

**Mongolia: WASH in Schools and Communities  
Project Design Document – Attachment A**

**Overview of Schools and Kindergartens in Mongolia and Khuvsgul aimag**

This overview is based on a reconnaissance visit in Sept 2011 in Khuvsgul aimag (Province)

The reconnaissance visited seven (out of a total of 37) kindergartens and six (out of a total of 34) schools over a period of 4 days. The visit was conducted close the commencement of the new school year, so conditions observed will be close to the best available conditions.

The vast majority of children attend government run kindergartens for about 9 hours per day from the age of 2 years (officially 1.5 years). Hours are 9 AM to 6PM. At kindergarten they are provided three meals per day for 5 days per week. Children of herder families are often provided for by special mobile kindergartens or special short (e.g. two month-long) periods kindergartens.

School begins at years at age six. Schools provide dormitory accommodation for children of herder families or others who do not have family to live with near the school. For many children who are from nomadic herders, they will live in school dormitories for about 9 months of every year until they finish secondary schooling.

There is a government School Snack program for all children to age six to 11 (5<sup>th</sup> grade).

In principle, children bring their own supply of toilet paper, wet tissues and other toiletries but the schools do carry a limited quantity of some material – e.g. hand lotions for handwashing and cleaning disinfectants. Each classroom has a sink (most are only functional by carrying water by bucket and by emptying a wastewater bucket located under the sink).

There are strict government conditions and rules on hygiene in all kindergartens and schools. Food preparation and hygiene are especially controlled and subject to checking. This is especially important given the prevalence of Hepatitis A. In this aimag (province) there was an aimag wide Hepatitis A outbreak in 2010. One of the schools visited (Tosontsengel) was the hardest hit in the aimag. This kinderdargten had 40 cases and was quarantined for two weeks.

Teachers have a 3-4 year degree courses. Kindergarten teachers have a degree course and teacher's assistance have a certificate level education. Many of the schools have very modern teaching equipment (e.g. computers, science equipment) and nearly all classrooms observed have very creative and attractive learning conditions (e.g. wall posters, teaching aids) despite the sometimes crowded conditions (three students at desks designed to two).

In winter, the winters are harsh - outside temperatures are often 20°C below freezing (average January temperature is -24°C). Buildings are therefore heated. Ideally, this is achieved by a school wide centralised heating system, but in many schools there are individual heaters. Fuel is typically timber (Khuvsgul Aimag has access to good timber resources unlike many aimags in Mongolia) although this is a costly both financially and environmentally (e.g. Alag-Erdene School uses 250 trucks of timber per year).

In most soum's (local government area) there is only one town (known as the soum Centre) and this is the centre of government services – including kindergartens and schools. All Soum Centres have one school and one kindergarten. The aimag (province) centre has several schools.

**Mongolia: WASH in Schools and Communities  
Project Design Document – Attachment A**

Water quality is tested every quarter by school authorities (reported by school authorities), but all drinking water is reportedly boiled as a matter of course.

Hygiene education is formally included in the school curriculum as part of the health teaching from grade 1 to upper grades.

**Photos**



Kindergarten handwashing. Hand washing lotion is between the two water dispensers. Water is carried by hand to the water dispensers and collected by bucket under the sink

**Mongolia: WASH in Schools and Communities  
Project Design Document – Attachment A**



Typical hand washing lotion dispenser in schools and kindergartens. These are commonly installed to address water shortages.



School toilet in Muren – outside.

Mongolia: WASH in Schools and Communities  
Project Design Document – Attachment A



School toilet in Muren  
- inside



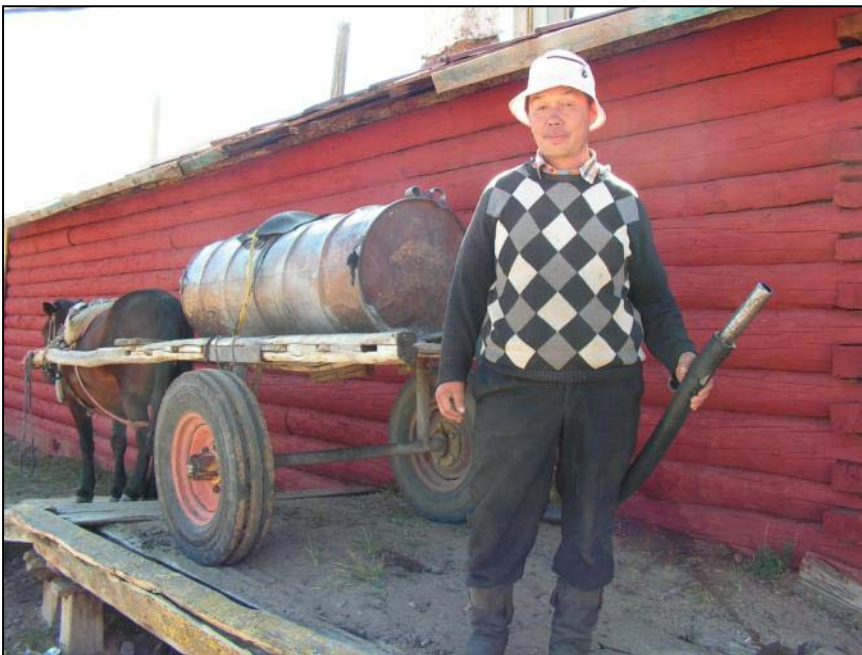
A well maintained  
school toilet in  
Tosontsengel - outside



Mongolia: WASH in Schools and Communities  
Project Design Document – Attachment A



A well maintained school toilet in Tosontsengel – inside – taken soon after cleaning



Donkey cart delivery at Tosontsengel School – in this case water source is within school grounds

**Mongolia: WASH in Schools and Communities  
Project Design Document – Attachment A**

---



Toilet room in new building used as storage as no water connected (Alag-Erdene School)



Cracks in new building (Alag-Erdene School)