CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
AND DEVELOPMENT

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ХҮНИЙ ЭРХ ХӨГЖИЛ ТӨВ

INTRODUCTION

The Center for Human Rights and Development (CHRD) is a non-governmental organization established in 1998, which operates as not-for-profit, public benefit organization for the purpose of promoting and protecting human rights and social justice in Mongolia.

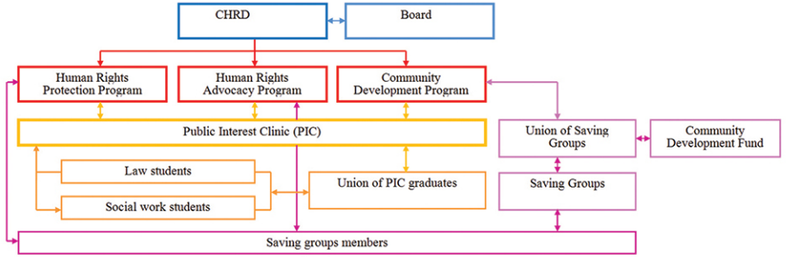
Vision
A developed Mongolia where every individual enjoys the right to participation and development.

Mission
To contribute to the protection of every person's right to participation and to the promotion of equal participation of stakeholders in development.

CHRD Motto
Development Through Human Rights!

CHRD Creed
We believe that fulfilment of human rights creates the requisite conditions for poverty reduction, protection of ecological balance and sustainable development. People's participation in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national and local development policies and programs is the sole way of ensuring that everyone equally benefits from the results of development.

CHRD Structure and Governance:



2015-2018: STRATEGIC GOAL
The strategic goal for this period will be to build the capacity of communities at the sub-national level to participate in local decision-making, monitor and evaluate implementation and demand accountability thereof. We will work to improve the organization and effectiveness of people's participation in monitoring, evaluating and strengthening national and sub-national cooperation systems and mechanisms on human rights, development and environmental protection. Our goal and strategy will be implemented through our three programs on Human Rights Protection, Human Rights Advocacy and Community Development as well as the activities of our Public Interest Clinic.

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY PROGRAM (HRAP)

Implemented since 2004, the Human Rights Advocacy Program has the goal of carrying effective education and awareness building and disseminating the knowledge and practice of strategic litigation in Mongolia to remedy public interest violations through the use of national and international human rights mechanisms.

Advocacy and strategic litigation have been undertaken in relation to human rights and environmental violations stemming from irresponsible mining activities, which resulted in 22 environmental breach cases taken to the courts of law as well as and court rulings banning illegal mining licenses and mandating environmental restoration.

CHRD has undertaken successful advocacy to have amendments providing for citizen participation in decision-making introduced into environmental, mining and other relevant legislation.

HRAP Strategic Goal for 2015-2018:

Further improve the legal framework for environmental and public interest protection and strengthen equal stakeholder participation

Objectives

- Develop capacity of stakeholders to use all available means for human rights protection and imple mentation of the right to development
- Promote equal stakeholder participation on environmental protection and conduct advocacy for accession to the Aarhus Convention
- Conduct advocacy for the betterment of environmental and public interest legislation

HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION PROGRAM (HRPP)

This Program has been substantially revised in 2015, taking into account the need to protect human rights defenders and ensure more effective civil society intervention on the one hand, and, on the other, the lessons learned since 2000 from the work on victim and witness protection under the Anti-Human Trafficking Program and on building and strengthening national human rights mechanisms as well as from the experience in the resortto international human rights mechanisms.

Results in Brief:

Fighting human trafficking: CHRD has been actively involved in the campaign for and work on the betterment of the anti-human trafficking legislation, advocating for accession to the Palermo Protocol and passage of a stand-alone law on human trafficking. In 2009-2011, we provided pro bono legal aid and defence as well as psychological and social services to victims of 45 probable human trafficking cases, and have won 6 cases. We have provided educational programs on human trafficking victim protection to professionals from law enforcement bodies and legal organizations as well as lawyers and conducted expert training.

Strengthening national human rights mechanisms: in 2006-2015 we have prepared and issued a series of 9 reports on "The Law on National Human Rights Commission and Activities of the Commission", and submitted recommendations on aligning the Commission's work to the Paris Principles.

Effectively resorting to international human rights mechanisms: We, independently as well as in collaboration with members of the Mongolian Human Rights NGO Forum, have prepared and submitted 9 reports to the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) under 2 rounds of the Universal Period Review (UPR) and undertook active advocacy to promote the implementation of UNHRC recommendations for the country.

HRPP Strategic Goal for 2018-2018:

Using national and international human rights mechanismspromote decrease human rights violation andset precedent casesin the protection and restoration of breached human rights.

Objectives:

- Contribute to strengthening national human rights mechanisms and processes, and to the effective application and implementation of international human rights instruments
- Facilitate improvement of the protection of human rights defenders and increase in the impact of civil society interventions
- Support civil society networking against the crime of human trafficking and enhance protection of people against labour exploitation
- Carry out public interest strategic litigation

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (CDP)

The Community Development Program was established in 2005 for the purpose of building people's capacity to lift themselves out of poverty and protecting economic, social and cultural rights of low-income people, improving their livelihoods and supporting their development.

Results in Brief:

Over 60 savings groups with total members of more than 800 have been set up and supported in Ulaanbaatar and Darkhan-Uul, Uvurkhangai, Dornod, Khentiy aimags and Naran, Dariganga, Ongon soums of Sukhbaatar aimag. The activities of these savings groups have expanded to form a Union of Savings Groups (USG) which now operates its own Community Development Fund.

These Groups are building animal sheds, wells, gardens, hothouses, model streets,senior citizen centres, playgrounds, sidewalks and improved roofs and bio-toilets. Their brickworks, solid waste processing shops, shoe and dress makers and bakeries are creating jobs for their members.

The Program has helped a total of 13.851 person in 3560 households improve their livelihoods, living environments and has also underwritten 20 million Togrogs of high interest loans owed by 119 saving group members to pawn shops in 2012. Attention has been paid to strengthening the capacity of USG members to fruitfully interact with local governments and enlist their support.

As a result:

a) Uvurkhangai aimag authorities supported the USG work by contributing 31 million Togrogs to USG's Community Development Fund..
b) Local authorities favourably resolved land requests by giving 84.5 hectares of land to 225 USG members.

CDP Strategic Goal for 2015-2018:

Support cooperation among low-income people and their livelihoods by increasing their participation in local development.

Objectives:

- Support participation by low-income people and build their knowledge and skills to claim and implement their economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development.
- Support cooperation and partnership among stakeholders in poverty reduction and local development
- Develop capacity of USG and Community Development Funds at sub-national level to promote their growth and expansion
- Undertake awareness campaigns on land conservation, environmental and human rights protection
- Develop resource mobilization and fundraising capacity

PUBLIC INTEREST CLINIC

In May of 2011, CHRD became the first organization in Mongolia to set up and operate a Public Interest Clinic (PIC) in order to educate and train future lawyers for public interest strategic litigation. As of today, thirty students from five law schools have successfully completed training courses at the PIC. Under the overall supervision and guidance by the CHRD lawyers and professional staff, the PIC students provide legal advice to the poorest clients, help with writing requests, complaints or pleadings and act as legal representatives in civil and administrative lawsuits. They also serve as assistants to lawyers contracted by CHRD for defense in human rights violation cases. Starting from 2015, CHRD plans to extend PIC training to social work school students.

Results in Brief:

The PIC has provided legal advice and aid to 503 persons, formulated 181 pleadings and represented 31 persons in the courts of law, helping a recovery of 181 million Togrogs of compensation. Most of these lawsuits concerned divorces, child alimony payments, child right to a home or administrative fee cancellation or work pay issues.

Objectives for 2015-2018:

Further expand public interest strategic litigation and increase the training program to prepare a new generation of impact litigation lawyers and social workers.

CHRD PARTNERS

CHRD actively collaborates with the like-minded national, regional and international civil society organizations and contributes to their missions as a member or a supporter.

National:

1. KhunsEvsel (Food Coalition) – A coalition of NGOs working for national food sovereignty
2. Human Rights NGO Forum
3. Khugjliin Ajiglagch-(Development Watch) – A coalition of NGOs working for the improvement of development results
4. "Tulsun Avsnaa Niitel" (Publish what you Pay) - Known as TAN Coalition, this group of NGOs demandtransparency in extractive industry
5. Anti-Human Trafficking Crime Network of NGOs
6. Monfemnet National Network
7. Coalition for Education

International:

1. Forum-Asia (Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development)
2. PAN AP (Pesticide Action Network Asia-Pacific)
3. RoA (Reality of Aid network for aid effectiveness)
4. CPDE (CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness)
5. ANNI (Asian NGO Network on Human Rights Institutions)
6. IBON (International, an organization supporting people's movements for human rights and democracy)
7. ADA (Asia Development Alliance)

Publications of CHRD