

THE NOMADS

ADRA Mongolia Official Newsletter

Q1 VOL 1 NO 7 Jan - April 2024



ADRA
30
YEARS OF
JUSTICE, COMPASSION, LOVE

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COUNTRY DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

As we enter the spring season here in Mongolia, I am pleased to present the first quarter newsletter for ADRA Mongolia for 2024. These past few months have been a time of both challenges and triumphs for our organization. We have continued to grapple with the ongoing effects of the dzud phenomenon, but we have also witnessed the incredible resilience of the Mongolian people and the positive impact of your continued support.


These are some of the highlights from the quarter:

Our team has responded to the dzud disaster that left more than 7 million dead animals which directly affected the source of livelihoods of herders throughout the country. We reached out to 167 herder households and the local government in Sukhbaatar district in Sukhbaatar province which was the hardest hit and provided 200 USD per household through cash transfer to buy fodder and hay for their livestock.

Aside from different capacity-building trainings as part of different project activities, ADRA Mongolia signed some MOUs with GERES and VETNET to strengthen our partnerships and collaboration to assist the most vulnerable.

Starting our new project in Bayan-Ulgii on a climate-adapted nutrition-sensitive agriculture initiative that will provide a sustainable source of livelihood that is resilient to climate change. As we move forward into the next quarter, our focus will remain on key thematic areas for ADRA Mongolia moving forward while celebrating hope for better Mongolian communities.

Sincerely,



WINDELL M. MARANAN



UPSCALING PARTNERSHIP FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE (UPOAG) PROJECT

DONORS: BMZ (75%), ADRA Germany (25%)

BUDGET: 1.6 million EURO

DURATION: From October 2023 to December 2026

FOCUS AREA: Selenge and Darkhan-Uul provinces

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

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.





ADRA Mongolia, in partnership with ADRA Germany and supported by the Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation of the Federal Republic of Germany, is actively implementing the Upscaling Partnership for Organic Agriculture project.

Covering 14 soums and collaborating with 40 cooperatives in the beautiful Selenge and Darkhan-Uul provinces, we're making significant strides in promoting sustainable and organic agriculture.

From January 15 to 25, 2024, our project team and representatives from the Cooperative Union of Selenge and Darkhan-Uul regions will engage in discussions covering key aspects such as the Partnership Guarantee System, the Organic Agriculture System, and ways to foster collaboration among stakeholders.



PASTURE LAND - USE IT SUSTAINABLY (PLUS) PROJECT

DONORS: ADRA Switzerland - Zurich and Aargau cantons

BUDGET: 292,933 CHF

DURATION: 3 years (June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2024)

FOCUS AREA: Local Herder Communities in Ider soum of Zavkhan aimag

BENEFICIARY PARTNERS: 100 herder households

Expected Outcomes:

- The knowledge about the HM approach is disseminated and applied by herder communities in Ider soum.
- The income of herders' household increased through improved quality of milk/milk products sold to local markets and through enhanced management capacity of female herders.
- Herder communities are empowered to take informed grazing management decisions thanks to the data from Ecological Outcome Verification (EOV).



Mrs. BOLORMAA Dorjpalam, Herder of Ider soum of Zavkhan Aimag household income increased

D. Bolormaa is a young herder family representative who, following high school graduation in 1996, has been keeping animals for 27 years.

She got yaks five years ago after selling her small animals, like goats and lambs, in order to increase her household income through the sale of yak dairy products.

As part of the Pasture Land: Use It Sustainably Project, Bolormaa has routinely attended trainings on milk processing, thereby expanding the variety of her milk products. She used to produce 8–10 different kinds of milk products using traditional methods; nowadays, she produces 18–20 different kinds of products and sells them in the neighborhood markets. Bolormaa no longer wastes a lot of whey because she has started to use it exclusively to make four or five items.

She also marketed her dairy goods at the Ider-2023 Fair Trade, where she participated with success. Her yak milk product sales have brought in 20% more money than they did the year before.



She expressed, “I love to make dairy products, and I enjoy doing so very much. The milk separator from the PLUS Project has been really helpful.”



DZUD - EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Starting from December 20, 2023, animals began perishing due to the combination of cold temperatures and hunger brought about by the dzud phenomenon. Dzud is described as a compound hazard occurring in a cold dry climate, encompassing drought, heavy snowfall, extreme cold, and windstorms.

ADRA Mongolia made an emergency response to the affected and most vulnerable herder households in Sukhbaatar soum of Sukhbaatar province. The target location has been identified based on data collected by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) of Mongolia regarding the affected areas of the disaster.

The entire expanse of the 13 districts (soums) in Sukhbaatar Province is grappling with the impact of natural disasters resulting from heavy snow cover and the pastures are encased in ice, exacerbating the situation with an "Iron Dzud". As of February 19, 2024, a somber reality emerges, revealing the loss of 539,100 livestock within the span of just this winter from November 2023 and February 2024. In total 5,983 herder households were affected by Dzud, and 8,971 households were in need. The current dzud is being considered as the worst since 1960 according to Mongolian experts.





As of February 16, a total of 116,791 or 25% of animals in Sukbaatar soum (district) have been reported lost out of the 471,000. Authorities have not yet provided figures on the animals lost during the strong snowstorm on the 17-18 February and they think that by the end of March, 50% of animals are feared to die.

ADRA Mongolia had selected 67 vulnerable herder households in Sukhbaatar soum based on the criteria set by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) for cash aid distribution amounting to 660,000 MNT tugriks (equivalent to 200 USD) per household to buy fodder and hay to feed their remaining animals. After the households were selected, ADRA Mongolia thoroughly verified all information, including names and bank account details, by contacting the herders directly. After validating all information, the financial staff transferred the amount to the herders' accounts on February 8th, 2024.

All 67 herder households received the cash aid, and each of them utilized the amount to purchase hay and fodder. Herders and local authorities expressed their gratitude to us, stating, "ADRA was the first organization to extend a helping hand to us, and it was the right help given to the right person at the right time."

The initial emergency response was made possible in collaboration with ADRA International, and ADRA Asia in partnership with the Mongolia Mission of Seventh-day Adventists.



FINE WOOL SHEEP BREEDING PROJECT

ADRA Mongolia, supported by funding from ADRA International, ADRA Australia, ADRA Japan, ADRA Hongkong, ADRA Asia, Help International and the Embassy of Australia in Mongolia, has embarked on a project aimed at enhancing the production of fine wool sheep. As part of this initiative, 5,230 doses of semen and 148 doses of embryos of Merino rams renowned for their high-quality wool were procured from Australia and transported to Mongolia in 2022 and 2023, respectively. Utilizing advanced biotechnology methods, the embryos were carefully prepared through deep freezing techniques within 7-14 days of inception. Subsequently, these imported semen and embryos will serve as carriers for the production of new lambs, facilitated by endoscopic or laparoscopic artificial insemination methods.

For two consecutive years, this project has been effectively executed in collaboration with the National Livestock Gene Bank, under the auspices of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Light Industry, as well as the Research Institute of Animal Husbandry.

From October 17 to 20, 2023, Australian experts worked with local veterinarians to complete the project's second cycle of activities. During this time, 305 ewes were artificially inseminated (AI), with 165 receiving semen and 140 receiving embryo transfer (ET). 198 of the 305 ewes became pregnant, resulting in a 65% average pregnancy rate.

Presently, a total of 90 lambs are surviving in good health. This accomplishment highlights the ongoing success and impact of the project, reaffirming its importance in advancing the objectives of enhancing sheep production and genetic diversity in Mongolia.



New Bits

PARTNERSHIP THROUGH MOU SIGNING WITH VETNET



Memorandum of Understanding was signed between ADRA Mongolia, represented by Country Director Windell Maranan, and V.E.T. Net, an NGO focused on veterinary services and education in Mongolia, represented by Executive Director B.Ganzorig.

The MoU between ADRA Mongolia and V.E.T. Net aims to strengthen effective cooperation in improving the capacity of herder communities, the soum and provincial agricultural specialists and veterinarians in support of better livelihoods and quality livestock management for herders.



ADRA MONGOLIA SIGNS A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH GERES MONGOLIA

On the 22nd of February, the Country Director of ADRA Mongolia Mr. Windell M MARANAN signed an MoU with the Country Director of GERES Mongolia Ms. Eliane JARRY to coordinate the implementation of two projects, namely "UPOAg" and "FSPI-A" that two INGOs are implementing in the same province with the same beneficiary partners.

This was an important step to ensure efficient collaboration and synergies between the two projects of the two INGOs for the benefit of local communities in supporting the organic agriculture sector in Mongolia.



MEETING WITH THE STATE SECRETARY MR. T. JAMBALTSEREN



ADRA Mongolia representatives met with the State Secretary Mr. T.Jambaltseren and other representatives of MOFALI .

The Country Director of ADRA Mongolia, Mr. Windell M MARANAN met with the State Secretary Mr. T. Jambaltseren and other representatives of MOFALI to discuss the implementation of ADRA's "Upscaling Partnership for Organic Agriculture" project and "Fine Wool Sheep Breeding" pilot project in coordination and coherence with sectoral policies.

The parties had productive discussions around the development of an efficient supply chain for organics and upgrading fine wool sheep nucleus flocks in Mongolia.

New Bits

ADRA MEETS THE NEW MONGOLIA MISSION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS LEADERSHIP

As the new president of the Mongolia Mission of Seventh-day Adventists - Pastor Yang EuiSik starts in his post, ADRA Mongolia headed by Country Director - Windell Maranan, along with the team members of the NextGen CELEBRATIONS! Mongolia (NCD) Project led by Project Manager Orgilzul Gansukh met to introduce the said project and discuss ways of how to further collaborate between the two institutions, involving the members of the church, especially the young people, as champions of health advocacies as part of the Church's Total Membership Involvement (TMI) initiative.

The overall goal of the project is to mitigate the risk factors associated with non-communicable diseases prevalent in the country by empowering adolescents aged 12-15 years old to practice a healthy and holistic lifestyle, together with their respective guardians and parents.

The project is funded by ADRA International, Office of the President / General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, ADRA Austria and ADRA China-Hongkong.



New Project in Focus

Climate Adapted Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Project (CANSAP)

ADRA Mongolia is launching a 3-year project on, April 15, 2024, aimed at fostering resilient agricultural practices capable of withstanding extreme climates in Bayan-Olgii province.

CANSAP is designed to introduce pioneering climate-adapted farming methods, including the utilization of passive solar greenhouses to extend the growing season, along with a value chain approach for efficient marketing, marking the first of its kind in Bayan-Ulgii province. Additionally, it is aimed at increasing food security and health resilience by promoting enhanced nutrition, dietary, and proper hygiene practices.

The result of the project will be to establish a paradigmatic model for prolonging the growing season and enhancing productivity amidst the harsh climatic conditions of Bayan-Ulgii. Moreover, it aims to set an effective vegetable marketing model among smallholder farmers through a supply/value chain approach.

The overarching objective of the project is to enhance the livelihoods of 225 vulnerable households across Bugat, Sagsay, and Ulgii districts in Bayan-Ulgii province. This will be achieved through bolstering agricultural productivity and profitability, while simultaneously fostering improved health and resilience within these communities.

As a background, since 2011, ADRA Mongolia has been spearheading agricultural initiatives as part of the program aimed at enhancing food security in Bayan-Ulgii province. These projects have consistently aimed to educate households on innovative vegetable cultivation methods tailored to the local context, empowering them to meet their own dietary needs while integrating various kinds of healthy vegetables into their daily consumption habits.

The outcomes of these projects were remarkable. Through the instruction of permaculture techniques for cultivating vegetables devoid of chemical fertilizers and additives, alongside the implementation of the Mittleider method for maximizing crop yield with minimal effort and expenditure, participants successfully cultivated vegetables to fulfill their household requirements even in non-agricultural areas with poor soil quality.

The Climate Adapted Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Project (CANSAP) is made possible through funding grants from ADRA Hong Kong and ADRA Japan.

STAFF CORNER

WHEN DID YOU FIRST JOIN ADRA AND WHY?

In 2010, I joined ADRA Mongolia as a project assistant for the Children and Youth Education Program. It provided me with an excellent opportunity to enhance my career. When a new project, the Partnership for Organic Agriculture (POAg) began, I served as the marketing officer. After that project was completed, I remain one of the marketing officers for the current UpScaling for Organic Agriculture initiative. Starting my career with a humanitarian development aid organization and working with the project implementation team for over ten years has been incredibly rewarding.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR POSITION?

As a marketing officer, I enjoy hearing the project beneficiaries' points of view, coming up with solutions to their challenges, and working collaboratively with local farmers and partner organizations. It also gives me great pleasure to regularly engage in ADRA's capacity building trainings, which enables project staff to grow and learn new things.

I'm privileged to have been part of the team that carried out Mongolia's first initiative to grow organic agriculture, and while promoting organic products and its advantages to consumers, I in turn, learned a lot about this industry.

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

For over 10 years with ADRA Mongolia, I've learnt a lot from working with skilled project managers and team members. Furthermore, while supporting local farmers' cooperatives with small scale organic initiatives, although we have faced problems, we gained valuable experiences and knowledge. In the future, I wish to continue to work for ADRA, where I can keep learning and gain new experiences while making a difference and positive changes in the lives of our beneficiary partners.

WHAT DOES THE WORK OF ADRA MEAN TO YOU?

As a humanitarian and development organization, ADRA has a significant impact on the lives of those it serves by addressing social concerns through its programs, reaching out to individuals in need, helping them change their perspectives, and supporting their personal growth.

To conclude my remarks, allow me to quote a project beneficiary: "I was barely making ends meet with my pension money. My income significantly increased (doubled) as a result of starting a modest household-scale organic vegetable production, thanks to my participation in the ADRA project. At the age of 65, ADRA has made a big difference in my life, and I am now more hopeful about the future."



Enkhtsetseg Ganzorig

Marketing Officer
UPOAg Project



ADRA Mongolia



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