



ISSUE 9 JANUARY 2009

ADRA Mongolia Newsletter

To donate or find out more about ADRA Mongolia's Programs please visit our website www.adra.org.mn/en

SPADE Zavkhan Update

New Food Security Project for 2009



Planning with health trainers



Members of Suvruga -Aguit cooperative, in Tosontsengel, Zavkhan

ADRA MONGOLIA Contact Information

Country Director,
Chris Jensen
director@adra.org.mn

Finance Director,
Terence Cole
finance@adra.org.mn

Programs Director,
Michelle Abel
programs@adra.org.mn

Disaster Management
Coordinator,
Gerard Ganaba
dm_coordinator@adra.org.mn

Food Security Coordinator,
Jannie Armstrong
foodsecurity@adra.org.mn

Health Coordinator,
Saraa Delegchoimbol
health@adra.org.mn

Micro Economic
Development Coordinator,
Uranchimeg Navaasambuu
economic@adra.org.mn

Youth and Education
Coordinator,
Tungalag Battengel
education@adra.org.mn

Tel: (976-11) 315730
Fax: (976-11) 311970

www.adra.org.mn/en

Central P.O.Box-1038
Ulaanbaatar-210613
Mongolia

There is a worrying situation in the Northern Soums (districts) of Zavkhan province, Mongolia, Project Manager D.Khishgee told me. Snow-storms are causing problems for the herder's, including loss of animals, which is their main source of livelihood and income. The SPADE Zavkhan project is trying to teach people who live in these areas, how to rely on more than one form of livelihood, for example, growing vegetables, as well as herding animals. SPADE Zavkhan is a current, five-year project which began in 2008. The project team has already chosen target beneficiaries and is working with households and cooperatives, and the project is hoping to target 800 households overall. Training was conducted to extend knowledge to the cooperative members, and the wider Soum communities, as well as the training of trainers, to provide more technical assistance. The project is made up of four main components, including animal husbandry, agriculture, health education, and cooperative and business development. A fifth component, community participation, has also been added. Members of each cooperative must draw up business plans, which then become the main component of the project, as they work together for a brighter future. In March this year some of the ADRA, SPADE Zavkhan team are planning to conduct training in the 10 target Soums, as well as teaching people how to prepare their land for planting, and giving out seeds. In return the cooperative members have to pay the project back for the seeds, and other resources that they are given. Then the money will be reinvested to the cooperatives, based on their business plans. Talks are currently underway as to how the cooperatives will repay ADRA, in an appropriate way.

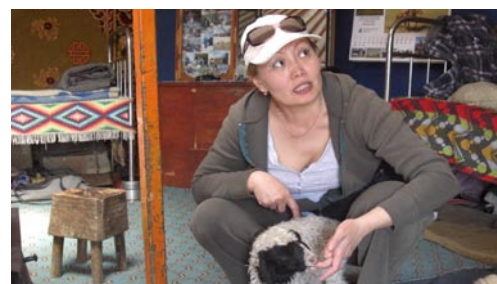
There are also plans to introduce high-breed bucks and rams into the program, to improve the quality of stock, as herding is the main source of livelihood. Zavkhan is one of the coldest areas in Mongolia, so research must be undertaken to find out whether the high-breed animals can withstand, or adapt to the extreme weather conditions. The project is also working towards strengthening community participation within Zavkhan province. The next step for the project will be to set up a project advisory committee.

As it's name suggests, the 'Sustaining the Seasons' project aims to facilitate a lengthened period of time during which vegetables can be grown. The target area for this project is the town of Tosontsengel which is located in northern Zavkhan, with extreme temperatures reaching down to a freezing -50 C.

By working with cooperative groups to build green houses, 'Sustaining the Seasons' hopes to help poor people benefit from the sale of vegetables during winter. Not only will the green-houses be used for growing vegetables, they will also be used as training centres for the 13 cooperative groups. The project also aims to improve the nutrition and health of the people involved.

Speaking of the upcoming project, Jannie Armstrong, the Food Security Coordinator said, "We are really looking forward to it, and I believe that it is an innovative project." 'Sustaining the Seasons' is a pilot project, and we are looking forward to seeing the results, as it is implemented this year.

Welcome back Tsermaa



The Food Security program is very happy to welcome Tsermaa back to the office after being away since October 2008, due to a stroke. She has had to undergo a lot of care and treatment since then. We pray that Tsermaa will continue to get better and we are thankful for the work that she does here at ADRA Mongolia.

Meet Our New Staff

Carly Fletcher



Carly came to Mongolia in January 2009, following the completion of a Bachelor of International Development Studies (Arts) at Avondale college in Australia.

Q *What was your first impression of Mongolia?*

A Freezing cold! Totally opposite to Australia, because I came from summer +40C into the Mongolian winter -30C.

Q *Why did you decide to work for ADRA Mongolia?*

A I was given the opportunity to come to Mongolia as an intern. I decided to accept this position because I am interested in learning more about the Mongolian culture, and its people, as well as wanting to gain more experience in the field of development. Mongolia is a fascinating country.

Q *What are your hobbies?*

A My hobbies include music, art, making video's, and playing table-tennis.

Q *What drives you bananas?*

A Small, repetitious noises!

Q *What is your favourite place?*

A Anywhere outdoors with a nice warm breeze.

Q *When is your favourite part of the day?*

A In the morning when the sun is rising, or in the evening when the sun is setting.

Q *Where would you like to live in the future?*

A I would like to live in any country that God sends me to. He knows what is best for me.

Youth Horizon's project news



The Project Manager, Ariunaa with student Khurelchuluun

The Youth Horizon's project is having a positive impact on the lives of young people in Ulaanbaatar schools; teaching them about issues related to violence and bullying, and what they can do about it. 15 year old Khurelchuluun is one of those young people. Since starting the program in November, 2008, he has been an active participant for three school semesters now. He has been trained by ADRA staff as a peer-educator, to train other young people like himself.

When interviewed by Ariunaa, the Youth Horizon's Project Manager, Khurelchuluun said that he really enjoyed facilitating games for the other students. And they are not just games! The students are actually learning life-skills through the games, which will help to prepare them for the future. Our trainer Byamba, played an important role in making the training efficient. She relates very well to young people, and her way of delivering the

topics is very clear.

As Khurelchuluun attended the training, he said that he started to become more tolerant and understanding of his peers, as well as appreciating his family more. He now spends more time with his family, and his father has also noticed a change in his son's life. He said that his father commented that he had become more helpful, and that he was becoming like an independent adult. At the end of the program Khurelchuluun set some personal goals for himself, which included not to lie, and not to deceive other people.

Khurelchuluun enjoys sharing the knowledge he has gained from the ADRA training, with his peers. He wants to tell them about the opportunities that they have, and he strives to give them correct information so that they can live right! He said that he would be happy if he could influence just one person in a positive way.

Khurelchuluun has gained more self-confidence through the Youth Horizon's project, and he has also become a better listener, focusing more on others, and less on himself.

His favourite sport is football, and when he finishes school he wants to work for the railways.

Buying one by one...children addicted to cigarettes...

The Interview is translated from S.Badarch's (IC Officer, HEAT, ADRA Mongolia) interview in the Daily newspaper.



Q: Tell me about ADRA and yourself.

A: ADRA Mongolia started in 1994. I am an IC officer for the Health Education Against Tobacco (HEAT) Project.

Q: So if I want to quit smoking can the HEAT Project help me?

A: HEAT is about giving information and training people. Most importantly it is about preventing young people from smoking at a young age, so that they don't become smokers later on in life. The latest research shows that 23.4 % of children smoke. This was because they wanted to look like adults but nowadays the reason is to have more friends. There are about 10 organizations working against tobacco in Mongolia and there are also things like patches and chewing-gum to help people quit smoking, but the most important thing is to have the will-power to quit.

Q: Are there different kinds of tobacco? Are some less poisonous?

A: There is no appropriate use of tobacco. Alcohol can be used for some medical purposes, but not tobacco. Tobacco is all the same. Smoking not only influences you, but the the people around you as well. The world is fighting against tobacco.

Q: How does HEAT fight against tobacco?

A: We are trying to create more smoke-free environments, for example, smoke-free cinemas, smoke-free bars, etc. Customers hated it at first but now these places have more customers than before.

Q: Are other types of tobacco also bad ?

A: of course! One woman was addicted to sniffing tobacco (through her nose). Without any persuasion one man quit smoking after 40 years, when he quit, but when he quit, her children stopped catching colds! There are direct and indirect tobacco advertisements everywhere. For example, big billboards placed in busy streets, and special deals like: "buy six and get one free". One of the main reasons why children are becoming smokers is that retail tobacco sellers are selling cigarettes from out of the pack, so that children can afford one cigarette from the box. Because of this, they are becoming smokers without knowing it. It should be stopped as soon as possible!