

ADRA MONGOLIA: CREATING OPPORTUNITY, CHANGING LIVES

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Asian Regional Office visit to Mongolia

During this month, ADRA Mongolia was fortunate to host Jair Parada ADRA Asia HR/ Finance Director and Daniel Dos Santos, ADRA Asia Regional Executive Director.

The purpose of the visit from the ADRA Asia regional office was to learn and familiarize themselves with Mongolia and the ADRA Mongolia office. Specifically the week of meetings focused on sharing and improving management procedures, listening, accessing and analyzing views of strategic future for ADRA Mongolia and promoting partnership and relationship at different levels.

"You have a great team in ADRA Mongolia. It has been an intense but rewarding week. Please remember to express our appreciation for the staffs' attention to us during our visit. May God continue to bless all staff in their ADRA Mongolia ministry." Daniel Dos Santos ADRA Asia Regional Executive Director.



ADRA Asia Regional Executive Director Daniel with ADRA Mongolia staff

Thanks to Jair and Daniel for visiting Mongolia. We look forward to many more visits in the years to come.

Harvest Holiday a Significant Event



Harvest holiday session

"The Sustainable Poverty Reduction through Agricultural Development" project staff visited Zavkhan province from the 20th of September to the 4th of October, 2010. The main purpose for this visit was to organize a harvest holiday, to increase market share in local markets through introducing different product lines like new pickled vegetables, or salads, as well as to conduct pre-membership training in order to make

local people well aware of cooperative benefits and encourage new members to join cooperatives.

The harvest holiday is a crucial event which evaluates the beneficiaries' entire years efforts and hard work. This year's harvest holiday was evaluated by some interesting criteria such as; the biggest pumpkin and cabbages, or the cooperative which produced the largest number of product types as well as the best farmer (grain grower), and the best leader. According to the harvest holiday data, a total yield of 106.331 tons of potatoes, 19.939 tons of vegetables, 247.5 tons of green fodder and 18 tons of hay were harvested across all community based agricultural cooperatives.

One of the highlights of this year is a newly introduced individual system which promotes mutual benefits of individuals and cooperatives. During the spring beneficiaries were provided with land and seeds through cooperatives and in response, they committed to provide 20% of their harvest and seeds back to the cooperative in fall. As a consequence of this new system, the individual's participation and responsibility increased significantly. This project is funded by ADRA Germany with financial support provided by the European Union.



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“Poverty Reduction through Innovative Microfinance Empowerment” Bayankhongor project

(2010-2012)

The Micro-Economic Development (MED) Program has been implementing the Self-Help Group (SHG) project in Bayankhongor aimag for four years, from 2006-2010.

Through the SHG project, 76 informal SHG’s have been established, and 561 participants have been involved in SHG activities. The beneficiaries were able to attend SHG training, small business training, business planning, vocational and basic accounting trainings, and were even able to make some savings. They were able to put their savings into a commercial bank as collateral. Many participants took business loans and were able to start and expand their businesses and increase their household and business incomes.

The result of the project activity was an average savings per person of 56 USD and the average size of received loans from the commercial bank was around 650 USD. 135 members took vocational trainings, and 95 new businesses started.

Based upon the previous project intervention, it was found that sustainability was a very important component to help provide economic support for the project beneficiaries.

As a result, the MED Program has started a new project called the “PRIME BH” (Poverty Reduction through Innovative Microfinance Empowerment, Bayankhongor) Project to help provide greater financial support to the project beneficiaries.

The PRIME BH projects aim is: Reducing poverty in rural western Mongolia through innovative microfinance and community development.

The project objectives are:

- Firstly- To enable institutionally sustainable self-help groups,
- Secondly- to increase the livelihood income of beneficiaries through



Project beneficiaries are attending needs assessment survey session

participation, & improved financial & business skills.

- Thirdly- To improve the microfinance operation environment.

ADRA Mongolia’s MED team has already launched the PRIME BH Project activities in Bayankhongor. There are 7 new cooperatives which have been established and have received their official certification and stamp. The project staff held the project needs assessment trip from September 14-27. During the trip the established cooperatives made their next 5 plans by drawing pictures and attended the needs assessment survey session.

The PRIME BH Project will continue to address the problems of poverty reduction and economic development in Bayankhongor aimag through the provision of further training, business development services and community linkages. By cooperating and implementing together with local organizations, the project will ensure that its outcomes have the greatest chance of sustainability.

Ultimately, a sustainable future means a future that is free of poverty.

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