

STEP-BY-STEPPE



ADRA MONGOLIA: CREATING OPPORTUNITY, CHANGING LIVES

ADRA MONGOLIA HELPS DZUD VICTIMS WITH FOOD RELIEF

Mongolia is currently threatened by "Dzud", which is a multiple climatic hazards consisting of a summer drought followed by heavy snow fall and lower than normal temperatures. Dzud is a type of hazard that is unique to Mongolia which is characterized by heavy snowfall from 10 to 350 cm and extremely cold temperatures ranging from minus 40 to 50 degrees Celsius that result in massive death of livestock.

According to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), 65 soums (towns) of 12 aimags (provinces) are declared as the disaster area, 68 soums of 11 aimags have suffered from the dzud and 118 soums of 17 of aimags are severely affected by the harsh winter. Some aimags have been affected aimag-

wide, whereas in others only a few of the soums are impacted, although very heavily.

90% of the provinces are under snow: 30% area covered with 30-40 cm of snow, 30% area with 20-30 cm snow, and the rest is under 1-15 cm snow. The extreme cold causes the snow to form an in-penetratable layer of ice that animals are unable to feed. As a result the Ministry of Food Agriculture and Light Industry reported that 2.2 million livestock had perished.

212,353 persons make up the herder population in the most affected areas - out of which 60,000 are children, 12,800 are elderly, 7,600 are disabled and 3,400 are pregnant women. NEMA has called particular attention to the more

than 3,300 households representing more than 13,000 people that are in areas completely inaccessible due to blocked access routes. Within these provinces, the humanitarian impact of the Dzud on isolated herder families and poor families in inaccessible communities within the soums is worsening

ADRA Mongolia responded with emergency food aid to 450 severely affected families of 1 week supply of food comprising of rice, flour, sugar, vegetable oil and salt to 7 soums of Zavkhan aimag. Distribution of relief goods where undertaken in collaboration with soum government officials and with the Seventh Day Adventist Church (SDA) volunteers from Ulaistai City, Zavkhan aimag.

ADRA MICROFINANCE REACHES INTO ALL DISTRICTS OF ULAANBAATAR

ADRA Mongolia's Micro Economic Development Program works in all the districts of Ulaanbaatar city which includes 6 districts and 75 ger sub districts (a sub district made up of Mongolian traditional felt houses). They make contracts with the district governors so that they are able to reach more families. On January 28, ADRA Mongolia renewed the contracts for 2010 and discussed the outcomes of 2009.

Now, small business owners and people who want to start a small business have official access to ADRA Mongolia's information, advice, training and even bank loans



ADRA Mongolia renewed contracts with district governors

and savings. With the MED Program and the Government working together, this creates a positive environment and good conditions for small businesses and it also creates a faster way to reach the target beneficiaries.

In the year 2009, the Micro

Economic Development Program together with district Governors and Xac Bank, trained 752 micro business owners. Of the 752, 134 of them were able to access a small loan from Xac Bank of around 205 million tugrug (around \$142,000 USD) to be used for the development of their small businesses. The Micro Economic Development Program is funded by ADRA International, ADRA New Zealand, ADRA Switzerland, ADRA Australia, the Voluntary Agency Support Services (VASS) and Deka Foundation.

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"FUTURE WITHOUT VIOLENCE" BROADCAST ACROSS MONGOLIA

ADRA Mongolia's Acting on Gender violence Awareness through Peer Education (AGAPE) project organized a conference titled "Future without violence" and the conference brought together key stakeholders such youth, teachers, school administration, policy makers, representatives of parents, and peer educators; with 91 people participating in total. The conference was held in the Chinggis hotel and was highlighted on the evening news by two separate television broadcasting companies, SBN and NTV.

During the conference, the Ministry of Education and Culture's policy on reducing



Peer educators

violence against child and programs was discussed, with specialist, J. Myagmar giving a presentation. The Director of the National Centre Against Violence, D. Enkhjargal, and two school students gave a speech about peer pressure

and violence. Students also performed a drama on violence entitled "not guilty wrongdoer" which was very helpful so that adults were able to gain a better understanding about peer pressure and violence from the students' perspective.

Teachers, parents, social workers and school students discussed ideas and solutions to how they can reduce peer pressure and violence in their schools. AGAPE is funded by ADRA Australia and is now working on finalizing recommendations drawn from the conference and disseminate the recommendations to respective parties.

SPECIAL CERTIFICATE REQUIRED TO SELL TOBACCO

Last month the Health Education against Tobacco (HEAT) project (supported by AusAid and ADRA Australia) organized a press conference in close collaboration with the Legal Department of the Ulaanbaatar city Governor's office regarding new regulation on sale of tobacco products, according to which special permission is required for business entities to sell tobacco. Following the press conference 30 different media outlets published and broadcast information about this regulation. At the beginning of the new academic year (September), HEAT has chosen 2 more schools to include as part of their target schools. These 2 schools officially included



12th school's peer educators organized parents meeting

anti tobacco topic to its civil education classes, which will be given to students four times a month, and the HEAT team believes that students will gain accurate information about tobacco on regular basis for shorter period of time.

The HEAT project now has 6 schools to work with, and in addition to information against

tobacco, information is also being shared on relevant topics such as gender and stress. Peer educators had an opportunity to meet with peers from the National Centre against Violence. They shared their knowledge and experience about violence against children and tobacco related issues.

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Without their support we would be unable to improve the lives of many Mongolians. ADRA Mongolia has been serving people locally since 1993 and we need your support to continue this necessary and important work. Visit Ammado.com to donate now and help us in Creating Opportunities and Changing Lives.

"Changing the World, One Life at a time"

