



ADRA

THE NOMADS

ADRA Mongolia Official Newsletter

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*Justice.
Compassion
Love*

OUR PURPOSE



*To serve hum
all may live as*



*anity so that
s God intended*

COUNTRY DIRECTOR'S

I am very happy to share with you our first ever newsletter, The Nomads that highlights not only the work and ministry of ADRA Mongolia but how God is at-work in every aspect of life of the Mongolian people!

In this maiden issue of our newsletter, we are sharing quick facts about the Land of the Eternal Blue Sky, as Mongolia is aptly known for, including cultural and historical contexts and their unique way of life.

As I quickly welcome you, let me dive in with you to all things Mongolian. Nomadic in nature, half of the Mongolian population (around 1.5 million) live in mountain steppes and open, vast expanse of land where they herd their animals to graze and roam around freely and move periodically with their unique ger or yurt dwellings with thousands head of animals depending on the changing season. Living with extreme weather pattern - harsh Siberian arctic temperature during winter to sweltering heat in the Gobi desert during summer, Mongolians are quite resilient and well adapted to their natural environment and flourish in their natural habitat.

The rest of the population live in the cosmopolitan Ulaanbaatar, the capital, where the seat of government and power can be found with greater opportunities especially for young professionals to maximize their potentials, post-communism era. Traces of their great admiration to Marxist ideologies, infrastructure such as edifices, parks and Russian-inspired urban planning are a common sight including the use of Cyrillic language as their national form of official communication.

With that backdrop, ADRA Mongolia has been operating in the country for the last 28 years and continuously serving the most vulnerable and marginalized sector of the society in the areas of food security, education, health and nutrition, emergency management and disaster response and economic development.

Thousands of deserving and vulnerable people has been served and felt the impact of the work for years through a number of development projects and even in times of natural disaster called dzud - a phenomenon where extreme harsh winter wreak havoc in terms of loss of livestock due to food shortage brought by long, cold and arctic weather condition where food source is decimated.

Blessed with so much land mass and driven to promote sustainable greener environment, ADRA Mongolia is pioneering in adopting organic agriculture methodologies combined with a conscious effort to mitigate the effect of climate change such as global warming by implementing a holistic approach on pastureland management to prevent further degradation of land use such as desertification and erosion being experienced globally.

We will do our best to continue to share with you the work and ministry of ADRA in Mongolia and how God works amongst the people of the Land of the Eternal Blue Sky. Stay tuned!
Blessings,

Windell Matanan

Country Director

CORNER





ABOUT ADRA MONGOLIA

ADRA Mongolia recognizes the dignity that is inherent in each person and is committed to improving the quality of human life. ADRA Mongolia serves people without regard to their ethnic, political, or religious association. It simply helps people in need, especially those most vulnerable such as women, children, senior citizens, and the differently-abled.

ADRA opened its door to Mongolia in 1994 working for 27 years and partners with individuals, communities, organizations, and governments to improve the quality of life for Mongolians through five programs activities: food security, economic development/livelihood, health, disaster management, and emergency response and education.

Since 1994 in the post-communist Mongolia, the Agency is the first international non-government organization (INGO) to be invited to register under the office of the Prime Minister and an active implementing country office doing development and humanitarian work from the total of 17 ADRA country offices within the Asia region.



To date, the Agency has implemented 186 projects in the following areas: education (46 projects), disaster and emergency management (27 projects/responses), economic development/livelihoods (21 projects), health (28 projects), and food security (64 projects). The total funds delivered (1994-2021) was about 31,232,932 USD which is roughly 1.1M USD per year.

“ADRA Mongolia is pioneering and successful in organic agriculture development and contributes 89.2% of the total organic agricultural products in the country through one its projects.”

“Tungalag.D Director - Food Policy Coordination Department at MOFALI (Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light)

WHERE WE SERVE



Sustainable Agriculture, Food and Economics Resilience-2 (SAFER-2) Project

Donors: Canadian Food Grains Bank (CFGB), ADRA Canada, ADRA China-HongKong, ADRA Netherlands

Budget: 376,289.87 USD

Duration: 3 years (2020-2023)

Key focus area: Ulgii, Bugat and Sagsai Districts of Bayan-Ulgii Province

Beneficiary Partners: 845 households (3718 individuals)



Ider Milk Initiative (IMI) Project

Donors: Help International

Budget: 37,947.89 USD

Duration: 5 months (2021-2021)

Key focus area: Ider District, Zavkhan Province

Beneficiary Partners: 50 herder households (220 individuals)



Bayan-Ulgii



Zavkhan



Pasture Land Use It Sustainably (PLUS) Project

Donors: ADRA Swiss, Zurich & Aargau provinces, Switzerland

Budget: 292,933 USD

Duration: 2.6 years (2021-2023) 30 months

Key focus area: Pasture User Groups (PUGs) in Ider District of Zavkhan Province

Beneficiary Partners: 100 herder households (440 individuals)



Partnership On Organic Agriculture (POAg) Project

Donors: ADRA Germany, BMZ
Budget: 1,264,921.75 USD
Duration: 4 years (2018-2022)
Key focus area: 11 Districts in Selenge Province
Beneficiary Partners: 31 cooperatives 928 members (4083 individuals)



Dzud Emergency Response In Selenge (DEMOS) Project

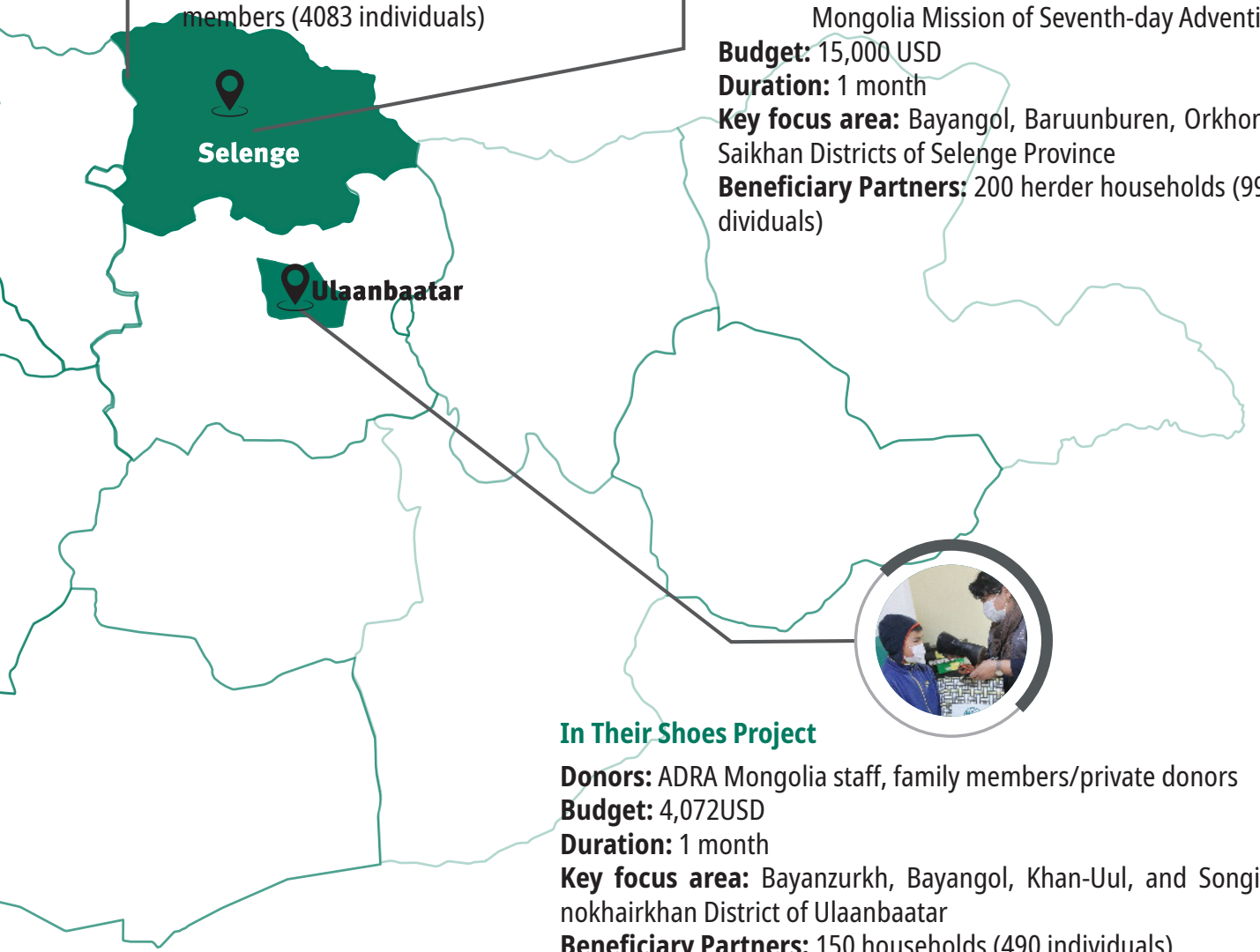
Donors: ADRA International, ADRA Asia, Mongolia Mission of Seventh-day Adventists
Budget: 15,000 USD
Duration: 1 month
Key focus area: Bayangol, Baruunburen, Orkhon and Saikhan Districts of Selenge Province
Beneficiary Partners: 200 herder households (996 individuals)



In Their Shoes Project

Donors: ADRA Mongolia staff, family members/private donors
Budget: 4,072USD
Duration: 1 month
Key focus area: Bayanzurkh, Bayangol, Khan-Uul, and Songi-nokhairkhan District of Ulaanbaatar
Beneficiary Partners: 150 households (490 individuals)

ince
ds



Selenge

Ulaanbaatar



SUCCESS STORIES

WE SHOULD MAKE THE EARTH HAPPY by ENKHTSETSEG GANZORIG

Ms. Kharimkhaan is a single mother with 3 children. She lives in Shaamar district, Selenge province. As a single mom, she faced a lot of challenges to feed her children and needed to save money for their education, so she decided to grow vegetables. In the beginning she did it alone but found it not so easy. She established a farmers group to collaborate labor with them. In 2017 the group decided to establish a Cooperative named Creative Shaamar with 11 members. 90% of the total members are experienced farmers, with some having 5-30 years experience. When the Partnership for Or-

ganic Agriculture (POAg) Project of ADRA Mongolia was launched in Selenge in 2018, Creative Shaamar became one of its partnering cooperatives. With the cooperative members learning organic farming standards and methodologies, 20 members pledged to shift from conventional agriculture to organic agriculture. They grow 8 kinds of organic vegetables in 28 hectares. Also, they became members of the Participatory Guarantee System & learned how to conduct internal peer reviews. Their organic production was registered in the government organic online system. Currently, 8 of their organic vegetables are allowed to use the organic product logo of Mongolia. In 2021, they grew organic vegetables on 37 hectares and harvested 297,3 tons of certified organic vegetables. They supply organic vegetables to the Cooperative Union under contract and sell the rest of the vegetables at districts and provincial markets. With the ongoing technical support of the POAg project, cooperative members not only learned organic agriculture but also on how to improve cooperative management and earn more income from their collaborative work in organic agriculture. Ms. Karimkhaan was awarded as best organic farmer in 2021 and 4 other members were awarded as best farmer of their respective districts and in the provincial level. Ms. Kharimkhaan said, "The earth provides food for us abundantly, so we should feed the soil with organic fertilizer to make the earth happy. We have to love nature and live in harmony with it. All members of our cooperatives are really appreciating ADRA's organic project which opened our eyes and taught us to engage in environment friendly business."





A HOUSEWIFE WHOSE WISH CAME TRUE by ASEMGUL BAITIK

The name of this beautiful woman, who always has a smile on her face, is Khuralai Bazarkhan. She is a 39-year-old housewife and mother of two beautiful children. Although she is a primary school teacher, she has not been able to find a job in her field, so she is unemployed and stays at home taking care of her children. SAFER-II home gardening development project of ADRA Mongolia provided an opportunity to fulfill her desire to have an income while being at home. Mss. Khuralai heard about the project through the media and met with the project team to register. She said: "I really wanted and planned to grow vegetables in my yard, but I didn't know how to start and I had no idea how to grow vegetables. However, my husband and I became active because the agricultural development project taught us the benefits of growing vegetables and how to grow them. Thanks to the knowledge imparted to us, we always have a good harvest which meets our family's annual needs."

By actively participating in the agricultural theory and practice training organized by the project team, she has learned a lot and successfully implemented the home gardening in her yard. Because of her great success she has been selected as a Master Gardeners' Trainer and she is sharing her knowledge with the other 15 households under her guidance.

"Thanks to the knowledge imparted to us, we always have a good harvest which meets our family's annual needs."

Khuralai Bazarkhan

QUICK FACTS



STARING AT THE WIDE OPEN HORIZON IN THE UNTOUCHED LAND OF THE NOMADS, THERE IS NO FIRST MEETING MORE CAPTIVATING THAN AN INTRODUCTION TO MONGOLIA

1 The endangered two-humped Bactrian camel is native to Mongolia

The two-humped Bactrian camel is indigenous to Mongolia. The annual Thousand Camel Festival is run by a local non-governmental organisation working to protect and preserve the Bactrian camel population, which has been steadily declining over the past twelve years. At the festival you'll get an opportunity to interact with the camels and learn first-hand about the camel herders' nomadic lifestyle.



Mongolians are always ready for a guest 2

In a country of vast distances, communication can be difficult but it is important to maintain a sense of community. People living in the Mongolian countryside will always have a bowl of warm, salty milk tea ready for visitors.



3 We have a festival dedicated to eagle hunting

The Golden Eagle Festival is held over two days every year, celebrating age-old Kazakh traditions. It begins with a parade of eagle hunters on horseback, displaying their elaborate hunting costumes and accessories. The eagles are judged for their speed and agility, as the birds are released from a cliff and swoop down to land on the arms of the hunters below. The men demonstrate their courage and horsemanship and a variety of traditional games.



The great Genghis Khan is Mongolia's founding father **4**



Genghis Khan is considered the founding father of Mongolia. He came to power by uniting many of the nomadic tribes of northeast Asia and establishing the largest empire in the world, exceeded only by the British Empire in the 19th century. In a span of just 25 years, Genghis Khan's horsemen conquered an area larger and greater in population than the Romans did in four centuries. In short, he was a determined bloke. A 40-metre (131-foot) statue of Genghis Khan sits just outside Ulaanbaatar and is the world's tallest statue of a horse.

5 Nomads Still Live In Mongolia

Outside the city of Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia, there are miles and miles of open grasslands or Mongolian steppes. While nearly half of the population of Mongolia live in the capital city and some scattered villages around it, the remaining population lead a nomadic way of life not much different from their ancestor's hundreds of years ago. The nomads of Mongolia live in tents called yurts with their families and livestock. They move to find new pastures for their livestock or to protect themselves from extreme weather conditions.



STAFF CORNER

MEET DORIS @ 21

Dorjkhand Baast is a Finance Officer of ADRA Mongolia. She has been with ADRA since 2001 and everyone knows her by her nickname "Doris" and she is the kindest and happiest person in ADRA Mongolia.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU?

I joined ADRA in December 2001. It was a great blessing to be part of this wonderful family. It was also my dream to work in an international organization.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR POSITION?

In my position I had to show justice, being compassionate, and consistent in my workplace. So to show this to my colleagues it requires me to keep God's commandments and have God's love in me to have a good relationship with my workmates.



WHAT DOES THE WORK OF ADRA MEAN TO YOU?

ADRA helped me to serve others voluntarily, to share God's love happily, to give to others generously, and to love others unconditionally.

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

In the past 21 years, I have been working with many different people who are from different countries, cultures and different backgrounds. I have learnt a lot from each of the different individuals just like they are my teachers. I am still learning from a young generation and respecting new employees as like my new life teachers. I have also observed that employees who worked in ADRA have changed their attitudes to life positively and have filled their hearts with spiritual love.

"She is kind and always brings joy to others. She is the most positive person I have ever met in my life."

Otgonbolor.G

Project Assistant, Pasture Land - Use It Sustainably (PLUS) Project



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