

THE NOMADS

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Sarantuya Namsraijav's story
follow her story on page 7




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Love*



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PROJECT IN FOCUS

Sustainable Agriculture, Food and Economics Resilience

“SAFER II” Project

DONORS: Canada Foodgrains Bank (CFGB), ADRA Canada, ADRA China-HongKong, ADRA Netherlands

BUDGET: 339,888 USD

DURATION: 3 years (2020-2023)

FOCUS AREA: Ulgii, Bugat, and Sagsai Districts of Bayan-Ulgii Province

BENEFICIARY PARTNERS: BENEFICIARY PARTNERS: 845 households (3887 individuals)

GOAL

Increase food and nutrition security and improve the livelihoods of agricultural producers in Bayan-Ulgii Province.

SUSTAINABILITY

Increase in the number of households with food and nutrition security and income as a result of improved backyard vegetable production using the permaculture method.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- To increase vegetable production and income through improved gardening knowledge and skills with targeted households (HHs).
- To improve nutrition status and utilization of garden production through more regular vegetable consumption and better cooking skills.
- Increase knowledge of home gardening techniques (using permaculture methods) among female and male HHs, confirmed via Master Gardener certification. Increase food consumption scores through improved household diet diversity.





HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2021, the Master Gardener Training curriculum was developed, covering 34 topics using permaculture and Mittleider gardening techniques. It involved 15 Master Gardener Trainers (MGTs) and 300 master gardeners (MGs).
- In Year 2, the project expanded to include underserved families with low incomes. Beneficiaries received tools, seeds, and cooking materials. A total of 90 tonnes of vegetables were harvested, generating 195M MNT (68,000USD).
- The SAFER 2 Project had 70 household beneficiaries who showcased and sold their produce at the Annual Autumn Green Days exhibition. Additionally, 30 MGTs and 300 MGs received training on home gardening techniques.



PLUS

Pasture Land - Use It Sustainably Project

SWISSLOS
Kanton Aargau



Savory



The PLUS project staff conducted a monitoring field trip to Ider soum of Zavkhan aimag between March 19 – 24, 2023. Several meetings with local governments and herders were held during the field trip in order to outreach and disseminate information regarding PLUS project implementing activities and the Pasture Holistic Management approach.

Soum governments and the project team exchanged information on PLUS project implementing activities as well as better milk processing opportunities in the soum. In addition, 4 pasture demo plots were checked and the project staff visited the nearest herder households to discuss how to manage the plots.



Success story

SARANTUYA Namsraijav

"My name is SARANTUYA Namsraijav. I am a fourth child born in 1980 in Ider Soum, Zavkhan aimag. In 1988, I entered Ider soum elementary school, only studied there for 4 years then left school to become a herder to support my parents. Now I live with my husband and 4 children in Zagastai bagh of Ider soum and I have 4 children aged between 14-20. One of them is a disabled daughter who is 15 years old that I have to look after while herding livestock".

Sarantuya has 212 livestock as of the end-of-year 2022 census. Since the fall of 2022, their household's income from milking cows (she used to milk cows and sell milk and dairy products to meet their family's daily needs and support her disabled daughter's treatment) has become limited due to drought in the summer and heavy snowfall and severe weather conditions during the winter.

During the past 2 years, their economic condition has become more difficult, and the prices of daily goods and livestock fodder have increased by about 2-3 times. This economic harsh situation has affected them greatly as herders who do not have a regular income. They are going through a difficult time and faced a shortage of fodder and hay during the dzud last winter. It snowed much and there was no grass for the livestock to eat. They wished that they have money, to buy additional feed for their livestock.

"Thankfully, ADRA Mongolia's warm support came to us at the right time. My family is sincerely grateful for the financial aid of 300,000 MNT from this INGO. We bought some fodder and hay for our livestock. It was very helpful for us to withstand this severe winter. On behalf of my family and all other herders in Ider Soum who received financial assistance, I would like to express my gratitude and wish ADRA success in all of its work" said Sarantuya.



Holistic Management Training

Pasture Land - Use It Sustainably Project



The Savory Institute (SI), the main partner of the PLUS project successfully conducted an onsite training on “Grazing Planning and Demonstration Site Inspection” for herders in Ider soum of Zavkhan aimag between May 16 – 18, 2023. The accredited SI training facilitators were Mr. Byron Shelton, Master Corp Trainer from the US and Mr. Volkan Büyükgüngör, Turkish Savory Hub Leader from Turkey.

The onsite training objectives were:

- To update and review project status and advance partnerships with key stakeholders.
- To provide further training and support of the core herder group that has participated in previous training events.
- To outline and consolidate summer grazing plans in order to ensure recovery times on communal pastures.
- To inspect the 4 demonstration sites that have been recently been created and create an initial grazing plan for each.

A total of 47 (13m; 34f) herders, as well as ADRA representatives and related project staff attended this onsite training.



Good Milk Production Training

Pasture Land - Use It Sustainably Project

To enhance the management capacity of female herders as part of the PLUS Project outcome, "Good Milk Production" (GMP) training was successfully organized in Ider soum of Zavkhan aimag on June 27 – 30, 2023. We believe that the income of herder households will be increased through improved quality of milk/ milk products sold to local markets as a result of this training. Ms.S Tsetseekhen, who is a senior expert in milk production with more than 20 years of experience, trained 31 (30F; 1M) herders. During the training, herders learned how to keep the hygiene and cleanness of

milk at the household level and increased the quality and quantity of their dairy products.

At the end of training, the PLUS project provided small milk equipment kits including electric milk separators, different types of curd patterns, and milk buckets to 13 female herders who have regularly and actively participated in the previous GMP and Pasture Holistic Management training and grazing planning meetings during the project implementation.



FINE WOOL SHEEP BREEDING

Pilot Project



ADRA Mongolia is implementing the Fine Wool Sheep Breeding pilot project in partnership with the National Livestock Gene Bank (NLGB), under the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry (MOFALI) and the Research Institute for Animal Husbandry (RIAH) from the Mongolian University of Life Sciences (MULS) since 1st of July 2022.

The project team conducted activities such as the selection and importation of very high genetic merit Merino rams' frozen semen from Australia, and trained six (6) Mongolian veterinarians to undertake laparoscopic Artificial Insemination (AI) and inseminated 308 ewes from Khangai and Orkhon nucleus flocks.



Newborn Lambs

The purpose of the visit was to observe and collect information about the pregnancy and lactation period of AI'd ewes and to also gather information on newborn lambs such as birth weight, weaning weight, and post-weaning weights. Out of the total 134 lambs born, 38 were alive and healthy (24 Khangai and 14 Orkhon breeds) with an expected AI success rate of 65%. It is observed that the significant causes of lamb mortality were the following:

1. Malnutrition - ewes did not eat enough fodder and nutritional food during pregnancy hence resulting in weaker and unhealthy lambs.

2. Dzud phenomenon (extreme cold winter) - the last winter was harsh and pastureland was covered by thick and solid snow and the animal shelters were not warm enough for pregnant ewes.

The project's initial results were discussed and shared with the officials of MOFALI in a separate meeting to find ways how to support and partner with the government agency in potentially expanding the pilot project initiated by the Agency with the funding support within the network.



| News Bits

What is a DZUD?

A natural phenomenon, unique to Mongolia, arises from summer drought followed by heavy snowfalls combined with extreme cold, resulting in insufficient grazing pastures and livestock mortality. The usual peak period for livestock death is February to April. December through February are the coldest months of the year when livestock loses most of their fat and become malnourished, so these months have the greatest impact.

Mongolia is highly vulnerable to severe winter conditions and cold waves, known locally as 'dzud'. National authorities in Mongolia have issued warnings and forecasts for harsh winter conditions and severe cold waves. According to the NAMEM Dzud risk analysis released on 2 December 2022, about 16 percent of the Mongolian territory is at the highest level of risk and 43 percent is at a high level of dzud risk.

957,300+

livestock already perished in Mongolia.
/As of April 2023/

70 %

increase in price of
animal feed year-on

71 M

livestock present in
winter season in
Mongolia

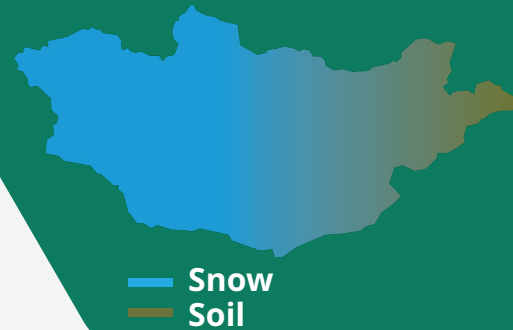
191 K

herder households
affected

WHITE BLACK DZUD

There is a “white dzud” and “black dzud”. White dzud refers to heavy snow that prevents animals from reaching forage while black dzud is lack of precipitation and long thirsty months for the animals (precedent of dzud which is the harsh winter condition).

70 % of territory is covered in snow



We reached out to 150 most vulnerable herder households herder households in the two (2) soums of Bayan-Ulgii (Bugat and Sagsai) and Ider soum in Zavkhan provinces where we implement our projects.

The fund is being provided by ADRA International in partnership with ADRA Asia and Mongolia Mission of Seventh-day Adventists. ADRA Mongolia transferred 300'000 Tugrugs (\$85) to the bank accounts of the selected 50 herder households in Ider soum (district) in Zavkhan province to buy livestock feeds such as fodder and hay to survive the harsh winter.



STAFF CORNER

WHEN DID YOU FIRST JOIN ADRA AND WHY?

The four-year project implemented by UNDP ended in 2012 and my employment contract ended too, so I was unemployed at home. End of that year, ADRA Mongolia announced on local radio and television that it is hiring a project manager. I applied according to the announcement and participated in the selection interview. I started working as a project manager on January 1, 2013. Now I am working with my wonderful team for the 11th year. I started to join ADRA because I was looking for a job, in secondly I worked for many years in humanitarian organizations such as MSF-Holland (Doctors Without Border) ACF-France (Action Against Hunger), and UNDP(United Nations Development Program) for 10 years already and I knew and liked their goals, objectives and humanitarian activities.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR POSITION?

Although I graduated from the University as a Teacher of Russian-English, I worked for 3 years only according to my profession.

During my 25 years of work, I used to work as a teacher, tour guide, interpreter, admin and finance

project team leader and project manager. I like and love all my positions. Because with every job I've done, I've spent certain years of my life, learned a lot and improved my skills, met many people and made good friends and working partners, and gained work experience.

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT ONE OF YOUR MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES WORKING IN ADRA?

In September 2018, ADRA conducted Asia Partners Gathering in Kathmandu, capital city of Nepal. There were around 60 participants from different countries as Laos, Pakistan, Korea, Philippine, Cambodia, India, Nepal and Mongolia. In those countries ADRA teams are implementing kinds of projects under Food Security program, Nutrition and Gender analyses, funded by Canadian Food Grains Bank. It was great workshop which gave me a big opportunity to present a SAFE project activities which was implemented in Bayan-Ulgii.

WHAT DOES THE WORK OF ADRA MEAN TO YOU?

The organization that gave me a job and all the colleagues I worked with are my second family and all those organizations I have worked with, are respected and dear to me. ADRA means for me "Humanitarian". We value justice and value good deeds. So I like ADRA.



11
years

Asemgul Baitik

Program Officer
ADRA Mongolia



ADRA Mongolia



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*Justice.
Compassion
Love*