

THE NOMADS

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ADRA
Justice.Compassion.Love



Editorial

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Another chapter in our story begins with the first quarter of 2025, as we continue our steadfast commitment to serving Mongolia with justice, compassion, and love. As the harsh winter cold begins to fade, we reflect on the resilience of local communities, and we are especially grateful that Mongolia has, this year, been spared from the devastating Covid disaster.

With the promise of spring on the horizon, we are filled with renewed hope and optimism for the future. As we look ahead, we remain dedicated to fostering an environment of peace and progress, ensuring that justice and compassion continue to guide every step of our journey together.

In this quarterly newsletter, we highlight our projects' progress amidst global funding cuts, a situation that has left millions relying on hope and resilience during these uncertain times. Despite these challenges, we are proud to present that our initiatives continue to make significant strides, bringing tangible benefits to local communities. From providing vital resources to advancing sustainable development, our work remains driven by the belief that even in the toughest of times, we can create lasting change.

As we move forward, we remain grateful for the trust and support of our partners, and supporters. Your unwavering belief in our mission strengthens us, and we strive for a better tomorrow. Together, we face the future with courage, faith, and an undiminished commitment to the principles of justice, compassion, and love from the foundations of our work.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Warm regards,

EDITORIAL



NEXTGEN CELEBRATIONS! MONGOLIA



UPOAg PROJECT



CANSAP PROJECT



FINE WOOL SHEEP BREEDING PROJECT



NEWS BITS

This 2025 quarterly, our primary focus is on advancing the implementation of key projects during the off-season period. With a reduced demand for our core services, this is an ideal time to invest in strategic initiatives, enhance operational efficiencies, and lay the groundwork for upcoming peak periods.

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Thank you for being part of this journey!

The Editorial

CLIMATE ADAPTED NUTRITION-SENSITIVE AGRICULTURE (CANSAP) PROJECT



Supply Meeting Event Held at CANSAP Office

A supply meeting was held at the CANSAP office, bringing together leaders from gardening groups, wholesalers, and retailers. This business meeting with potential buyers played a crucial role in expanding market opportunities and ensuring a sustainable supply of farmers' products for 2025.

Looking ahead, the project team plans to support gardening group leaders in organizing an annual joint supply workshop. This event will engage all potential buyers, further increasing market access and fostering long-term business relationships.

The primary objective of the meeting was to connect gardening group leaders with potential buyers, facilitating direct supply contracts and creating new market opportunities for smallholder farmers in Bayan-Ulgii province.

Multi-Stakeholder Discussion on Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation

On February 20, 2025, the Climate Adapted Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture project team successfully organized a multi-stakeholder discussion workshop on climate change adaptation, prevention, and risk reduction for farming households.





Participants include:

- Household farmers from Bugat, Sagsai, and Ulgii soums
- Experts from the Department of Food and Agriculture
- Meteorologists from the Provincial Meteorological Center
- Specialists from Provincial Health Department
- Specialists from the Provincial Emergency Department

At the climate resilience forum, experts and local stakeholders gathered to discuss the pressing environmental challenges facing Bayan-Ulgii. The conversation focused on the growing impact of climate change on agriculture, the increasing frequency of natural disasters in the region, and the health risks associated with extreme weather conditions.

Through insightful presentations and collaborative discussions, participants explored practical adaptation strategies for farmers, aiming to safeguard their livelihoods against unpredictable climate shifts. The event not only raised awareness but also fostered stronger partnerships among key stakeholders. As a result, actionable climate resilience strategies were developed, with key recommendations set to be shared with policymakers—ensuring support for sustainable farming practices in one of the world's most extreme climates.



NEXTGEN CELEBRATIONS! MONGOLIA (NCD) PROJECT

During the school winter break, we had the wonderful opportunity to combine training and team-building activities with the teachers from Erdmiin Orgil Complex School.



As one of the most demanding and responsible professions, teaching requires immense energy, dedication, and resilience. The event aimed to offer teachers not only a chance to enhance their skills but also a well-deserved moment to unwind and connect with colleagues. Through interactive sessions and collaborative exercises, participants gained valuable insights that could support their personal and professional development. It was a day dedicated to learning, reflection, and strengthening the bonds within the teaching community.



The project team organized a series of training sessions and activities for teachers during the students' winter vacation. One of these sessions, a workshop titled "Foundations of Success: Relationships, Attitudes, and Preventing Work Stress," was successfully held at Tengur Restaurant in the Nalaikh District for the teachers of Erdmiin Orgil Complex School.

The workshop was led by Bold Batsukh, Chairman of the Board of ADRA Local NGO, and a trainer specializing in public health and personal development. Currently pursuing a doctorate, Mr. Bold brought valuable expertise to the session. A total of 65 teachers participated in the event.



The project team planned and held activities and training sessions in February to help children develop a positive and optimistic mindset. Preparations for the training and activities were introduced to the children, and they also completed some initial assessments.



Parents' Meeting Held

During the parents' meeting for 6th–9th grade students at Tusgal School, our project had the valuable opportunity to present its objectives and highlight some of the recent activities we've been working on. The focus of our project is to support adolescents in developing a well-rounded and sustainable approach to healthy living. This includes not just physical health, but also mental and emotional well-being.

A key aspect of this effort is recognizing the significant influence that parents have on their children's habits and choices. For adolescents to embrace healthy living, it is crucial that parents lead by example. When parents adopt healthy habits themselves—whether it's through regular exercise, balanced nutrition, or fostering a positive mindset—they set a powerful example for their children to follow.

Parents are instrumental in shaping their children's attitudes, values, and behaviors, and their active participation can make a profound difference. By working together, we can help guide young people towards a future where they prioritize their health, well-being, and overall life satisfaction.



As part of the Project Health Club activities, the NCD team conducted a training session for the health club members, focused on exploring the various emotions they experience and how they typically respond to them. The responses from the participants were diverse, reflecting the complexity of emotions during this stage of life. However, one key takeaway was clear: parents play an essential role in understanding and supporting their children through these emotional experiences. Their involvement and empathy are critical in helping young people navigate this important phase of development.



Signing of Memorandum of Understanding



As part of the project framework and to ensure smooth implementation, ADRA Mongolia has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with Mr. Ankhbold, Director of the National Center for Mental Health of Mongolia, and Mrs. Tsevelmaa, Founder of the Volunteer Center of Mongolia. The primary goal of these MoUs is to establish a collaborative framework between the parties for the successful execution of the NCD project.

Research Training in ADRA Mongolia Office



Before the start of mid-term research for our non-communicable disease project, we held a training course on “Human Subject Research Ethics and Research Compliance” from March 10-14, 2025, at the ADRA Mongolia Office. The training was led by Clarissa Shurtliff, a researcher from Loma Linda University School of Public Health, USA, and Kaitlyn McClure, an assistant from ADRA International's Monitoring and Evaluation Department.

A total of 49 researchers joined the training. The research took place at School No. 84 in Bayanzurkh District, Tusgal School in Chingeltei District, Khugjil Complex School in Songino Khaikh District, and Erdmiin Orgil Complex School in Nalaikh District respectively.

FINE WOOL SHEEP BREEDING PROJECT PHASE - 2

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was formally signed between ADRA Mongolia, represented by Windell Maranan, Country Director, and the Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar Peace Avenue, represented by Khashtsolmon, Club President. Executive Secretary Gantulga was also present.

This partnership will focus on implementing the Fine Wool Sheep Breeding Project, funded by the Australian Embassy in Mongolia. The project aims to improve both the quality and quantity of wool production, ultimately enhancing the sustainable livelihoods of herders.



Furthermore, Project Manager Altantsetseg S., alongside Windell Maranan, Country Director of ADRA Mongolia, had a productive meeting with Mr. Gantugs, the newly appointed Director of the National Livestock Gene Bank. The discussion focused on exchanging ideas, fostering mutual understanding, and exploring potential avenues for further collaboration between the organizations. During the meeting, the participants shared insights from their respective areas of expertise, which laid the groundwork for a stronger partnership moving forward. Both parties expressed a strong interest in working together to enhance the preservation and management of fine wool sheep breeds in Mongolia.



This collaboration is expected to contribute significantly to the sustainable livelihoods of herders through improved fine wool quality and increased production. The meeting emphasized the importance of a coordinated approach to tackling challenges related to livestock quality and genetic conservation, aligning with our shared goals of improving livestock resilience and sustainability.



Also, the ADRA team, along with Brendon Irvine, Technical Lead – Agriculture, Climate Change, and Livelihoods (who participated in the meeting online), met with Mr. Bayarsukh, Director of the Institute of Plant and Agricultural Sciences (IPAS), accompanied by two head specialists. The purpose of the meeting was to establish new partnerships within the project and to introduce new plant experiments and development, specifically focusing on protein-rich plant essential to supporting the fine wool sheep breed.



Back in October 2024, our project team, in partnership with the National Livestock Gene Bank, successfully performed laparoscopic artificial insemination on 630 ewes as part of our ongoing efforts to improve flock genetics. We are now thrilled to announce that the first lambs have started to be born!



UPSCALING PARTNERSHIP FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE (UPOAg) PROJECT



On January 13, 2025, Bold Batsukh, Chairman of the Board of ADRA Local NGO, and Ts. Altantuya, President of the National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Cooperatives (NAMAC), signed an MoU to formalize cooperation in specific areas of the project implementation.

Under the MoU, the 41 cooperatives and participatory guarantee organizations (PGOs) participating in the project in Darkhan-Uul and Selenge provinces will cooperate in several areas, including providing professional and methodological training and consultancy to strengthen their capacity, improving the good governance of the cooperatives, and expanding product supply chains.

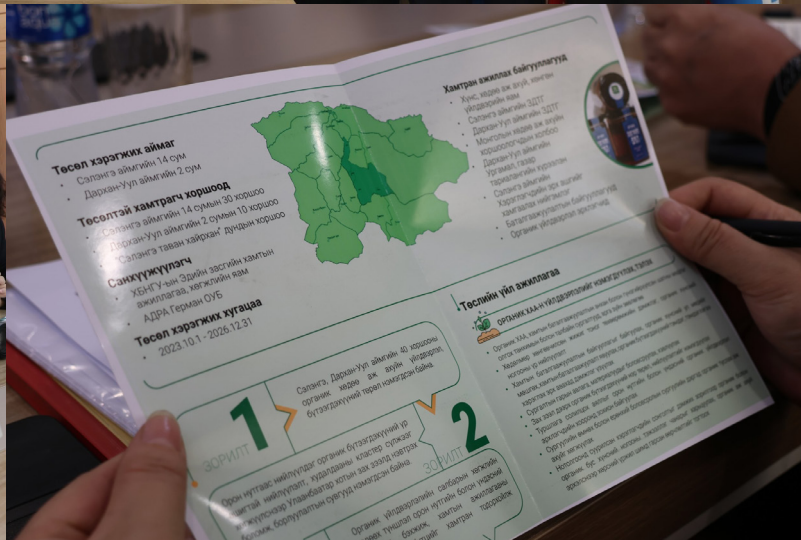


The meeting, held on January 28, 2025, at the Governor's Office of Selenge Province, focused on the progress of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Governor's Office of Selenge Province and ADRA Mongolia. Discussions included improving the supply chain for organic products and expanding sales channels for organic producers.

Attendees included Mr. G. Bat-Orkhon, Chairman of the Aimag's People's Representatives' Assembly; N. Lkhagvadorj, Aimag Governor; U. Suvdaa, Head of the Governor's Office; H. Tsengelsaikhan, Acting Head of the Food and Agriculture Department; representatives from the "Upscaling Partnership for Organic Agriculture" project; the "Selenge Tavan Khaikhan" Cooperative Union; and local organic producers.



The meeting covered the activities outlined in the MoU with Selenge Province, strengthening collaboration between the government and the project to increase organic production. Key topics included improving the supply chain for organic food from 30 primary cooperatives, developing organic greenhouse farming, expanding sales channels, and establishing a Model Cooperative.





In November 2023, ADRA Mongolia and the Governor's Office of Darkhan-Uul Province signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to successfully implement the Upscaling Partnership for Organic Agriculture project in the Orkhon and Khongor soums. The initiative aims to develop the "Darkhan Organic" brand, improve the organic product supply chain, and foster expanded cooperation. On January 30, 2025, the two parties met to review progress under the MoU, discuss future collaboration during the project implementation period, and explore ways to support organic producers and beekeepers while expanding the organic product supply chain.

Key decisions from the meeting included increasing organic product production to enhance the local supply chain, developing organic greenhouse farming, creating standard-compliant warehouses, producing certified value-added products, supporting organic farmers and beekeepers, and establishing a sales point in Darkhan-Uul Aimag to provide local residents with access to organic food.



Organic Farming Training with Kids

Eighty-three kindergarten children and ninety-two eco-group students from Darkhan-Uul Province's 12th School, Selenge Province's Mandal Soum 1st School, Khushaat Soum 1st Kindergarten, and Bayangol Soum 1st Kindergarten participated in an organic planting training program from February 3rd to 6th, 2025. The training aimed to prepare them as future consumers of organic products.

Training Contents

- Recognizing organic products
- Preventing pests and diseases (crop rotation, attracting beneficial insects through companion flowers, planting pest-repellent aromatic crops)
- Planting aromatic crops to repel harmful insects
- Growing organic seedlings (tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers)



Members of cooperatives such as Buural Gazriin Bayalag (Darkhan-Uul province), Orkhon Delger Bayan Khaikhan, Urjil Shimt Nogoo, Kharagiin Bayan Uris and Tumen Devshikh (Bayangol soum), Eco Khushaat (Khushaat soum), and Mandal Organic Foods (Mandal) shared their experiences in planting organic seedlings with the children.



Training on Mongolian Tea Culture

A successful training on “Tea Culture, Production Technology and Recipes,” “Freeze-Drying Technology,” and “Food Industry Hygiene” was held in Darkhan-Uul province for members of the “Upscaling Partnership for Organic Agriculture” project. The training, attended by 30 members from 17 cooperatives across 12 soums in Selenge and Darkhan-Uul provinces, focused on creating tea recipes using Mongolian medicinal plants and traditional healing knowledge, food safety, and hygiene practices.

The training was organized with “Odi Tan” Traditional Medicine LLC and the Darkhan-Polytechnic College Food Service Department. Participants learned freeze-drying techniques, proper plant usage, and food production hygiene, and engaged in hands-on activities such as freeze-drying, grinding, and packaging organic plants. They also learned how to operate and maintain freeze-drying, crushing, and packaging equipment, write safety instructions, and keep food production records.

By applying this knowledge, cooperative members can now safely manage food production, follow food safety regulations, and use natural plants to promote healthier lifestyles in their communities.



On February 18, meeting of the Participatory Guarantee System and Marketing Regional Steering Committee was successfully held in Darkhan-Uul Province. During the meeting, participants discussed strengthening the organic vegetable supply chain and proposed effective solutions. A key focus was the need for storage facilities to ensure a stable product supply. They also debated whether raising funds within the partnership framework was necessary and discussed potential approaches.

Additionally, a proposal was presented to establish the “National Association of Organic Producers of Mongolia,” initiated by organic producers and cooperatives based on their needs. The project team explored ways the UPOAg project could support this initiative. The association aims to protect members’ interests, amplify their voices to the government, create a unified supply chain platform, expand organic production, and strengthen stakeholder partnerships. The committee unanimously supported the establishment of the association, with legal assistance provided by the UPOAg project.



Collaboration with “Burgedein Unur Bulag” Cooperative

The “Burgedein Unur Bulag” cooperative, based in Altanbulag Soum, Selenge Aimag, signed a tripartite agreement with the Selenge Aimag Polytechnic College (affiliated with the Mongolian University of Life Sciences) and the Altanbulag Soum Governor. This partnership aims to build the capacity of the cooperative’s members, develop alternative income sources during the off-season, and improve the overall livelihoods of its members.

Five cooperative members currently manage the Polytechnic College canteen, serving hygienic meals made with their organically grown vegetables, following safety and technological standards.

During the agricultural season, college students gain practical experience by working on the cooperative’s organic vegetable fields, learning about sustainable agriculture and organic farming.

The project supports the cooperative with small equipment, training in organic agriculture, and help with packaging and promotional materials.



The “Tsagaan Sar - 2025” Central Regional Fair Trade

The “Tsagaan Sar - 2025” fair was held from February 16 to 23 at the Youth Theater and its outdoor area in Darkhan-Uul Province. Over 250 citizens and businesses participated in the event. The UPOAg project partnered with a total of 41 cooperatives. 16 primary cooperatives out of 40 that produced organic products showcased 20 types of value-added products, such as honey, pickled vegetables, dairy products, and dumplings, at the fair.



2025 Central Region Cooperatives Forum with MOFALI

In celebration of the declaration of 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives, the Central Region Cooperatives Forum was organized on February 17 in Darkhan-Uul Province. The opening speech was delivered by J. Enkhbayar, Member of Parliament and Minister of Food, Agriculture, and Light Industry. The forum was jointly conducted by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Light Industry, the Small and Medium Enterprises Agency of Mongolia, and the Mongolian National Cooperatives' Association. Its primary goal was to strengthen cooperation among cooperatives in the central region and foster the growth of the sector.

During the event, Mr. Windell Maranan, Country Director of ADRA Mongolia, presented the activities of the “Upscaling Partnership for Organic Agriculture” Project (UPOAg) and highlighted key issues for advancing organic agricultural production in the central region. Mrs. Ch. Oyuntuya, Head of the “Selenge Tavan Khaikhhan” cooperative union, shared insights on best practices in organic producer cooperatives, sector development, and partnership opportunities.



Disaster and Emergency Response Team (ERT) Training



ADRA Mongolia's Emergency Response Team (ERT) conducted a Disaster-Ready Church Follow-up Session for the leaders of the Mongolia Mission Office, aimed at enhancing the capacity of local church leaders to respond effectively to disasters. The training session's primary purpose was to provide an update on ADRA Mongolia's Emergency Management Plan, ensuring that leaders are informed of the latest trends, developments, and strategies in disaster response. The session also included insights from the recent ERT Training and Simulation Exercise (SIMEX) conducted by ADRA Asia in October 2024, attended by Asemgul Baitik, Emergency Response Coordinator of ADRA Mongolia.

Additionally, the training featured a hands-on workshop where participants worked together to develop Situational Reports (SitReps) as part of project design. This activity was intended to deepen understanding of the emergency response process and improve the church's ability to mobilize resources effectively during disasters. The session aimed to strengthen the Mongolia Mission of Seventh-day Adventists by focusing on practical application, fostering greater collaboration among leaders to create robust emergency plans. Ultimately, the goal was to update and formalize a Church Emergency Management Plan (ChEMP) that can be activated during disasters, ensuring that the church can provide timely assistance to vulnerable communities and individuals in need.



Staff Corner

When did you first join ADRA and why?

I initially joined ADRA in 2016, alongside my husband, Windell and served in Sri Lanka for four years. Following that, I transitioned to my current assignment here in Mongolia, where I've been for nearly five years. My husband and I decided to join ADRA in response to a call from the Adventist Church for us to serve as missionaries.

What do you love most about your position?

Although my background is in healthcare, I didn't set out to be a humanitarian worker, I just fell into it. However, I find that humanitarian work shares the same core principle: caring for and meeting the needs of people simply because it is the right and compassionate thing to do. This aspect of our work truly resonates with me.

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

Despite being an introvert, I cherish the interactions I have with people. One particularly memorable moment occurred in Sri Lanka while doing our monitoring visit with the stakeholders in the tea estates. This elderly woman, with tears in her eyes, expressed her deep gratitude, noting that it was the first time anyone had sat with them and genuinely listened to what's going on with their lives. Our mere presence and willingness to listen made a significant impact on her, which was very moving.

What does the work of ADRA mean to you?

I view work as a vital means of making a difference. With ADRA, I have the opportunity to serve alongside like-minded colleagues, which enhances the value and meaning of my contributions.



Raquel Maranan

Health Specialist
Administration Team



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