

REPAIRS BUILDING





YEARS OF JUSTICE, COMPASSION, LOVE



Editorial

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VOLUME 3 | NUMBER 9 July - September 2024

The Nomads, launched in 2022, is the official quarterly newsletter of the ADRA Mongolia Country Office.



**HEALTH / NUTRITION** 

FOOD SECURITY / AGRICULTURE

> EMERGENCY / DISASTER RESPONSE





**OUTREACH** 

### **CLIMATE-ADAPTED NUTRITION SENSITIVE AGRICULTURE PROJECT**

# What's new?

In the middle of May, an important Passive Solar Greenhouse Construction training session for our farmer households was successfully conducted by a Consultant-Trainer from GERES INGO, a partner agency of ADRA. This training provided farmers with valuable knowledge and skills for maximizing their agricultural potential while minimizing environmental impact.

Growing vegetables in Bayan-Ulgii has always been a major weather and technical challenge for farmers. The primary goal of the PSGH construction is to assist our beneficiary partners in implementing improved vegetable growing techniques.

The primary benefits include extending the season from three to eight months and eliminating the risk of an early June night frost. Spring is a critical time for food security and vegetable consumption. Thanks to these greenhouses, our families will be able to harvest fresh and nutritious vegetables beginning at the end of April.

We constructed PSGHs for 2024 in three target locations namely Sagsai, Bugat and Olgii districts. The first finished ones started seedling transplantation.





#### Climate-Adapted Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture (CANSAP) Project Launch in Bayan-Ulgii

This project highlights our commitment to pioneering climate-adapted farming methods, including the use of passive solar greenhouses to extend the growing season and improve crop management and resource allocation.

The launch event was held at "Dostykh" Conference Hall of MJS Tower located in the city center and was attended by key stakeholders and partners from the provincial government and district levels including key beneficiary partners from Ulgii, Bugat, and Sagsai districts.

During the event, Windell M. Maranan, Country Director of ADRA Mongolia signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Kameliyat A., Governor of Bayan-Ulgii Province; Nurgulan B., Head of the Food and Agriculture Department of Bayan-Ulgii Province; Baurjan K., Governor of Sagsai District; Nurbolat Kh., Governor of Ulgii District; and Yerlan Kh., Governor of Bugat District. Also present were Ms. Bakhytgul Kh., Head of the Development Policy, Planning, and Investment Department of the Provincial Governor's Office, and Janargul P., Director of the Provincial Center for Water, Meteorology, and Environmental Analysis.

Asemgul Baitik, CANSAP Manager, provided an overview of the project, highlighting ADRA Mongolia's ongoing efforts in the province to support livelihoods through agriculture and promote food security.

The project launch marks an important step towards ensuring efficient collaboration and synergy between ADRA Mongolia and the soum governors, benefiting local communities by building solar greenhouses and supporting sustainable livelihoods through an extended planting season of 3-5 months.









### **CANSAP Project workshop on product marketing**

On August 2023, 2024, the Climate-Adapted Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture project successfully conducted a training program by Undrakh Banzragch, Program Coordinator of ADRA Mongolia in Ulgii City, Bayan-Ulgii Province. It combined a workshop and discussion on general knowledge of supply chain and marketing, as well as, determining the participants' cooperation and involvement in developing supply chain.

The training was designed to help farmers with the necessary skills, not only to enhance their crop management but also to optimize their supply chain and marketing strategies and generate plans on how to distribute their organic products and reach more customers effectively.

It was attended by key stakeholders from the Department of Food and Agriculture, Kh. Bakhytgul, Head of the Development Policy, Planning and Investment Department of the Province Administration, and mostly the beneficiaries whose participation was crucial to determining their challenges and developing supply chain plans for their organic produce.







#### Autumn Green Day -Small Medium Production Exhibition

To enhance food security and ensure that the finest products from our national producers and new crops grown in our country's soil reach consumers directly, the Provincial Department of Food and Agriculture is excited to announce the "AUTUMN GREEN DAY - SMALL MEDIUM PRODUCTION" exhibition on September 9, 2024. This vibrant event took place in the central square and featured a diverse array



of agricultural producers, farmers, and SMEs from across the province.

We're proud to highlight the participation of family farmers from the "Climate Adapted Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture" (CANSAP) project, implemented by ADRA Mongolia in Bayan-Ulgii. These dedicated farmers showcased their homegrown vegetables and pickled products, bringing a taste of local agriculture to the citizens of Ulgii.

A special congratulations to J. Kuliman, a Trainer of Trainees (TOT) and beneficiary of our project, who was honored as the "Best Farmer of the Year" at the event. She received accolades and agricultural tools in recognition of their outstanding contribution.

The event was a fantastic opportunity to see how our local farmers are transforming their backyards into productive gardens, much to the amazement and delight of attendees.







### UPSCALING PARTNERSHIP FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROJECT



The Upscaling Partnership for Organic Agriculture project, implemented by ADRA Mongolia successfully organized the "Agricultural Experience Sharing Event" for Cooperative members on June 18-19, 2024. A total of 79 members from 34 Cooperatives of 15 soums of 2 provinces (13 soums of Selenge and 2 soums of Darkhan-Uul) participated in this event.

The participants toured the different areas such as the experimental research plot of the fruit and vegetable sector of the Institute of Plant and Agricultural Sciences; Nomin Tugul research pilot tree plantation area of Amiin mod NGO in Sukhbaatar soum; Greenhouse farming, run by Korean owner in Bayangol soum. Furthermore, the Cooperative members learned about organic beekeeping from "Selenge Organic Bayangol Participatory Guarantee Organization" in Bayangol soum as well as organic farming from Selenge Organic Mandal PGO in Mandal soum.



As a result of this Experience Sharing event, cooperation among different cooperatives and participatory guarantee organizations has been improved, knowledge and information on how to develop fruit and berry farming and beekeeping which are suitable for Mongolia's nature and climate conditions have been gained, and the development of organic vegetable and greenhouse farming has been expanded.

### UPOAg Business Plan Development training conducted



As a part of capacity building for Cooperative members, the Upscaling Partnership for Organic Agriculture project collaborated with Development Solutions NGO to organize a three-day business plan training on July 3 - 5, 2024 in Darkhan-Uul province. A total of 40 leaders and members of 14 primary Cooperatives from Darkhan-Uul and Selenge provinces attended the training.

The purpose of this training was to give cooperative members who are engaged in organic agriculture with the skills to develop business plans.

The training resulted in a review of each cooperative's present organic and off-season commercial activities, as well as profit calculations for increasing income-generating activities. Additionally, cooperatives collaborated with trainers to develop their own cooperative business plans.



### **UPOAg Project Technology training**

The Upscaling Partnership for Organic Agriculture project successfully organized a three-day workshop in Ulaanbaatar on July 24 - 26, 2024, that combined theory and practice in organic production hygiene, processing technology, monitoring, and verification.

The training brought together 42 leaders and members of 21 primary cooperatives from Selenge and Darkhan-Uul provinces.

The purpose of this training was to provide organic food farmers with a theoretical understanding of hygiene, monitoring, and verification of organic production, to introduce the production technology of the 3 new products through practical lessons, and to improve their ability to produce processed organic products.











As a result of the training, the participants were informed about the revised law on organic products, documentation, registration, monitoring, and verification of value-added organic products.

Furthermore, they learned how to use labels, signs, and symbols, as well as the cleaning and sterilization of organic production. At the end of the training, the participants developed three new value-added organic products using technologies in cooperation with a consultant.







### Organic products store launched in Altai town, Ulaanbaatar

This organic products store is supported by the Upscaling Partnership for Organic Project, which is implemented by ADRA Mongolia and funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany.

The UPOAg project is active in 16 soums across Selenge and Darkhan-Uul provinces—key agricultural areas in Mongolia. It supports over 400 organic farmers and beekeepers from 41 cooperatives. To enhance the supply chain and sales network for locally sourced organic products, the UPOAg project is collaborating with the Ministry of Agriculture and Light Industry (MOFALI) and "Selenge Tavan Khairhan" Cooperative Union on the opening of the "Organic Products Store" in Ulaanbaatar on August 22, 2024, and is providing support to ensure its successful launch.

Operated by the "Selenge Tavan Khairhan" Cooperative Union, the "Organic Products Store" is located in Altai Town, Bayangol District, Ulaanbaatar. This cooperative union delivers organic potatoes, vegetables, honey, and other value-added products from 40 primary cooperatives directly to consumers in UB without any middleman. By ensuring the stable operation of this store, the income of farmers and beekeepers involved in the UPOAg project will increase, leading to an improved quality of life.





Success Story

#### Ms. Ch. Yagaan, Organic Product Producer / Khushaat soum, Selenge Province

Ms. Ch. Yagaan, well known as Teacher Yagaan by her local community, resides in Khushaat Soum, Selenge Aimag. She is deeply committed to organic farming and has been a driving force in this field.

Since founding the Eco Khushaat cooperative in 2018, Ms. Yagaan's cooperative has been a key participant in the Upscaling Partnership for Organic Agriculture (UPOAg) project.

Funded by BMZ and ADRA Germany and implemented by ADRA Mongolia, the UPOAg project has supported her cooperative in adhering to the Oath of Organic Producer and successfully advancing their organic vegetable farming practices.

The impact of Ms. Yagaan's efforts became particularly evident through the UPOAg project. Her cooperative benefited greatly from the training, seminars, and workshops provided, which covered essential topics such as identifying plant diseases,



pests, and weeds in organic farming, utilizing organic pesticides approved for organic production, and implementing food technology practices. These educational opportunities have empowered her cooperative members with knowledge of organic processing, food hygiene, and safety, and the selection of high-quality raw materials.

As a result, her cooperative established a small workshop in the soum dedicated to producing pickled and preserved products, thus adding value to their produce and expanding their product range.

Reflecting on her journey, Ms. Ch. Yagaan highlights the significant impact of organic farming practices, which exclude the use of chemical pesticides, plant protection substances, fungicides, and herbicides. She also values the insights gained from participating in the Participatory Guarantee System and Participatory Guarantee Organization alongside her cooperative members.

Ms. Yagaan is proud to grow healthy and nutritious vegetables and products that are free from adverse health effects for her family and the local community. Previously, she only cultivated carrots and beets, but through her collaboration with ADRA Mongolia, she and her cooperative members now grow a diverse range of vegetables, including peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes, hot peppers, broccoli, spinach, and eggplants.

Looking ahead, she plans to produce and deliver their organic eggplant caviar and other value-added products to consumers in Ulaanbaatar through the "Selenge Tavan Khairkhan" Cooperative Union. Currently, the Eco Khushaat Cooperative's best-selling vegetables are eggplants, tomatoes, and hot peppers, with eggplant caviar being the most popular value-added preserved product, all of which are certified organic. Due to their hard work and success, her cooperative always successfully participates in the annual "Autumn Green Days" fair, winning the praise of organic food-loving consumers.

# Moll Signing with Mongolian Adventist Mission

On April 18, members of the NextGen CELEBRATIONS! Mongolia project team, along with Mr. Windell M. Maranan, Country Director of ADRA Mongolia, visited the Mongolian Adventist Mission Office to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The newly appointed President of the Mission, Pastor Yang Eui-Sik, and his team were introduced to the scope of the work and expressed their excitement to collaborate with our project. As the Mongolian Mission is our primary local partner, this partnership will facilitate collaboration in implementing healthy living approaches from Adventist Health Ministries.

The project aims to address the risk factors associated with non-communicable diseases in Mongolia by promoting a comprehensive and healthy lifestyle among adolescents aged 12-15, alongside their parents and guardians.



# Health Room renovated in Erdmiin Orgil School

Erdmiin Orgil School, located in the Naliakh District, is one of our target schools for implementing the project. In June, we completed furnishing the Health Room and handed over the furniture to the assigned teacher. And we already started organizing activities in this awareness room. We hope this room will become a place where children want to spend their time, enjoy themselves, and enhance their knowledge of healthy living approaches.





# FGD at Tusgal School Conducted

On June 6, our team organized a focus group discussion among 8th and 9th grade students at Tusgal School. This activity was conducted under the theme of Temperance, one of our targeted letters, through which we aim to mitigate risk factors of noncommunicable diseases and promote healthy, holistic life approaches among adolescents.

The topic of the discussion was the importance of staying away from tobacco and vaping. Mr.Gantulga.J, a psychiatrist from the National Center of Mental Health, conducted the discussion and provided key messages on why it is crucial, especially for children, to avoid using tobacco and vaping. The main purpose of the activity was to help children understand the harmful impacts of these bad habits and encourage them to keep themselves, their friends, and those around them away from vaping and smoking.





# Activities at 84th School, Ulaanbaatar centering on teachers held



On May 17, our Health Officer met with the teachers of the 84th School, one of our target schools. In this meeting and workshop, 12 teachers attended. We introduced the main activities we aim to implement and discussed the roles of the teachers, the collaborations needed, and the types of activities they would like for their students. The teachers were content to engage with our project. Many more exciting activities await us!









# WHAT'S INSIDE!

- Data collection of baseline survey
- Data collection of barrier analysis survey
- Signing on MoU (scope of work) with Mongolian Adventist Mission
- Pilot Activities of Four Letters Including E.T.O.N at Tusgal and Nalaikh School
- Furnishing Health Rooms at Two Schools

Adolescents Call on Governments to Halt E-Cigarette Marketing

Hona Mongols

NextGen CELEBRATIONS! Mongolia

On 31st of May, World No Tobacco Day 2024, young people across the world, who are urging governments to shield them from predatory tobacco marketing tactics. The industry targets youth for a lifetime of profits, creating a new wave of addiction. Children are using e-cigarettes at rates higher than adults in all regions and globally an estimated 37 million youth aged 13–15 years use tobacco.

# Upcoming Events

- ADRA Mongolia 30th Anniversary Celebration
- SBC Planning Accomplishments
- HCD Design Approaches Accomplishment
- International Self-Care Day Activities
- International Youth Day Event
- Start of New School Year Activities' preparation
- NCD notebook designing and publishing
- Voice recording of CETONS videos in Mongolian

# Baseline Survey Conducted

The baseline survey conducted in April by the data collection team included an official contract with the National Center of Mental Health. A total of 655 adolescents, 655 parents, and selected school teachers attended targeted schools. Survey from the four questionnaires were prepared to assess behavior, knowledge, attitudes, and practices related to non-communicable disease risk factors among students, their parents, and caregivers. Data analysis for the baseline survey is being conducted by LLUPHS.



Data collectors

# Barrier analysis

Barrier Analysis: The BA interviewed students from April to May at four target schools. The BA questions focused on mental health, healthy eating, physical activity, alcohol consumption, tobacco usage behavior, and barrier factors. A total of 450 students were interviewed. Data analysis was conducted in June.

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Barrier Analysis Guide

#### Innex A: Creating Survey Codes





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# Hiking Club establishment



On June 19, 2024, we established a hiking club at Erdmiin Orgil Complex School in the Nalaikh district. The first 26 children joined the club, and we organized a one-day hike in the Terelj mountain area. The children were pleased to be involved, enjoyed their time together, and spent time effectively playing and exploring outdoors. Through this club, we will organize various activities to help children learn and be active in the community in holistic ways. Our goal is to encourage healthy living approaches and foster an appreciation for nature and physical activity.



# Coping methods to address stress strengthened

Being optimistic and staying positive is an important issue, not only among adults but also children. One of our target activities is focusing on promoting optimistic approaches among children and helping them live free from stress. We organized a yoga training session to show the children various methods to cope with stress and disappointment. A total of 18 children and one teacher from Tusgal school participated in this yoga training.



# Promoting healthy eating habits among adolescents

On May 8th, we organized a healthy eating demonstration workshop for adolescents at Erdmiin Orgil School. Healthy eating is a crucial component of a healthy lifestyle, and our goal is to enhance awareness about proper nutrition and daily dietary habits for adolescents. In this activity, we include 30 dormitory students of Nalaikh school. This activity is significant and useful for the youth. They are really happy and look enjoyed it.





# Healthy lifestyles emphasized with parents

For children to make healthy food choices, they often need support from their parents. This means that the responsibility of selecting healthier foods largely falls on parents. To address this, we recognize the importance of involving parents and caregivers in training sessions. Most parents do not have enough knowledge and attitudes about healthy eating and healthy lifestyles. About 30 percent of the parents participated in the workshop are interested in a healthy lifestyle and try to do something. After discussion about healthy lifestyles, thev our emphasized the importance of our project purpose. They expressed that they are willing to collaborate with our project and requested more trainings for them on various topics.



Follow us on social media to stay connected: Facebook Page ADRA Mongolia and Facebook Group - NextGen CELEBRATIONS! Mongolia - "Альфа үеийнхэн" for regular updates on our progress.

You can also check our website **www.adra.org.mn**. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our early supporters, donors, and partners who are making this project possible. If you have any questions about our project, please contact us!





On September 11, 2024, our NextGen CELEBRATIONS! Mongolia (non-communicable diseases) Project launched the opening of the project school year focusing on tackling non-communicable diseases. CELEBRATIONS, an acronym representing twelve healthy living principles, will center on six components for adolescents (12–15 year olds): Choices, Exercise, Temperance, Optimism, Nutrition, and Social Support.

As part of our commitment to promoting health and wellness within our school community, this project aims to raise awareness about NCDs such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases, and cancer.

The launch was at Erdmiin Orgil Complex School and Windell M. Maranan, Country Director of ADRA Mongolia started the event with an opening speech, also present were Kh. Ankhbayar, Governor of Nalaikh District, B. Enkh-Uchral, Head of Education Department of Nalaikh District, O. Oyuntuya, Director of Erdmiin Orgil Complex School, Ts. Ulziijargal, Director of Tusgal School and representatives from Mongolia Mission of Seventh-day Adventists.

As the project embarks on this ambitious journey, there is hope that it will pave the way for a future where non-communicable diseases are no longer a leading cause of death and suffering.

The NextGen CELEBRATIONS! Mongolia project is made possible through funding from ADRA International, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, ADRA Austria and ADRA HongKong Ltd.







#### ADRA MONGOLIA'S 30TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

ADRA Mongolia has successfully concluded its 30th Founding Anniversary Celebration on 26 and 27 of July 2024 with the theme Celebrating HOPE @30! which was held in the Emerald Hall of Blue Sky Hotel and the UB Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, respectively.

ADRA opened its door to Mongolia in 1994 working for 30 years and partners with individuals, communities, organizations, and governments to improve the quality of life for Mongolians through the different projects implemented from 1994 up to present in the following areas: education, disaster and emergency management, economic development/livelihoods, health and food security.

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







During the anniversary, Windell M. Maranan, Country Director of ADRA Mongolia was awarded the Golden Star of Peace from D. Zagdjav, President of Peace and Friendship Organization Mongolia, the highest award given to an expatriate working in the INGO sector in the country.

Also, Enkhtur Jambajav, Senior Driver of ADRA Mongolia was awarded the Order of the Polar Star, the highest state honorable award given to a Mongolian citizen for his loyalty and dedicated service working for an uninterrupted 26 years in ADRA Mongolia.







More so, there were foreign and other invited guests including representatives from diplomatic posts who attended the said event including Michael Kruger, President of ADRA International; Frank Reimann, Regional Director of ADRA Asia; Tapan Mishra, Resident Coordinator of United Nations in Mongolia; Pastor Eui Sik Yang, President of Mongolia Mission; Christian Molke, Executive Director of ADRA Germany; Llewelyn Juby, Former Country Director of ADRA Mongolia and T. Jambaltseren, State Secretary of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry, and Brendon Irvine, ADRA Asia Technical Lead - Agriculture, Climate Change & Livelihoods among many others.

The keynote speaker - Michael Kruger, President of ADRA International has given a heartfelt celebratory message to ADRA Mongolia team and the attendees. He also delivered the sermon on the second day during the Sabbath thanksgiving celebration that took place in UB Central Seventh-day Adventist Church followed by a Thanksgiving luncheon.





### Meeting with the Peace and Friendship Organization of Mongolia



Windell M. Maranan, Country Director of ADRA Mongolia was invited to a meeting with E. Undraa, Secretary-General of the Peace and Friendship Organization of Mongolia (PFOM) along with L. Saikhantsetseg, Head of the Administration Department. The Peace and Friendship Organization of Mongolia is one of the oldest public organizations in Mongolia.

The overall goal of the meeting was to recognize each organization's respective purpose, vision, and direction of project implementation, and also discuss ways of further collaboration involving supporting offices in selected provinces where ADRA Mongolia is implementing its projects, specifically provincial governors in the local government level as they are also part of the PFOM.

This was an important step to ensure effective cooperation and synergies between the two organizations for the benefit of local communities and in promoting development in Mongolia.

As well, ADRA Mongolia's Country Director was awarded the Golden Star of Peace & Friendship from D. Zagdjav, President of Peace and Friendship Organization Mongolia, the highest award given to an expatriate working in the INGO sector in the country during the Agency's 30th-anniversary celebration.

He had also the opportunity to write a heartfelt note as a recipient of the Golden Medal for Peace and Friendship in the "Honoree Book", which past awardees are given the privilege to write on.

Since the mid-20th century, Mongolia's foreign relations have been extended mostly in the fields of art and culture. In this connection-several ministries, state committees, and public mass organizations



decided to unite their efforts in this regard. As a result, the "Mongolian Committee to interact with foreign countries through Friendship and Culture" was established in November 1958. This marked the foundation for the present Peace and Friendship Organization of Mongolia.

Currently, the PFOM has 35 member organizations and many thousands of individual members, and supporters both in the country and abroad. The organization conducts friendly contacts and cooperation with more than 200 foreign mass organizations on a bilateral and multilateral basis.



# Staff Corner

Climate-Adapted Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Project (CANSAP)





Since 2004 I have been working with local and international NGO's and programs. The aim of those NGO's are very simple "help people". I always liked helping people to the best of my ability, sometimes just a smile can cure someone and give positive energy. I first joined ADRA in the middle of October 2015. Projects and programs have deadlines, and the project I was working on before expired, and I became unemployed. Then, one day, according to the announcement, I was interviewed by ADRA and started to work with the most strong and encouraged people.

#### What do you love most about your position?

Working with people and supporting them at any stage of their life makes me happy. I like to work with people, I like the projects and programs ADRA implements. Every single project can widely introduce many related things like food security and health, training, and livelihood.

# Can you tell us about one of your most memorable experiences working in ADRA?

My every day is memorable and full of experience. While we are alive we learn, I am learning many new things from my colleagues and project participants; training, accounting, reporting, gardening, etc.

#### What does the work of ADRA mean to you?

To work with ADRA is an honor for me because we help people improve the quality of their lives. "To serve humanity so all may live as God intended" This phrase likes me most, in our days unfortunately serving humanity is getting rare, people are getting more selfish and impatient sometimes aggressive regarding each other. But there are still more people who are very compassionate and willing to help vulnerable ones. I am proud to be one of them thanks to ADRA.I am proud to be one of them thanks to ADRA.



# ADRA

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