved by the rules and procedures, are schools solved fairly manner?

While 16.5% answered "Very rarely" and 4.0% answered "No". It shows that one in every 5 children thinks that the school is unable to solve issues in a fair way.

### 11. At your school, is there any case of humiliation of students?

59.8% of children were humiliated at school. Students are violating the rights of one another by nicknaming or discriminating each other. Also discrimination and emotional pressure comes from teachers, not only from peers, as the children said.

### 12. In case anyone is suspected at fault, is this person regarded as innocent before the fault is evidenced?

While 6.7% answered "Rarely", and 5.4% answered "No". Thus one in 8 children is not considered innocent before guilty is proven.

### 13. Do you feel that your personal space and belongings respected at school?

While 7.6% answered "Very rarely", and 1.6% answered "No". Therefore, the personal space and belongings of one in every 10 children are not recognised by others at school.

### 14. Is your school happy to receive students, teachers or other staff members from different culture and ethnicity?

While 6.7% answered "Very rarely", and 2.8% of the respondents answered "No". It demonstrates that one in 10 children answered that they are not cheerful to receive them.

### 15. Do you exercise freedom of expressing your views and beliefs (political, religious, and cultural) without a fear of being discriminated?

While 11.8% "Very rarely" and 9.3% answered "No". Thus one in 5 children answered not that they do not exercise freedom of expression.

### 16. Are differences in views, beliefs and gender reflected in the curricula, books, textbooks and educational processes?

While 201 children or 14.0% of the respondents answered "Very rarely", and 135 children or 6.0% answered "No".

### 17. Are there opportunities to express your own cultural traditions through music, arts and in a written form?

9.0% answered "Rarely", and 20.0% answered "No".

### 18. Do the students and staff members of your school have opportunities to participate in decision making process of school policies and procedures by individually or together?

4.4% answered "Very rarely" and 10.4% answered "No". It is demonstrated that there are very scarce opportunities for children to participate.

### 19. Do the students have the right to establish an organisation or union to defend their own or others' rights at school?

6.8% answered "Very rarely" and 3.9% answered "This never happens". This leads to a conclusion that the work of the school students' council is very poor.

### 20. Does your school collective help and support each other in learning and understanding global issues such as establishing justice, peace, protecting the environment, fighting poverty?

40.0% of students answered that there is no significant initiatives or support in this area.

### 21. Do you support and help each other in participation in and organisation of the above mentioned activities?

22.1% answered "Very rarely" and 9.0% answered "No".

### 22. Do the students and staff of the school have opportunities of studying, working, refreshing and taking breaks in appropriate environment and time?

6.1% answered "Very rarely" and 3.6% answered "No". The duration of the break is very short and the students almost have no time to eat and be toileted.

**23. Do staff members of your school sell something to children at school?**

44.0% answered "Yes". The survey findings indicated this situation as unsatisfactory. Teachers write books along their jobs and then force the children to buy. Often teachers forcefully sell the students tickets of performances and material goods.

**24. Does everybody at the school carry responsibility to ensure safety and wellness for others and behave respectfully towards others without discrimination?**

18.9% answered "Very rarely" and 8.0% answered "No". Thus every fourth child stated "No".

**25. Do you know of any procedure of receiving and solving requests or complaints of children?**

58.0% answered "I don't know". It was demonstrated that there was no awareness in this area.

**IN DORMITORIES**

This survey involved 238 children residing in dormitories. The survey revealed that many rights of these children who live far from their parents are violated.

**1. Does your dormitory strictly restrict entrance of outsiders and is it lighted and protected well?**

14.0% of the children answered "No".

**2. Do you know of your right to protection?**

30.0% answered "Don't know". Thus every third child is unaware of her or his right to protection. Therefore, children do not seek and receive protection because of their being uninformed of their right to protection.

**3. Does a children's council work in your dormitory to be the voice of the children?**

29.0% of the children answered "No".

**4. Is the meal of your dormitory enough for you?**

40.0% answered "No". Therefore, one in every three children in dormitories is not satisfied with the meal of the dormitory.

**5. Has there been a case that your dormitory mates bullied and hit you?**

It was alarming that 43.0% answered "Yes".

**6. Do teachers treat children in a discriminating manner?**

17.0% of the respondents answered "Yes". The survey indicates that one in every 4 children encounters discrimination. We worry that teachers, who are supposed to be the sources of the protection of the children's rights, commit discrimination themselves.

**7. Do the teachers of dormitories maintain the privacy and confidentiality of the children?**

Half of the children answered "No".

**8. Do the teachers and staff solve issues by force?**

61.0% of the children answered that the teachers and staff members use force. This indicated the necessity of moral control because teachers reveal their shortcomings in their moral behaviour at their jobs.

**9. Do teachers mock and nickname children?**

43.0% of the participants answered that the teachers mock and moniker their children. This demonstrates the low level of ethics of the teachers and their poor skills of working with children.

**10. Do you know what you should do in case of fire in a premise?**

59.0% answered that they do not know how to protect themselves and the others. Thus there's scarce information on emergency preparedness.

**11. Have there been cases when you were pressed and forced to do things that you did not want to?**

More than a half of the children answered that they were forced and pressed to do things against their own wish indicating deficiency of care and attention. Severe violations of children's rights still exist in dormitories.

**12. Have there been cases that teachers and other students treated you unfairly?**

It is alarming 39.0% of the children answered that teachers and roommates have treated them in an unfair way.

**13. Have there been cases that you had to go in dirty clothes because of the timetable of washing and water supply?**

68.0% answered that there have been such cases.

**14. Is your room warm?**

52.2% of the participants from dormitories answered that their rooms are cold indicating that the right of the children to grow up in healthy environment is violated.

**15. Do you take shower when you wish?**

29.3% of the children answered that they cannot take shower.

**16. Are you afraid walking to the latrine?**

Dormitories have outdoors pit latrines. 8% answered that they are afraid. There is no lighting. The right to live in a safe environment is breached.

**17. Do you receive all health care services?**

63.0% of the children answered "No", which is really regretful. The right of dormitory children to receive comprehensive health care services is not fulfilled. Also there is no doctor assigned to these children, thus they are not able to receive timely medical care.

**18. Are there cases when adults treat children inappropriately?**

70.2% of the children answered that adults treat children inappropriately. This indicates that teachers and parents lack skills of working with children.

**19. Are there cases that others take and use your belongings without your permission?**

17.0% responded that others take and use their belongings without permission. This affects the privacy, confidentiality and safety of the children.

**20. Do the roommates enjoy their rights to protection? Do risky situations emerge?**

5.0% of the children answered that protection is loose and there are risks in dormitories.

**21. If you tell your wishes to improve the conditions in your dormitory to the teachers, would they accept your suggestion?**

34.0% of the children answered that the suggestions of the children on refurbishment and other activities are not accepted. The right of the children to free expression of their views is denied.

**22. Do you know about the procedure of receiving and solving requests and complaints of children?**

44.0% of the children answered that they do not know how to file their requests and complaints. This demonstrates that the children do not receive the necessary information.

**23. Do the teachers ask your opinions when they make decisions in issues that concern you?**

26.2% of the children answered that their opinion is not asked in making decisions.

**24. Do teachers and staff solve issues using force?**

Of the 194 children, 18.0% answered "Rarely" and 4.6% answered "No".

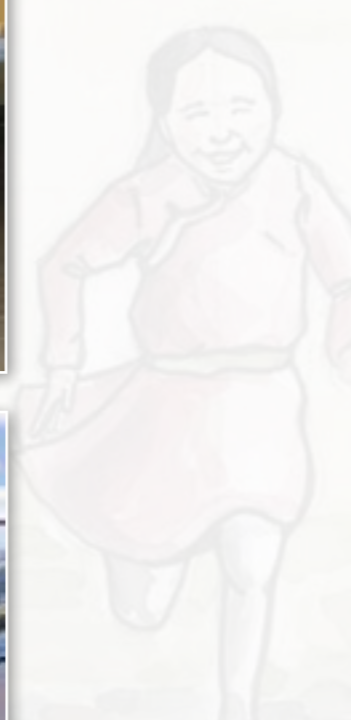
**25. Do your teachers help you attend extracurricular activities (sports courses, arts courses, and other courses)?**

- The question whether the teachers help the children attend extracurricular activities (sports courses, arts courses, and other courses) was answered "No" by 35.2% of the children. This indicates that the relations between teachers and students are insufficient and the teachers perceive their duty as to merely teach their own subjects.

**(ENDNOTES)**

- 1 Mongolian Statistical Yearbook -2014
- 2 <http://munkhbayasgalan.niitlelch.mn/content/6997.shtml>
- 3 <http://munkhbayasgalan.niitlelch.mn/content/6997.shtml>
- 4 National Authority for Children " Child Protection Mapping-2014"
- 5 <http://munkhbayasgalan.niitlelch.mn/content/6997.shtml>
- 6 <http://www.garag.mn/content/read/62107.htm>
- 7 "Children shouldn't be injured, and shouldn't die for preventable causes"- A documentary developed by Save the Children, Namuun Zet Production, 2013
- 8 <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Хавдрын-эсрэг-хотлоороо-нэгдэн-тэмцье>, 24 Jun 2015
- 9 Mongolian Statistical Yearbook -2014
- 10 Mongolian Statistical Yearbook -2014
- 11 <http://news.gogo.mn/r/145622>
- 12 <http://www.info.mn/news/15803.htm>





## "For the Rights of All Children"

### CHILDREN'S SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT TO THE UN COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD - MONGOLIA

The report was prepared with the financial support of Save the Children Japan and World Vision Mongolia. In cooperation with Child for Child NGO, Save the Children Japan provided methodological support to the children.

Children, developed the report and the results of the surveys: O. Oyun-Erdene, Ts. Ninjin, G. Ariunbayar, M. Batchimeg, A. Altanbayar, Ts. Tselmeg, S. Anuujiin, J. Erdenezul, T. Nomin-Erdene, T. Erkhesh, B. Byambadorj, Ch. Jugderjamba, M. Temuulen, B. Esui, A. Nomingere, N. Uurtuya, B. Khulan, B. Amartuvshin, D. Oyunjargal, B. Maral-Erdene, B. Temuulen, B. Myagmardorj, T. Degmaa, B. Ariunbeleg, M. Bayanmunkh, T. Uyanga, D. Ankhbold, B. Solongo, Sh. Delgermurun, B. Temuulen, D. Temuujiin, L. Ulambayar, T. Erdenetsetseg, M. Bolor-Oyun, T. Nomindari, S. Tuyatsetseg, Ts. Javkhlan, E. Budsuren, D. Sosorburam, P. Bat-Orgil, G. Enkhjin, L. Enkh-Amidral, B. Sarantsatsral, D. Batsaikhan, Ch. Ganzorig, O. Sukhbat, T. Munkhbat, Kh. Dashnyam, N. Erdenezaya, T. Bilguun, T. Enkhnarant, G. Odbayar, B. Ankhbayar, N. Lkhagvasuren, E. Daariimaa, A. Vanchin-Erdene, B. Khishigdulam, B. Batgerel, G. Solongo, B. Ariuntuya, N. Otgonbaatar, Kh. Enkhzaya, B. Oyunmunkh, Sh. Tsetsegdelger, B. Nominzul, B. Tungalag, B. Enkhbaylag, D. Purevdulam, N. Khongorzul, G. Khaliunaa, G. Altantsetseg, O. Purevdulam, B. Duurenbileg, B. Gerelsuren, B. Tsogt, S. Altanshagaibaatar, A. Turtogtokh, D. Sunchin, D. Buyankhishig, A. Iderjavkhlan, L. Serchmaa, Ch. Javzandulam, B. Ankhbayar, E. Erdenebyamba, B. Munkhchimeg, Ts. Purevdulam, Sh. Baasansuren, N. Munkhsuld, D. Bilguun, B. Oidov, L. Gunjinlkham, N. Altantsetseg, N. Lkhagvasuren, M. Ganbagana, D. Javzmaa, B. Norjinsuren, B. Dogmidtseren, O. Tuvshinjargal, E. Javkhantugs, B. Enkhzaya, B. Bayarbat, J. Ninjbadgar, G. Anar, B. Munkhtamir, E. Lkhamjav, S. Enkh-Uchral, N. Tsevegsuren, O. Danzansambu

Illustrator: M.Temuulen, 18 years old boy

Designed by: P.Sodbaatar

©Save the Children in Mongolia, and World Vision Mongolia







Save the Children Japan, Mongolia Office  
4th Floor, Arizona Center, Chingeltei District  
Ulaanbaatar City, Mongolia  
Tel: (+976-11)-329365, 329371  
Email: [secretary@savethechildren.mn](mailto:secretary@savethechildren.mn)  
[www.savethechildren.mn](http://www.savethechildren.mn)



World Vision Mongolia  
4th Floor, Somang Plaza, Bayanzurkh District,  
Ulaanbaatar City, Mongolia  
Tel: (+976-11)-70155323  
Email: [mongolia@wvi.org](mailto:mongolia@wvi.org)  
[www.wvi.org/mongolia](http://www.wvi.org/mongolia)