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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

GDP GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

IRIM THE INDEPENDENT RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF MONGOLIA

NGO NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

SDG SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UN THE UNITED NATIONS

UNESCO THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGA-

NIZATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research report was prepared by a team of young researchers between August and October 2022, with the support of the UNESCO Beijing Cluster Office and the Independent Research Institute of Mongolia, within the scope of the project "Youth Voices," implemented by the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO.

This survey aims to determine the views of young people aged 16-24 on social issues and challenges they face in building a "good society" in the world and Mongolia in the next decade, as well as their participation and role in solving those challenges. It also attempts to clarify the extent to which Mongolian youth understand the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their perspectives on the possibility of solving the challenges faced by young people with the support of the SDGs and the issues they believe are left out of the SDGs.

We believe that the survey result will be an important source of information for gaining a better understanding of the challenges faced by young people, their responsibilities, solutions, and participation, as well as identifying the solutions to the problems they confront.

We would like to express our deep gratitude to the UNESCO Beijing Cluster Office, the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, the Independent Research Institute NGO (IRIM), and Dr. Robert Walker, Associate Fellow and Emeritus Professor at the University of Oxford and Professor in Social Policy and Development at Beijing Normal University, for their valuable contribution to the implementation of this survey. Furthermore, the research team would like to thank all the survey participants for openly sharing their life experiences and opinions. Without their dedication and valuable input, we wouldn't have been able to conduct the survey and issue this report.

Finally, the research team gratefully acknowledges the administrators and teachers of the local secondary schools for supporting this survey in the local area.

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INTRODUCTION

UNESCO has long recognized youth participation and sought to work with young people to create social change, eradicate poverty and inequality, and strengthen peace. Although there is no universally agreed definition of "youth," the United Nations defines 15-24-year-olds as young people for statistical purposes.¹ As of 2021, the population of Mongolia is 3,409,939, of which 1,549,860 or 45.5% are 24 or younger.²

In Mongolia, the "Law on the Promotion of Youth Development" was adopted in 2017 to support children and young people, who comprise half of the population. The law defines 15-34 years of age as a youth and identifies five main areas to support youth development, including (i) personal development, (ii) education, culture, art, sports, and science, (iii) health, (iv) employment, and (v) a safe environment to live and develop.³

In September 2015, the member states of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for "Sustainable Development," Within the framework of its 17 goals and 169 targets, countries are working together to overcome the obstacles they face and prevent future risks. To achieve sustainable development, young people are actively participating in implementing and monitoring the SDGs. Thus, the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, said, "we need to ensure that young people have a seat at the table – forging inclusive solutions that combine peace and security, sustainable development and human rights." ⁴

According to the 2020 "Youth Opinion Survey" report by IRIM, young people named unemployment and corruption the most pressing issues in Mongolia. In addition, 46% of the respondents said that the future of young people is not very favorable.⁵ In recent years, conditions such as lockdowns, misinformation, and economic recession caused by the pandemic increased social or emotional depression and problems of loneliness among young people.⁶

The youth turnout during the presidential election in 2021 was 8.3% lower than that of other age groups, meaning that young people's political participation was the lowest compared to adult voters. From this, it's clear that the social and political participation of the youth, who can impact society and its development through their direct or indirect actions, is insufficient.

These findings suggest that it is necessary to improve the social and political participation of the youth and address the challenges they face. The starting point must be to explore youth's challenges and issues by asking open-ended questions such as "what do young people need," "what problems do young people face," and "what solutions do young people have?" The answers to these questions will help us identify core problems and develop solutions. The "Youth Voices" survey, designed with these questions in mind, focuses on 16-24-year-olds to determine their needs and challenges.

The survey covers a wide range of issues, such as youth social participation, human rights, gender issues, educational and employment opportunities, psychological health, and disability issues. Therefore, following the UNESCO principle of "For the youth, with the youth, and by the youth," youth researchers conducted the survey and developed the survey report with the support of the UNESCO Beijing Cluster Office, the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, and IRIM.

¹Youth | United Nations. (2019). the United Nations

² Population of Mongolia, 2022, United Statistical Database

³ Law on Promotion of Youth Development. (18, 05 2017). Legalinfo.mn.

⁴ World youth report: Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. (2018). Published

by the United Nations New York, New York 10017 United States of America

 $^{^{\}rm 5}\,$ Youth opinion survey. (2020). Independent Research Institute.

⁶Y. Munkhchimeg. (2020). How has the Covid-19 pandemic affected certain groups of young people? Action-based youth research II.

⁷The General Election Commission of Mongolia, 2021.



Survey objectives: This survey aims to determine the views of young people aged 16-24 on social issues and challenges they face in building a "good society" in the world and Mongolia in the next decade, as well as their participation and role in solving those challenges. It also attempts to clarify the extent to which Mongolian youth understand the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their perspectives on the possibility of solving the challenges faced by young people with the support of the SDGs and the issues they believe are left out of the SDGs. In this context, the following objectives were proposed in the study:



Determining the opinions of young people aged 16-24 about the social problems facing the world and Mongolia in the next decade to build a "good society."

Determining the role, solutions, participation and expectations of youth in solving the social problems.

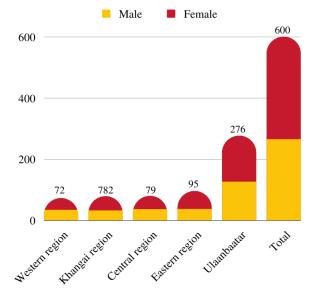
Identifying youth awareness of SDGs and the opportunities to address issues facing youth with the support of the SDGs.





Survey design: The survey has a predominantly quantitative methodology combined with several open-ended questions for sequential mixed analyses in order to fulfill the stated objectives. Within the survey framework, we collected quantitative data and performed quantitative analyses after taking into account the participants' characteristics.

Sampling: The "Youth survey was conducted nationally using quantitative research methods. The target group of the study was 600 young people aged 16-24, who were randomly selected and included in the study. The sample size of 600 from the original population produces a confidence level of 95 percent and a margin of error of ±5 percent. Therefore, this is a sample that can adequately represent the original population. Field data collection was organized at the national level between August and October.



Sample size and residential distribution of participants in absolute numbers.

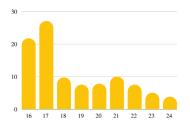
Execution of the study: After completing the data collection in the field, the next phase for this report was data processing. The primary data of the research was typed in MS EXCEL program. Striving for an error margin in the process of 2% or less, data entry and completed questionnaires were cross-checked through a random sampling method. After checking the mechanical and logical errors and conforming to the quality requirements, data was entered into SPSS 25.0 statistical analysis program and processed.

Continuing into the data analyses after the processing of research data, comparative analysis methods were used in addition to single calculations concerning the key indicators of interest. For instance, Student's-t-test and chi-squared test were carried out to check whether the statistical characteristics of the sample groups differed significantly from each other or whether there was a significant relationship between the two qualitative variables. We derived our statistical inferences based on the 95% confidence level of these variables.



CHAPTER 1. GENERAL INFORMATION OF THE RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

The participants were between the ages of 16 and 24 in accordance with the UN's definition of youth. Regarding the allocation of population, 48% of Mongolia's population lives in Ulaanbaatar, while the remaining 52% lives in rural areas. Corresponding to this demographical data from March 2021, 46% of the survey respondents were from Ulaanbaatar, and 54% were from the local areas. Out of 600 participants, genders were virtually balanced, with 55.8% women and 44.2% men. Considering the age of the respondents, 21.7% were 16 years old, 27% were 17 years old, 9.7% were 18 years old, 7.5% were 19 years old, 7.8% were 20 years old, 10% were 21 years old, 7.5% were 22 years old, 5% were 23 years old and 3.8% were 24 years old. The age distribution allows an almost median split between the age group below 18 years at 48.7% and the age group of 18 years and above with 51.3% of the participants.

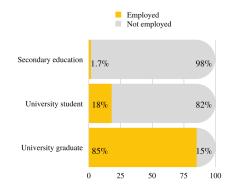


- In terms of employment, 18.7% of the respondents were employed while 81.3% were unemployed or students. Specifically, the respondents' education levels are the presented in the following:
- 50.2% of the respondents were secondary school students, with 17.8% were going to a metropolitan secondary school and 32.3% attending local secondary schools.
- 36.2% were university students with the overwhelming majority studying at domestic universities in Ulaanbaatar, making up 34.5%. The remaining 1.5 % students in the sample were distributed into 0.7% students at local universities and 0.8% students at foreign universities.

- 12.2% were university graduates. This group was divided into two groups: 10.3% of the respondents were employed at the time of the survey while 1.2% were unemployed. Also, 1.5% were continuing studies in master's or PhD programs.
- The remaining 1.5% were employed young people who did not study at universities.

Most of the respondents were students of general education schools, while the majority of secondary school students were rural and local students. On the other hand, most of the university students and respondents with bachelor's level education were from Ulaanbaatar city.

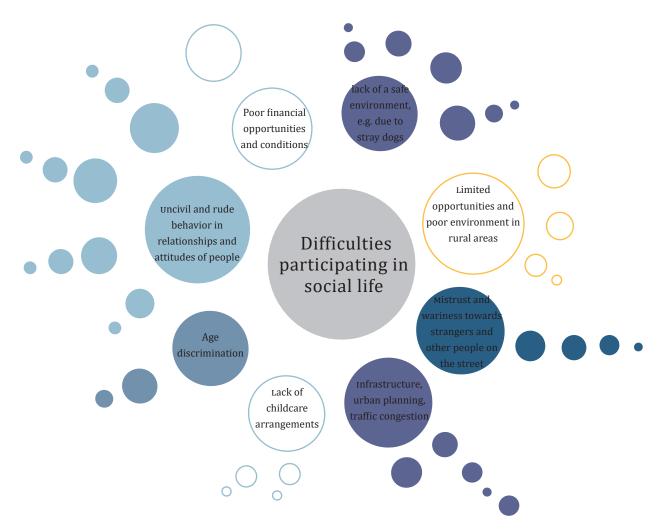
When comparing the level of education and the level of employment of the respondents, 1.7% of secondary school students answered that they work part-time while studying, while 18% of university students said that they have a job. However, the employment rate of young people who graduated from universities is relatively high, i.e., 85%. Consequently, there is a need to increase the part-time work that university students and young people can do in addition to their studies. Furthermore, although the employment rate of university graduates is higher than that of current students, there are still 15% of employable young people with the necessary education, who are currently not employed. This indicates that there is a considerable need for appropriate change.



Comparison of employment and education level in %

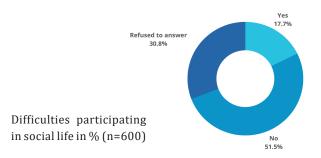


Difficulties participating in social life



- The survey results suggest that regardless of whether they are disabled or not, young people face difficulties in participating in social life. Specifically, 17.7% of the respondents answered that they have some kind of challenge in participating in social life, while 30.8% refused to answer the question. Here are some of the obstacles that prevent young people from participating in social life:
- Poor financial opportunities and conditions
- Uncivil and rude behavior in relationships and attitudes of people
- Age discrimination, e.g. bullying at work for being younger or being ignored for being underage
- Lack of childcare arrangements
- Infrastructure, urban planning, traffic congestion

- Mistrust and wariness towards strangers and other people on the street
- Limited opportunities and poor environment in rural areas
- lack of a safe environment, e.g. due to stray dogs.





CHAPTER 2. SOCIAL CHALLENGES AND THE YOUTH

In this chapter, we discuss young people's opinions about social and economic issues they face and the most pressing challenges they identify as a hindrance to building a "good society" in the next decade on a global scale as well as in Mongolia. Moreover, we explore what solutions the youth propose for solving these problems and how they see the role of their participation in these solutions.

When asked to select up to four issues that are most pressing problems facing the world when it comes to building a "good society" in the next ten years, 55.1% of the respondents chose "violence and conflict," 47% chose "health issues and disease," 44.5% answered "climate change and loss of biological diversity" 35.8% picked "political" participation and democratic principles," and 34.1% answered "misinformation and freedom of expression." These are the five issues Mongolian youth identify as the most pressing problems for the world. However, the top five concerns for Mongolia, according to the youth, are "violence and conflict" (49.5%), "health and disease" (46.1%), "political participation and democratic principles" (44.6%), "lack of decent jobs and opportunities" (40.3%), and "misinformation and freedom of expression" (35.8%).

Women are more likely to choose violence and conflict as pressing global issues.

In contrast, the problems that young people are least concerned about for building a good society in the world are "loss of culture and traditions" (11%), "migration" (14.7%), "artificial intelligence and new technology" (16.3%), "quality and access to education" (28.3%), "lack of decent work job opportunities" (28.5%). Similarly, the issues that do not worry young people when it comes to building a "good society" in Mongolia in the next 10 years are "artificial intelligence and new technology" (4.3%), "loss of culture and tradition" (11.5%)", "lack of food, water and housing" (21.3%), "migration" (24.3%) and "climate change and loss of biodiversity" (26.3%).

When we cross-examine these issues with demographic characteristics, such as age, gender, education level, and place of residence, there are some noticeable differences in the answers. Firstly, women are more likely to choose violence and conflict as pressing global issues. Secondly, young people in rural areas are more concerned about disinformation, violence and conflict, and lack of suitable jobs than their peers in the capital city. In contrast, the youth from Ulaanbaatar were more worried about climate change as well as political participation and democratic principles.

Regarding age, the respondents younger than 18 were more likely to identify the quality of education, discrimination, disinformation, and lack of decent jobs as pressing global issues. However, respondents over 21 were twice more likely than those under 18 to choose migration as a pressing problem. In addition, the survey results show that youth over 21 are more concerned about climate issues compared to other age groups. Specifically, comparing people who chose climate change as a pressing problem by age $(\chi^2(2) = 7,998, p = .018, \phi =$ 0.116.) suggests that young people who are 21 or older are more likely than their younger peers to consider climate change as a most worrying problem. Admittedly, these differences in the concerns might stem from cross-related demographic characteristics, as we see that the differences in education level match the ones from age groups and also partly the ones in location, e.g., climate change is chosen by 53.6% of university students or graduates compared to 34.9% of secondary school students, who are usually split between the under and above 18 years age groups. By the same token, 61.5% of secondary school students selected "violence and conflict" as one of the most pressing issues. In comparison, only 48.6% of university students or graduates chose this issue as one of the most significant concerns, $\chi^2(2) = 12.080$, p = .0102 φ = 0.143. Nonetheless, those differences are important to note, even though the demographic influences are not always distinguishable.

Challenges faced by the world and Mongolia in %

				Global to local level Diffe- rence			Percentages	of choice	
	Selected most pressing challenges	In the world	In Mongo- lia		Rank	Not se- lected at all	Only se- lected for Mongolia	Only selected for the world	Both times selected
	Violence and conflict	55.1%	49.5%	-5.6	I	31.7%	13.2%	18.8%	36.3%
~\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	Health and disease	47%	46.1%	-0.9	II	37%	16%	16.8%	30.2%
	Climate change and loss of biodiversity	44.5%	26.3%	-18.2	VI	49.8%	5.7%	23.8%	20.7%
	Political participa- tion and democratic principles	35.8%	44.7%	8.9	III	45.2%	25.7%	16.9%	12.2%
FAXES	Misinformation and freedom of expression	34.1%	35.8%	1.7	IV	48.8%	17.1%	15.3%	18.8%
≠	Discrimination and inequality	32%	29%	-3	VIII	54.8%	13.2%	16.2%	15.8%
	Lack of food, water, and housing	30.5%	21.3%	-9.2	IX	60%	9.5%	18.7%	11.8%
(AA)	Lack of decent work and job opportunities	28.5%	40.3%	11.8	V	49.8%	21.7%	9.8%	18.7%
	Education access and quality	28.3%	34.5%	6.2	VII	50.8%	20.8%	14.7%	13.7%
	Artificial Intelligence and new technologies	16.3%	4.3%	-12	XII	92%	3.3%	3.7%	1%
***	Migration /urban, rural and other coun- tries/	14.7%	24.3%	-9.6	X	70.3%	15%	5.4%	9.3%
♦ ♦	Loss of culture and tradition	11%	11.5%	-0.5	XI	81.7%	7.3%	6.8%	4.2%
000	Other	1%	0.7%	-0.3	XIII	98.3%	0.7%	1%	0%



According to the survey results, the problems that young people worry about in the world and in Mongolia are similar overall. Noticeable differences between the most concerning global and national issues are found only on two points. First, youth were more likely to see "climate change and loss of biological diversity" as a global issue, not a national one. Moreover, they were more likely to identify "lack of decent work and job opportunities" as a national issue rather than a global one. Indeed, 44.5% of the respondents considered "climate change and loss of biological diversity" a significant problem for the world. Yet, only 26.3% said the same issue would be a pressing problem for Mongolia in the next decade.

This is underlined further by the fact that only 5.7% of the respondents chose climate change as a Mongolian problem only. In other words, young people tend to see climate change and the loss of biological diversity as a global problem rather than a problem in Mongolia.

Moreover, 92% of the respondents did not choose "artificial intelligence and new technology" as a concern for Mongolia or the world. Similarly, 81.7% did not select "the loss of culture and tradition" as a pressing problem, meaning that young people are not too worried about these issues in the world and in Mongolia.

In addition, 70.3% did not choose the issue of "migration /urban, rural or other countries/" as an urgent problem. Yet, the percentage of young people who identified this issue as one of the top problems of concern for Mongolia in the next ten years is 9.6% higher than the percentage of young people who believed it to be a global problem.

In the following sections, the challenges selected as the leading causes of threat towards a free society in the next ten years globally and nationally are analyzed and explained in detail.





VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT

/Chosen by 68.3% of all respondents/



Distribution of selecting Violence and conflict as most pressing issue in % (n=600)



Overall, 68.3% of the respondents considered "violence and conflict" as one of the four main problems of concern in the world or Mongolia. In particular, 55.1% of all respondents believe this is a global problem, while 49.5% see it as a pressing problem in Mongolia. In contrast, 31.7% of the respondents did not see "violence and conflict" as a concern in Mongolia or the world. The percentage of young people who believe this problem to be solely a global issue is 5.6% more than those who only see it as a problem in Mongolia.

The issues of "violence and conflict" facing the world are considered in relation to nuclear weapons, war, riots, and gender-based violence. At the same time, at the domestic level, these issues mainly refer to domestic violence, harming others due to alcoholism, and cyberbullying.

In Mongolia, 16,850 crimes were registered in the first five months of 2022, an increase of 79.8% from the same period of the previous year.8 According to the "Gender-Based Violence Sample Survey" results by the National Statistics Committee in 2017, one in three women (31.2%) in Mongolia has experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime. Within the family, for example, 6 out of 10 women (57.9%) were abused by their husbands/partners during their lifetime.

It is noteworthy that 55.1% of the participants of our survey selected "violence and conflict" as the most concerning global problem to overcome in building a good society in the next decade. Among these respondents, 59.2% were women, while the remaining 40.8% were men. Likewise, the most pressing problem for building a good society in Mongolia in the next decade from the perspective of young people was "violence and conflict." Indeed 49.5% of all respondents answered that they were most worried about this problem. Again, of these respondents, 58.6% were women, while the remaining 41.4% were men.

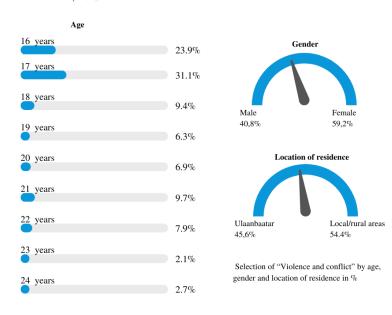
Furthermore, the survey results suggest that women are more likely than men to see violence and conflict as the most urgent problem facing the world and Mongolia. Therefore, such a gendered difference could be due to the higher rate of violence against women, as stated in the "Gender-Based Violence Sample Survey" report.

Young Mongolians outside the capital city are more likely to see violence and conflict as one of the most worrying problems than their peers in the capital city.

Moreover, there is a very small yet statistically significant positive correlation between living in a rural area and considering violence and conflict as major global problems for the next ten years, r = .084, p = .001. This suggests that young Mongolians outside the capital city are more likely to see violence and conflict as one of the most worrying problems than their peers in the capital city.

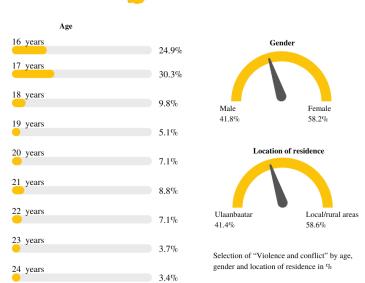


THE WORLD



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in mongolia





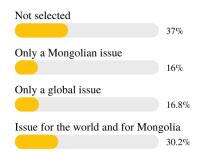
HEALTH AND DISEASES

/Chosen by 63% of all respondents/





Distribution of choosing "Health and disease" as most concerning challenge in % (n=600)



Of all respondents, 63% considered "health and diseases" to be one of the four main problems in the world or Mongolia. In particular, 47% of all respondents believe this is the most significant worldwide, whereas 46.1% consider it the most pressing problem in Mongolia.

In contrast, 37% of all survey respondents did not see "health and diseases" as a concern in Mongolia or the world. Furthermore, the percentage of young people who believe this problem is a global challenge is 0.9% higher than those who only see it as a problem in Mongolia.



"Health and disease" problems facing the world are considered in relation to infectious diseases and the availability of medicine and vaccines, while at the domestic level, challenges such as the availability of hospitals and medical personnel, cancer diagnosis and treatment have been included in the problem.

Since the first recorded outbreak of COVID-19 in 2019, 615 million people worldwide have been infected with the virus, resulting in 6.5 million deaths and forcing the entire world into lockdowns. In addition, the fear and psychological crisis caused by the pandemic and its consequences persist even today. In Mongolia,

The youth belonging to rural areas are 10.4% more concerned about this challenge than the youth in Ulaanbaatar.

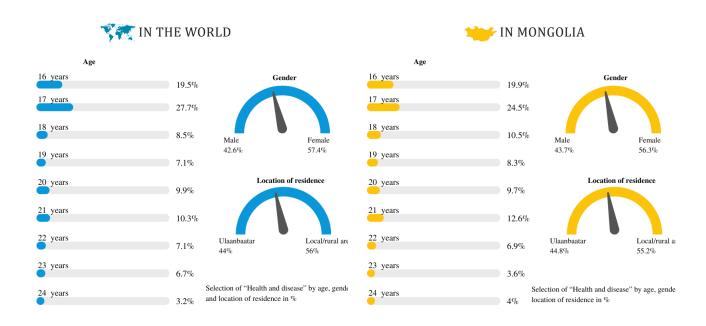
983,000 people were infected with the virus, and more than 2,000 lost their lives. Additionally, non-communicable diseases account for 85.9% of all deaths in Mongolia, including one in three deaths because of cardiovascular diseases, one in four deaths due to cancer, and one in five deaths owing to injury, poisoning, and other external causes.

In our survey, 47% of the respondents named the issue of "health and diseases" as the great concern for building a "good society" in the world in the next decade, while 46.1% chose it as one of the four main concerns for Mongolia.

Moreover, 41.6% of the young people who named health and diseases a global issue are men, and 58.4% are women. Also, 43.6% of young men and 56.3% of young women chose it as a problem facing Mongolian society. Therefore, it can be seen that women are slightly more concerned about health issues than men. Indeed, 48.3% of all women chose this issue as one of the three most worrying issues.

Another difference in looking at the youths who named the issue of "health" as their most pressing problem in Mongolia can be found in the locality of residence. There, it can be seen that the youth belonging to rural areas are 10.4% more concerned about this challenge than the youth in Ulaanbaatar. This is probably due to the lack of doctors, medical staff, and equipment in the rural areas, which forces them, in times of necessary medical treatment, to go to the provincial center or Ulaanbaatar city to get health services.

Also, 60.5% of the young people surveyed chose "SDG-3: Promoting Health" as one of the most important goals among sustainable development goals, demonstrating that health issues are a pressing issue for young people.



⁹ COVID Live - Coronavirus Statistics. (2022). Worldometer.

¹⁰ Health indicators, 2019.



POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES

/Chosen by 54.8% of all respondents/



Distribution of choosing "Political participation and democratic principles" as most concerning challenge in % (n=600)



As shown in Table 2, 54.8% of the survey respondents considered "political participation and democratic principles" as one of the four main issues in the world or Mongolia, with 35.8% agreeing that it is a global problem and 44.7% saying that it is a national problem.

In contrast, 49.8% of all survey participants did not see these issues as a concern in Mongolia or the world. According to the survey results, the percentage of young people who see "political participation and democratic principles" as a topic of concern in Mongolia is 8.9% higher than those who see it only as a global problem.

Political participation and democratic principles are essential safeguards for creating peace and sustainable social, economic, political, and cultural development. Failure to implement these principles can threaten fundamental human rights such as freedom of expression, recognition, and equality before the law.¹¹

In 1990, Mongolia peacefully transitioned from a one-party political system to a multi-party democratic one. However, although Mongolia is successfully strengthening its democracy, there are a lot of challenges, such as political instability, corruption, income inequality, the extreme disparity between the rich and the poor, and a lack of trust in democracy.12 When asked about the solutions to these problems, most young people in our survey pointed to improving and monitoring the activities of the Parliament. Furthermore, we found a statistically significant correlation when we examined the relationship between the likelihood of identifying political participation and democratic principles as a problem of concern and the location of residence. Indeed, youth in Ulaanbaatar were more likely than their peers in the countryside to be worried about these issues (r=-.099, p =.015). This difference may be attributable to the

fact that youth in Ulaanbaatar have more access to information about politics and experience politics more frequently in their everyday lives, as they live close to the political system and are more likely to participate in demonstrations.

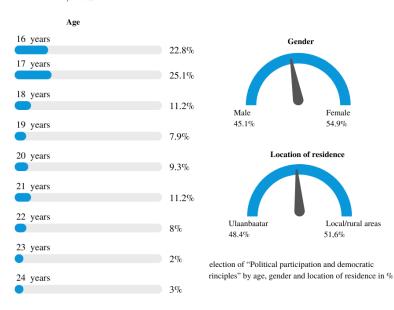
When comparing the youth who chose "political participation and democratic principles" as a problem by age, those aged 18-21 are the most concerned. This might be due to the fact that 18-21 is a period when youth gain the right to vote and can participate in politics. Therefore, this age group becomes more aware of their political role, which increases their political participation relative to the older or younger youth groups.

 $^{^{\}rm 11}$ The World in 2030: Public Survey Report. (2021). UNESCO Publishing

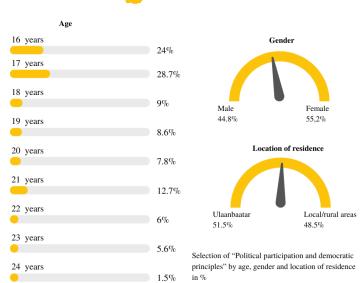
¹²J. Tortogtoh, P. Amarjargal, & S. Ganzaya. (2020). Socio-political study of the current state of democracy and civil society in Mongolia. Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation.



THE WORLD



in mongolia





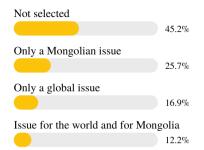
CLIMATE CHANGE AND LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY

/Chosen by 50.2% of all respondents/





Distribution of choosing "Climate change and loss of biodiversity" in % (n=600)



Climate change has become one of the most pressing problems facing the world. Due to climate change, the weather has become significantly warmer, permafrost and glaciers have melted, sea levels have risen, and natural disasters have increased in frequency and are continuing to do so. In some regions, extreme weather events and rainfall are becoming more common, while others are experiencing more extreme heat waves and droughts. Climate change is likely to limit the opportunities for sustainable development in recent decades. However, the world has a strong framework for action: the Paris Agreement, in which all countries are committed to setting their own national climate action plans and strengthening them every five years. If we don't act according to the action plan, we risk destroying our planet.

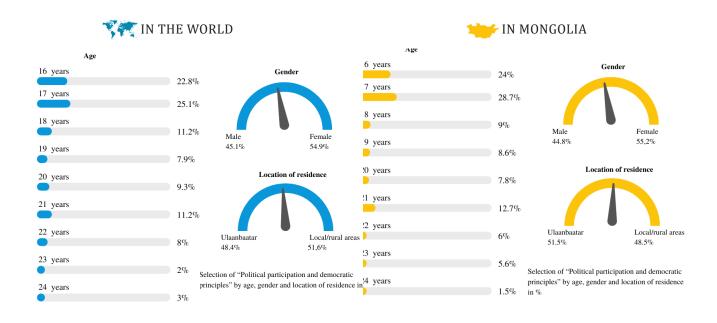
¹³Consequences of climate change. (2021). Language selection | Climate Action.

 $^{^{14}}$ Now is the time to take serious action against climate change for people and Earth. (2021, 04 22). UNICEF



On this note, 50.2% of all survey participants considered "climate change and loss of biological diversity" to be one of the four main problems that concern them in the world or Mongolia. Also, 44.55% of young people think it is the most pressing problem in the world, compared to 23.3% who believe it is the most pressing problem in Mongolia. However, 49.8% of all survey participants did not see "climate Change" as a concern for Mongolia or the world. According to the survey results, the percentage of young people who see climate issues as a global problem is higher by 18.2% than those who see it as a problem only in Mongolia. Here, we can see that youth tend to consider climate change a problem facing the world, but they do not believe it to be a critical issue for Mongolia.

However, there is a negative correlation between young people who choose "climate change and loss of biodiversity" as one of the world's main issues in the next decade and their location. It suggests that young people surveyed from Ulaanbaatar are more concerned about climate change than those from rural areas. This might be related to the availability of information for young people living in Ulaanbaatar and the relatively large number of campaigns on climate change in the city. When the young people who chose climate change were cross-examined by age, 34.9% of those under 18 years old, 51.9% of those aged 18-21 years, and 57.1% of those over 21 years old chose this issue as an urgent problem to address. Young people aged 21-24 are most concerned about climate change and biodiversity loss.



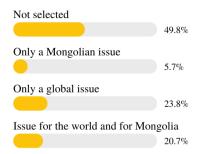


LACK OF DECENT WORK & OPPORTUNITIES

/Chosen by 40.3% of all respondents/



Distribution of choosing "Lack of decent work and job opportunities" as most concerning challenge in % (n=600)



It is rather peculiar that "climate change and loss of biological diversity" are rarely named a crucial problem facing Mongolia in the next decade. Instead, the issue of "the lack of decent jobs and opportunities" was considered by young people to be a more significant concern in Mongolia.

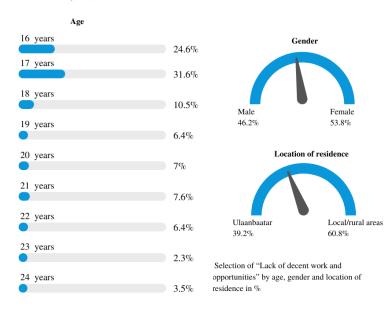
More people in decent jobs means more robust and more inclusive economic growth. By putting job creation at the heart of economic policy-making and development plans, we will see increasing decent work opportunities and more robust, inclusive, and poverty-reducing growth. For this reason, decent workplaces for all are included in the "Sustainable Development Agenda" and defined as a mission of the International Labor Organization.

The unemployment rate among young people is high in Mongolia. According to 2018 statistics, young people, especially new graduates from universities and colleges, are most affected by unemployment. More specifically, 56.1 % of the total unemployed population is between the ages of 15-34, and 19.5 % is between the ages of 20-24 who have just graduated from university. Also, 25.3 % of all unemployed citizens are young people aged 15-24.15 In this regard, 40.3% of the survey participants chose "lack of decent work and opportunities" as one of the four concerns that they are most worried about in the next 10 years for building a good society in Mongolia. According to education level, 31.4% of the surveyed university students and 45.5% of the university graduates chose this issue as a problem in Mongolia.

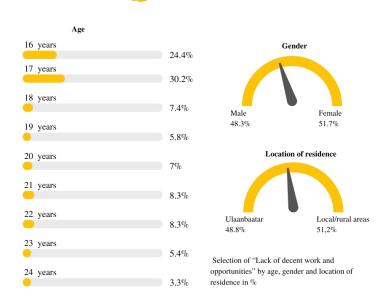
As shown above, young people aged 21-24 who have just graduated from university and have not yet gained work experience tend to be most concerned with the lack of jobs and opportunities. These youth are more likely to be worried about this issue because employers usually require work experience, or the salary range for someone with no work experience is slightly lower. Therefore, it is necessary to create job opportunities for young people to gain work experience while they are studying at the university in order to improve their opportunity to get a job with a decent salary in their profession, even if they do not have the same amount of work experience. Furthermore, 32.1% of the survey respondents from rural areas named this problem, compared to 24.3% of the participants from Ulaanbaatar. Therefore, finding decent jobs is more urgent in rural areas, showing a need and demand to increase decent workplaces for young people in rural areas.



IN THE WORLD



in mongolia





CHAPTER 3: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE YOUTH





The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals is a globally shared, long-term blueprint for peace and prosperity based on three pillars of society, economy and the environment.16 In Rio de Janeiro in 2012, UN Member States launched a process to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will build upon the Millennium Development Goals and converge with the post 2015 development agenda.¹⁷ The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at the UN Summit and officially came into force on 1 January 2016.18 Mongolia adopted the Law on Development Policy and Planning in November of 2015. This law is the legal basis for establishing an integrated system of development policy and planning. It regulates the development, adoption, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes of sectorial, national, and sub-national development of SDGs.19

The World Youth Report emphasizes that the goals, objectives, and activities included in the Sustainable Development Agenda increase the opportunities for youth to develop within the framework of sustainable social, economic, and environmental development efforts. The report also mentions that one of the important steps for the successful implementation of the SDG-2030 agenda is the participation of young people in the development, implementation and monitoring of diverse and inclusive policies.²⁰

This chapter examines young people's awareness of sustainable development, as well as the most important goals for young people from the Sustainable Development Goals.







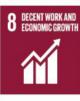




























^{16(2022,} May 18), Sustainable development policy – transbank,

¹⁷United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20. Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform.

 $^{^{\}rm 18}\text{United}$ Nations sustainable development agenda. (2015). the United Nations.

¹⁹Mongolian SDG dashboard. (2022). sdg.gov.mn.

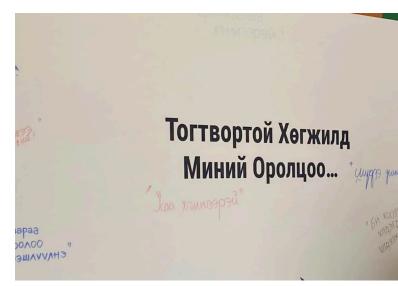
²⁰WORLD YOUTH REPORT. (2018, December 30). the United Nations.

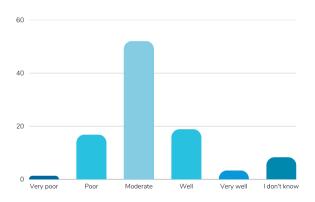


YOUTH'S KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF SDG-2030

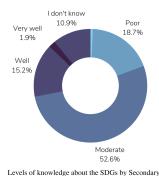
According to the "Youth Voices" survey results, the knowledge and understanding of SDGs among the Mongolian youth are insufficient. Only 3.2% of the respondents answered that they know the SDGs very well, while 18.7% responded that they know them well. The majority of respondents, 51.9%, answered that their knowledge about SDGs is at a medium level, while 18% responded that they know them poorly or very poorly. Also, 8.2% of the survey participants said they do not know about SDGs at all. The survey suggests a positive correlation between the respondents' level of education and their knowledge of SDGs. For example, 10.9% of secondary school students who participated in the survey answered that they did not know about the SDGs. Meanwhile, only 4.1% of respondents who graduated from universities responded the same. Also, the percentage of young people who answered they know well about the SDGs increases as the level of education increases. Specifically, 15.2% of secondary school students said that they know well about SDG-2030, while 19.8% of university

students and 28.8% of university graduates answered the same. In other words, the higher the level of education, the better the understanding of sustainable development goals.

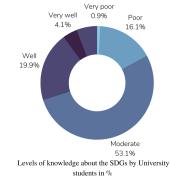


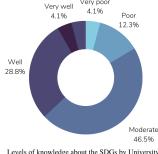


Young people's knowledge and understanding of the SDGs in %



school students in %





Levels of knowledge about the SDGs by University graduates in %



Young people do not have adequate knowledge about the SDGs.



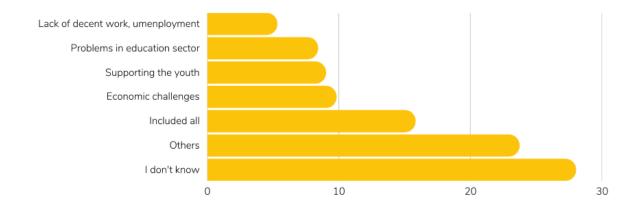
When asked whether SDGs have excluded certain issues, 15.8% of respondents said that all issues faced by young people are included in the Sustainable Development Goals.

At the same time, 9.8% of the respondents believe that SDGs do not reflect unemployment, while 9% and 8.4% say that education and economic problems are not included in the SDGs. However, the issues related to "economy" and "unemployment" are addressed in SDG-8: decent work and economic growth, with 12 targets and 17 indicators. Likewise, the education issue is reflected with ten targets and 11 indicators in SDG-4: quality education. The fact that problems already included in the SDGs are considered by young people to be neglected shows that they do not have adequate knowledge about the SDGs.

Comparing this to the previous question, 82% of young people answered that they know about the SDGs only at a medium or lower level, so it can be considered that young people aged 16-24 do not have enough knowledge about the SDGs. Therefore, there is a need to increase the opportunities for young people to become aware of Sustainable Development Goals. By improving their understanding of the SDGs, the possibility of involving the youth in its implementation will increase.

The next chapter will present more detailed views of Mongolian Youth regarding the SDGs in terms of ranking the importance of specific goals as well as differences in these choices by demographic background, such as education level.

Youth challenges not addressed by the SDG in %





YOUTH'S PERSPECTIVES ON SDGS

Among the Sustainable Development Goals, young people identified the following goals as the most important:

SDG-4: Quality education (67.5%)

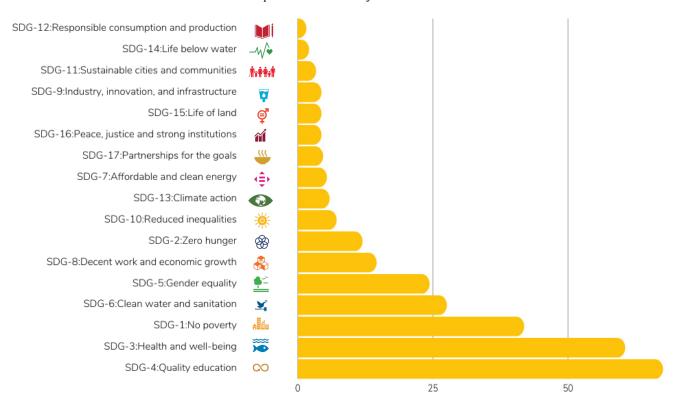
SDG-3: Health and well-being (60.5%)

SDG-1: No poverty (41.8%)

In contrast, SDG-12: responsible consumption and production (1.5%), SDG-14: Life below water (2%), and SDG-11: sustainable cities and communities (3.3%) were selected with the lowest percentage.

Thus, Mongolian youth give the highest importance to education, closely followed by health and they see the economy as the third most important issue. In reverse, since Mongolia is a landlocked country, it may not give much importance to the goal of protecting the oceans.

Most important SDGs for youth in %





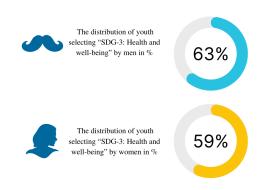
Moreover, 62.7% of all secondary school students, 71.7% of university students, and 76.3% of university graduates selected SDG-4: Quality education as one of the three most important goals for young people. From this result, it's clear that most young people consider the issue of quality education as important regardless of the level of education. However, it is important to note that with the increase in education, the percentage of importance to this issue grows.



The distribution of youth selecting "SDG-4:Quality education" by educational level in %

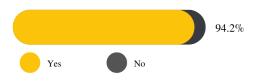
"Health and well-being" was chosen by 60.5% of respondents as one of the most important goals for young people. In particular, 63% of the men and 59% of the women chose this goal. This shows that there is only a small difference in genders and that health and wellbeing is important for young people regardless of gender based experiences.

When comparing the young people who chose the goal of "health and well-being" to their educational level, 57.8% of all secondary school students, 69.4% of students, and 45.8% of university graduates chose this goal. For university students, it can be seen that the "SDG-3: Health and well-being" goal is considered the most important.



The distribution of youth selecting "SDG-3: Health and well-being" by gender in %

In addition, 94.2% of the survey respondents said that problems faced by young people can be solved through the SDGs. Specifically, 52.2% of secondary school students, 36.1% of university students, and 20.8% of university graduates named SDG-1: Zero poverty as one of the three most important goals.



Is it possible to solve the problems faced by young people through the SDGs? in %

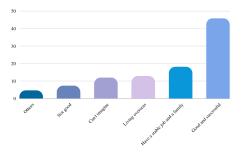


CHAPTER 4: CHALLENGES FACING THE YOUTH





Respondents' perceptions of the future in %



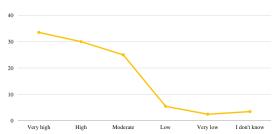
51.8% of the respondents believe that by 2030, the situation of Mongolian youth will improve compared to the current situation, while 10.5% believe that it will worsen.

In this chapter, we will discuss how young people define themselves, what kind of problems and difficulties they face, and the suggestions and solutions the youth offer.

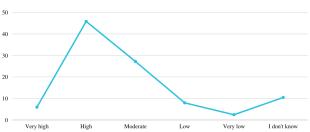
When asked how you define a "young" person, 43.6% of the respondents described a young person as energetic and ambitious, 25% as working age, 20.5% as the country's future, and 15.5% as an innovator.

The survey revealed that young people's future vision is relatively positive. For instance, 45.7% of the survey respondents expressed that they see their future after ten years as "good and successful," while 18% also imagine having a "stable job and family." On the other hand, 12.7% of respondents said they envision their future as "living or working abroad." Furthermore, 71% of the respondents who want to live overseas said they would return to Mongolia, while the remaining 29% said they would prefer not to return. It can be seen that young people of working age have a strong desire to leave their country.

Young people were also optimistic regarding the importance of their role in society. For example, 63.5% of the respondents defined their contribution to society as high or very high, while only 8% of respondents said it was low or very low.



Youth role in society in %



The situation of Mongolian youth in 10 years in %



LACK OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND INSUFFICIENT WAGES

In our survey, 31% of the respondents consider unemployment to be the most pressing problem for Mongolian youth. As noted in Chapter 2, the youth unemployment rate in Mongolia is high, specifically among those under 24 years of age. Particularly, young people mentioned problems such as not finding a job due to lack of work experience, low salary because of being a new graduate, working far too long hours even after finding a job, and not having a safe workplace environment.

The proposed solutions to solve these problems are:



Increase workplaces Improve ethics in the workplace and create a healthy and safe working environment (physically and psychologically). Reduce taxes

Increase salary

Personal involvement/ awareness, where everyone can develop themselves and do well, are mentioned.

When we compared the participants who chose the "lack of workplaces and insufficient wages" as a problem with employment status, 36.6% of the employed youth who participated in the survey said that there is a need to increase wages or improve the working environment.

Moreover, 28.3% of the respondents from Ulaanbaatar chose unemployment and insufficient wages, while 33.3% of the local youth selected the issue. From this, it's clear that unemployment is a more pressing problem in rural areas than in Ulaanbaatar. Therefore, it is necessary to create new workplaces in local areas and improve the working environment.

Also, 14.2% of the young people who participated in the survey believe that improving the quality of education can solve this problem. The reason why is that it's possible to get an appropriate job in the future if one can get a quality education that doesn't discriminate between men and women and whether one lives in urban or rural areas. This answer was also mentioned in the results of the "World in 2030" survey released by UNESCO in 2020, in which the majority of survey participants responded that providing quality education for all is the most optimal solution to deal with the problem of lack of decent jobs.²¹

 $^{^{\}rm 21}$ The World in 2030: Public Survey Report. (2021). UNESCO Publishing.



ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF EDUCATION

In the previous section, the "quality of education" was selected as the essential solution to unemployment. At the same time, it was chosen as the main challenge for the young people in this section. Mongolia's long-term development policy, "Vision-2050," sets the goal of providing equal opportunities to receive a quality education for everyone, establishing education as a basis for personal development, family security, and the country's development, and strengthening the lifelong education system. For instance, improving building facilities and infrastructure of all level educational institutions, creating an enabling environment for providing equal, accessible, quality services in conformity with standard and quality requirements, and bringing the classroom fill rates of kindergartens and schools to standard level are defined as an objective.22

According to the 2019 "Mongolia, Education policy review: towards a lifelong learning system" report issued by UNESCO, it is necessary to pay attention to the issues of quality and equal opportunities due to the high level of education and gender differences in primary and secondary schools.²³ In this regard, 11.8% of young people aged 16-24

who participated in the survey identified the issue of quality education as the most critical problem for the youth of Mongolia.

Comparing the respondents with their educational level, 16.1% of university students and 9.6% of secondary school students and university graduates named the issue of quality education as one of the main difficulties faced by young people. Furthermore, respondents suggested the following the solutions to solve this problem:

Solutions:

Reforming the education system;

Making education accessible to everyone;

Paying attention to the employees of the education sector (increasing the salary and creating a favorable working conditions);

Improving the quality of education in rural areas; Including skills such as family planning and ethics into the education system

Increase access to schools and kindergartens

Providing psychologists to secondary schools and universities

Reducing university fees.



²²Mongolia's long-term development policy "Vision-2050" Legalinfo.mn





 $^{^{24}\}mbox{Economic}$ prospects of Mongolia. Asian Development Bank

²⁵Bank of Mongolia (2022)



CONCLUSIONS

For young people, the problems of concern in the world and Mongolia are similar. However, among the top five issues of concern for young people, there is a slight difference between the global and Mongolian levels. Specifically, "climate change and loss of biodiversity" is a critical concern worldwide. Instead, in Mongolia, "lack of decent jobs and opportunities" is more important.

The survey results suggest that Mongolian youth view "violence and conflict" as the most urgent problem for Mongolia and worldwide and that young women tend to be more concerned about this issue than young men. Also, "climate change and the loss of biological diversity" is considered by the youth to be the biggest problem facing the world in the next decade. In particular, young people from Ulaanbaatar are more concerned about climate change than local youth.

There is a need to raise awareness and understanding of the SDGs among young people. Regarding the SDGs, 51.9% of the respondents have moderate knowledge, and 26.2% have poor or very poor knowledge. However, 94.2% of young people believe that the problems faced by the youth can be solved through the SDGs, which indicates a high level of trust in the SDGs. Therefore, by expanding the knowledge and understanding of the SDGs among young people, it will be possible to increase their participation in implementing them.

Young people give importance to the following SDGs: no poverty, decent work, quality education, and good health and well-being. In other words, improving access to and quality of education and health services is an essential concern for young people.

The main problem faced by young people is unemployment. Young people believe that the way to reduce unemployment is to increase job opportunities, improve workplace standards, create a healthy and safe environment to work, reduce the tax burden, raise wages, and increase the level of competitiveness and participation of the workforce. Moreover, employed youth highlighted the need to improve working conditions and the environment.

A second challenge for young people is improving the quality and accessibility of education and healthcare systems. From the perspective of the young people, the education and health system can be improved by reforms, such as making services accessible, empowering employees, increasing wages and creating a favorable working environment, and especially paying

attention to the quality of services provided in the local area.

The third pressing problem for young people is inflation, tax burden, and insufficient salary.

Young people imagine and plan their future in the next decade positively. For instance, young people define themselves as the future of the country, energetic and ambitious, or innovative people. Furthermore, 45.7% of the respondents see their future as bright and successful, while 18% also have a positive image of having a family and a stable job.

Over the next ten years, external migration will remain a high priority for young people. In other words, 1 out of 10 young people who participated in the survey, or 12.7%, imagine their future as living or working overseas in the next ten years. Of these youth who want to live abroad, 71% said they would return to Mongolia, while the rest prefer not to return. The reason for the desire to leave Mongolia for young people is to get a quality education.

Young people are aware of their role in society. For example, 63.5% of young people define their contribution to society as great or very great, and 51.8% expect that by 2030, the situation of Mongolian youth will improve compared to the present.



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ANNEX





WHAT DO YOUTH CONSIDER THE MOST IMPORTANT GOALS IN THE SDG?



WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING PROBLEMS MOST WORRIED YOU ABOUT BUILDING A BETTER SOCIETY IN MONGOLIA'S NEXT 10 YEARS? (CHOOSE UP TO 4 ANSWERS)	YOUTH CHALLENGES NOT ADDRESSED BY SDG
☐ MIGRATION /URBAN, RURAL AND OTHER COUNTRIES/ ☐ CLIMATE CHANGE AND LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY ☐ DISINFORMATION & FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION ☐ VIOLENCE & CONFLICT ☐ HEALTH & DISEASE	1
HEALTH & DISEASE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION & DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES LACK OF FOOD, WATER & HOUSING LACK OF DECENT WORK & OPPORTUNITIES ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & NEW TECHNOLOGIES DISCRIMINATION & INEQUALITY CULTURE AND TRADITION AT RISK EDUCATION ACCESS AND QUALITY OTHERS	WHAT IS YOUR SUITABLE SOLUTION TO SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS FACED BY MONGOLIANS?
	1.
WHAT ARE THE MOST PRESSING ISSUES AND PROBLEMS FACED BY MONGOLIAN YOUTH?	HOW DO YOU IMAGINE AND DEFINE THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN MONGOLIAN SOCIETY?
1.	VERY WELL WELL MODERATE POOR VERY POOR I DON'T KNOW
WHAT SUGGESTIONS, INITIATIVES AND SOLUTIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR OVERCOMING THE ABOVE-MENTIONED CHALLENGES AND DIFFICULTIES YOUTH FACE?	HOW WILL YOU BE INVOLVED IN ADDRESSING THE ABOVE-MENTIONED CHALLENGES AND DIFFICULTIES FACED BY YOUTH?
1.	1



HOW DO YOU THINK THE SITUATION OF MONGOLIAN YOUTH WILL CHANGE BY 2030 COMPARED TO THE CURRENT SITUATION?	
SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT A LOT OF IMPROVEMENT SOME IMPROVEMENT LITTLE IMPROVEMENT NOT IMPROVEMENT DON'T KNOW	1.
HOW DO YOU IMAGINE YOUR FUTURE IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS?	
YOUR LOCATION:	ULAANBAATAR: RURAL AREA:
YOUR AGE:	
YOUR GENDER	MALE FEMALE
YOUR EDUCATION LEVEL	SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT UNIVERSITY STUDENT HIGHER EDUCATION (BACHELOR'S OR ABOVE) NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL OTHERS //
YOUR EMPLOYMENT STATUS:	☐ EMPLOYED NOT EMPLOYED
DO YOU HAVE ANY DIFFICULTIES PARTICIPATING IN SOCIAL LIFE?	YES/CLARIFY/ NO REFUSED TO ANSWER
do you have a disability?	☐ YES ☐ NO