

CAMPAIGN: “NO LAND, NO LIFE!”

In relation to the PANAP campaign and call for **16 Days of Global Action on Rural Women (October 1 to 16, 2015)** under the No Land, No Life and Women Assert Rights to Land and Resources campaigns, the Centre for Human Rights and Development (CHRD) based out of Mongolia organized several activities in regards to the slogan: **Protect Land, People, Tradition**. Many of the activities were held in Choibalsan center and in the 9 soums of Dornod province. Our campaign started from October 1st until 22nd October, 2015. During this campaign we collected around 3000 signatures from different 9 soums (see petitions attached), distributed over 3600 brochures to the local citizens, printed posters, held a press conference which was shown on 3 different channels in Dornod province, met with governors/government, and organized rallies in 9 different soums. All these activities were done and co-organized by the following groups; Community Saving Groups Federation, with local environmental groups, with Women’s Federation, Trade Unions and the Elderly Association in Dornod province.

In Dornod province the local community citizens want to live in a safe environment and do their own traditional herding. For this purpose, local people requested that the local government designate their land as a Specially Protect area. The local governments of some soums agreed and gave permission, but in Dornod province center the government did not give permission, due to political tension within the parties. The locals believe that the government will use this land for their own corporate gain most notably for mining.

1. Flyer and Pamphlet distribution



We started preparation of our flyer and pamphlet which gave to local community’s information about current land issues. The main issue in Dornod province was that the local communities were demanding their land and that the government designates the herding lands as a specially protected area. The 9 target soums are Tsagaan owoo, Bayandun, Chuluunkhoroot, Matad, Khalkhgol, Bayantumen, Choibalsan, Bulgan and Khulunbuir soums.

Why they need?

Government officials using these lands for the own purpose, and business endeavors for additional income. In some places mining activities have already started and destroyed their land, and company's havenot done any rehabilitation or reclamation of the land. These mining activities affect the traditional livelihood of herders and livestock, so much so that they cannot use their land as a pastureland. CHRD prepared flyers, pamphlets and posters to bring awareness and understanding for the call to action. CHRD distributed more than 3000 flyers and pamphlets to the locals.

2. Petition / collect 2400 local people's signatures/.



Our community women leaders collected around 3000 signatures. (left) Representatives from 9 soums were selected and came to Choibalsan city. They met with governors to discuss the concerns of the citizens. (Left)

3. Press conference(s):



Local community women leaders, CHRD and local CSOs organized a press conference. All leaders from the nine different soums (Bayantumen, Chuluunkhoroot, Bayandun, Tsagaanovoo, Bulgan, Khulunbuir, Matad and Khalkhgo) arrived in Choibalsan city to give speeches and make their voices heard. The main objective of this press conference was to demand that the land be taken into a specially protected area within the nine soums.

4. Dialogue women leaders with the local government:



The dialogue was held in all soums demand land between local people with the local government. Also women leaders from the eight soums, representative from CSOs and CHRD met with local governments in Dornod province center to discuss the land use issues, as well as push for the specially protected areas. They presented a letter of petition, collected around 3000 signatures from the nine soums demanding the rights to their land. CHRD staff along with women leaders travelled to these soums and participated in advocacy work. During this time, they hand out pamphlets and lobbied local politicians to designate the specially protected areas of Dornod province. It was important to meet with governors to push this process.

5. Rally's within the soums (9) and in Choibalsan city



The rallies were held in different soums and in Choibalsan city. Rally's was organized by CHRD assisted by Community Savings Group Federation, Elders Association, with local environmental groups, with Women's Federation, Trade Unions and the Elderly Association in Dornod province. In the rallies attended almost 260 people, mostly women, elders, leaders and speak out about importance the land issues, demanding for the land.

G. Urantulkhur /70 years, she was attended in rally and press conference in Choibalsan city/

She said: Today, we Mongolian rural women stand together to Protect our Land, resources and tradition. For us rural women this is a very vital issue. If we do not take action now it will be too late. I greatly appreciated the CHRD, Trade Union of Dornod province and Elder's Association of Dornod province organized these activities. From these activities I understood that if we can unite we can do many things together. I was able to learn a lot from these activities such as the petition collections, rally organization, and press conferences. I truly believe rural women can do many things. Even though I am old, I can still fight for my land, as the saying goes; without land, no life! It's true. We also heard what's happening in the world and I am happy that we are part of this *16 Days of Global Action*.

B. Myagmar /herder, signed in petition, attended in rally/

I came from Bayn-Uul soum. I am herder. My life and income are entwined with land and everything that comes with it. I proudly signed the petition and participated in the rally. I felt like I had a voice and a platform to use. I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity that the Trade Union, and CHRD organized these activities. These activities have opened my eyes, to see what we can do. With our collective power, we must assert our right to land, resources and keep tradition. I believe without this there will be no livelihood, no life.