

**Final report on the implementation of the project:  
Defending Democracy and Civic Space in Mongolia**

The project is aimed at raising awareness of local communities in rural provinces on their concerned issues relevant to defending democracy and civic space through on-line and in-person capacity building trainings and strategy workshops. The project implementation plan includes the following 5 activities: translation of the survey results into Mongolian, dissemination it through on-line platforms, organizing on-line and in-person training workshops, organizing plenary forum on the workshop results and dissemination their results.

**Activity 1: Translation of the survey results and the report “Civic space in Mongolia”**

The report was translated and uploaded to CHRDR’s website, and face book account for public use. The main results of the survey report was presented at the capacity building trainings and strategy workshops organized by the project team in several provinces and soums.

**Activity 2: Dissemination of survey results on civic space in Mongolia through on-line platforms**

After the translation of the survey results and the report “Civic space in Mongolia” in July, 2022 they were disseminated through social media platforms: such as face book accounts of CHRDR, Human Rights NGO Forum, Mongolian CSOs Network on SDG, Human Rights Defenders Network and many Rural Women’s Network etc. Later they were also uploaded in the CHRDR’s website which has become active in March of this year.

[www.chrd.org.mn](http://www.chrd.org.mn)

<https://www.facebook.com/chrdmongolia>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/510220829845673>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/363904464056948/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/250351118770115>

For one-month period since uploading through online disseminations the report reached 3281, reactions 156, shared 124.

**Activity 3: On-line and in-person training-workshops on civic space and strategy development for defending democracy and civic space**

CHRDR organized several on-line training workshops which involved from around 10 provinces and involved in total 364 people. The online training was limited to presentation of the survey results and discussions on the challenging issues communities face in their daily life and opportunities to tackle them. These discussions gave us an idea how to better connect the concept of civic space with their

concerned issues on local development: low income for livelihood, lack of decent jobs, living environment etc.

The in-person training workshops were organized in 4 rural sites:

1. The first in-person training-workshop was organized in Arvaikheer soum of Uvurkhangai province from August 2-3, 2022.
2. The second training-workshop was in Choibalsan city of Dornod province from September 11-12, 2022.
3. Training-workshop in Bayandun soum of Dornod province from September 13-15, 2022
4. Training-workshop in Dariganga soum of Sukhbaatar province from October 17-18, 2022

The strategy workshops were designed to motivate the participants to engage local authorities on development issues during the planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation processes through some targets of the SDG 16+ framework.

The in-person capacity building training and strategy development workshops organized in the 4 sites resulted in definition of 7-10 issues in each of the 4 sites. The participants of the workshops think that through working on those issues the communities can defend and strengthen democracy and civic space in their areas. The issues are listed below in the table.

Suggested solutions			
Arvaikheer soum of Uvurkhangai province	Choibalsan soum of Dornod province	Bayandun soum of Dornod province	Dariganga soum of Sukhbaatar province
Reduce the gaps in the pensions through increasing the low pensions	Learn the laws on land privatization and ownership.	Create household service centers with laundry, hair dressing, tailor, shoe repair etc.	Create a service centre to meet the needs of citizens for personal development: books, training materials, and foreign language, IT program trainings.
Improve the participation in the Local Development Fund decision making process	Provide support Every household to construct a vegetable storage	Create 1-2 job places for garbage point control, introduce innovation for recycling solid wastes.	Create 1-2 contracted job places for garbage point control

Implement anti-alcohol policy programs in every kheseg of the soum.	Establish citizens' control on dissemination of food vouchers to the target groups	Repair streets and walk roads in the soum	Repair streets and walk roads in the soum
Improve medical check of health of old people	Provide basic education for health care	Introduce addresses for the streets and houses	Involve the elderly in local development activities: planning, implementation
Establish inter-generational dialogues on social issues.	Review of 13A form for accessing a referral hospital/physician	Delivery of the information on the Local Development Fund to every citizen, establish Citizen's Control Council	Delivery of the information on the Local Development Fund to every citizen, establish Citizen's Control Council
Increase young people's employment opportunities.	Eradicate the gaps in the pensions, increase the low pension	Construct a standard storage for vegetables to ensure year around supply of vegetables for soum households	Increase job places for young people.
Improve access to the support programs for planting trees.	Undertake compulsory alcohol treatment for those who need it	Establish a processing plant for meat, milk, skin, and leather	Establish a processing plant for meat, milk, skin, and leather
Organize awareness raising, knowledge sharing discussions on issues of sustainable development	Optimizing public care programs	Ensure sustainability of newly appointed young public servants through providing them housing	
	Comprehensive solutions of the social problems of the elderly		
	Make transparent the Soum development fund expenditure reports		

The on-line and in-person training workshops involved in total 468 representatives from CSOs, CBOs members affiliated with the Rural Women's Associations, which have been established and facilitated since 2005 by the CHRD's program: Community based development.



Training workshop in Bayandun soum of Dormnod province, September 13-15, 2022



Training workshop in Choibalsan city of Dornod province, September 11-12, 2022

**Activity 4: Organizing plenary forum on the results of the strategy workshops**

Plenary forum on the workshop results have been organized as part of the 17th Annual Forum of Community Groups Federations, which took place in Arvaikheer soum of Uvurkhangaï province in December 22, 2022. The half day program of the forum was devoted to sharing and learning on the results from each of the strategy development workshops for protection of civic space and democracy in each of the 4 sites as well as the survey

results on civic space in Mongolia conducted in November 2021. In this plenary forum the participants were involved from the different communities, herders, women leaders from different provinces.

The Plenary forum provided an opportunity to share and learn about the challenges of shrinking civic space, the need for defending civic space, on results of strategy workshops held in 4 different soums of the three provinces. At the same time the participants from other soums and provinces shared their stories how is democracy and civic space situation in their respective places. They contributed their opinions in the strategy development for defending civic space and democracy in Mongolia.

The results of the civic space survey and strategy workshops have been reflected in the CSOs joint assessment report of the SDGs, specifically the SDG 16+ targets. Representatives of the training workshops were able to attend the National consultation on the CSOs scoring results of the SDGs held on 30 August, 2022 and Multistakeholder scoring of the SDGs held on 4 January 2023 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> VNR of Mongolia.



National Consultation on Civic space in Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, Puma Hotel, January, 2023

#### **Activity 5: Publicize the results of the strategy workshops**

With the project funding CHRD was able to rebuild its website and publicize the results of the strategy workshops through its website: [www.chrd.org.mn](http://www.chrd.org.mn)

#### **Activity 6: Support for CHRD's capacity building**

With support of the project CHRD was able to reconstruct its website, improve the office equipment by purchasing a new desktop computer, and updated windows programs for its office use. The project contribution for the salary was helpful in human resource management.

#### **Conclusion and updates on the project follow-ups**

Along with the project designed activities CHRД has been active to use any engagement opportunities with the authorities to advocate for better policies and regulations on civic space. One of such opportunities was the occasion of Civil Society Day, 31 January 2023. On this day CHRД initiated a press conference on the 8 demands for enabling environment of CSOs. The demands were signed by 57 CSOs and sent out to the President, Parliament Speaker, and Prime Minister of Mongolia.

The draft laws on Legal status of Associations and Legal status of Foundations have been withdrawn by the government from the parliament in late 2022. This year, on 17 April, the Prime minister invited for its morning tea meeting 30 human rights NGOs including CHRД. The issue of State policy on CSOs has been raised again and the Prime minister assigned the chief of the Cabinet secretariat, the state secretary of the Ministry of justice and home affairs and the minister of Labour and social welfare to set up a working group to work on the state policy on CSOs. Currently the working group is set up and started receiving comments on the revised draft State policy developed by CSOs in 2012 and revised in 2019.

**Photo: Press conference on 31 January, 2022: 8 demands for enabling environment of CSOs**



### **8 demands for enabling environment of CSOs**

1. Revise and approve the State policy on CSOs developed and submitted in 2012
2. Return back to the government the draft laws on Legal status of Associations and Legal Status of Foundations for proper consultations

3. To develop policy regulations for enabling environment of CSOs and reflect in the newly developing laws
4. Introduce and reflect specific policies to support strengthening of NGOs, CBOs, citizens groups in rural Mongolia
5. To develop and approve the law on NGOs with full and equal participation of all parties in accordance with the recommendations from UPR, OGP and FATF.
6. To improve the understanding of civil servants about CSOs, accept CSOs as equal partner for development and assign for effective cooperation
7. To improve accountability mechanism for civil servants
8. To improve the implementation of laws for direct participation of citizens such as Law about law, the Law on public hearing, the law on Deliberative consultation

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