

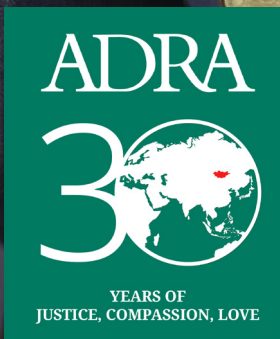
# THE NOMADS

ADRA Mongolia Official Newsletter

Q4 VOL 2 NO 3 Oct - Dec 2023

follow the article

[In-Their-Shoes](#) Project / page 14



# Contents

- 02. Contents**
- 03. Country Director's Corner**
- 05. Project in Focus - UPOAg Project**
- 09. Our Stories - PLUS Project and**
- 11. Fine Wool Sheep Breeding**
- 13. News Bits -  
NextGenCELEBRATIONS!  
Mongolia Project**
- 15. Outreach - In-Their-Shoes**
- 16. Outreach - Disaster Ready  
Church training**
- 17. Staff Corner**

## Country Director's Corner

It is that time of year when our ADRA Mongolia team is trying to tie things together to finish 2023 with a resounding success.

We express our gratitude to God Almighty for leading us throughout the year as His hands and feet make a difference in the lives of those we serve - the most vulnerable.

In this last issue of *The Nomads 2023*, we are happy to share that our Agency received a significant amount of funding to implement some projects on the ground from organic agriculture to fine wool sheep breeding as well as combatting the risk factors of non-communicable diseases in the country including our outreach activities.

As well, we are humbled to be part of our pet project, the In-Their-Shoes initiative which gives us a sense of purpose and mission as humanitarians through an intentional act of kindness by making sure that our work is reaching the most marginalized sector of our

society - the most vulnerable and in most need.

Looking back, I would like to share what the Holy Scriptures say in Matthew 25:45, "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

Moving ahead, we will remain focused on delivering what is expected of us to serve humanity so that all may live as God intended with justice, compassion, and love.

Until our next issue and enjoy reading!

Blessings,



WINDELL M. MARANAN



## PROJECT IN FOCUS

### Upscaling Partnership for Organic Agriculture (UPOAg) Project

**DONORS:** BMZ, ADRA Germany

**BUDGET:** 1,666M EURO

**DURATION:** 3 years (Oct 2023 – Dec 2026)

**FOCUS AREA:** Selenge and Darkhan-Uul provinces

**BENEFICIARY PARTNERS:** 31 cooperatives of Selenge and 10 cooperatives of Darkhan-Uul provinces

#### GOAL

The UPOAg project aims for the primary and union cooperatives of Selenge and Darkhan-Uul provinces to establish a cluster organic supply chain management system from production to marketing to sell their organic and other agricultural and value-added regional products effectively to sustainably improve their livelihoods. As well as it aims to strengthen coordination structures at regional and national levels to develop impactful partnerships for creating an enabling environment for the development of the organic sector in Mongolia.

#### Project outputs

- The production of high-quality organic food has increased in the Selenge and Darkhan-Uul provinces.
- Improved access to the sales market in Ulaanbaatar for organic agricultural products from certified organic farmers from Selenge and Darkhan.
- Coordination structures at local, regional, and national levels are strengthened to support and promote sustainable organic agriculture.





германы  
хамтын ажиллагаа  
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT



## SUSTAINABILITY

By the end of the project, the primary and apex cooperative union will build partnerships to initiate the transition to organic agriculture, thereby will establish a marketing system with production, participatory certification, processing, packing, and other value-added products from organic vegetables, honey, and dairy products, as well as “off-season products.



# Key Accomplishments

## Upscaling Partnership for Organic Agriculture (UPOAg) Project

As the curtain falls on an eventful year, we are excited to bring you a detailed glimpse into the remarkable strides made by our Upscaling Partnership for Organic Agriculture Project during the fourth quarter of 2023. This initiative, designed to champion sustainable and organic farming practices, has not only met but exceeded expectations, ushering in positive change in the agricultural landscapes of Selenge and Darkhan provinces.



**Cooperatives Selection:** In a groundbreaking development on November 2, 2023, the project team announced the selection of project beneficiary cooperatives set to transform the landscapes of Darkhan-Uul and Selenge. Ten primary cooperatives from two districts in Darkhan-Uul, seven from Selenge province, and a strategic re-selection of 23 cooperatives from 11 districts in Selenge, including the esteemed Cooperative Union Selenge Tavan Khairkhan, form the core of this initiative. This meticulous selection process signifies a commitment to inclusive growth and long-term impact, heralding a promising era of sustainable development and community empowerment in the regions.



**PGS Orientation Training:** Emphasizing capacity building, the project supported 150 new farmers through training sessions covering organic farming, traceability system, beekeeping, and Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS). Two Organic Agriculture-Traceability System and, PGS orientation training sessions for farmers and PGS-associated consumer groups, scheduled for December 2023, are currently in preparation. Handouts, including a revised organic agriculture handbook, are provided to participants for enhanced learning experiences.



**Cooperative governance and Management Training :** To ensure the success of the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS), the project focused on capacity-building initiatives for selected cooperatives. The Cooperative governance and Management Training training, conducted in Ulaanbaatar from November 28 to 30, saw the participation of 41 individuals from 21 cooperatives. Knowledge assessments indicated a notable improvement in participants' understanding of cooperative governance, operational planning, and financial reporting.



### Market Access Development:

In our efforts to enhance market access, we embarked on a comprehensive communication strategy. This included the development of social media video content, newspaper articles, and TV news segments to showcase the project's vision, strategic partnerships, and organic agriculture insights. Two sales outlets and packaging workshops were strategically established in Ulaanbaatar, further strengthening our presence and facilitating the delivery of organic products to consumers.

### Strengthened Project Visibility:

Our commitment to transparency and collaboration was underscored by actively promoting project visibility. Donor logos are prominently displayed at project offices and sites, ensuring transparency in all our activities. The project actively participated in national forums, leveraging these platforms to share insights, challenges, and recommendations for the Organic sector.

### Strengthened Structures at Various Levels:

The signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between Selenge Province, Darkhan-Uul Province, and ADRA Mongolia during the project launch event on November 23, 2023, marked a pivotal moment. This agreement solidifies the commitment of the provinces to align regional strategies with the evolving legal framework, fostering a collaborative environment.

### Project Management and Administration:

The success of our endeavors is attributed to the dedication and expertise of our project team. Comprising a Project Manager, Field Officer, Agronomists, Marketing Officers, Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning Officer, and a PGS/Communication Officer, this team began its duties on October 16, 2023, after a rigorous selection process.



## ADRA Germany Programs Coordinator Viridiana C. Martinez's Project Visit

Viridiana C. Martinez, ADRA Germany's Programs Coordinator, shared insights from her monitoring trip to Mongolia for the UPOAg project. She highlighted successful meetings with stakeholders, emphasizing collaboration with local officials and community engagement. Martinez's hands-on approach assessed project progress firsthand, integrating cultural understanding and social media outreach. Her dedication was evident in examining local facilities, participating in training sessions, and advocating for sustained stakeholder engagement. These efforts aim to empower local cooperatives and ensure the project's lasting impact on Mongolia's organic agriculture. ADRA representatives also met with the German Embassy, marking a significant step towards successful project implementation and Mongolia's agricultural development.





# Our Stories

## #1 Pasture Land – Use It Sustainably (PLUS) Project

**Monitoring trip:** As part of the project monitoring visit, Cindy Jandl, Program Coordinator at ADRA Switzerland, worked in Mongolia on October 13 - 24, 2023. She visited Ider Soum on October 14-17 to familiarize herself with the operation of the PLUS Project in the area. Cindy conducted interviews with a random selection of various herder homes to get feedback on the PLUS Project's execution. She also conducted interviews with four herders and talked about the PLUS Project's implemented activities. While in Ider Soum, she also took part in the «Ider 2023» local fair trade, which featured goods created by nearby villages. Cindy also had a meeting with the chairman of Soum Khural, with whom she discussed pasture management, pasture demonstration plot management, and herders' milk production.

The project is being funded by Aargau and Zurich Cantons (provinces) in partnership with ADRA Switzerland as part of climate change adaptation (CCA) to mitigate the negative effects of global warming and desertification affecting Mongolia.

**Public Awareness:** PLUS project team participated in 4 Bagh Meetings (Zagastai, Tsetserleg, Manuustai and Darkhan-Uul baghs) in Ider soum in order to outreach and disseminate information regarding PLUS project implementing activities and Pasture Holistic Management approach to a total of 146 (87M; 59F) herders in October, 2023. Furthermore, local herders who previously participated in the PLUS project's trainings and meetings shared their pasture management experiences with others in their respective Bagh Meetings.

**Holistic Management Online session:** The online session II on pasture holistic management was conducted on November 27, 2023. A total of 19 (3m; 18f) herders gathered in the meeting room of the Ider Soum Governor's office. Mr. Nicholas Sharpe who is an accredited professional with the Savory Institute from Spain, facilitated the session, along with Mr. Simon Goodall, a Savory Institute expert from Italy. During this activity, Nicolas provided guidance on how to manage winter pastures and pasture demonstration plots until the next growing season in 2024. The herders who developed the Summer Grazing plans also shared their experiences with each other. Also, at the end of the online session, Mrs. P. Odontuya, PLUS field officer, handed over sets of small milk equipment to five female herders who were actively cooperating with the PLUS Project.



## Success Story

### The Herder's Story

Sh. Bolortsetseg had lived in Tosontsengel soum in Zavkhan aimag without stable work and a steady income before moving to Ider Soum in 2016. Since then, Bolortsetseg and her family have lived well in Darkhan-Uul bagh of Ider soum herding yaks. According to her, selling pure and good quality yak milk products has given her enough income to meet her family's needs. She also said that she was very encouraged by the results of the implemented summer grazing plan which they developed after participating in the trainings and meetings of the PLUS project from 2021.

Bolortsetseg continually expressed her regret that while she had learned many new things from the project trainings; for some herders, due to the weather conditions such as dzud (severe winter) and drought (dry summer), as well as their lack of enthusiasm, they could not manage the pastures properly.

Bolortsetseg and neighboring herders have worked together for the past two years on their summer grazing plan and have seen the initial results for themselves. Furthermore, she explained that, *"we divided our summer pastures into 5 parts and let all the animals graze for 7 days in each part of the pasture, then let the pastures recover. We observed that the grass increased by 3-4 cm every week. Therefore, we herders need to try our best to continue"*.

Bolortsetseg happily shared her experiences of using the pastures rotationally. *"The results are visible to all of us, the pastures recovered and the animals are able to graze stably. For the summer of 2023, her animals that were thin by July 20th gained weight by August 5th, which is good preparation for the winter"*. *"The quality of the pastures largely depends on how well the herders follow the grazing plans. I would like to encourage the other herders in Ider soum to have better pastures through working together."*

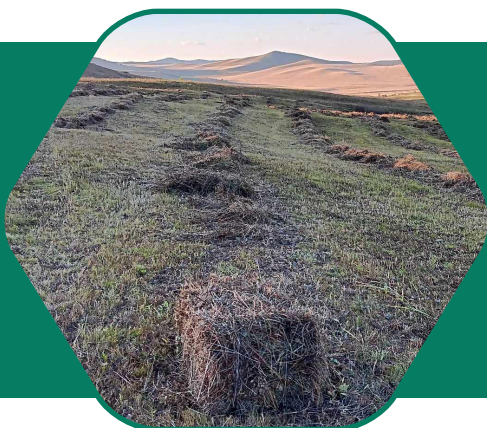


## #2 The Fine Wool Sheep Breeding Project

The Fine Wool Sheep Breeding Project team recently conducted a day-monitoring visit to Darkhan City to assess the storage facilities and the quality of the purchased products that will support the nutrition of both the surviving lambs and the additional 360 ewes that will either undergo artificial inseminations (AI) or embryo transfers (ET) in the next few months. The following were the activities done during the visit:

- 405 kilograms of minerals were handed over to the accountant of the National Animal Gene Bank (NAGB).
- 1632 bags of wheat bran produced by the “Altan Tarya” LLC were checked to be stored in a large dedicated warehouse of the National Animal Gene Bank (NAGB). The bags of wheat bran were separately kept in 2 different areas in the big warehouse with an equal amount of 816 bags as Khangai sheep feeds and Orkhon sheep feeds, respectively. The wheat bran for Orkhon sheep will soon be distributed to the herders’ place.
- The team also traveled to the hay field, about 170 kilometers away from Darkhan City to assess the quality of the hay that would be purchased.
- 16 lambs (out of the 38 surviving lambs) that were being taken care of inside the NAGB compound were observed to be in good health and thriving well.

The overall goal of this project is to support the government in reviving the fine wool flocks within Mongolia and is made possible through the funding of Help International, the Australian Embassy, ADRA Australia, ADRA Japan, ADRA Hong Kong, ADRA International, and ADRA Asia Regional Office.





### Updates on Fine Wool Sheep Breeding

ADRA Mongolia has been hard at work on the Fine Wool Sheep Breeding Project since July 2022, teaming up with the National Livestock Gene Bank and the Research Institute of Animal Husbandry. Our goal? To improve Mongolia's Fine and Semi-Fine Wool sheep breeds.

Here's what we've achieved:

- Imported 5,000 doses of high-genetic frozen semen.
- Brought in 120 high-genetic Merino and Dohne Merino embryos.
- Prepping to revive Mongolia's fine wool flocks.

From October 16-20, 2023, we organized a special training on artificial insemination for 352 Khangai and Orkhon ewes. Our dedicated team received expert guidance from Australia's Central West Genetics.

Furthermore, Ms. Naranchuluun, Head of the department for coordinating livestock policy at the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and Governors from our target districts visited the training. They shared their valuable insights during the meeting.

Together, we're making a positive impact on Mongolia's livestock industry, working towards a brighter future!



## News Bits

### NextGen CELEBRATIONS! Mongolia

**Collaboration Meeting:** On September 19th, the NextGen CELEBRATIONS! Mongolia - NCD Project team, along with the directors of the Department of Health Services and the Department of Youth Affairs within the Mongolian Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, convened to deliberate on collaborative efforts for NCD-related activities during the current academic year, 2023-2024. Present at the meeting were Purevdulam Jugderjav, Health Department Director; Enkhbayar Mishigdorj, Director of AMOS NGO; and Od Altankhuyag, Youth Department Director. This gathering marked a strategic alliance aimed at mitigating non-communicable disease risk factors among adolescents.

**Additional Memoranda of Understanding Ceremony:** On September 20, 2023, a momentous event unfolded as two additional Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed, signifying a momentous expansion of the NextGen CELEBRATIONS! Mongolia - NCD Project. “Khugjil” Complex School and 84th Secondary School officially partnered with ADRA Mongolia. Principals S. Enkh-Ariun and A. Gantulga of the respective schools, alongside Windell M. Maranan, ADRA Mongolia Country Director, and Project Manager Orgilzul Batsukh, sealed the collaboration. These visionary leaders paved the way for positive change in addressing Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) among Mongolia’s youth.

**IRB Approval for Baseline Survey:** Achieving a significant milestone, the NCD Project team received official approval from the Medical Ethics Review Committee of the Ministry of Health for its Institutional Review Board (IRB). This endorsement underscores the project’s commitment to maintaining ethical standards in research and project implementation as the next phase begins.



**Feedback and Complaints Mechanism:** By October 31, the NCD team successfully completed the creation and implementation of the Feedback and Complaints mechanism for the ADRA Mongolia NCD project. This mechanism ensures an open channel for constructive feedback, enhancing the overall effectiveness of the initiatives.

**Needs Assessment and Focus Group Discussions of IEC Materials:** In November, the NextGen CELEBRATIONS! Mongolia – NCD Project conducted a comprehensive needs assessment and focus group discussions involving a total of 174 students and 122 parents from two out of the four selected schools. The adolescents eagerly shared their perspectives, while parents provided their insights of their preferences of IEC materials for the health and well-being of their children. These conversations transcended mere discussions; they constituted a profound exploration of preferences, concerns, and aspirations related to the Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials to be utilized for the NCD project. The insights from the surveys and focus group discussions were invaluable, offering clear preferences that will guide our approach to utilizing existing IEC materials and developing new ones.

**Procurement and Renovation:** Initiating action in December, the NCD Project team kicked off the procurement and renovation of NCD health rooms in two schools. Notably, adolescents actively participated in the design process, providing input on both content and room aesthetics. This collaborative approach ensures that the spaces resonate with the needs and preferences of the youth the project aims to serve.



## Outreach

### #1 In-Their-Shoes Project



Throughout the past three impactful years, ADRA Mongolia's In-Their-Shoes Project has forged partnerships with diverse government agencies, extending support to 100 financially disadvantaged single-headed households with essential food packs annually. Additionally, we've provided warm boots to 50 underserved schoolchildren each year.

This year, our efforts are concentrated on the communities in the Nalaikh District of Ulaanbaatar, the capital city. Specifically, we've focused on aiding children, especially those with disabilities, attending the Non-Formal Lifelong Education Center. Our distributions took place on November 13th and 16th, aiming to make a tangible difference in their lives.

We extend heartfelt appreciation to our invaluable sponsors and our dedicated colleagues at ADRA Mongolia for their unwavering financial support, making this crucial project possible."



## #2 Disaster Ready Church Training

In our unwavering commitment to creating **A Disaster Ready Church**, ADRA Mongolia recently conducted a **Training of Trainers (ToT)** on Basic Emergency Management on October 25-26, 2023 at the Flower Hotel in the capital, Ulaanbaatar. It was attended by pastors and key personnel of the Mongolia Mission of Seventh-day Adventists (SDAs) along with selected SDA members and some of the ADRA Mongolia staff.

The training was initiated by ADRA Mongolia led by Windell Maranan (Country Director/ADRA Mongolia); Brendon Irvine (ADRA Asia Programs and Planning Director), Asemgul Baitik (Programs Officer and Emergency Management Coordinator), and Raquel Maranan (Health Specialist) as keynote presenters and trainers.

The overall goal of the activity is to equip and train the participants on how to become proactive in the before and after a disaster strikes and come up with a concrete **Church Emergency Management Plan (ChEMP)** that can easily be activated in doing emergency response hence assisting and helping those in most need.

As ADRA reflects on the significance of what's happening in the natural and physical world - as disasters are increasing and with the world filled with uncertainties, ADRA believes that as an organization along with the Church - must stand ready and well-prepared to respond effectively to make our communities safer, more resilient and better equipped to face whatever challenges lie ahead.





# STAFF CORNER

## WHEN DID YOU FIRST JOIN ADRA AND WHY?

Since I was a child, I've known about ADRA Mongolia, an international organization, and I've always been interested in working there. After completing university, I felt a calling from God to serve as a missionary in the Philippines for a year. When I returned to Mongolia and started looking for a job, I came across an announcement that ADRA was seeking an SDA intern. Without hesitation, I promptly submitted my information and started working as an intern. Following that, starting from June 2022, I am currently employed as an assistant at PLUS. After that, starting from June 2022, I am working as an assistant at PLUS.

## WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR POSITION?

I've had a passion for humanitarian work since childhood, and I'm thrilled to be working with the organization I'm currently employed with. All my colleagues share a common goal of making the world a better place. The specific project I'm involved in focuses on collaborating with herders to restore pastures. It's rewarding to contribute to initiatives that aim to create a positive impact on the

environment and the lives of the people involved.

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

In my first job, I had the opportunity to create numerous wonderful memories and gain valuable insights from my colleagues. One of these is to go to the place where the project is being implemented, engaging with herders, listening to their perspectives, and collaboratively finding solutions. It's a hands-on approach that allows us to witness firsthand the positive changes in the lives of the people and the improvement of livestock pastures through our collective efforts.

## WHAT DOES THE WORK OF ADRA MEAN TO YOU?

It's like a powerful boat, propelling you forward in life while also being a lifesaver for those in need. ADRA not only helps people in poverty and distress but also strives to ensure that everyone can enjoy the quality of life that's meant for us all by God. It's like a big ship rescuing those who are struggling in the waters without a life jacket or a boat.



*Otgonbolor Gansukh*

**Project Assistant**  
PLUS Project



ADRA Mongolia



[www.adra.org.mn](http://www.adra.org.mn)



[adramongolia](https://www.instagram.com/adramongolia)

*Justice.  
Compassion  
Love*