



**EDITOR/DESIGNER** Bayasgalan Gansukh

**SUPERVISING EDITOR** Windell M. Maranan

#### **CONTRIBUTORS**

Windell M. Maranan Undrakh Banzragch Raquel Maranan Asemgul Baitik Altantsetseg Sukhbaatar Ganchimeg Dorj Orgilzul Batsukh

**GET CONNECTED** 









**PUBLISHER** ADRA Mongolia

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Mongolia

> Palazzo Tower #8-401 Tokyo Street, 1st Khoroo Bayanzurkh District Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia 15160

> > +976-11-450738 www.adra.org.mn

### **CONTENTS**



**FOREWORD** 



**SPECIAL MESSAGES** 



ABOUT ADRA



**OUR WORK SUMMARY** 



WHERE WE WORK



ADRA's 30TH **ANNIVERSARY** 



CANSAP PROIECT



PLUS PROJECT



**UPOAG PROJECT** 



**EMERGENCY RESPONSE** 



**FWSB PROJECT** 





**IN-THEIR-SHOES PROJECT** 



**FINANCES** 



DONORS/ **PARTNERS** 

### Foreword

2024 Annual Report shares a year of growth, resilience, and impactful change, marking ADRA's 30th anniversary of service in Mongolia. Over the past three decades, we have worked closely with marginalized people, local communities, government agencies, and partners, delivering emergency relief and pioneering agricultural development to create a lasting impact.

Together with our donors and partners, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to providing effective solutions and resources in the face of disasters and development challenges. Our work has touched the lives of many individuals, families, and communities, fostering resilience, hope, and positive change. From emergency response to long-term development programs, we continue to implement innovative approaches that address both immediate needs and promote sustainability.

The accomplishments highlighted in this report reflect not only the success of our programs but also the spirit of collaboration and partnership that is central to our mission. Together, we have navigated challenges, overcome obstacles, and celebrated milestones, knowing that our collective efforts drive meaningful, and durable solutions.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our generous donors, partners and stakeholders. Your contributions enable us to make a meaningful difference in the community. We are deeply grateful for your strong partnership, and we look forward to continuing our collaboration together for better Mongolia.

## Message from the President



Hope is a beautiful thing to celebrate on the 30th anniversary of ADRA in Mongolia!

When ADRA launched its Mongolia country office in 1994, the agency was the first international non-government organization (INGO) invited to register under the office of the Prime Minister. There was a lot of need in the post-communist country, but there was also a lot of hope.

ADRA's earliest programs in the country aimed to feed the hungry, improve health and livelihoods, respond to emergencies, and provide access to education. Today, we see how the hope that began in the earliest days has bloomed into success for the agency with almost 200 projects in 30 years!

The work of ADRA in Mongolia today continues to be an investment in building better communities. Hope is being spread through projects that focus on resilience, sustainable practices, and empowering young people, farmers, and disaster ready churches to be part of transforming their own communities.

As we celebrate this anniversary, we recognize that ADRA's achievements are not ours alone. This milestone is possible because God has blessed us with partners and donors who support us, friends and families who uplift us in prayer, and people and communities who welcome us.

I am incredibly proud of the work of ADRA Mongolia. I see in them today the same hope that brought them through the last three decades, and with God's ongoing blessings, that very hope will continue to carry the agency through the next 30 years, and beyond.

Sincerely,

Michael Kruger

President

**ADRA** International

## Message from Asia Regional Office



Dear ADRA Mongolia Team,

On behalf of the ADRA Asia Regional office, we extend our most heartfelt congratulations to you on the momentous occasion of your 30th anniversary. This milestone is a testament to your unwavering dedication and tireless efforts to improve the lives of countless individuals and communities across Mongolia. Your journey over the past three decades has been nothing short of inspiring, and we are honored to celebrate this significant achievement with you.

ADRA Mongolia is one of more than 120 ADRA country offices around the globe. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is the independent humanitarian agency of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We deliver relief and development assistance to individuals and communities regardless of their ethnicity, political affiliation, gender, or religious association.

Since opening its doors in 1994, ADRA Mongolia has been a beacon of hope and a catalyst for positive change. Your innovative projects such as the NextGen CELEBRATIONS! Mongolia, Fine Wool Sheep Breeding, and Upscaling Partnership for Organic Agriculture (UPOAg) have not only improved livelihoods but also fostered sustainable development and resilience within communities. Your commitment to health/nutrition, food security/agriculture, livelihood, and emergency/disaster response has brought tangible benefits and lasting impact to those you serve, embodying the principles of justice, compassion, and love.

Your work in promoting sustainable agriculture, enhancing health and nutrition, and supporting vulnerable populations through emergency interventions has been exemplary. The significant strides made in pasture land management through the PLUS program and the social support initiatives under the CELEBRATIONS framework have set new standards for development work in Mongolia. These accomplishments are a source of immense pride, not just for ADRA Mongolia but for the entire ADRA network.

As you continue your mission to serve humanity so all may live as God intended, we pray for God's abundant blessings upon your team and the communities you support. May you continue to inspire, uplift, and transform lives with the same passion and dedication that has marked your first 30 years. We look forward to supporting and witnessing the continued growth and success of ADRA Mongolia in the years to come.

With warm regards and best wishes,

Frank Reimann
Regional Director
ADRA Regional Office Asia

## Message from the Country Director



Dear friends and colleagues,

As ADRA Mongolia's reached its 30th year, I am humbled to be part of the Agency's successes notwithstanding the challenges we all face in reaching out to the misfits and most vulnerable members of the society since the Agency's inception in 1994.

Over the past three decades, as a faith-based Christian organization and as the official humanitarian agency of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, we have witnessed how God continues to bless and lead not only the various humanitarians who worked and walked alongside us but also, the incredible impact of your unwavering support - our partners, including our donors and various stakeholders, in transforming the lives of countless Mongolians through the years.

We continue to engage with people in different communities, trying to listen and meet where they are and empowering them to overcome challenges and build a brighter future. From providing emergency relief and conducting disaster responses to fostering sustainable development, ADRA Mongolia's mission has always been rooted in the belief that everyone deserves to live a life filled with dignity and opportunity through selfless service with unwavering dedication and commitment. This life reflects God's purpose for humanity so all may live as He intended.

I am thrilled to be a part of this remarkable journey, and I look forward to continuing to serve alongside each of you as we embark on the next chapter. As the Bible states in Micah 6:8, What does the Lord require of you, but to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before God - the basis of ADRA's global network's motto of *Justice. Compassion. Love* - to live and deliver those principles at our level best as our highest form of service and calling.

Again, sincere thanks for your dedication and compassion as we celebrate hope at 30 years of service, and to many more to come with God at the helm!

I remain.

Sincerely,

Windell M Maranan

**Country Director** 

## Who we are

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is a global humanitarian organization, part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Founded in 1956, ADRA focuses on providing development and emergency relief services in areas affected by poverty, disaster, and social injustice. Its work is driven by the Christian values of compassion, justice, and love for others, and it operates in more than 130 countries around the world.

ADRA has been actively working in Mongolia since 1994, making a significant impact over the past 30 years. In partnership with individuals, communities, organizations, and governments, ADRA strives to enhance the quality of life for Mongolians through five key program areas: food security, economic development and livelihoods, health, disaster management and emergency response, and education.

Since 1994, ADRA Mongolia has successfully implemented 194 projects across various sectors, delivering approximately 34,436,588 USD in funding—an average of 1,187,468 USD per year—to support these vital initiatives.

### Vision

ADRA Mongolia belongs to a professional, learning and efficient network that embodies integrity and transparency. ADRA reaches across boundaries, empowering and speaking out for the at-risk and forgotten to achieve measureable, documented, and durable changes in lives.

## Identity Statement

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency is a global humanitarian organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church that demonstrates God's love and compassion.

### Purpose

To serve humanity so that all may live as God intended.

		-\$		
Education	Disaster Relief	Livelihoods	Health	Food Security
58 projects	25 projects	32 projects	37 projects	42 projects

# Our Work Summary

2024 marks a momentous milestone for ADRA Mongolia as we proudly celebrate 30 years of unwavering commitment and transformative impact. This year stands as a testament to three decades of dedication and service to the communities we serve. In 2024, we remained steadfast in our mission to create lasting change across Mongolia, addressing the critical needs of vulnerable populations through focused efforts in food security, economic development, health, emergency response, and education. Together with our partners, donors, and local communities, we have made significant strides towards fostering resilience, improving livelihoods, and securing a brighter future for those in need.

Throughout 2024, we intensified our efforts to address food security, particularly in regions impacted by climate change and economic instability. This was achieved through the launch of our Climate Adapted Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture Project, which is being implemented in three soums in Bayan-Ulgii Province, an area known for its harsh climatic conditions. This project highlights our commitment to pioneering climate-adapted farming methods including initiating construction of small scale passive solar greenhouses, which have extended the growing season from three to eight months and eliminated early frosts, thereby improving crop management and agricultural productivity.

With the launch of the new project, our project on Pasture Holistic Management (PHM) has successfully concluded its closing ceremony in Zavkhan Province, under the theme "Findings and Lessons Learned." As the first initiative of its kind in the province, the PHM approach has proven highly successful. Our target beneficiaries effectively adopted the approach, leading to improved livelihoods, the sustainable regeneration of open communal pastures, and enhanced land productivity. On the topic of livelihoods, our Fine Wool Sheep Breeding project has now entered Phase 2, with a stronger focus on herders and fine wool sheep breeders. As part of this phase, we conducted artificial insemination for 680 ewes across 4 soums of 2 provinces along with laparoscopy artificial insemination training in the field—an essential capacity-building opportunity for both herders and livestock specialists. This training will have a lasting impact, benefiting participants long after the project has been completed.

Our Phase 2 of organic agriculture project, a food security and organic supply chain development initiative, focused on enhancing the production and marketing of high-quality organic foods from Selenge and Darkhan-Uul provinces. Through a series of holistic training sessions, we equipped 716 cooperative members with essential skills in areas such as trainer development, organic farming and production techniques and standards, cooperative governance, supply chain and marketing methods, participatory guaranteeing schemes, and demand-based vocational trainings to support diversification of income. Additionally, a total of 376 products have been certified as 100% organic and are now approved to carry official organic labels.

Regarding our commitment to the health sector, our NextGen CELEBRATIONS!Mongolia project team has piloted four activities from the twelve healthful living principles: Exercise, Temperance, Optimism, and Nutrition. With each activity, the most effective ways to educate adolescents in selected schools about non-communicable diseases were identified through KAP survey, Barrier Analysis and Human-centered design workshops, while offering them opportunities to explore and adopt healthy alternatives. This initiative aims to explore innovative and participatory preventative methods for addressing causes for increasing non-communicable diseases among Mongolia's society.

Lastly, the Agency responded to the 2024 devastating dzud through two phases of intervention, guided by the principle of "no one left behind", by reaching out to most affected 167 households in Sukhbaatar soum of Sukhbaatar Province. Through these critical interventions, ADRA provided vital assistance to families and communities struggling with the aftermath of this extreme weather condition, offering support in the form of cash transfer, and petrol support for the Soum Government for cleaning the carcasses. Finally, we continued our In-Their-Shoes initiative funded by the ADRA's employee and kind-hearted donors by providing essential food items and winter boots to 100 single-headed households and 50 children facing extreme hardship in Ulaanbaatar.



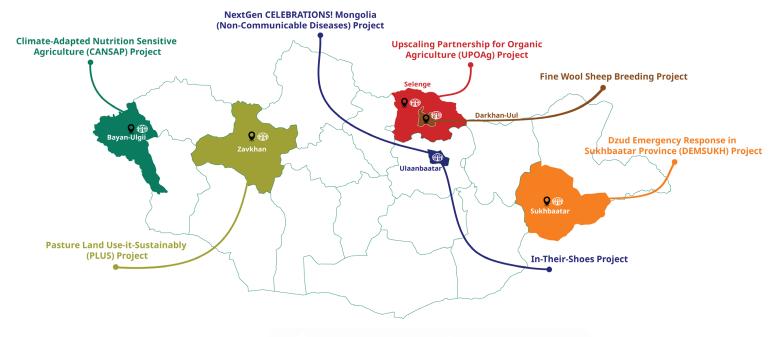
1,035 farmers are benefiting from

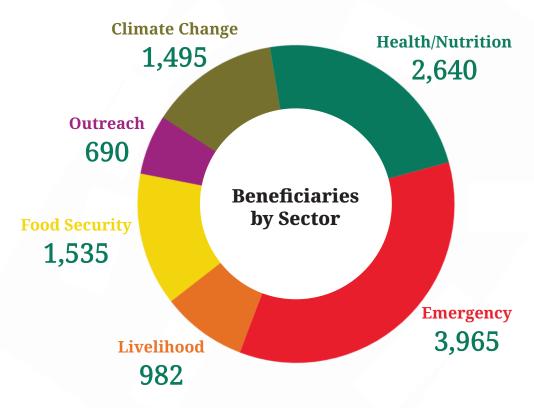
passive solar greenhouses,

improving their crop yields



## Where We Work







### A JOURNEY OF FAITH AND RESILIENCE

In May 1994, Scott Christiansen, the founding Country Director of ADRA Mongolia, filled with anticipation and uncertainty, landed in Hong Kong to meet Maitland Dipinto, ADRA's Regional Coordinator for Asia. Christiansen had been tasked with a formidable mission: to establish ADRA's presence in Mongolia, a nation reeling from the recent collapse of the Soviet Union. This mission was a leap into the unknown for Scott, who had little international experience beyond a few trips to Mexico.

Their journey to Mongolia began on an old Russian Tupolev plane. The aircraft's worn front tire, barely holding together, symbolized the country's severe hardships. When the tire blew out, causing the plane to lurch to a halt, it highlighted just how real and pressing Mongolia's challenges were.

Upon arrival in Ulaanbaatar, Scott and Maitland navigated cautious diplomacy with Mongolia's Foreign Ministry, seeking to establish ADRA as the first NGO to sign a cooperative agreement with the nation. The Ministry's hesitation mirrored the country's dependency on Soviet subsidies, which had accounted for 80% of its GDP. The societal fabric was unraveling, and the country was in desperate need of rebuilding.

During these tense negotiations, Scott connected with Brad and Cathy Jolly, pioneers in their own right, striving to establish an Adventist church in Mongolia. Maitland also made an important decision by hiring Myagmar Munkhjargal as Scott's assistant and translator—a partnership that would prove essential in the coming months.

Returning to Mongolia in August 1994 with his family, Scott set up ADRA's first office in a modest room rented from the Foreign Ministry. His primary goal was to understand and address the needs of Mongolia's most vulnerable populations. Although he observed many street children living in Ulaanbaatar's steam tunnels, the Foreign Ministry prohibited direct aid, fearing it would encourage more children to live on the streets.

Scott and Munkhjargal traveled through the capital and surrounding aimags, crafting a plan that required expertise and funding, both of which were in short supply. Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry grew impatient, expecting immediate tangible benefits like vehicles and computers, which ADRA was not yet able to provide. Communication with ADRA headquarters was frustratingly limited to faxes due to the high cost of international calls and the absence of internet access in Mongolia.

As winter approached, Scott's frustration peaked. However, a shipment from the U.S. in December brought a glimmer of hope. The container, filled with personal belongings, also included power bars and children's winter clothing and shoes—critical supplies for the street children. Unable to distribute them directly, Scott enlisted Julian, a young assistant to the Jollys, to organize the distribution through local volunteers.

### Celebrating HOPE@30!

This plan took an unexpected turn when Julian, whose real name was unknown to Scott, was arrested. The Mongolian media erupted with accusations against the Adventist Church and ADRA, alleging they were bringing criminals into the country. Munkhjargal, fearing for his safety, wanted to flee, but Scott convinced him to stay, promising divine intervention.

Desperate, Scott sent a fax to ADRA headquarters. The response was swift and miraculous: the situation was added to an international prayer chain, and \$50,000 was wired to Scott's account to launch immediate projects. This crisis, which threatened to end ADRA Mongolia before it began, became the catalyst for its establishment.

Munkhjargal worked tirelessly to mend relations with the government, witnessing numerous miracles along the way. Despite the turmoil, the young followers of Julian found resilience, with a few emerging as future leaders of the Mongolian church. Two months after Julian's arrest, during the Tsagaan Sar holiday, ADRA delivered supplies to an elder orphanage.

This event, broadcast on state television, highlighted ADRA's humanitarian efforts. The President of Mongolia began his national address by thanking ADRA and other international partners, marking a significant turnaround in public perception.

From the outset, ADRA Mongolia's journey was marked by divine guidance and resilience. The organization overcame internal and external obstacles, firmly establishing its mission to serve and uplift the people of Mongolia. (Story by **Scott Christiansen**)





# ADRA Mongolia's 30th Founding Anniversary Celebration

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.



### Celebrating HOPE@30!

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.

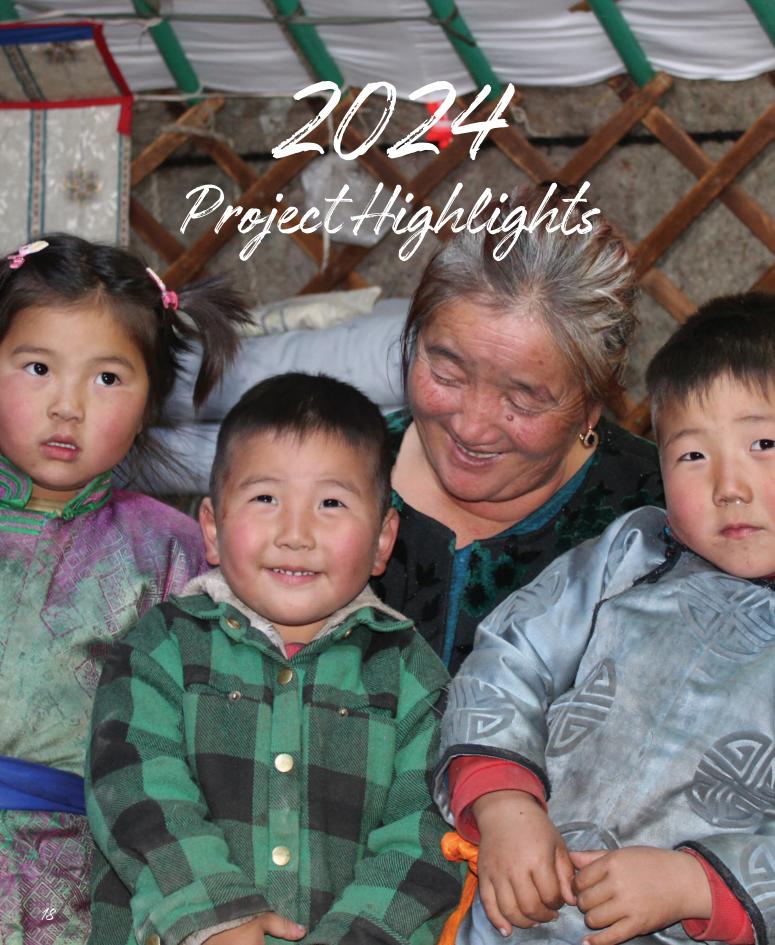
The keynote speaker - Michael Kruger, President of ADRA International has given a heartfelt celebratory message to ADRA Mongolia team and the attendees. He also delivered the sermon on the second day during the Sabbath thanksgiving celebration that took place in UB Central Seventh-day Adventist Church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

**ADRA** 



WELCOME







### Climate Adapted Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture (CANSAP) Project



### **Donors**

ADRA Japan and ADRA China-HongKong



**Total Budget (USD)** \$340,000.00



### **Project Duration**

April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2027



#### **Focus Areas**

Bugat, Sagsay and Ulgii soums of Bayan-Ulgii Province



#### Beneficiaries

225 farmer households (48,000 indirect beneficiaries)

### **Project Overview**

The current pilot project aims at introducing innovative climate-adapted farming practices with passive solar greenhouses for extended growing periods, as well as, a value chain approach for efficient marketing for the first time in Bayan-Ulgii province. It will also promote food security and health resilience through improved nutrition, diet, and good hygiene practices. If the project is implemented successfully, it will be a benchmark model for extending the growing season for increased productivity in the harsh climate conditions of Bayan-Ulgii, as well as a benchmark practice for effective marketing of vegetables of smallholder farmers through a value chain approach.









"Our family is so pleased with this passive solar greenhouse (PSG). The harvest has been fantastic so far! We've enjoyed cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, and ground apples, some of which we've pickled, while the rest are sold for 6,000 MNT per kilogram. We're truly grateful to the project team for creating such a wonderful climate-adapted greenhouse that extended our planting time to seven months." - Altyngul A., farmer from Ulgii soum



### **Key Highlights in 2024**

The Climate Adapted Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture Project (CANSAP), officially launched on August 22, 2024, in Ulgii City, aims to improve livelihoods in Bayan-Ulgii through climate-resilient agricultural practices. Key stakeholders from provincial and district governments, alongside ADRA Mongolia, attended the launch, where a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to ensure effective collaboration between the project and local authorities.



In its first year, 75 vulnerable households were selected for participation based on low income, large families, single-parent households, and elderly members. Five gardening groups were formed, with 14 gardeners trained in vegetable cultivation, focusing on greenhouse management and climate-resilient farming techniques. Training covered various sustainable practices such as raised beds, mulching, drought-resistant crops, rainwater harvesting, crop rotation, and greenhouse use.

A major component of the project involved passive solar greenhouse training, where participants learned to build greenhouses adapted to local conditions, enabling year-round vegetable production.









The project subsidized 50% of the construction material costs for these greenhouses, though an increase in material prices required farmers to contribute more than originally planned. Additionally, 8 types of seeds and gardening tools were distributed to participants to support their cultivation efforts.

To enhance farmers' economic resilience, the project conducted a market survey to assess local market conditions, demand, and opportunities for vegetable sales. In response, a marketing and sales training was held in August 2024, introducing farmers to new supply chain models, which resulted in direct supply contracts between gardening groups and local buyers, such as supermarkets and restaurants, ensuring stable sales.

Finally, the project hosted cooking and processing training, teaching participants how to preserve and cook vegetables using affordable techniques like pickling, drying, and fermentation, thus enhancing food security and nutrition.



Together, these activities foster agricultural productivity, resilience to climate change, and economic independence, ensuring the sustainability and success of the CANSAP project in Bayan-Ulgii.

### Pasture Land -Use It Sustainably (PLUS) Project



### **Donors**

Zurich and Aargau kantons and ADRA Switzerland



### **Total Budget (USD)**

\$348,979.24



### **Project Duration**

June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2024



#### **Focus Areas**

herder communities in Tsetserleg, Manuustai, Zagastai, and Darkhan-Uul in Ider soum of Zavkhan Province



#### **Beneficiaries**

100 herder households (460 individuals)









### **Project Overview**

The Pasture Land – Use it Sustainably (PLUS) is a pilot project that has worked with local herder communities in Ider Soum, Zavkhan Aimag to improve rural livelihoods and contribute to the sustainable regeneration of communal open range pastures and increased productivity of the land and livestock through applying and using Holistic Pasture Management (HM) techniques.





### **Key Highlights in 2024**

**Onsite Training:** Mr. Simon Goodall, the Savory Institute (SI) accredited trainer from Italy, successfully conducted three-day training on Pasture Holistic Management for herders in 3 baghs of Ider soum of Zavkhan province between April 23-25, 2024.

These onsite sessions focused on discussing the Holistic Grazing Management approach which ensures timely recovery on community pastures during the grass growing season. Furthermore, herders comprehended the Pasture Holistic Management well and promised to discuss what they gained during the bagh meeting for further decision making process. A total of 41 (22m; 19f) herders, and ADRA representatives attended this onsite training.



### Celebrating HOPE@30!

PLUS Project's closing ceremony: The PLUS Project Closing Ceremony under the name of "Findings and Lessons Learned," was held successfully on April 26, 2024 in Ider soum, Zavkhan province. The PLUS project collaborated closely with the Savory Institute in the United States to introduce and implement the Pasture Holistic Management approach in Ider soum for the first time on a pilot basis throughout a three-year project implementation period.

This event was attended by 75 representatives including the ADRA Mongolia Country Director Windell Maranan, a Savory Institute representative,



PLUS project team, local government leaders, and beneficiary partners. During the discussion, participants shared their perspectives on implementation achievements and lessons learned, and they finished with brief recommendations.

**Supported a local herders' cooperative:** Within the framework of the "Pasture Land – Use it Sustainably" project implemented by ADRA Mongolia from 2021-2024, Ider Milk Initiative was supported through providing milk processing equipment in order to strengthen the capacity of herders particularly women herders, and increase their income. During the project closing ceremony, all equipment of the workshop was handed over to the "Ider Suun Tsatsal" Herders' Cooperative of Darkhan-Uul Bagh of Ider soum in Zavkhan province.





# Success Story

A Happy Yak Milkwoman

Jantsan Tserenkhand, a mother of three—including one child with a disability—resides in the Tsetserleg Bagh of Ider Soum, Zavkhan Aimag. As one of the key representatives of yak milkwomen in her community, Tserenkhand has actively participated in various training sessions and planning meetings organized by the PLUS Project, implemented by ADRA Mongolia. These opportunities have helped her enhance her skills and knowledge, particularly in holistic management practices.

In a strategic move to better balance her family's needs, especially caring for her child, Tserenkhand decided to sell all her sheep and goats and transition to herding yaks. Yaks are easier to manage, milk, and herd compared to a large number of smaller animals, making them a more sustainable choice for her family.

Tserenkhand's participation in multiple trainings on "Milk Product Hygiene and Best Practices" through the "Ider Milk Initiative"—a short-term project under the PLUS Project—has led to a notable increase in her dairy production. Today, she regularly produces eight different types of dairy products, significantly boosting her household income. Moreover, through training in the Savory Institute's Holistic Management Approach, Tserenkhand has learned the critical importance of managing grazing areas to restore grasslands and combat desertification. She now rotates her winter and summer pastures—covering about one-third of a hectare—and has implemented fencing strategies to protect and regenerate the land.

In collaboration with her neighboring herders, Tserenkhand has developed a summer grazing plan using participatory tools, fostering a sense of community cooperation. Together, they are successfully rotating and restoring their pastures, ensuring the sustainability of their livelihoods for years to come.



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



#### **Donors**

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and ADRA Germany



### Total Budget (USD)

\$1,852,830.60



### **Project Duration**

October 2023 to December 2026



#### **Focus Areas**

Selenge and Darkhan-Uul provinces



#### **Beneficiaries**

31 cooperatives of Selenge and 10 cooperatives of Darkhan-Uul provinces under one cooperative union

### **Project Overview**

The Upscaling Partnership for Organic Agriculture project is funded by the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany, in partnership with ADRA Germany, and focuses on 41 cooperatives of 16 subdistricts across Selenge and Darkhan-Uul provinces, key agricultural areas in Mongolia.

The 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, 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.











### **Key Highlights in 2024**

### 1. Production of high-quality organic foods increased in Selenge and Darkhan-Uul provinces.

As part of our ongoing commitment to advancing organic agriculture in Mongolia, the UPOAg project organized eight training sessions for a total of 716 cooperative members, equipping them with essential skills in areas such as trainer development, organic production practices, plant protection, and disease and pest management. Additionally, hands-on consultations and training in the Participatory Guarantee System were provided.

We also conducted two specialized trainings for 40 leaders of targeted cooperatives. The UPOAg project supported 22 beneficiary cooperatives, two schools, and two kindergartens in Selenge and Darkhan-Uul provinces by supplying small-scale organic farming equipment, greenhouses, and seeds.



Moreover, we established five new Participatory Guarantee Organizations, comprising 91 members from 21 cooperatives across nine soums in Selenge and Darkhan-Uul provinces. These members have been registered in the online organic information and registration system of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Light Industry.

In total, 376 products have been approved to carry organic labels; 117 products received certification as transitional organic, while 376 have been recognized as 100% certified organic.





### Celebrating HOPE@30!

In 2024, we cultivated 32 types of vegetables across 75 hectares, yielding 886.1 tons of crops and 9 tons of organic honey for market supply.



## 2. Improved market access through the development of an organic cluster model in Ulaanbaatar to build and strengthen the value chain for organic agricultural products from certified organic farmers in Selenge and Darkhan.

As part of the UPOAg project implementation, we organized five training sessions focused on business plan development, marketing, sales management, vegetable pickling, and value-added product technology, benefiting 244 members from target cooperatives. Additionally, we provided small-scale equipment for off-season production, including tools for sewing, felt processing, carpentry, and the processing of dairy, meat, and pickled products, to 32 cooperatives to help expand their business activities during the non-agricultural season.



Cooperative members showcased over 25 varieties of organic vegetables, honey, and preserved products at five "Autumn Green Days" exhibitions held in Ulaanbaatar, Selenge, and Darkhan-Uul provinces. The "Selenge Tavan Khairkhan" Cooperative Union has launched two new organic product stores in Ulaanbaatar, offering organic vegetables, honey, and valueadded products. Furthermore, this Cooperative Union has established contracts with four companies for the sale of organic products, strengthening their supply chain.



### 3. Strengthened structures at the local, regional, and national levels for the support and promotion of sustainable organic agriculture

To enhance the legal framework and future objectives for organic production, as well as to strengthen the supply and sales value chain of organic products in Selenge and Darkhan-Uul provinces, the UPOAg project organized a total of 18 meetings, discussions, and workshops at local, regional, and national levels. These events engaged 926 participants, effectively reaching the voices of organic producers to policymakers and promoting the sustainable development of the organic agriculture in Mongolia.



## **Emergency Response**



### Dzud Emergency Response in Sukhbaatar Province



#### **Donors**

ADRA International, ADRA Asia, ADRA Germany, ADRA Canada and Mongolia Mission



Total Budget (USD) \$40,000.00



### **Project Duration**

January 10, 2024 to May 9, 2024



#### **Focus Area**

Sukhbaatar Soum of Sukhbaatar Province



#### **Beneficiaries**

768 direct beneficiaries 3,197 indirect beneficiaries







### **Key Challenges & Urgent Needs**

- Severe hay and fodder shortages with prices increasing five-fold since autumn.
- Limited humanitarian aid coverage, leaving a large portion of vulnerable families without assistance.
- Critical threat to livelihoods, as ongoing livestock deaths could devastate herder communities.

### **Project Overview**

ADRA Mongolia, in collaboration with government agencies and humanitarian organizations, is leading an emergency response intervention in Sukhbaatar soum, Sukhbaatar province, approximately 650 km east of Ulaanbaatar. The intervention addresses the devastating impact of the dzud—a harsh winter disaster—on local herding communities.

### **OUR RESPONSE TIMELINE**

#### **DISASTER**

#### **RESPONSE**

#### **RECOVERY**

### November 2023

Heavy rainfall was followed by a sharp drop in temperature, plummeting below -40°C

### January 2024

By working closely with government agencies such as MOFALI and NEMA, we were able to provide financial aid to herding families and cover the fuel costs for the cleanup of livestock carcasses

### May 2024

With the timely financial support, herders purchased essential supplies for both themselves and their livestock



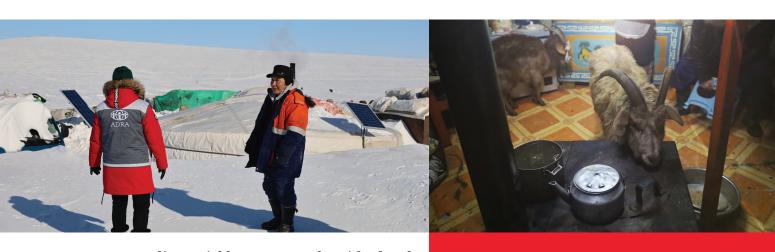






In response to the severe Dzud disaster, ADRA Mongolia activated the National Emergency Management Plan (NEMP) on January 15, 2024, following a request from the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Mongolia. This action was coordinated by the ADRA Asia Regional Office (ARO) and ADRA International. The primary objective was to support vulnerable herders in the Sukhbaatar Soum, identified as the most affected area based on provincial data from the National Emergency Management Agency.

"Ilost nearly 600 head of livestock in the brutal aftermath of a fierce storm. The ground had frozen solid, a treacherous layer of wet snow sealing the earth beneath. The unrelenting, extreme weather conditions triggered a devastating shortage of hay and fodder, pushing my animals to the brink. Starvation and exposure ravaged them, leaving countless lives lost to the merciless cold." - G. Gankhuyag, herder from Sukhbaatar soum of Sukhbaatar Province



ADRA Mongolia quickly partnered with local government authorities, including the Provincial and Soum Governor's offices, as well as the Provincial Emergency Management Agency, to facilitate collaboration with social welfare departments. A working group was formed with community members and government representatives, ensuring gender balance, to identify vulnerable herder households. The "no one left behind" principle guided the household selection process, and a total of 67 households were informed about the humanitarian support, including cash transfers.

#### **Verification and Cash Transfer**

Verification of the beneficiaries' details (names and bank information) was conducted, and cash transfers of 660,000 MNT (equivalent to 192 USD) were successfully made to the 67 selected households on February 8, 2024. To assess the effectiveness of the cash transfer, a post-distribution monitoring trip was conducted from February 19-21, 2024, covering 10% of beneficiaries for random checks.

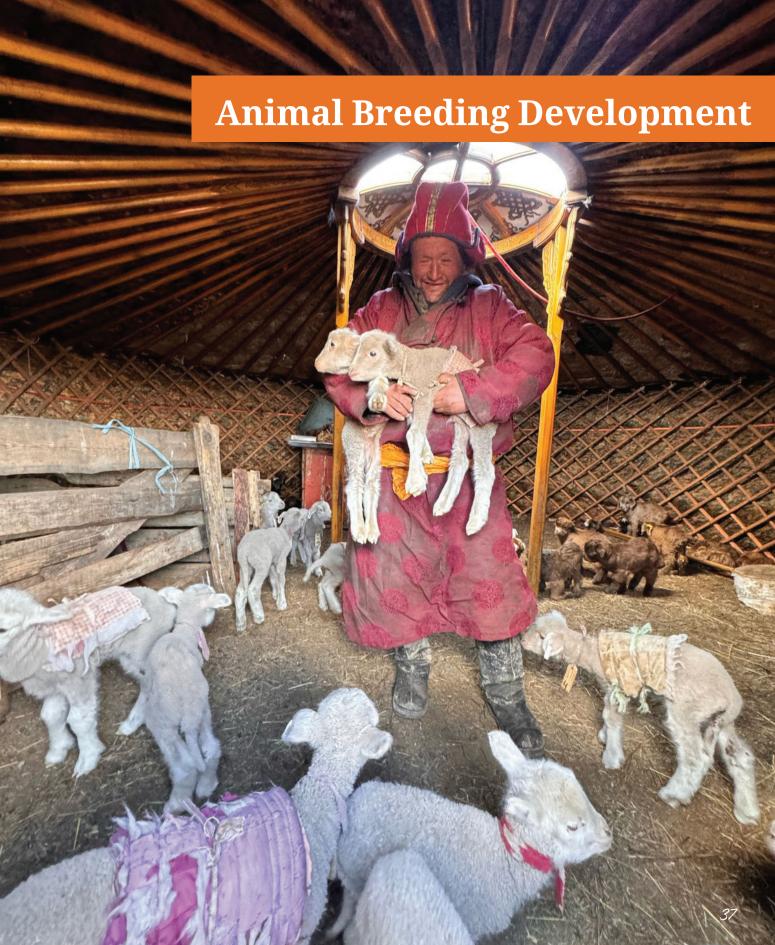
In addition to financial assistance, the project addressed the need for petrol support in Sukhbaatar Soum, where the local government had exhausted its resources in assisting the herders and cleaning carcasses. ADRA Mongolia was asked to provide petrol for landfilling and disinfecting dead animals to prevent disease spread, which was a critical resource gap.





A subsequent scale-up response, including a second round of household selection, reached 100 additional households with cash support in the last week of April 2024.





## Fine Wool Sheep Breeding Project



#### **Donors**

ADRA International, ADRA Asia, ADRA Australia, ADRA Japan, ADRA China-HongKong, Australian Embassy in Mongolia



#### **Total Budget (USD)**

\$185,000 (Pilot) \$43,000 (Phase -2)



#### **Project Duration**

July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2024 July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 (Phase - 2)



#### **Focus Areas**

Darkhan-Uul and Selenge provinces



#### **Beneficiaries**

80 herders, 9 veterinarians 23 herder households (Phase -2)

#### **Key Highlights in 2024**

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). Of the 305 ewes, 198 became pregnant, resulting in a 65% average pregnancy rate.

As of May 2024, a total of 90 lambs survived 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.

### **Project Overview**

Mongolia had over 500,000 heads of fine wool sheep in the 1990s, but this number has decreased to around 13,000 over the past three decades due to a lack of systematic breed upgrading. This project aims to genetically upgrade the remaining Khangai and Orkhon fine and semi-fine wool sheep through artificial insemination (AI) using high genetic merit Merino and Dohne Merino rams from 5,000 doses of semen, and embryo transfer (ET) from Australia. The goal is to improve wool quality and quantity, thereby enhancing the sustainable livelihoods of herders. In Phase 1, Australian Merino ram deep-frozen semen and embryos were imported to improve the sheep's quality, while Phase 2 focused on herders and fine wool sheep breeders, organizing laparoscopy AI in field areas with the cooperation of National Livestock Gene Bank (NLGB) and providing capacity-building training for herders and livestock specialists.













Newly born lambs from artificial insemination

Within the framework of the project, ADRA Mongolia, in partnership with the Australian Embassy in Mongolia and Share Mongolia, conducted Fine Wool Sheep Shearing Training for Khangai and Orkhon breed sheep herders in Orkhon soum of Selenge Province. The training, which involved 19 enthusiastic participants, aimed to equip herders with the skills to effectively use shearing equipment and maximize wool yield per sheep.



#### Celebrating HOPE@30!

During a monitoring visit to Selenge Province, Brendon Irvine, ADRA Asia Regional Office Technical Lead for Agriculture, Climate Change, and Livelihood, along with Country Director Windell Maranan and Project Coordinator Asemgul Baitik, met with various stakeholders, including Orkhon and Khangai sheep herders and authorities from the National Livestock Gene Bank. The group discussed the project's future plans, with a particular focus on the upcoming laparoscopic artificial insemination activities at the herder level, scheduled for October 2024.



The team also assessed the conditions of the newborn lambs delivered last mid-March, and followed up on the wool quality from the recent shearing training done in Orkhon soum.



## Survey and volunteer involvement of fine wool breeders for the project

The project team visited Orkhon, Saikhan, Tsagaannuur soums' fine and semi-fine wool sheep breeders and made questionnaires and surveys about the involvement of fine wool ewes for laparoscopic artificial insemination which will held on each site in October. Among 38 families that we have met and introduced to our planned project activities 23 families voluntarily signed on the cooperation contract to participate in overall project activities and involve their ewes for AI.

Meanwhile, a separate project monitoring visit for phase 2 funded by the Australian Embassy in Mongolia, headed by Andrew Berryman, Deputy Head of Mission was conducted on November 1, 2024.

## Selection and ear tagging of appropriate ewes for AI

Based on the survey and cooperation contract signed by herders, the team consisted of a Selenge province livestock specialist and the Fine wool sheep breeding project run ewe selection work by visiting every family and evaluating ewes' body condition, breed characteristics, and measuring the weight in 3 soums.

#### **Artificial insemination**

Laparoscopic AI has been organized in 3 soums of Selenge province including 630 ewes from 23 herder families. An additional 50 ewes were AI-ed in Khongor soum of Darkhan-Uul province for the RIAH flock. The project used Centre Plus and Karbullah breed semen for the Khangai fine wool sheep breed, and Dohne merino and Baderloo semen to improve Orkhon semi-fine wool breed. AI process started on 24 September by selecting proper ewes for breeding and finished on 24 October by inseminating the ewes.



#### Capacity building and professional skill improvement of specialists

The NLGB staff had enough skill to make laparoscopic AI independently for 630 ewes which proves project outputs from the previous phase. Moreover, 9 students from the Mongolian University of Life Sciences and Biotechnology participated in laparoscopic AI procedures and enhanced their knowledge and skills.

As the AI was organized in local areas, herders who were involved in their ewes for insemination were able to visit the AI point and see the procedure. Selected ewes for insemination were ear tagged and registered for the breeding list for further recording and analyzing by fertility and born lambs which will be the base of systematic breeding for the fine wool sheep.



# Health/Nutrition



## NextGen CELEBRATIONS! Mongolia (NCD) Project



#### **Donors**

ADRA International, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, ADRA Austria and ADRA China-HongKong



**Total Budget (USD)** \$510,000.00



#### **Project Duration**

June 1, 2023 to May 31, 2026



#### **Focus Areas**

Bayanzurkh, Chingeltei, Nalaikh, Songino-Khairkhan districts of Ulaanbaatar



#### Beneficiaries

1,300 adolescents ages 12-15; 1,300 parents/caretakers and 40 school staff



## **Project Overview**

The NextGen CELEBRATIONS! Mongolia (NCD) Project is a dynamic three-year initiative serving as a country-specific pilot for ADRA International's global approach to non-communicable diseases (NCDs). CELEBRATIONS, an acronym representing 12 healthful living principles, will focus on six components for adolescents (12–15 year olds): C-Choice, E-Exercise, L-Liquid, E-Environment, B-Belief, R-Rest, A-Air, T-Temperance, I-Integrity, O-Optimism, N-Nutrition, and S-Social Support. Using CETONS, our mission is to empower Mongolian adolescents, aged 12-15. with knowledge and tools for healthy living, preventing NCDs in their communities. The overall goal is to instill healthy and holistic lifestyles, lowering the risk of NCDs. Upon the completion of the project, adolescents in communities surrounding four selected schools will possess the skills to integrate positive behaviors, reducing NCD risks. Sustainability is paramount, with a behavioral change approach and human-centered design involving the community, parents, authorities, school leaders, and businesses.









#### **Key Highlights in 2024**

Our project has partnered with the General Department of Education, the implementing agency of the Ministry of Education and Science, leading to the selection of two schools for our initiative from 2023 to 2026: "School No.84" in Bayanzurkh district and "Khugjil Complex" School in Songino Khairkhan district. Additionally, Tusgal, a private school, and Nalaikh district public schools were selected as they participated in the needs assessment and met the selection criteria.

#### Celebrating HOPE@30!

The NCD Project team has officially secured approval from the Medical Ethics Review Committee of the Ministry of Health for its Institutional Review Board (IRB). This endorsement underscores our unwavering dedication to maintaining ethical standards in both research and project implementation. The study, "Strengthening an Adolescents-Friendly School Environment to Promote Healthy Behaviors Among 12-15-Year-Olds in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia," is a collaboration between ADRA Mongolia, the National Center for Mental Health, and Loma Linda University School of Public Health.

The project team officially launched the renovation of NCD health rooms in two schools. Adolescents actively participated in the design process, offering valuable input on both the content and aesthetics of the spaces. This collaborative approach ensured that the rooms aligned with the needs and preferences of the youth the project aimed to serve. For the renovation at 'Erdmiin-Orgil' school in Nalaikh district, a total of 12 students (6 males, 6 females) participated. During the session, we discussed their suggestions for creating an environment that would promote calmness and comfort. The students expressed a preference for a design featuring soothing colors and a relaxing atmosphere.

The CELEBRATIONS! Mongolia team had put together a special notebook for our beneficiaries, inspired by the amazing themes suggested by the adolescents. The notebook featured the fantastic design created by the winner of our notebook cover competition. It included details about the CELEBRATIONS principles, health tips for CETONS, a 3-year calendar, a health tracker, and the lyrics to the "Alpha Generation" song, written by Orgilzul and set to music by Buyanbilig from the Mongolian Mission Church.





From February 19-22, 2024, ADRA Mongolia organized a training on Human Subjects Research Ethics and Compliance at the Flower Hotel in Ulaanbaatar. Led by Gia Hernandez, Research Coordinator from LLUSPH, the training covered ethics during research data Thirty participants, collection. including representatives from the Mongolian National Center for

Mental and Public Health and the Mongolian Mission, completed the training and received certificates from Loma Linda University and ADRA Mongolia. On the final day, 12 parents and 12 adolescents from the target schools piloted the KAP survey.



Four pilot testing activities (Exercise, Temperance, Optimism, and Nutrition) were completed. On May 8th, the Nutrition pilot test ("Healthy Food Day") was organized at the Erdmiin Orgil school dormitory, where Mongolian Mission trainer Purevdulam J. provided training on vegetarian food preparation to dorm adolescents. Healthy eating is a crucial component of a healthy lifestyle, and our goal was to enhance awareness about proper nutrition and daily dietary habits for children. During the workshop, basic information was shared, and the children cheerfully participated in cooking activities together.



#### Celebrating HOPE@30!



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

The NCD project launched its school year at Erdmiin Orgil Complex School, focusing on tackling non-communicable diseases. Windell M. Maranan, Country Director of ADRA Mongolia, started the event with an opening speech. Attendees included Kh. Ankhbayar, Governor of Nalaikh District, B. Enkh-Uchral, Head of the Education Department, O. Oyuntuya, Director of Erdmiin Orgil Complex School, Ts. Ulziijargal, Director of Tusgal School, and representatives from the Mongolia Mission of Seventh-day Adventists. This launch, with the participation of over 700 adolescents, marked the beginning of an ambitious journey toward a future with reduced impact from non-communicable diseases.







# In-Their-Shoes (ITS) Project



#### **Donors**

Office of the President of the General Conference of Seventhday Adventists, ADRA Mongolia staff and family members



Total Budget (USD)

\$4,347



**Project Duration** 

November 19, 2024



#### **Focus Areas**

41st Khoroo of Songinokhairkhan District, Ulaanbaatar



#### **Beneficiaries**

460 individuals and 50 children belonging to single-headed households









### **Project Overview**

The yearly In-Their-Shoes (ITS) Project aims to reach out to Ulaanbaatar's most vulnerable communities and families by distributing essential food items to selected families, as well as winter boots to children aged 6 to 16 from single-headed households. The ITS project was conceived as part of the Agency's proactive strategy of providing an opportunity for all staff to voluntarily contribute to reach out to the most vulnerable members of the Mongolian society.



#### **Key Highlights in 2024**

Since 2021, the project has already benefited several khoroos in Chingeltei, Sukhbaatar, Bayanzurkh, and Songinokhairkhan districts.

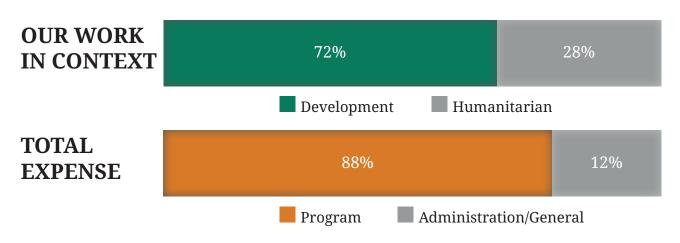
In 2024, the project team partnered with the Khoroo governor and staff members of the 41st Khoroo of the Songinokhairkhan District to benefit the communities near the Ulaanchuluut Waste Disposal site (Ulaanbaatar dumpsite). Food packs which included 10 kilos of flour, a bag of rice, 2L of oil, a pack of salt, 2 kilos of sugar, 4 packs of noodles, and 2 pieces of baked bread were distributed to selected families along with 50 winter boots for deserving children.



# Financial Report

Department/Programs	Total Budget (USD)	Expenses (MNT)	Expenses (USD)
Administration	\$123,819.84	432,604,110.11	\$125,428.85
Upscaling Partnership for Organic Agriculture Project	\$1,852,830.60	2,471,898,743.56	\$695,016.73
NextGen CELEBRATIONS! Mongolia Project	\$510,000.00	643,509,065.95	\$186,531.96
Pasture Land - Use It Sustainably Project	\$348,979.24	61,968,297.00	\$18,328.12
Climate Adapted Nutrition- Sensitive Agriculture Project	\$340,000.00	436,075,673.00	\$97,209.04
Fine Wool Sheep Breeding Pilot Project	\$185,000.00	32,786,317.21	\$9,697.08
Fine Wool Sheep Breeding Project Phase - 2	\$43,000.00	88,226,308.00	\$25,797.17
Dzud Emergency Response in Sukhbaatar Province	\$40,000.00	135,680,000.00	\$40,000.00
In-Their-Shoes Project	\$4,347.00	14,391,230.00	\$4,270.39
TOTAL	\$3,447,976.68	4,317,139,744.83	\$1,262,229.29

as of 12/30/2024 Mongol Bank rate



## Donors and Partners





## Kanton Aargau





Kanton Zürich Lotteriefonds



MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND LIGHT INDUSTRY



#### MINISTRY OF HEALTH



Governor's Office of Selenge Province



Governor's Office of Darkhan-Uul Province







#### Help International









Governor's Office of Zavkhan Province



Governor's Office of Ider Soum



National Federation of Mongolian Consumers Associations (NFMCA)



National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Cooperatives (NAMAC)



Institute for Plant and Agricultural Sciences (IPAS)

























