

Head Start's 10th National Research Conference

Strengthening Early Childhood Education Services for Nomadic Children in Mongolia

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Content:

- ECE highlights as current situation
- ECE to nomadic herder's children
- Major accomplishments of alternative training programs of ECE
- Challenges

Mongolia:



Mongolia's territory is 1.6 million square kilometers, its population is 2.7 million. It borders to the south with the People's Republic of China and to the north with the Russian Federation.

38 % of total population live in rural areas;

54.6% percent of total children age up to 6 live in rural areas;

ECE highlights as current situation:

Age group: 2-5 years

Major Programs:

- a) kindergarten
- b) alternative training programs

Budgeting:

- a) 8.0 % of education budget
- b) 4.7 % Government total income
- c) 1.2 % GDP

ECE highlights as current situation:

Preschool Enrollment
Rate: 76.7%

- 59.1% kindergarten,
- 17.4% alternative
programs

of which:

- 81.7% rural
- 70.4% urban



ECE highlights as current situation:

Legal framework:

Law on pre-school education (2008)

Law on primary and secondary education (2006)

Strategic policies:

MDG based National Strategic Development Programme (2007)

Education Sector Master Plan (2006-2015)

Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy (2004)

**These documents pay attention to all critical elements of ECE
for the country in a coherent way, in response to national
needs and priorities**

ECE highlights as current situation:

The Law on Pre-school Education provides that all children between the age of 2 and 6, without exception, have the right to pre-school education either at kindergartens or through alternative training programs of ECE that includes the *ger*-kindergarten and visiting teachers.

Provision of ECE services for nomadic children:

	Kindergarten	<i>Ger</i> -kindergarten	Visiting teacher
Type of program	Formal kindergarten	Alternative training program	Alternative training program
Age focus	1.5 - 5	3-5	3-5
Intervention	Development and education	Development & School readiness	Development & School readiness
Enrolment 2009	59.1	17.6	-
Hours per day	9-10	6-7	2.5 or 3
Days per week	5	5	diverse
Weeks per year	36	14.4	diverse
Staff per child per year	1.27	1.22	1.1

Provision of ECE services for nomadic children:

Alternative training programs of ECE is major education service for young children in herder's family.

Alternative training programs are:

- *Ger*-kindergarten
- Visiting teacher

Ger-kindergarten:

Ger-kindergarten –community based ECE service; easy to construct; easy to move; close to living style; close to children & families

Inclusive - all stakeholders are involved in the process of implementation –multiple government org., institutional partners, NGOs, community, donors etc.



Visiting teacher:

- Learning activities for children
- Consultation with parents



Quality - alternative training programs of ECE:

- ELDS – includes national values, with attention to minority perspectives and those of vulnerable populations;
- ECD competency based benchmarking at the age of 0- 3 and 3 – 5 developed;
- Curriculum for alternative training programs of ECE – includes 72 days/180 hours program implemented;
- Training programs for teachers – 5 days training module developed and implemented;
- Exercise book for children (supports math, language, socio-emotional development in early ages) applied;
- Assessment tools for school readiness introduced.

Access -alternative training programs of ECE:

- Starting cost for *ger*-kindergartens - purchasing a *ger*, training supplies;
- Training supplies for visiting teachers – providing ECD kits including visual aids, toys, sport games etc.;

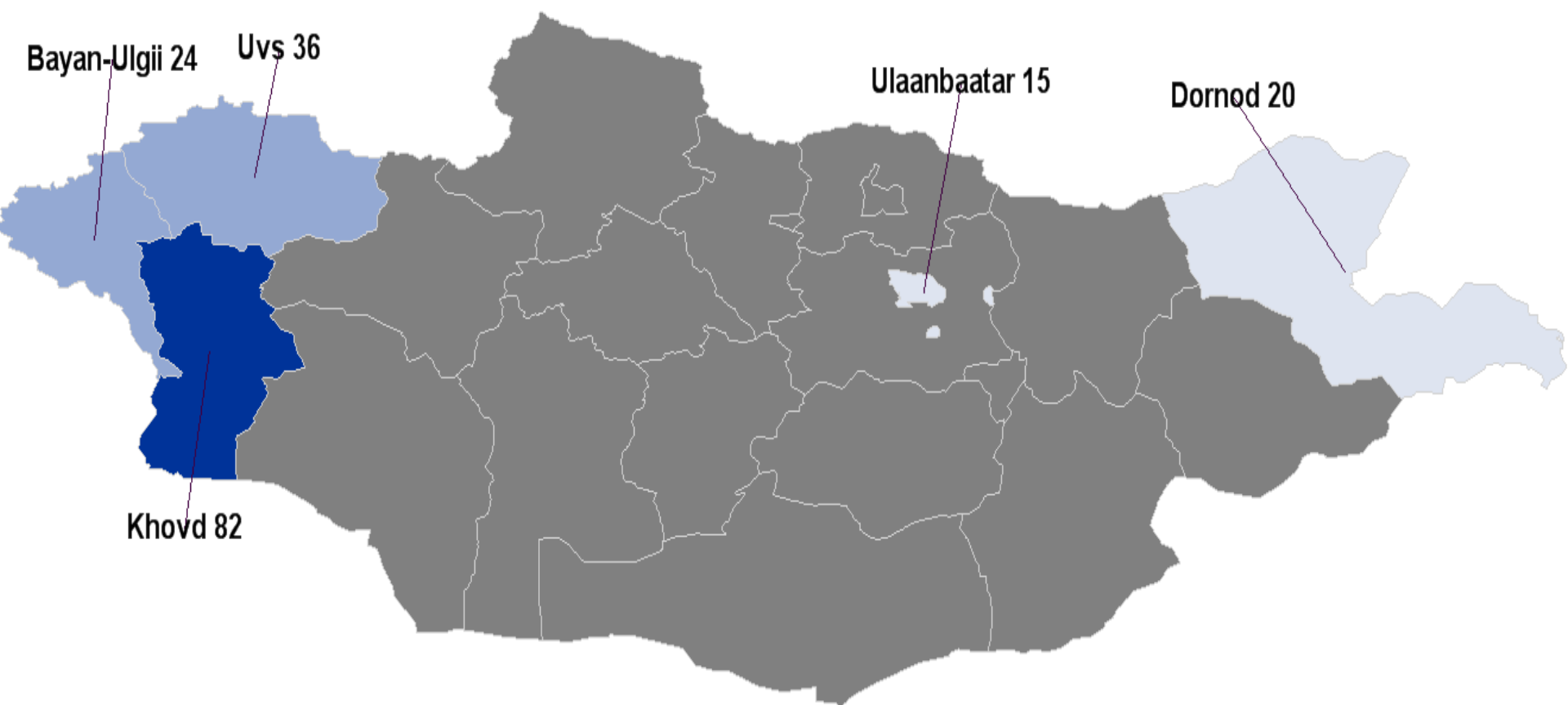
Parenting programs- alternative training programs of ECE:

- Counseling center for parents – counseling services for parents & family members;
- Training programs for parents – training module, handbook/publications;
- Family based early childhood development toolkits for parents in video format and TV programs – series guidance for parents on child development from zero to 6 years.

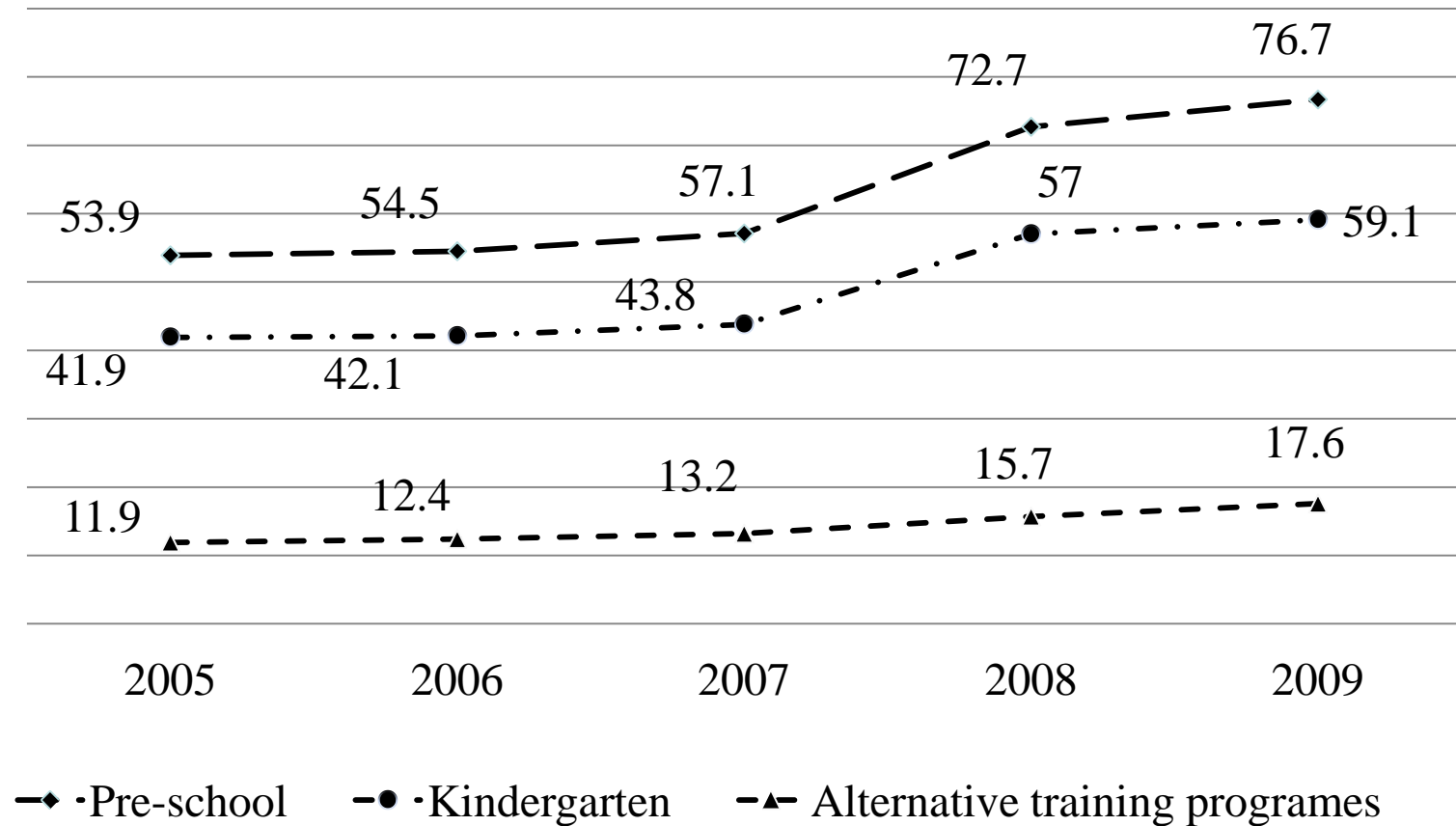
Counseling center for parents:

- The counselling centers work with families, parents and children, aiming at providing support through face-to-face interaction with parents and discussion of their feelings, concerns and experiences on early childhood development in family with collaborative approaches with support of part-time advisory council.
- The centres provide different activities, i.e. meetings, daily counselling and trainings.
- The disadvantaged and young families are given the outmost priority in the counselling centre.

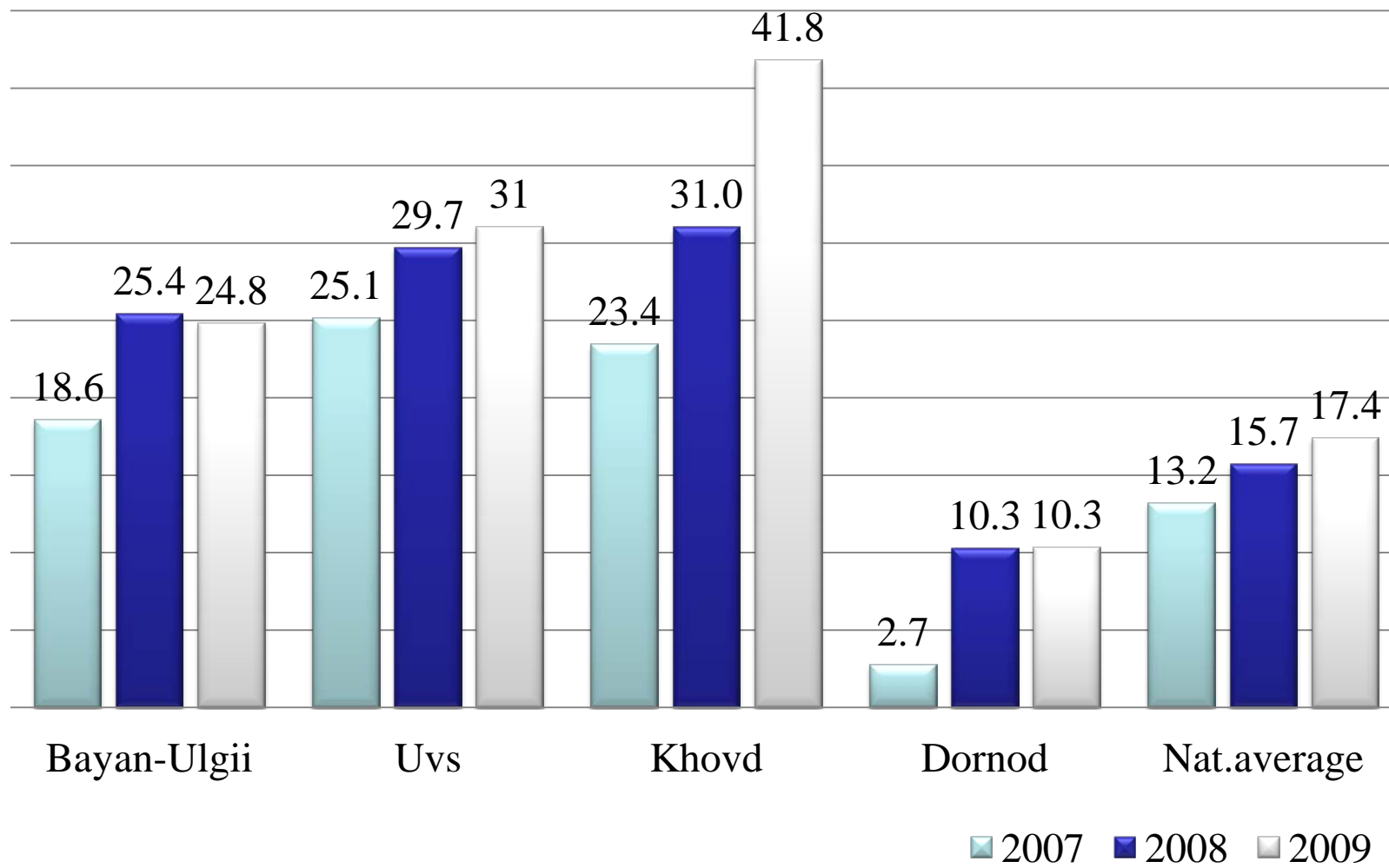
Number of *ger*-kindergartens in UNICEF programme areas:



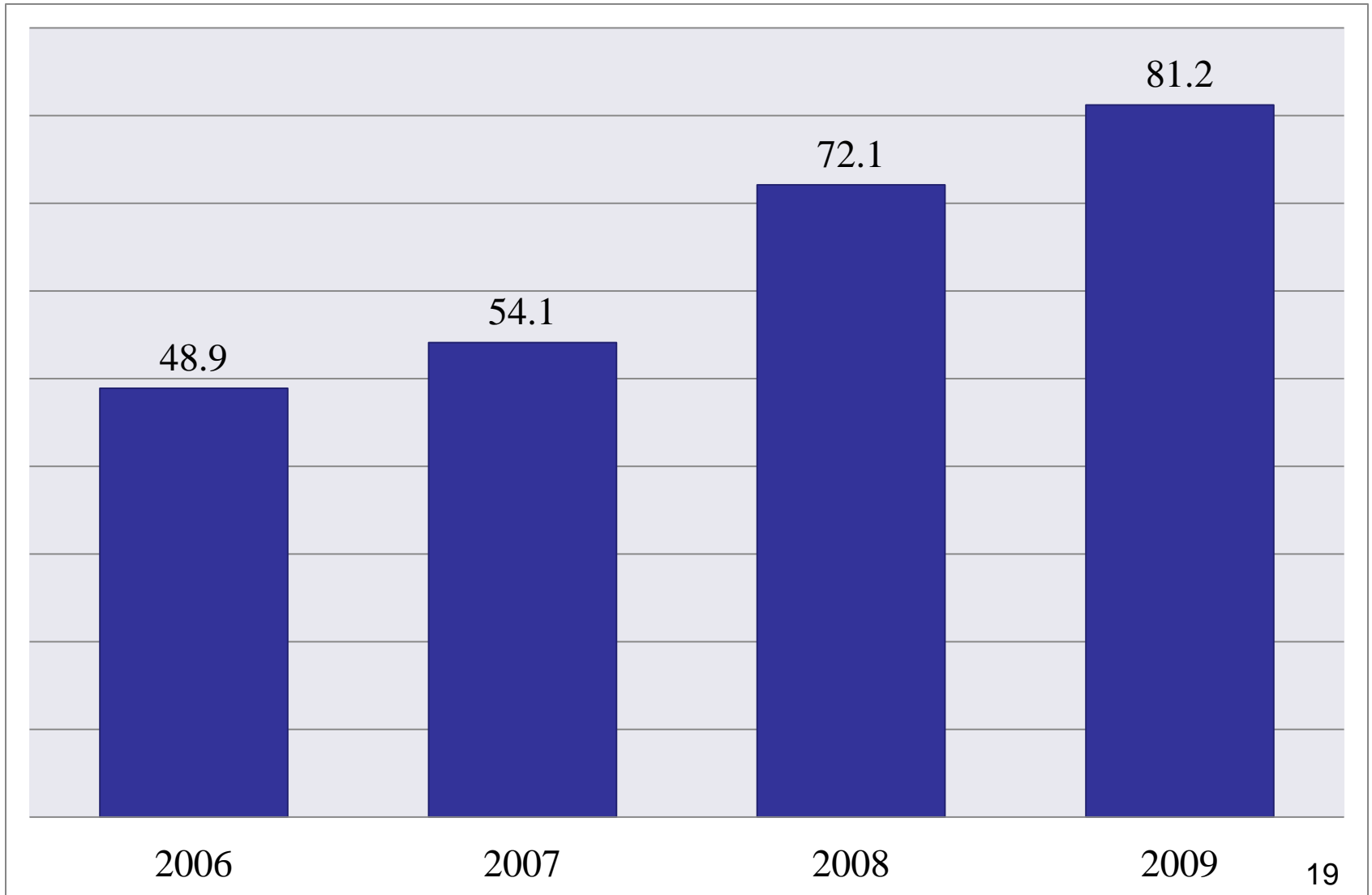
ECE enrollment rate: by programs



ER- alternative training programs, by provinces:



ECE enrollment in western region:



Challenges:

Large disparities between urban and rural



Challenges:

- Professional development of teachers by forming the training partnership with universities;
- Internal and external quality assurance for alternative training programs of providing service for the age of 3- 5 and standardization of *ger*-kindergartens;
- Learning media for parent education and
- professionals;
- Family education and local networking for the age of 0 – 3 and 3-5;
- WASH facilities for *ger*-kindergartens.

Thank you.

