



# The “Junior Rescuer” Club

## Empowering Children to Take Part in Promoting DRR in Mongolia

Case Study @ World Vision Mongolia

# Disaster risk reduction in Mongolia

As a country, Mongolia is prone to both natural and man-made disasters. The numbers, types and frequencies of natural and climatic hazards (including droughts, *dzud* (severe winter), thunderstorms, heavy rains, dust and snow storms, hail and flash floods) have been increasing year by year due to extreme climate change. The emerging facts of disasters are anticipated to grow in the future, and it should urge Mongolia to take serious actions for prevention and protection from disaster risk and to increase capacity on disaster preparedness in the education and disaster management sectors. Any big disaster in the country can definitely affects communities, including children, by damaging infrastructures and disrupting education cycles, thereby affecting the most vulnerable and exacerbating poverty, forcing children to drop out of school and undermining the resiliency of communities.

Education which increases public awareness and equips children with critical thinking skills, therefore, is essential to build disaster resilience. For this reason, WV Mongolia, with the effective collaboration of partners, initiated and formed “Junior Rescuer” clubs in public secondary schools since 2014 in order to build capacity of children to prevent potential disaster risks. The clubs have been recognized by partners, including MECSS (Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sport) and NEMA, and have been instrumental in developing awareness and promoting peer-to-peer knowledge dissemination among children.

Once each club is established, the members take oath to comply with rules of the club that are set out by themselves. The club members have specific roles according to different functions such as leader; junior firefighter; junior nurse and junior journalist.



Junior Rescuers take Oath to comply with their club rule

Currently there are total 88 clubs established (with around 1,598 members) that have been actively performed at schools in Mongolia. Club members have been trained as peer educators to spread knowledge and skills on various DRR topics, such as: a) basic understanding about disaster; b) why disaster risk reduction is important; c) how to reduce the disaster risk at school level; d) what children can do and participate in DRR; e) how to assess and reduce the disaster risk with their contribution; f) how to lend the first aid to injured person. More importantly, these children can contribute to the increased understanding of their parents on importance of DRR at household level.

At schools, Junior Rescuer club members lead disaster risk assessment using “risk mapping” tool that identifies the risks and its causes in school areas. Based on this assessment, children then develop disaster risk reduction plan that included their potential contribution into reducing disaster risks.

In order to motivate child focused peer-to-peer interventions, the clubs are provided with various training materials, tools and handbooks, as well as training cabinets and other basic equipment for operation of the clubs. Children reported that this support allowed them to learn effectively in the real and creative environment.



The Junior Rescuer Club's children are introducing their activities to the Disaster management team of MECSS

While Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sport (MECSS) have been working on developing formal curricula on providing life skills to school children in Mongolia for many years now, the Junior Rescuer clubs are recognized by NEMA and other partners as very effective extra-curricula to disseminate knowledge and skill on DRR among children, as well as for awareness of basic safety measures.

Radnaakhand.E. (female, 15) from Orkhon Province:

... Our Junior Rescuer Club has been established in 2014. There are 35 members who are voluntarily committed to take responsibility in ensuring safety of our school and students. In most cases, we deliver training on life skill which is given every week in each class for one hour. For me, besides having knowledge and skill on disaster risk reduction, I have owned many good skills which will contribute for my future career such as working by team, making decision, making presentation, and teaching others. We have also shared our learning with our families. I really proud of myself, because my knowledge and skill that I have learned in our club would be used for helping others...



Radnaakhand is teaching First Aid to younger members of the Club



Junior Rescuers are organizing School Drill in 48<sup>th</sup> secondary school of UB city, Mongolia

Since WV Mongolia has been a pioneer in facilitating Mongolia's participation in the UNISDR Worldwide Initiative for Comprehensive Schools Safety, the Junior Rescuer Club is one of efficient ways to contribute to Pillar 3 on Risk Reduction and Resilience Education.

The Government of Mongolia strategically promotes Junior Rescuer Club in the national-wide program for community participatory disaster risk reduction that states the mandate to form Junior Rescuer Clubs in at least 80% of all schools in Mongolia. In addition, the Government also intentionally encourage children's participation into DRR through regular events such as competitions among club members organized by NEMA and its branches. This nation-wide Junior Rescuer clubs competitions are held every year at local, regional and national level when children learn knowledge and skill on disaster protection from each other, while improving their physical resilience.



For future sustainability of the Junior Rescuer Clubs, WV-Mongolia and NEMA initiated and held annual gathering event in June 2018 which will be replicated every year among the clubs to raise children’s voice in DRR-related policy and decision making...

Thank you for your attention 😊