

Creating Opportunity, Changing Lives



Central Post Office Box 1038,
Ulaanbaatar, 210613,
Mongolia
Telephone: +976 11 315 730
Fax: +976 11 311970
www.adra.org.mn



Adventist Development & Relief Agency

Annual Review 2009



ADRA
MONGOLIA

Vision and Mission

Our Vision - *To improve the quality of life for all Mongolian communities.*

ADRA Mongolia was established in 1993 and has been expanding its operations over the years, as it continues to serve the people of Mongolia.

Areas of Concern:

ADRA Mongolia focuses on 5 main areas including:

Youth and Education
Food Security
Disaster Management
Micro-Enterprise Development
Health Education





***ADRA** is the development and relief agency of the **Seventh-day Adventist Church**.*

*ADRA supports **development and relief** through cooperation with individuals and communities regardless of any ethnic, political, gender or religious association.*



Mission Statement - ADRA Mongolia works with people in poverty and distress to create just, and positive change through empowering partnerships and responsible action.



Board Directors

Paul Kotanko (Chair)
Chris Jensen (Secretary)
Jai Ryong Lee
Akeri Suzuki
Clyde Iverson

Glenn Mitchell
Enkhbaatar Sukhbaatar
Tulga Batmunkh
Adiyahuu Oktyabr
Enkhbayar Mishigdorj

Tsetsgee Sambuu
Terence Cole
Phidee Tagalog



The Gobi desert is a harsh and unforgiving environment - very cold in winter and too hot in warmer months. It's the dry and endless flat ground full of rocks and sand that make it a hostile climate. It's a difficult environment to sustain life. Well, that's what I thought. But the Gobi Tree (*Haloxyylon ammodendron*) is simply awesome. Like everything in Mongolia it's stoic, tough and loves good competition.

Growing in the desert regions, it survives strong winds, poor soil and infrequent water supply, producing an unparalleled adaptation to the environmental conditions. The Gobi Tree grows very slowly, and rarely reaches a height in excess of ten feet – their gnarled, weathered trunks are obvious evidence of the hardship of their living conditions. Initially growing horizontally, the tree can look like a shrub even after many years. Only after many years, or even a decade - eventually a tree appears. From the sprouting, dense and thorny branches, other life grows abundantly; eagles, insects and other reptiles congregate around its protection and shelter. The wood is so hard it sinks in water, while the forests also support species that are specific to the tree – various insects, and even a Gobi tree sparrow.

I have been to the Gobi desert and seen many of these trees growing. It was a wonderful experience to observe their growth and impact on surrounding areas. I feel that the Gobi Tree is a fantastic metaphor for our community development work. Like the Gobi Tree, our work starts in tough conditions; poverty, social disadvantage, domestic violence and economic hardship. It grows, slowly at first, vulnerable due to the lack of opportunities. The skills and means from the project activities strengthen the potential for our clients to be all that they want to be. Further to this our community partners provide leadership, support and resources and benefits flow to others. If only it was that easy all the time. We face challenges, just as the Gobi Tree is not as common as it used to be.

After 15 years (1994 – 2009) of ADRA in Mongolia, I want to pause and give a heartfelt thanks to all our community partners, staff, Government at Soum, Aimag and National levels, and our amazing donors for the wonderful impact that ADRA has made on so many lives. In 2009 we were thankful for the support and guidance from our Board of members and the North Asia Pacific Division for their time, encouragement and resources to continue our vital work here in Mongolia. I have no doubt that we will continue to all work together for the benefit of the disadvantaged in Mongolia; and we appreciate your support. I am inspired by the growth, tenacity and beauty of the Gobi Tree despite such harsh and difficult circumstances. This inspiration is my challenge to you; Join us to continue to seek improved development outcomes for all Mongolians. The potential of even just one human life to achieve all it can be, should inspire each one of us to leave the world a better place than how we found it.

Chris Jensen
Country Director



Director's Message

Youth and Education



Program highlight – Children's Centre

In 2009 ADRA Mongolia took over the operation of a Community Based Rehabilitation Centre (CBRC) based in an urban settlement area in Ulaanbaatar. This centre has been running since September 2006 and has been providing services to vulnerable children with disabilities in the community. In November the CBRC commenced a two-year project, funded by Slovak Aid through ADRA Slovakia. This new project aims to improve the quality of community based services for children with disabilities and their families through capacity building of physical infrastructure and training of CBRC staff.

AGAPE

ADRA Mongolia's AGAPE (Acting on Gender violence Awareness through Peer Education)

project aims to reduce bullying in schools and increase awareness of gender based violence in school environments in Ulaanbaatar. The project cooperates with three public schools in Ulaanbaatar and has trained 60 peer educators to have skills on how to negotiate, diffuse or escape a situation of violence in their home or school, and act as a mediator in a situation of violence. Equipping students with the proper knowledge on relevant issues, and with important social skills, is expected to contribute to creating a safe school environment for students, which will positively impact on students' academic achievement and personal and social development. The project is funded by ADRA Australia.

Family Education

The Family Education Project has entered its fourth year of a five year project. During the past three years the project activities have been implemented in 19 soums of Zavkhan aimag. The project aims to empower children who have dropped out of school through literacy and vocational training. The activities include basic literacy for adults and school drop-out children, vocational skills and life skills training, health education and small business management training. A two-stage competition complimented activities by encouraging beneficiaries to develop sound business plans, with the winning group receiving tools to support them as they start a small business. During 2009, the project

trained 125 adults in different vocational skills and literacy, and trained 100 children in English language literacy in Ider, Telmen, Uliastai, Nomrog and Tudevtei soums of Zavkhan aimag. As a result of the project activities, many small business groups are running their businesses such as providing baking supplies to school lunch programs. The project activities are funded by ADRA Canada.

Youth Enterprise Project 4

Youth Enterprise Project 4 (YEP 4) is an integrated program which aims at poverty reduction and economic empowerment of youth. A two-month vocational skills course is combined with small business management training, as well as life and health skills which help to promote





Key Youth and Education activities include -

Life skills training, gender based violence awareness and anti-bullying programs, vocational training, adult and children's literacy training, building capacity of Non-Formal Education centres, and disability inclusion and awareness raising.

young people's self sufficiency and personal growth.

During 2009, a total of 450 unemployed youth participated in the program in Ulaanbaatar, Zavkhan and Bayankhongor aimags. During this period the project collaborated with local Non Formal Education Centres and Vocational and Technical Colleges. Vocational skills were provided that had the most demand in the labor market, such as construction, plumbing work, farming, repairing electrical appliances, cell phone repair, and welding. More than 60% of the

youth are now employed and another 10% are continuing their education in vocational colleges to upgrade their skills. During this period the project also continued its efforts to include disabled youth in vocational training programs and 45 disabled youth have participated in different vocational skills courses. The project is being funded by ADRA Australia and ADRA Switzerland.



Donors



*ADRA Canada
ADRA Australia
ADRA Switzerland
ADRA Slovakia
Slovak Aid*

Highlights

In 2009 ADRA Mongolia's Youth and Education Program continued its efforts to support educational access and opportunities for girls and boys in Mongolia.

The Youth and Education sector trained 125 adults in different vocational skills and literacy, and trained 100 children in English language literacy.

Food Security



Supporting Rural Livelihoods through Improved Food Security

This project is in the third year of five years, and works with eight community-based agricultural cooperatives in Zavkhan to improve their access to food and the availability of vegetables in the region. The cooperative members include a wide range of men and women, the majority of which were previously unemployed and migrated from the deep countryside following the loss of their traditional livelihoods herding livestock. Project participation is dependent on formal registration as a cooperative, and a proven track record in previous years in terms of agricultural yields, off-farm activities, and solid cooperative governance. Overall, some 368 cooperative members and their families are supported through this project. In 2009 the project provided training to the

cooperatives in wool processing, food processing, protected cultivation, and organic pest control. The cooperatives received practical training through field visits to each other's gardens, and study trips to agricultural areas in other parts of Mongolia. The harvest this year remained good, despite a very dry summer, and promotion of saving of potato seed for the 2010 harvest was reinforced through the construction of three root cellars. This project is in partnership with ADRA Canada and funded by CIDA.

Reinforcing Food Security at Community Level through Diversified Agriculture

This project is in the second year of a three year project. The project works with 600 householders in four locations helping their families improve their access to food through vegetable gardening. This year the project continued to provide technical support in organic gardening methods, with a resulting harvest yield of 328 tons of vegetables. The project staff also focused on sustainability by working with each family to set aside seed potato for storage over winter and use in 2010. The families selected in this project are from poor backgrounds and usually need constant access to cash through the sale of excess vegetables from their harvest. This year the families were able to put aside a significant amount of seed potato in root cellars for use in the 2010 season. This project is in partnership with ADRA Canada and funded by the Canadian

Foodgrains Bank.

Sustaining the Season

This project commenced in April 2009. It is based in Tosensengel soum, Zavkhan, and works in partnership with a local community-based agricultural cooperative. The project has three components: the rehabilitation of a derelict building into an all-weather greenhouse; the establishment of a community-led system of food security assessment; and the establishment of a regional training facility that will provide training to community-based agriculture cooperatives in Zavkhan in protected cultivation methods. Tosensengel is known as the coldest place in Mongolia in winter, with temperatures dropping to -40 C. Currently there are only 90 days in





Key Food Security activities include -

Providing food and non-food materials and training to individual households and cooperatives, supporting vulnerable households as they learn new skills to help them meet their daily food needs, providing practical nutrition, food preparation and storage information to rural populations.

summer where it is possible to grow vegetables unprotected. This project will pilot methods of protected cultivation including row covers, "cool" house (a greenhouse heated to 2 C) utilization and intensive and multiple cropping strategies to maximize the harvest that can be grown. The project uses organic gardening methods. During 2009 the all-weather greenhouse was constructed, with the immediate result of an extra 40 days of harvest from the crops inside. The project also conducted training in food processing techniques, and market research in Tosensengel

regarding potential demand for additional vegetables. A trial of kimchi (a variety of Korean pickles) production was conducted in the soum market, with the result that the cooperative is now planning to grow and produce the vegetables which are needed to make the most popular kimchi from the trial, as additional income in 2010. This project is in partnership with ADRA Australia.

Food Security is defined as: the availability of food; the access of people to food; the utilization of food; and the stability of food supply. ADRA Mongolia implements food security projects in Zavkhan and Bayankhongor aimags.



Donors



ADRA Canada
 Canadian Foodgrains Bank
 ADRA Australia
 CIDA

Highlights

Repurposing an abandoned building in Tosensengel soum to be an all weather, heated greenhouse. The pilot greenhouse project extended the normal growing season for vegetables from 90 days to over 120 days; further increases are planned for 2010.

Working with more than 600 families across Bayankhongor aimag to build sustainability in their potato seed supply, with the majority of families saving significant quantities of seed potato for the first time from the 2009 harvest in root cellars for use in the 2010 agricultural season.

Disaster Management



The Sustainable Poverty Reduction through Agricultural Development Project, Dornogobi Aimag (SPADE Gobi)

This year the SPADE Gobi project worked with poor families that had been displaced by natural disaster, advancing desert and soil erosion. ADRA provided farming tools, equipment and training that enabled them to engage in vegetable production. Beneficiaries were able to convert 16 hectares of arid land into productive vegetable gardens, including six hectares of sea buckthorn berry bushes to provide future income and to mitigate the advancing desert. The berry bushes likewise served as natural wind breakers that protected the garden. In the autumn of 2009 the total yield was 17 tons of vegetables and 3.6 tons of fruit. With increased vegetation cover within the project areas beneficiaries noticed

an increase in biodiversity ranging from birds to various insects. Beneficiaries were trained in organic farming and are practicing crop rotation, composting, biological pest control and mechanical cultivation to maintain soil productivity. Efficient use of scarce water resources in the Gobi desert has been ensured by the use of drip irrigation systems and solar power to operate pumps on deep wells. With variable and extreme weather conditions in the Gobi, plastic and glass greenhouses were established to provide a controlled environment for food production. Social capital was also built, and a cooperative union was organized as a result of the establishment of three primary cooperatives. A processing facility was established and is being managed by the cooperative union; capitalizing on a steady supply of fresh vegetables from the primary cooperatives and a demand for pickled vegetable products at the soum and aimag levels. This project is in partnership with ADRA Czech Republic and funded by the Czech Republic Development Cooperation.

The Sustainable Poverty Reduction through Agricultural Development Project – Zavkhan Aimag (SPADE Zavkhan)

The SPADE Zavkhan project works with 800 poor herders who had either completely or partly lost their animals due to extreme winter disasters followed by three consecutive years of drought. The project engaged with ten already existing

cooperative groups, and participatory approaches were used to identify the needs and priorities of the beneficiaries. Business plans were developed that served as the framework for cooperative action to build their assets. Theoretical and hands-on training in organic farming, composting and water management enabled them to engage in gardening that yielded 101.36 tons of vegetables in 2009. Training in health and nutrition equipped cooperatives with valuable knowledge to increase the health of the beneficiaries. Training was also given on how to pickle vegetables; ensuring a supply of vegetables during winter months. The impact on desertification and soil erosion brought about by over grazing was mitigated by increasing the quality of animals through cross breeding that resulted in 1,078 high breed offspring, which will





Key Disaster Management activities include -

Disaster response planning, building community resilience, and working closely with communities in developing and implementing disaster mitigation strategies.

consequently reduce the number of animals the cooperatives have in their herds. This project is funded through ADRA Germany with financial support provided by the European Union.

 This project is funded by the European Commission. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of ADRA Mongolia and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

Integration of disaster risk reduction into development has been at the heart of the Disaster Management unit intervention strategy. The unit has been mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in its poverty focused development efforts in Dornogobi and Zavkhan aimag, where people's livelihood has been continually threatened

by drought, desertification, soil erosion, sand storms and climate change. ADRA Mongolia's primary strategy in vulnerability reduction is to increase the capacity of these communities and organizations to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the impact of disasters.



Donors



*ADRA Czech Republic
Czech Republic Development Cooperation
ADRA Germany
European Union*

Highlights

A total yield of 122 tons of vegetables in the harvest in September 2009 across all community based agricultural cooperatives working with the disaster management projects.

Establishment of a cooperative union from three new agricultural cooperatives in Dornogobi aimag, which then went on to establish a joint food processing facility.

Micro-Economic Development



Micro Economic Development Program

In 2009, the impact of the economic downturn was felt throughout Mongolia and while the pace of the downturn has slowed down in several areas, risks still exist in the banking sector. Bigger financiers face big defaults that may wipe them out, but Micro-finance Institution's (MFI's) report almost zero default rates. The financial crisis was a lesson for many financiers about the importance of cash flow and future strategy of a borrowers business plan, not just collateral.

Overall, ADRA's Micro Economic Development (MED) program continued its activities through three projects: Self Help Group (SHG), Sustainable Livelihood Through Microfinance Innovations (SLMI) and Cultivating Urban Economic Strength (CUES). Some of the main activities included microfinance and poverty

reduction, community organizing, small business training, business development and a loan linkage program. Throughout Mongolia in all 32 MED sites in both urban and rural areas, 196 active SHG's and 1600 members' accumulated savings reached the value of 70,924,086 MNT (USD49,150). The program supported 1377 businesses in total and 500 new businesses were established as a result of the program. The program supported 6400 indirect beneficiaries who are family members of the beneficiaries.

Self Help Group Program

ADRA's Self Help Group (SHG) program aims to build bridges between financial organizations and rural residents who have no business experience, specialized skills or assets to show as collateral. The MED program implemented two projects: **Sustainable Livelihood through Microfinance Innovations (SLMI)** and the Self Help Group (SHG) project, based on the SHG model. The projects supported rural residents to help them help themselves to get out of financial difficulty through the self help group model that enables low income earners to find a common solution and work together at low cost. By working as a group, the members are given the opportunity to start a micro business, share experience, increase sales, build professional capacity and improve products to display in local markets. The project highlights the importance of community organization and economic development.

In 2009 the project supported 1582 members from 191 SHG's in 26 small villages of Zavkhan, Selenge, and Bayankhongor provinces. The project beneficiaries accumulated 70,674,086 worth of savings in the Mongolian currency and the total value of disbursed loans reached to 888,067,689. Overall, project loan repayment stood at 98% this year. Although, the financial crisis didn't uproot our beneficiaries, our partnering banks had to pause their commercial loans several times, there were limited loan disbursements, commodity prices increased and the cost of raw materials increased. All these challenges had a serious impact on micro-entrepreneurs; however, they are working to overcome these hurdles.

This project is supported by ADRA Switzerland, ADRA New Zealand and the DEKA Foundation.





Key Micro-Economic Development activities include -

Business skills training, advice and Self Help networks, financial literacy training, and assisting micro-entrepreneurs to gain access to credit.

Cultivating Urban Economic Strength (CUES)

The CUES project started in October 2008 and aims to improve the livelihood security of vulnerable urban households in Ulaanbaatar, the capital city of Mongolia, and to build the capacity of financial organizations and local NGO's to serve poorer clients. More than 60 percent of the total population of Mongolia live in Ulaanbaatar and migration to the capital city is increasing year by year. According to statistics 10,000 individuals on average move to Ulaanbaatar every year in search of better living and income. Those migrants usually reside in the ger, or poorer areas of the city, which causes various problems

including unemployment. The CUES project aims to support those people and encourage them to improve household income through business opportunities.

In 2009, the project helped 614 families including 2456 family members, living in the ger districts, to understand and access the benefits of private business, salaried employment and banking services.

This project is supported by ADRA Australia.



Donors



*ADRA International
ADRA New-Zealand
ADRA Switzerland
ADRA Australia
Voluntary Agency Support Services (VASS)
DEKA Foundation*

Highlights

SHG members submitting proposals to the 'Organic Mongolia Program'. Five of the six proposals were accepted, and the SHG members each received a loan of 12,000,000MNT from the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Xas bank. Some of the eco products which will be produced include dairy products, honey, pickled vegetables and fruit juice.


Creating opportunities for project beneficiaries to receive wholesale loans from Xac bank.

Health Education



Safe Choices

The Safe Choices project began on the 1st of October 2008, and aims to decrease the incidence of STI's and HIV/Aids among young people living in university and college dormitories in Ulaanbaatar. In close collaboration with relevant organizations, the project has been disseminating information to students about HIV/Aids and STI's, and is helping them to make safe choices that minimise the chance of contracting HIV/Aids or STI's. Within one year, the project has made some significant achievements. We were able to reach approximately 10,000 students in 33 dormitories through our 20, trained, student peer-educators and 760 health volunteers by

conducting training and information sessions on various topics that are relevant to the every day lives of the young people, and correcting common misconceptions among students about STI's, HIV/AIDS and reproductive and sexual health. As a result of our trainings, the students' self-initiatives in STI prevention and awareness activities were intensified in target dormitories. One of the biggest achievements of this year was that the project laid solid ground for good working relationships with relevant stakeholders and began to gain their support and initiatives for the well-being of students, which is crucial for the success and sustainability of the project. The project conducted a series of meetings with potential partners and organised trainings for health workers and dormitory managers in order to enhance their understanding of certain features of young people and their sexuality. Working agreements were made with 5 district health centers, 7 family clinics, and 33 dormitories from 22 universities as well as with the Mongolian Student Association. In addition, the project has been utilizing mass media such as television, radio and newspaper to reach more students. In relation to this, the project has signed an official agreement with the local television station and an FM radio station to broadcast special programs, as well as utilising TV and radio spots. The project is funded by ADRA Germany and the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Funded by the German Government 

Health Education against Tobacco project (HEAT)

Since its start in July 2008, the HEAT project has been working closely with target secondary schools, some district and sub district government offices, and mass media organizations to raise awareness on the risks of tobacco use as well as lobbying current legislation on tobacco control. In 2009, the project trained 180 peer educators (including students, school staff and parents) in 6 target schools, through whom anti tobacco messages have been promoted among their peers. In total 2160 students received information on the negative effects of tobacco use through information sessions and various campaign activities. Our target schools made changes in the schools' internal regulations to make the





Key Health Education activities include -

Advocacy and collaboration with health decision makers, working through university students as STI peer educators, and facilitating health promotion campaigns targeting tobacco promotion and use.

schools 'smoke free'. The project trained students and adults, established cooperation with the respective sub-district governments, and worked with shops and supermarkets near schools so they would not sell cigarettes to minors.

During this period, the project has established working relationships with different district government offices. One of the initial joint activities was the production of a sticker explaining that it is illegal to sell cigarettes to minors, for display at the point of sale in 3000 shops and supermarkets city wide. This

year, the project continued working with local Mongolian television networks, radio stations and newspapers, through which, anti tobacco news, programs and spots have been broadcast to the public. The HEAT project is funded by the Australian Government.



Donors



*ADRA Germany
German Ministry of Economic Cooperation (BMZ)
ADRA Australia
Australian Government AusAID*

Highlights

Establishing relationships with 33 dormitories across Ulaanbaatar that have resulted in more than 10,000 students receiving information about how to make safe choices and decrease their risk of contracting STI's and HIV/Aids.

Publishing and broadcasting more than 40 anti-tobacco articles and programs, and more than 30 news spots on television, radio, and in daily newspapers.

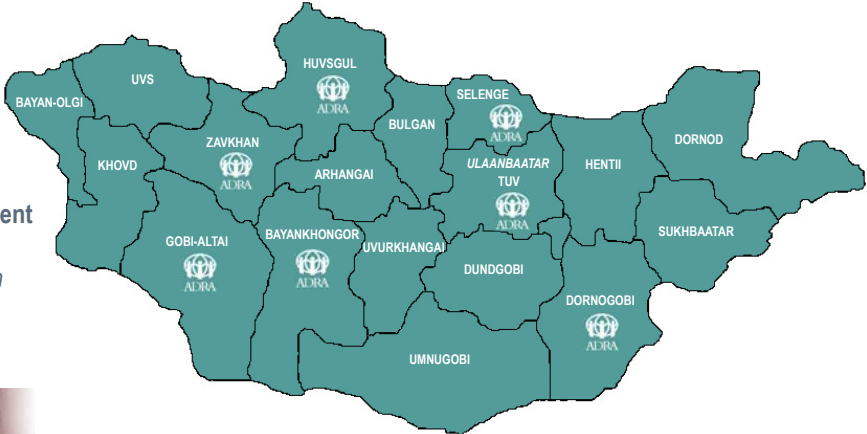


Project Report

Projects Completed in 2009

Youth Horizons
July 2008 - June 2009 ADRA New-Zealand

Sustainable Poverty Reduction Through Agriculture Development - SPADE Dornogobi
July 2007 - November 2009 ADRA Czech Republic, and the Czech Republic Development Cooperation



In 2009, ADRA Mongolia worked in 7 of Mongolia's Aimag's (Provinces).





Projects Operating in 2009

Acting on Gender violence Awareness through Peer Education Jan 2009 - Feb 2010 *ADRA Australia*

Cultivating Urban Economic Strengths Aug 2008 - Aug 2010 *ADRA Australia/AusAID, ADRA International*

Development of Community Based Rehabilitation Centre Nov 2009 - Nov 2011 *ADRA Slovakia*

Health Education Against Tobacco Jul 2008 - June 2011 *ADRA Australia, AusAID*

Reinforcing Food Security at the Community Level through Diversified Agriculture
Jan 2008 - Dec 2010 *ADRA Canada, Canadian Food Grains Bank (CFGB)*

Safe Choices Oct 2008 - Sep 2011 *ADRA Germany, the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)*

Self Help Group Jul 2007 - Jan 2010 *ADRA New-Zealand, ADRA Switzerland, VASS, and DEKA foundation*

Sustainable Poverty Reduction Through Agriculture Development - SPADE Zavkhan
Jan 2008 - Dec 2012 *ADRA Germany, the European Union*

Sustainable Livelihoods through Microfinance Innovation June 2006 - June 2010 *ADRA New-Zealand*

Sustaining the Season Apr 2009 - Sep 2010 *ADRA Australia*

Supporting Rural Livelihoods through Improved Family Education and Food Security
Jul 2006 - June 2011 *ADRA Canada*

Youth Enterprise Project IV Jul 2008 - June 2011 *ADRA Australia, ADRA Switzerland*

Changing Lives



Mrs Kh. Doljin (right) and a fellow dormitory manager, at an ADRA-run training session

Because of the training she is now one of the most supportive and understanding dorm managers...

Mrs. Kh. Doljin has been working as a manager of dormitory #1 of the State Pedagogical University for the last 15 years. Each year she manages about 400 dormitory students, who come from various parts of Mongolia to study in the capital city. She openly shared her first experience of meeting ADRA staff and how she was very negative towards them in her dormitory because STI prevention and awareness activities among the students seemed very irrelevant to her,

and she had a lack of understanding of these kinds of topics. Her whole perception of the project idea and activities completely changed after she attended a two-day training session conducted for the dormitory managers last October. She says that the training was very participatory and practical, and also very useful. Because of the training Mrs. Doljin is now one of the most supportive and understanding dorm managers that the project is working with. Now, all she wants to do is support student initiated activities. She does this by providing them with training spaces and helping to coordinate the students and student council's activities to reach as many students as possible. She believes that preventative sexual and reproductive health education among dorm students is in great need.



My name is Bold Dambachoimbol, and I am a former soum governor of Dalanjargalan soum. ADRA was the first organization to ever implement an agricultural project in Dalanjargalan soum. Sometime in 2006 only around 8 families were involved in vegetable gardening. But when ADRA implemented its project in 2007 an additional 17 more families were engaged in agriculture with a total of 25 families in all. The figures in terms of the number of

The figures in terms of the number of families involved may sound small but the overall impact to our soum is huge...

families involved may sound small but the overall impact to our soum is huge. The project has been a support to the Local Government program in reducing poverty and increasing employment. With the quantity and diversity of crops that these families are producing, the project beneficiaries have contributed to the supply of fruit and vegetables for the local community. Aside from the agricultural production that the project has contributed to, its most significant accomplishment is the development of our people. Through the project our people have learned new skills and knowledge that have enabled them to become active participants in developing our community.



Bold Dambachoimbol (right) involved in an ADRA 'lessons learned' seminar



Odtseet (standing) leading out in a peer-educator training activity

Frustration... anger... misunderstanding... These were the feelings that surrounded 16 year old Odtseet as she tried to communicate with the people around her. She would get angry very easily, because she found it hard to define the differences between communicating with older and younger people. On top of this Odtseet has a visual impairment and attends a boarding school in Ulaanbaatar city, Mongolia, for children with visual impairments. Issues related to bullying and violence often

occur more frequently within a boarding school situation, due to the increased interaction, and the close confines in which young people live together.

In April, 2009, Odtseet was chosen to be a peer-educator along with 19 other students from her school, as part of the ADRA Australia funded Acting on Gender violence Awareness through Peer Education (AGAPE) project. The peer-educators attended ADRA's training on gender, gender-based violence, bullying and other issues related to violence. The students were also given vital life skills training which included topics such as communication, trust, team-building, as well as topics related to leadership and what it means to be a peer-educator. Odtseet recalls that the most important part of the training was the gender training, because this was something that she could understand and relate to very well. Before the training, most of the

students didn't know about gender and other issues related to gender-based violence. It was a new, fresh and informative topic for the young people to be introduced to.

Since the training Odtseet has noticed some changes within herself. She doesn't make the same communication mistakes that she did before, and now if there is a misunderstanding, she tries to explain things better. When you meet her, you would never know that she struggled with communication and anger, as she is a vivacious girl with a big smile, and a big heart for helping the people around her.

Since the training she has noticed some changes within herself. She doesn't make the same communication mistakes she did before...



Visual impairment is one of the challenges that Odtseet must face, and she overcomes this by explaining to people that the preconceived ideas that people have about a person with a disability are false. Before, if she hadn't attended the training, she would have been much angrier, and more frustrated.

Odtseet smiles as she shares about the changes in her life, "Now I am better than before at all things." Now she says that she can communicate much better than before, and this has made a big difference in her life. She is very positive about the future and says with confidence, "Of course I will study in university – I will have a job, and maybe I will be a teacher and work in our school." She also shares about what she has learnt from the training with her family: "I always talk to my family about the training and my grandparents commented that the training is very good and they can see that I have become smarter and gained more

knowledge because of it."

The training has also helped to equip Odtseet with skills that will be useful and important in her future career as a teacher. As a peer-educator she has the responsibility of teaching and sharing with other young people about these important topics. When she teaches and trains her peers, she likes the fact that they are able to understand each



Odtseet (left) and another peer-educator participating in a peer-educator's training activity

other better, and she enjoys teaching the life skills to her friends.

Since the ADRA training took place, there have also been some changes at her school. Students do not call each other bad names, like they did before and they always talk about the training with each other. Levels of bullying and violence are decreasing as well, but there is still a lot of work to be done.

Odtseet believes that there needs to be more training of this kind for other young people in schools. She says that Mongolian children are smarter than before, but some of them still make bad decisions, involving things like smoking and alcohol, as well as violence related issues. Thankyou for helping us to empower young people to stand up and be positive role models among their peers; to give young people like Odtseet the confidence and knowledge they need for a **brighter future.**



She used her loan very effectively to buy materials for her products...

Ts. Tanya is a single mother who lives with her four children in Bayangol district, Ulaanbaatar. She is an accountant by trade, and in addition to that she started a business making cashmere products with her daughter. Her daughter is disabled and they made their products at home, however their income was not increasing enough to buy new supplies. In July 2009, they found out about the “Micro Economic Development” project, and attended the trainings provided. A loan of 900.000 tugrugs (600 USD) was provided by Xac Bank through MED. This allowed for space to be rented in a warm shopping building. She used to sell her products in an open market which was hot in the summer and bitterly cold in the winter. She used her loan very effectively to buy materials for her products and to make a range of additional products. Now she is very happy that her business is successful.



Ts. Tanya in her new cashmere shop



My name is Byambadoo, and I live in the aimag center of Bayankhongor province. There are three people in my family and I am 50 years old. Ten years ago I lost six fingers and both legs to the blade of an industrial textile machine at the small factory where I was employed. As a result of the accident, I lost all of my working capacity. I spent a long time without a goal to my life and no job. Three years ago, I got involved in the ADRA Mongolia project and started a 0.1 hectare garden plot at Bor Balgas. Right after that, I started cultivating vegetables in my plot. Experienced ADRA agronomists advised me on how to cultivate my crops, and I harvested 1,200 kilograms of vegetables. The harvest was enough to cover my household consumption for a whole year and even then I had extra products to sell. There were plenty of customers who wanted to purchase my vegetables. I grow a small quantity, but it generates a good amount of income and it helps me to pay my daughter's tuition fees for a



Byambadoo (far right) in his garden plot at Bor Balgas

My life has turned to light and happiness and now I can see my future, with both goals and hope...

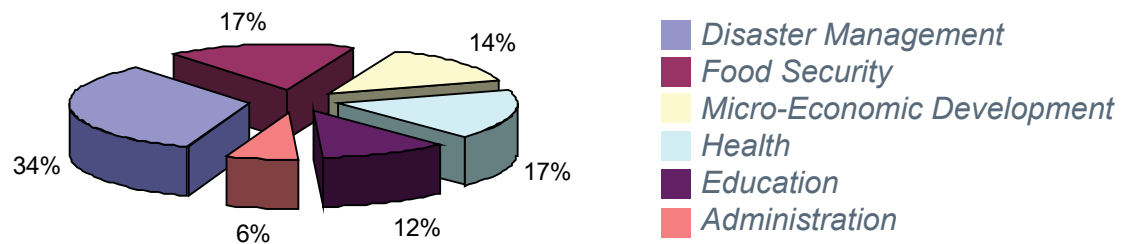
whole semester. My life has turned to light and happiness and now I can see my future, with both goals and hope. After the accident, I used to drink a lot of alcohol and remove myself from society. But now, I am glad because ADRA gave me and my family an opportunity to create a team among gardening households, and I have forgotten my bad habits. My family is really happy because I have returned to them with a job and motivation for life.



ADRA Mongolia Financial Report 2009

<i>Project</i>	<i>Expenses</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i># of Projects</i>
Disaster Management	812 794 903	34%	3
Food Security	406 163 040	17%	3
Micro-Economic Development	340 693 267	14%	3
Health	416 826 263	17%	2
Education	286 098 699	12%	6
Administration	152 791 650	6%	1
TOTAL	2 415 367 822	100%	18

All values are in the Mongolian currency - 1 USD = 1442.84 Tugrik (as of December 31, 2009)



Every year ADRA Mongolia has an external financial audit carried out by "Ulaanbaatar Audit Corporation LLC".



Thankyou!



Smiling faces; lives changed; new opportunities created, and hope where there was none before!
Single mothers able to earn an income to support their children, communities revived through agricultural production, minds opened up to new ideas and possibilities...



What you do means so much to us!

Without your generous support, these projects would not be possible.

Thankyou for partnering with us in **creating opportunity** and **changing lives!**

Panorama photo credits: Michelle Abel