

THE NOMADS

ADRA Mongolia Official Newsletter

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ADRA
Justice.Compassion.Love



Editorial

EDITOR/DESIGNER
Bayasgalan Gansukh

SUPERVISING EDITOR
Windell M. Maranan

CONTRIBUTORS
Windell M. Maranan
Bayasgalan Gansukh

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
info@adra.org.mn

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Our response centers on addressing climate change at its roots through regenerative agriculture projects. By adopting organic farming practices with positive solar greenhouse, we are actively reducing greenhouse gas emissions while promoting sustainable and resilient agriculture. Supporting local food production also reduces dependence on external regions for supplies, which significantly cuts down on transportation-related emissions, particularly from freight trucks that are major contributors to greenhouse gases. Growing food closer to where it's consumed strengthens both local food security and community resilience. In this newsletter, you'll see the tangible impact we're making in one of the provinces most affected by harsh climate conditions.

Beyond environmental resilience, we're also strengthening community health through our non-communicable disease prevention project. Adventists have now begun in the remaining two schools, where we're working with young people who learn quickly and bring great curiosity to health education. Through effective and age-appropriate education and practices, we can raise awareness and create healthier communities, ultimately reducing the leading causes of death related to non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and chronic lung disease.

Read on to discover the stories and outcomes behind these transformative projects that are building Mongolia's resilience from the ground up.

Photo: Ministry of Health

EDITORIAL



NEXTGEN CELEBRATIONS! MONGOLIA



FW PROJECT



CANSAP PROJECT



UPOAg PROJECT



NEWS BITS

This quarterly newsletter highlights the key activities of our agriculture projects during their peak season, summer. As the workflow stabilizes, it's also the ideal time to focus on the activities of our non-communicable disease project within this school year.

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Editorial

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The Editorial Team

Climate Adapted Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture (CANSAP) Project

Project Monitoring Visit

ADRA team, led by Country Director Windell Maranan, had conducted a project monitoring visit to Bayan-Ulgii Province. During the visit, we held a strategic meeting with Mr. Zangar E., Governor of Bayan-Ulgii Province, and members of his administration. The meeting centered on strengthening the partnership between ADRA and the provincial government, with a focus on scaling up ongoing development efforts and exploring new opportunities for collaboration to better serve local communities.

Governor Zangar expressed his deep appreciation for ADRA's continued commitment to the region and commended the tangible impact of our work, particularly in the agricultural sector. He also reaffirmed the provincial government's strong support for our efforts and pledged ongoing cooperation to help maximize the reach and effectiveness of our projects.

Following the meeting, Governor Zangar joined the ADRA Mongolia team on a monitoring visit to one of the project beneficiaries. This visit provided a valuable opportunity for him to witness firsthand the meaningful progress and transformative outcomes of the project. From improved farming practices and increased crop yields to better nutrition and income opportunities, the project is clearly contributing to stronger, more resilient livelihoods for the farmers of Bayan-Ulgii Province.





Farmer households are now harvesting twice during summer, as the passive solar greenhouses enable them to plant seedlings as early as April, which is still the coldest time in the province. Farmers are now ensuring their daily vegetable consumption, with some even selling surplus vegetables and making different products such as pickles, vegetable spreads, and pastes. Others are providing fresh vegetables to restaurants and event halls, significantly increasing their income.



Through our CANSAP Project, we are inspiring farmers, individuals, and authorities to see the possibilities of farming fresh and organic vegetables in land where it was previously deemed unachievable to plant and harvest such large amounts of produce. Even when the project ends, the sustainability of its impact will continue to live in the province, expanding and spreading to reach even more individuals and soums.



Success Story

Meet Bagdaulet Kh. from Ulgii - a young man who never imagined he could grow vegetables in his yard. Living in Bayan-Ulgii's harsh climate with short summers and long winters, vegetable farming seemed impossible. Like many young people in his community, he had no experience with agriculture.

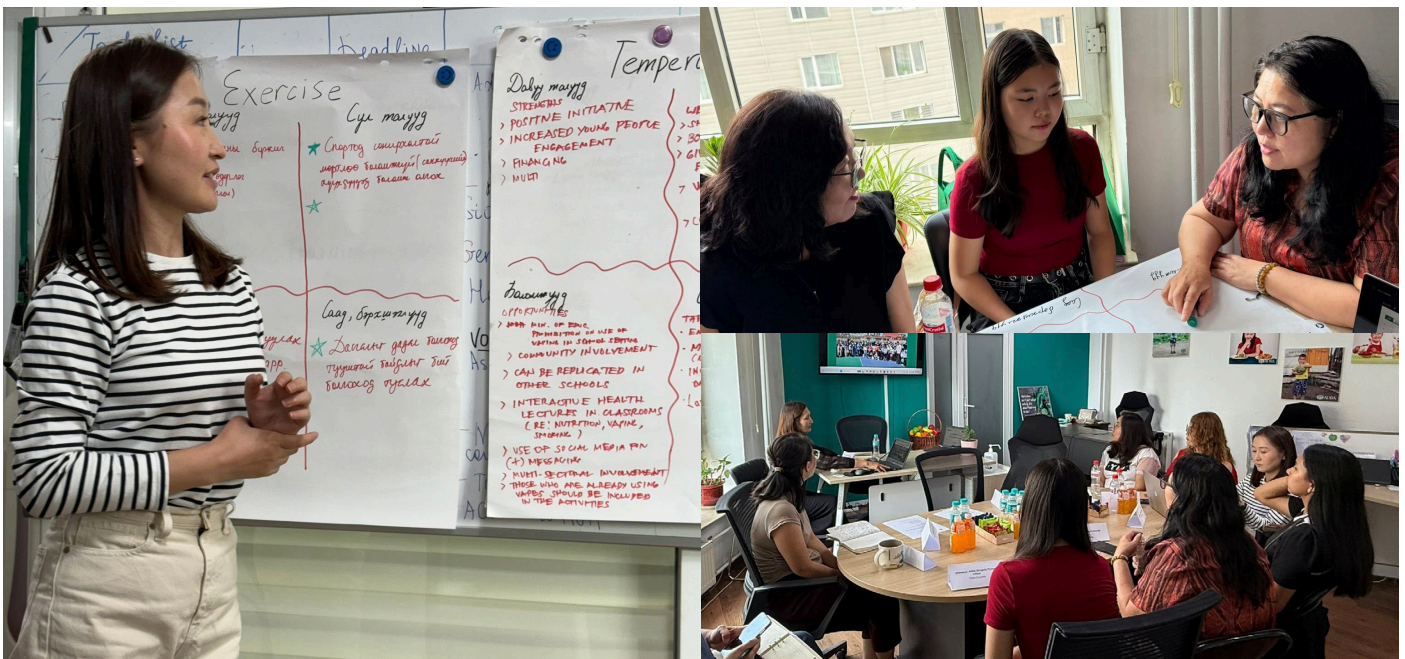
Everything changed in 2024 when his father-in-law, a project beneficiary, encouraged him to visit ADRA's project office in Ulgii. There, Bagdaulet learned about the innovative Passive Solar Greenhouse (PSGH) technology.

Using ADRA's clear, easy-to-follow training, Bagdaulet built his first PSGH and achieved remarkable results: he started harvesting lettuce and cucumbers by mid-June, doubled his income compared to the previous year, and now supplies local restaurants with high-quality, early-season produce. His wife participated in ADRA's nutrition training and now prepares diverse vegetable-based meals, completely changing their family's eating habits.

Today, he plans to harvest until November and is actively encouraging friends, neighbors, and young people to join the project. One beneficiary inspiring another - from father-in-law to son-in-law to the next generation. This is how sustainable change happens in communities!

NextGen CELEBRATIONS! Mongolia (NCD) Project

The project team convened a meeting with members of the Project Advisory Group. During the session, participants reviewed the progress made to date, reflected on key milestones, and celebrated notable achievements. The group also engaged in a constructive exchange of ideas aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of upcoming activities and strengthening collaboration moving forward.



Award Ceremony for Winners of the Reel Competition Marking “World No Tobacco Day” Theme: “Vape is not a trend – it is a trap”

As part of the observance of World No Tobacco Day, a reel competition was held among selected schools to raise awareness about the dangers of vaping and tobacco use. The event focused on the global theme: “Vape is not a trend – it is a trap,” encouraging students to creatively express their views on the risks and misconceptions surrounding vaping. We are proud to announce the winners of this impactful competition:



- 1st Place – Students of Grade 9A, Tusgal School
- 2nd Place – Students of Grade 9A, Tusgal School
- 3rd Place – Students of Grade 6, Erdmiin Orgil Complex School



NextGen Celebrations! Mongolia Non-Communicable Disease Project was successfully implemented at Erdmiin Orgil School in Nalaikh District during 2024–2025.

We are thankful that sustainability activities have been integrated into their strategy! The district will continue efforts to support healthy lifestyles among adolescents and their families, helping to prevent risk factors for non-communicable diseases.

The participants include Mr. D. Nayanbayar, Governor of Nalaikh District; Mr. N. Manduul, Director of the Citizens' Representatives Khural; Mr. J. Myagmarsuren, Deputy Governor of Nalaikh District; Ms. L. Baigal, Director of the Nalaikh Health Center; Dr. Josue Orellana, Health Director of ADRA International; and Dr. Monita Baba-Djara, PhD, Head of the Public Health Department at Loma Linda University—along with other distinguished officials.



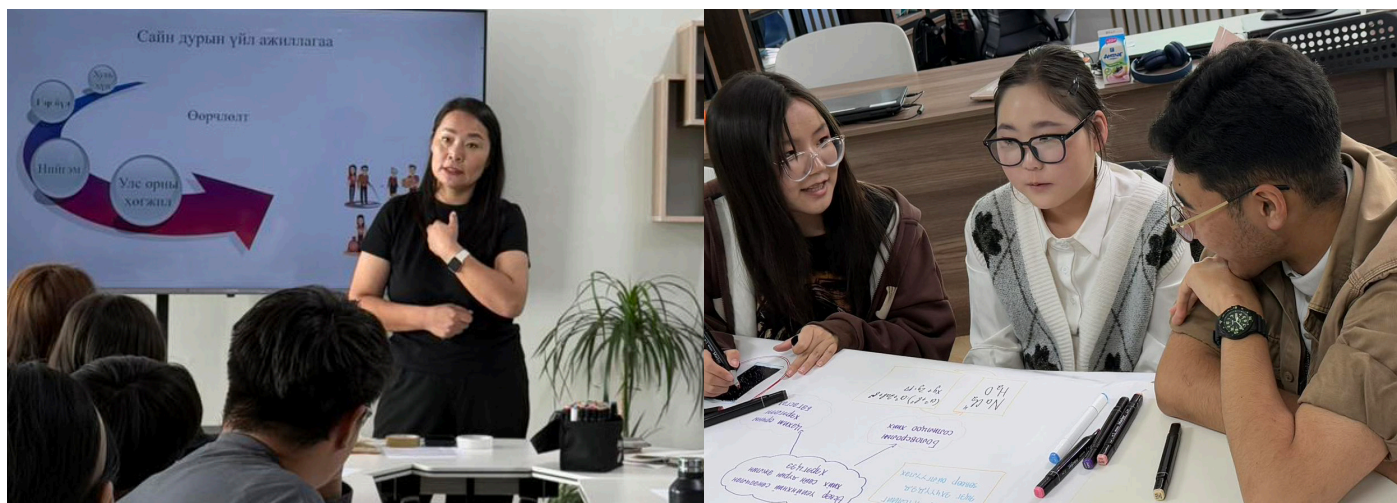
The project team shared the results of its baseline and midline surveys with key stakeholders.

We were honored to welcome Dr. Ph Monita Baba-Djara, Global Health Program Director at Loma Linda University (USA), and Dr. Josue Orellana, Health Director of ADRA International, who traveled to Mongolia to present the survey results.

Our project team met with the principal and staff of Tusgal School together with Dr. Josue Orellana (Health Department Director, ADRA International) and Dr. Monita Baba-Djara (Global Health Director, Loma Linda University). We discussed the project's progress, celebrated its successes and challenges, and explored ways to keep it sustainable for the future.



The project team successfully organized a Health Ambassador Training in collaboration with the Volunteer Center of Mongolia.



Upscaling Partnership for Organic Agriculture (UPOAg) Project

A “Cooperative Experience Exchange Tour” was organized between June 29-30, 2025, with participation of 81 representatives from 21 primary cooperatives in Darkhan-Uul and Selenge provinces. The tour aimed to motivate cooperative leaders and members, strengthen the participatory guarantee system (PGS), and learn new techniques in organic farming.

During the tour, participants visited greenhouses, open fields, strawberry farms, apple sapling plantations, food processing facilities, and beekeeping product workshops in Orkhon soum of Darkhan-Uul province. They also traveled to Battsengel soum, where they explored the Smart Greenhouse Project of the Mongolian University of Life Sciences. There, they engaged in meaningful discussions with instructors and interns, exchanging knowledge and experiences.

As a result of the tour, participants generated new ideas and developed plans to expand their off-season businesses. They also gained valuable insights into farm management, equipment usage, innovative packaging solutions, and the significance of cooperative collaboration, product exchange, and participatory certification systems.





On July 28, 2025, the inaugural meeting of the “National Partnership Association for Development of Sustainable Supply Chain” was successfully held with the participation of organic farmers and beekeepers from Selenge and Darkhan-Uul provinces.

The association was established with the aim of protecting the interests of its members, amplifying their voices to the government, private sector, and consumers, fostering collaboration among organic producers, and building a sustainable supply chain.

During the meeting, the Board of Directors and Supervisory Board of the association were elected, and the Executive Director was appointed. With the official seal and certificate being formally handed over, the association has now officially launched its legal operations. The meeting also provided a space for organic farmers and beekeepers to openly discuss their expectations from the newly established association, the challenges they face, and potential solutions. It served as an important platform for exchanging ideas on how to attract more producers to organic agriculture and to strive toward shared solutions to protect their interests.



Project Monitoring Visit

Mr. Udo Weber, Head of Cooperation at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Ulaanbaatar, Mr. Windell Maranan, Country Director for ADRA Mongolia, and the project team conducted fieldwork in Darkhan-Uul and Selenge provinces from August 19 to 21, 2025.

Although the visit was brief, the team managed to visit four cooperatives across four soums to observe the on-the-ground implementation of the UPOAg project. They became acquainted with organic vegetable plots, off-season workshop operations, and the collaborative efforts between the Polytechnical College and cooperative members in Selenge Province.



Additionally, they explored the development of value-added organic products, the production process, and visited the Selenge Taiwan Khairkhan Cooperative Union office to learn about its activities, challenges in the supply chain, and the marketing and sales of organic products. The team also inspected the construction site of three seasonal greenhouses.

Meetings with the cooperatives and the cooperative union were particularly inspiring, showcasing the empowerment of local farmers. The discussions during the visit also opened up promising perspectives for future project directions.



From September 15-16, Viridiana Martinez, Program Coordinator of ADRA Germany and the project team visited Selenge and Darkhan-Uul provinces to evaluate the progress of project.

The team reviewed the construction of three-season greenhouses, the use of greenhouse films and agricultural equipment in schools and kindergartens, and a workshop producing value-added organic products. Three-season greenhouses in Mandal and Bayangol soums of Selenge Province, and Khongor and Orkhon soums of Darkhan-Uul Province are on track for completion by October 2025.



Supported by UPOAg with equipment and greenhouse films, the 12th School in Darkhan city and Kindergarten No. 1 in Bayangol soum use organic vegetable harvests to provide nutritious meals for students.



Fine Wool Sheep Breeding Project



For the planned artificial insemination (AI) program in 2025, a total of 29 herding households from the Tsagaan Nuur, Orkhon, Saikhan, and Yeru souns in Selenge Province voluntarily registered to include 1,044 fine-wool sheep. Based on this registration, breeding-eligible female sheep were selected from these households, and their breed class and quality were assessed. These sheep were then tagged with ear tags and officially registered. This work was completed by the project team between September 15 and 25.

As in previous years, frozen semen from 8 donor rams representing 6 Australian breeds was imported from Australia for the artificial insemination process. The insemination will be conducted using advanced biotechnological methods, including laparoscopic procedures, in controlled laboratory conditions at the local level across various souns. A total of 1,052 sheep will be inseminated, including 8 purebred female sheep, specifically bred from Australian Merino embryos, from the National Livestock Gene Bank (NLGB).





To support the program, the Sogochoi Taria Brigade from Tsagaan Nuur soum (under the “Nomun Khan” company) and the Taria Brigade from Orkhon soum (under the “Mangirt Trade” company) will assist in organizing the AI process in a centralized setting. The insemination will be carried out between October 15 and 23, 2025, with the local administration, fine-wool sheep breeders, enterprises, and the NLGB all collaborating in the execution of the program.

The artificial insemination process will be organized from October 15 to 23, 2025, with the local administration, fine-wool sheep breeders, enterprises, and NLGB all participating in the organization and execution of the program.

In 2024, 23 households participated with a total of 630 sheep, including 50 Orkhon sheep from the NLGB. For 2025, the number of fine-wool sheep involved in artificial insemination has increased by 54%, reaching 1,052 sheep.



News Bits



ADRAMongolia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with EcoDevshilt NGO to collaborate on knowledge exchange and mutual learning. Through this partnership, EcoDevshilt will be visiting sites from ADRA's "Upscaling Partnership for Organic Agriculture" (UPOAg) project to learn more about our work in cooperative governance, operational structures, and sustainable farming methods, especially with greenhouses.



ADRA Mongolia was honored to attend the Mongolian Red Cross Society's Biennial Partnership Meeting, held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The event served as a platform to reflect on the progress of joint humanitarian initiatives, explore future strategic priorities, and strengthen collaboration with both national and international partners. Discussions emphasized the collective commitment to fostering more resilient and prepared communities across Mongolia.

The meeting convened representatives from the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, United Nations agencies, government bodies, civil society organizations, and international development partners.



We are grateful for the recent visit from Michael and Karen Porter, representatives of the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Their presence was truly appreciated, and we were honored to share meaningful moments of fellowship and dialogue during their time with us.

Staff Corner



Bayasgalan Gansukh
Public Relations and Communications Officer

WHEN DID YOU FIRST JOIN ADRA AND WHY?

I joined ADRA in 2024, motivated by my long-standing interest in pursuing a career aligned with my degree in international relations. ADRA stood out as the ideal organization where I could apply my academic background to meaningful, purpose-driven work. I now serve as the Public Relations and Communications Officer, a role that allows me to support ADRA's mission while continuing to grow professionally in the field of humanitarian communications.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR POSITION?

As a communications officer, I have the privilege of meeting beneficiaries across our various projects and hearing their stories firsthand. Listening to their experiences, both struggles and successes, is essential for truly connecting with the people we serve and understanding what it means to be a humanitarian.

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

During the dzud of 2023-2024, ADRA launched an Emergency Response (ER) to address the disaster. Shortly after joining the organization, I accompanied ADRA's ER team on a monitoring visit to Sukhbaatar soum in Sukhbaatar Province, where livestock mortality rates were at their highest. The journey to our target location was sobering. Livestock carcasses were piled everywhere along the route. Honestly, I had no idea how complex and extensive the processes behind dzud emergency responses truly were. Like many people, before joining ADRA, I would watch the news about such disasters, feel concerned for a few days, then move on with my life. I didn't understand the real impact that humanitarian organizations deliver on the ground.

But when you become part of an actual ER team, everything changes. Witnessing the aftermath of the dzud left me speechless, yet rather than stepping back, it motivated me to reach more people who are in distress. This experience reinforced my commitment to serving with ADRA, knowing that I can make a tangible difference in communities with my own efforts.

WHAT DOES THE WORK OF ADRA MEAN TO YOU?

ADRA represents a foundation for learning, skill development, and opportunity for those willing to create change and help others. While ADRA, like many aid organizations, was significantly affected by the humanitarian reset, I believe our impact far exceeds the resources we receive. This extraordinary impact stems from the dedication and willingness of our aid workers who pour their hearts into this work. As I continue my journey with ADRA, I'm guided by the principle: "Where there is a will, there is a way."

*Justice.
Compassion
Love*

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Palazzo Tower 8-401, 1st Khoroo, Bayanzurkh District, Ulaanbaatar City, P.O.Box 1038, 15160, Mongolia
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