



MONGOL MONITOR

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JUNE 2011

USAID MONGOLIA 20 YEARS CELEBRATION

We celebrated USAID/Mongolia's 20 years of work on behalf of Mongolia's development on June 2nd. With longtime partners and friends, we looked back at what we have achieved. We also looked forward to the next five years through the eyes of the ordinary citizens, and captured their wishes for the future in the following well-received video: <http://www.youtube.com/user/usaidmongolia20>.

June Mission News

- Chuck was in USAID/W for consultations from June 20-22.
- Four procurements submitted to ORP.
- Biodiversity Report was approved by the Asia Bureau and uploaded on our website at www.mongolia.usaid.gov.
- After eight successful years, the Economic Policy Reform and Competitiveness (EPRC) project came to a close on June 18th.
- The Business Plus Initiative immediately follows EPRC to build upon its success in promoting economic growth and development in Mongolia.
- Mary Alice Kleinjan, our Regional Legal Advisor based in Bangkok visited to help us finalize four procurements prior to passing to the Office for Regional Procurement by mid-June.
- Yash Kainth, Regional Executive Officer was in Mongolia on TDY to advise us on staffing and ICASS issues. He also visited Mercy Corps' semi-annual retreat in Arkhangai with Tugi and Michelle.



- Alison Eskesen, Deputy Director, EGAT/Office of Development Credit visited to assess a loan guarantee program in the secondary mortgage market in Mongolia.
- Ethel Brooks from EGAT/ED was on TDY to help prepare the Mis-

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WEATHER

June was beautiful with warm spring temperatures in the day which turned a bit brisk in the evenings. We even had some nice refreshing rains which nicely greened up the countryside.



sion for its Participant Training strategy and procurement.

- Ioli successfully completed the COTR/AOTR course.
- The Operational Plan for FY 2011 was submitted in FACTS Info.

First Look at July Activities

On July 4th, Mongolia assumed the Presidency of the Community of Democracies from Lithuania. US-AID and the State Department will be supporting initiatives proposed by the Government of Mongolia and to be implemented during its two year tenure-ship. Activities will include strengthening civil society and strengthening the COD's mandate of providing support to democracies worldwide.

Much of Mongolia goes on vacation after Nadaam and returns in late August, not unlike some European countries. Our Mission started the process to recruit two additional short term staff. Reid Click, Senior Credit Analyst from the USAID Office of Development Credit will arrive to assess a credit guarantee program with the Mongolian Mortgage Corporation.

PRIVATE SECTOR-LED ECONOMIC GROWTH

Economic Policy Reform & Competitiveness Project (EPRC)

Our long-standing and very successful economic growth project EPRC has ended in June. Its follow on economic growth project **Business Plus Initiative** (BPI) is currently in start-up mode with the mobilization plan in full implementation.

Rural Agribusiness Support Program (RASP)-USDA Mercy Corps

Client sales

Clients made \$ 433,542 in sales in June 2011. The total sales generated by business clients under RASP from January 2005 to date are \$16,268,728. The following table details the actual sales of the RASP clients during the previous years.

Loans: Access to finance

By June 20, 2011, RASP clients accessed 35 loans with a combined value of \$105,609 for which Mercy Corps pro-

vided \$36,000 (34%) as additional cash collateral to commercial banks. Cumulatively in 2011, RASP clients accessed a total of 296 loans totaling \$868,146 with the average loan size for the year being \$2,933. Since the start of the program in May 2004, a total of 2,676 loans have been dispersed, with a total value of \$6,948,981. Mercy Corps has provided 37.8% as additional cash collateral to secure our client's loans. The repayment rate to date stands at 97.67%. The monthly average of number of disbursed loans in 2011 is 50 and the value of the loans, showing a strong demand for this instrument from rural SMEs.

Technical and Business Management Training and Technical Assistance Contracted with Selected Local Training Providers

During the month RASP contracted 38 local business development services and training providers in the targeted 12 aimags, to implement 155 types of value added business and technology development trainings and technical assistance interventions anticipated to benefit 4,144 herders and agribusiness entrepreneurs. The total cost of this training and TA intervention is anticipated to be \$144,900 through the end of calendar 2011, of which Mercy Corps/RASP cost share will be \$77,913 or 54%. The RASP cost share in provision of technical training implemented by local BDS is reduced this year in comparison to the 2010 training program by 6%, indicating movement towards sustainability of the fee based training provided by local business development and training providers.

Mercy Corps Clients Product Market Day in Zavkhan aimag

The Zavkhan Aimag Representative office organized Client's products sales day event in Uliastai city on June 3-4, 2011. Forty-three (43) direct RASP clients participated in the market event and they displayed over 67 types of processed dairy and vegetable products, wooden furniture, handmade shoes and bakery products. During the event MC clients generated

Year	Total Sales (MNT)	Total Sales (USD)	MNT/USD
2005	436,732,725	363,943	1200
2006	888,133,035	740,111	1200
2007	1,427,829,790	1,189,858	1200
2008	1,857,903,630	1,548,253	1200
2009	6,379,166,656	4,556,548	1400
2010	7,218,240,959	5,268,789	1370
2011	3,199,508,516	2,601,226	1230
June 2011	541,927,200	433,542	1250
Total	21,407,515,311	16,268,728	1303

\$7,100 sales income.

Local Economic Development (LED) Planning

Under the Sector Support for Agribusiness Development Component of RASP, the following activities were implemented during June: (1) The Citizen's Representative Hural of Delgereh soum of Dornogobi aimag approved the Soum Master Development Plan; (2) Six trainings in Participatory Local Economic Development Planning for 150 participants actively involved in the development of LED plans were conducted in five aimags. To date RASP had supported the development of 75 soum Master Development Plans through their adoption by the soum citizens Khurals. Currently RASP supports the development of 22 Soum Master Development Plans.

Local Economic Development Investors' Forums

During June, two soums: Turgen and Baruunturuun soums (Uvs aimag) conducted Investors' Forums in Ulaanbaatar for initiation of the implementation of their LED Plans. The Soum Citizens Representatives Hural, Governors' offices in collaboration with the Ulaanbaatar based Local Councils, organized the forums. Approximately 169 individuals attended the investors' forums. During the soum investment forum, a total of USD 1.7 million were committed towards implementation of 36 local social and economic development projects identified and presented in the soum LED plans. To date RASP supported the organization and conducting of 21 investment forums that resulted in commitment of over USD 12 million and implementation of social and economic projects valued at over USD 5 million, by both national public agencies and private investors.

RASP implemented Methodology for Attracting Investment in Social and Economic Development of rural Mongolia Presented on "Cracking the Nut" Conference in Washington

In June, RASP was invited to present its Methodology for Attracting Investment in Social and Economic Development of Rural Mongolia on the international conference devoted to advancing the access to finance for rural and agricultural development in developing and re-developing countries. The conference named "Cracking the Nut" was organized and co-sponsored by USAID and FAO and it took place in the Enrique V. Iglesias Conference Center Conference in Washington DC. RASP presented the results and the lessons learned in attracting equity finance in rural and agricultural development in Mongolia as an extension of the methodology used in participatory development of local social and economic development plans. The practices presented were highly

valued by the conference participants as methodologies that are potentially applicable in other development countries. Attracting private equity capital as opposed to traditional debt capital facilitation for rural development was identified as a major potential for rural and agricultural development.

Veterinary business management training conducted

During this month Mercy Corps and its contracted partner the "Development solution, Policy research" NGO organized a "Private Veterinarian Practice Business Management Training" for 146 local veterinarian and veterinary technicians in Sukhbaatar, Dornogobi, Gobisumber, Umnugobi, Uvurkhangai and Dundgobi aimags. The objective of the training was to strengthen and support the development of the capacity of rural veterinary businesses and practitioners as veterinarian service providers. This training was organized in the framework of the efforts to improve the business management and development capacity of the nascent private veterinarian service in rural Mongolia.

Aimag veterinary laboratory improvement project

RASP announced call for proposals to upgrading the aimag veterinary laboratories in 12-targeted aimags. Eight proposals for upgrading of veterinary laboratory were received within the deadline of 18th February 2011 from 8 aimags. After due review of the proposals received, the Uvurkhangai, Gobi-Altai, Hovd, Sukhbaatar, Umnugobi and Dundgobi aimag laboratories proposals were selected to be granted support. To strengthen veterinary lab infrastructure in above aimags, Mercy Corps provided diagnostic equipment grant valued at \$ 70,405 including 4 different types of laboratory and diagnostic equipment. Along with the provision of 2-days trainings during which totally 12 specialists had improved their technical skills in utilization of various new diagnostic equipment and methodologies for increased local capacity for diagnosing of infectious animal diseases.

Food safety training for food producers in 3 target aimags

During June RASP organized 2 days training for food producers named "Production of safe food" in three aimags. 86 local food producers/processors from Uvurkhangai, Bayankhongor and Gobi-Altai aimags were trained in collaboration with the "Mongolian camel association". Training topics covered: hygiene of food processing factory, production of safe food, good manufacturing practices, sound design of food-processing plants, principles of meat, milk, bakery and beverage plant sanitation, food contaminants, cleaning and sanitizing of food processing plants, work-

ers personal hygiene, workers safety and regulatory requirements, quality assurance programs. With the growing national interest to tackle challenges in assuring food safety standards comparable with those applied in developed market economies, the work in adopting of basic food safety assurance principles by rural food processors becomes an important part for further strengthening of the competitiveness of the Mongolian agricultural/livestock sector.

Future events:

- Continuation of food safety training in targeted aimags.
- Implementation of aimag food market - food safety improvement projects with selected food markets.
- At the request of the National Veterinarian Services Directorate we are printing an additional 500 copies of “Animal emerging disease reference book” for distribution to rural veterinarians.
- Continuous implementation of value added business expansion projects in target aimags.
- Conduct business, product and technology development training to rural herder communities and local entrepreneurs by contracted local training providers.
- Ongoing consultancies on LED planning in soums.
- Clients’ products sales event in in Arkhangai aimag.
- Organize Hand craft products market days in Uvurkhangai, Umnugobi and Arkhangai aimags.
- “Hovd Partnership market day -2011” event in Hovd aimag.

Mongolia Agribusiness Support Program (MASP)--USDA CHF International

Development Solutions (DS)

Business Development

In June, CHF sub-awardee, Development Solutions (DS) helped to expand or improve 23 businesses and create 19 new start-up businesses. DS conducted 68 agricultural and business trainings, provided 49 consultations, and delivered 198 information services. DS also facilitated the disbursement of one loan valued at \$1,582 through a local bank and facilitated approximately \$21,082 worth of agricultural business linkages.

DS organized a 3-day dairy processing training in collaboration with the Food Technology College in Ulaanbaatar. The training took place at the college’s dairy laboratory where 16 participants were learned

about processing from raw milk into the final products.

At the end of June, DS signed a 3-month no-cost extension with CHF. During this period, DS will continue to deliver business development services under the guidance of CHF while it restructures its operations for activities post-MASP.

Market Development and Expansion

Development Solution (DS) and Mongolian National Food and Agriculture Association (MNFAA) rolled out new training services on vegetable grading, sales contracting, marketing utilizing materials developed under MASP. MNFAA is also distributing marketing material on vegetables to leading restaurants and wholesalers/retailers for incorporation in store displays and upcoming advertising campaigns.

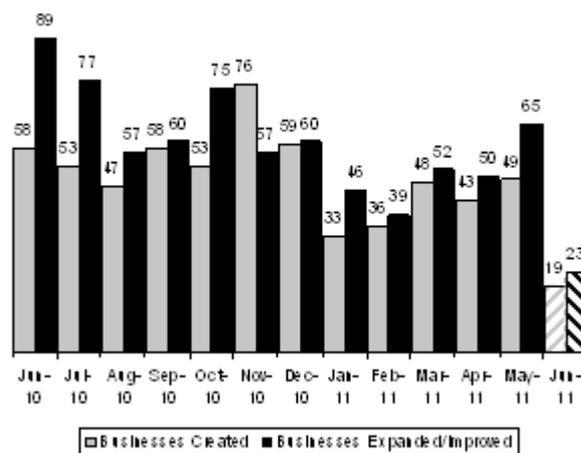
This marks the final month of programmatic activities of the Market Development and Expansion component of MASP. In July the final survey of participating businesses will be conducted to measure the impact of the Market Development and Expansion component activities.

Value Chain Development

Capacity building for Mongolian Pig Farmers Association MPFA: International consultant Oliver Ryan returned to Mongolia to advise the Mongolian Pig Farmers Association on a long term financial strategy for the association.

After receiving training from CHF’s IT staff, the MPFA staff are preparing to take over www.toroi.mn website developed under MASP to promote information on the pork industry in Mongolia. CHF will officially hand off the website in July when the Value Chain component of MASP concludes.

Capacity building of pork sector technical assistance (TA) providers: CHF organized a final round of train-



ing for TA providers in Darkhan and Erdenet during June 8 and 9. Nineteen TAs took part in the. Following the training, CHF monitored four TA providers who jointly organized training events for farmers with the Capital City Food and Agriculture Department. In Ulaanbaatar a final training was held for TA providers on business financing, cash flow projections and loan proposal preparation.



This marks the conclusion of activities under the Value Chain component of MASP. CHF will continue to monitor the MPFA and TA providers in July as it wraps up operations and hands off the remaining training materials.

MORE EFFECTIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE

*Strengthening Political Institutions and Accountability (SPIA) – NED
Mongolian National Consensus Building Program (NCB) - USAID*

International Republican institute (IRI)

IRI presented focus group discussion data to political party, local and national officials in Orkhon and Dornogobi aimags

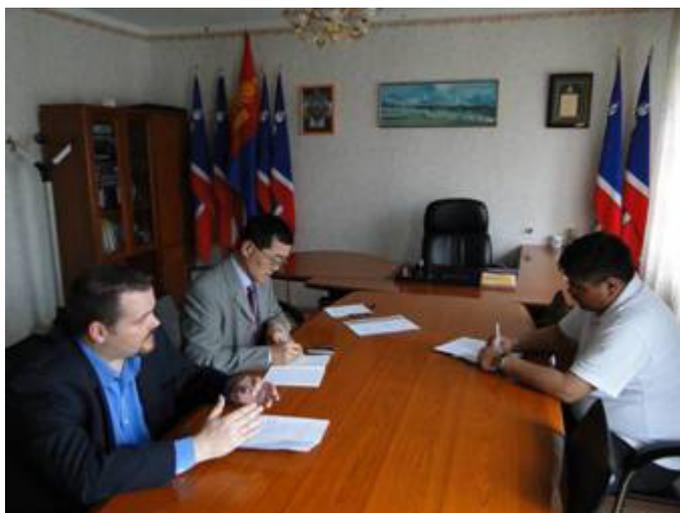
On Thursday June 9 and June 16, IRI staff presented the focus group discussion (FGD) reports for Orkhon and Dornogobi to Mr. Jadamba, DP International Secretary and Oyungerel, head of the Democratic Women’s Union as well as the MPP international secretary and the head of the MPP-affiliated Prognosis Academy.

On June 20 and June 21, IRI staff traveled to Erdenet to present focus group discussion (FGD) report data to district staff for MP Damba-Ochir (MPP) Mr. D. Tumendemberel, Mr. S. Lhagvasuren, a member of the Presidium of Bayan-Undur soum khural, Ms. Tsegmid, Secretary of the Orkhon aimag khural, MP district staff for MP Odhuu (DP) Mr. T. Khairat, and the Secretary of the Orkhon DP Mr. G. Batdelger.



IRI staff brief Bayan-Undur Soum khural presidium Member Mr. S. Lhagvasuren on the findings of IRI’s Orkhon Aimag focus group discussions on June 21.

Ms. Tsegmid in turn presented the data to the aimag khural Speaker K. Dauletbai, as well as other members of the aimag khural. Mr. Lhagvasuren plans to present the information to other members of his soum government. He added that the FGD report data mirrors the results of public input his soum government solicited to gauge their satisfaction on the provision of local government services in the soum in April -- after an IRI sponsored training session on civic engagement that he attended earlier this year. Both plan to use the results of the FGD results, along with those from their own surveys to develop strategies to improve the provision of services in the soum, and to determine potential topics for future forums and outreach activities.



IRI staff brief Orkhon DP Secretary Mr. G. Batdelger on the results of IRI’s Orkhon Aimag focus group discussions on June 21.

MP District staffers in Orkhon said they planned to share the results with their MP’s and potential candidates, and to use the findings in the development of initiatives and messages. IRI staff will follow up with them in the coming weeks and months to determine how the information was used, as well as opportunities for cooperation.

IRI also provided copies of the report budget office and Monitoring, Analysis and Evaluation office officials in Orkhon, and will follow up with them to discuss potential ideas for future training activities.

On June 29 and June 30, IRI staff IRI staff traveled to Sainshand to present focus group discussion (FGD) report data to Dornogobi Governor P. Gankhuyag, aimag khural Speaker Ganbataar, aimag public relations department staff including the media officer Mr. Erdenebulgan, and chief finance officer Ms. Erdenesuren. IRI also provided copies of the report to Ms. Badia, a District MP staff for MP J. Batsuuri (MPP).



A team from the Police Academy strategizes during some of their prep-time at an IRI sponsored debate competition.

Governor Gankhuyag said that his office will use the information in the development of future outreach activities, and discussed the possibility of cooperating with IRI on future training activities to assist aimag agency officials in being more responsive to their citizens in the provision of services, as well as different ways to more effectively engage the public.

Mr. Erdenebulgan of the aimag public relations department said they will work with IRI on the development of more effective messaging and media outreach efforts, and discussed the possibility of cooperating with IRI on providing training to the recently established information offices in each of Dornogobi's soums on the dissemination of information, effective citizen and media engagement strategies and techniques

Ms. Erdenesuren of the aimag budget office and IRI discussed the possibility of providing future training for aimag and soum-level finance officials on results-based budgeting, and the effective application of international accounting and reporting standards in rural areas in anticipation of parliamentary approval of additional budget autonomy for sub-national governments.

IRI will continue to distribute the report data to relevant officials, and plans to share FGD report data from Umnugobi with officials there in the near future.

IRI sponsored a youth debate competition in Ulaanbaatar

June 24 and June 25, IRI sponsored a youth debate competition with the "Best" Debate Club. The competition included 24 teams (each with two members – for a total of 48) who debated a variety of topics, with winning teams moving through a competitive bracket on Friday and Saturday.

The debates included teams from eight different area universities including the National University of Mongolia, the State Teachers College, the State Technical University, the National Police Academy, the State Trade and Industrial College, a private law school, a private foreign languages institute, and the "Mandakh" financial college. The teams included underclassmen and more senior level students, as well as experienced debaters and those new to the club.



An underclassman from one of the National University of Mongolia teams makes her closing argument during one of Friday's early round contests at an IRI-sponsored debate competition.

Participants included 39 men and 9 women, and the debates covered a wide range of topics, from whether or not to follow the lead of Brazil and Kazakhstan by moving the seat of government to a new capital city, to whether or not Mongolia should retain its parliamentary system or adopt a U.S.-style presidential system of government. A team from the private law

school won the competition.

We will work with the first, second and third place teams to engage local and / or national officials to discuss their ideas on some of the topics debated during the competition after students return from summer vacation.

IRI helped assemble a panel of local citizens to take part in a dialogue with visiting U.S. Representatives

IRI staff helped arrange a panel of citizens on Saturday for a dialogue with a visiting HDP delegation comprised of U.S. Representatives David Dreier, Susan Davis, Brad Miller and David Price. The panel which included student, small business owner, and pensioner representatives was arranged by IRI at the request of the U.S. embassy, and was also attended by a number of local officials from the Bayanzurkh district.

**Mongolia Anti-Corruption Support Project (MACS)-- USAID
The Asia Foundation (TAF)**

Strengthening Capacity to Prosecute and Adjudicate Corruption Cases

TAF, in co-operation with the Supreme Court, organized a 5-day intensive training in Singapore from June 27 - July 1, 2011, with eight judges from the special corruption panel of judges.

The training was provided by the Civil Service College of Singapore, the institution which provides practical training to civil servants. The program focused on providing judges with best practices and case studies in adjudicating corruption cases, and covered important subjects such as sentencing high profile cases, enforcement of judgments, and prevention of corruption within the judiciary.

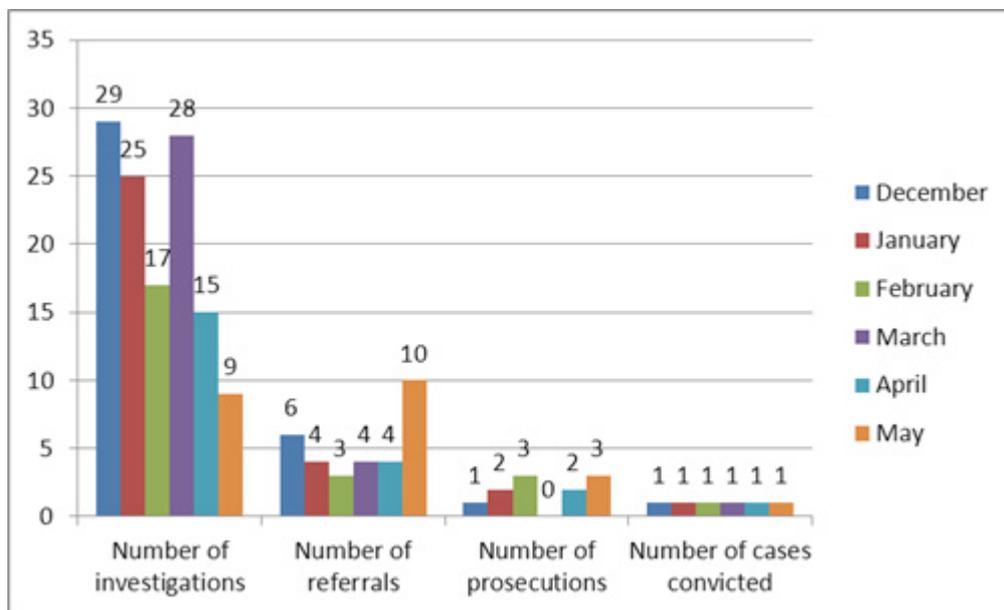
Following the first meeting of the working group on

development of a prosecutor and investigator training program, members are working on completing their responsible parts for the program and handbook. The draft handbook will be finished in mid-June, followed by a meeting among practicing prosecutors and investigators to collect feedback.

In May, the IAAC conducted a total of 9 investigations, with 10 cases being referred to the prosecutor's office for prosecution. There was one conviction in May that involved two people. The Civil registration officer of Selenge aimag, falsely registered marriages and was sentenced to the deprivation of his right to hold a public position for one year and fined 550,000 MNT.

Strengthening IAAC and Government Capacity to Prevent Corruption

TAF completed the installation of an online database and software for registration of legal entities at GASR. The new system was installed at the GASR main office and Tuv Aimag branch in order to run a test of the system. Thanks to the new system, GASR will be able to register legal entities at its local branches and conduct registration faster and without duplication. Also citizens are now able to search for name availability online, which will improve transparency and eliminate corruption opportunities, and reduce service overloads at the GASR main office. In addition, TAF assisted GASR to present the findings of the client satisfaction survey, which was conducted by Maxima Consulting LLC, to all service workers of GASR.



TAF supported GASR to conduct a third party client satisfaction survey in Ulaanbaatar, all 21 aimags as well as three border posts. The survey was completed by the Mongolian Employers' Federation in May and June 2011. Final results of the survey will be presented to the senior officials of GASR early July.

TAF contracted Bambaikhurd LLC for providing information touch screens at the Capital City Land Au-

thority (CCLA). The contractor will supply three touch screen displays which will citizens the ability to find necessary information including CCLA timetable, telephone directory, fees of land services, land management plan, work plan, announcements, as well as track staff personal, sick and holiday leave. It will also provide opportunity for customers to make their complaints regarding CCLA operations. The objective of the activity is to prevent bureaucracy and red tape, and to improve transparency of services provided by CCLA.

Public Awareness and Education

TAF contracted ICIC NGO to publish 5,000 copies of a poster to increase public awareness on the GASR Hotline 1890 and the agency's homepage, as well to increase transparency and efficiency on services provided by GASR. The client satisfaction survey showed that lack of information creates an work overload, inefficiency, bureaucracy and red tape in GASR services.

TAF developed an anti-corruption training manual and short movie for secondary school teachers who will conduct integrity and ethical trainings for secondary school students. In June, TAF and IAAC conducted a pilot training with 20 teachers and provided published handbooks. The short movie has four 15-minute episodes designed to increase awareness on integrity, ethics and zero tolerance for children under the age of 15.

CENTRALLY (USAID/W) AND REGIONALLY (USAID/RDMA) FUNDED PROJECTS

Sustainable Conservation Approaches in Priority EcoSystems (SCAPES) Project -- USAID Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

Daurian Steppe SCAPES

Community-Based Conservation and Natural Resource Management: The Daurian Steppe SCAPES project organized a workshop June 6th – 9th at Shazan Nuur Camp in Dornod Aimag with local officials, leaders and members of livestock herder community groups (Nukhurluls) and the leadership of the Eastern Mongolia Community Conservation Association (EMCCA). There were a total of 24 participants (10 women; 14 men). The workshop provided the opportunity to discuss a new version of the Ministry of Nature and Environment order (A250) which provides guidance on establishing livestock herder community-led “Nukhurlul” or partnerships for nature conservation and discuss issues related to community governance of natural resources. The EMCCA leadership and

WCS staff were supported by the Mongolian NGO, People Centered Conservation (PCC), in conducting breakout sessions and focus groups designed to facilitate the development of a shared vision for conservation, natural resource management, livelihood development and cooperation among all stakeholders. The stakeholders (community groups—Nukhurluls, EMCCA and government) then assessed their preparedness and capacity to reach the vision and identified interventions necessary to improve capacity and probability of success. The group assessment placed the capacity of Nukhurluls at 36% necessary capacity with the EMCCA and government at 43% and 60% respectively. Over the next 3 months the DS SCAPES project will work in collaboration with the EMCCA, local officials, PCC and the New Zealand Nature Institute (NZNI) to build on this initial needs assessment and put in place a strategy for scaling up the success of current initiatives and developing the necessary stakeholder capacity for community-led natural resource management and conservation on the Daurian Steppe.

Daurian Steppe Transboundary Conservation: June follow-up to the inaugural meeting of the White-Naped Crane Transboundary Working Group held May 27 – June 3, in Onon Balj National Park of Khentii Aimag included communication with Russian and Chinese scientists to collect information regarding white-naped crane distribution in the far eastern portion of its range in order to finalize the range-wide distribution maps. A White-Naped Crane Working Group Wiki site was created which currently includes content from the meeting and will hopefully serve as an open access depository of information on white-nape cranes, facilitate communication and information sharing across the range and improve the transboundary conservation of the species.

Wildlife Monitoring (Siberian marmot): WCS and the DS SCAPES project conducted surveys for Siberian marmots in Toson Khustai Nature Reserve on Mongolia's Eastern Steppe in June. The surveys were designed to estimate the population of Siberian marmots in the region and are part of a continued effort to develop monitoring protocols that can be conducted by livestock herder communities in cooperation with local wildlife management officials. Siberian marmot populations across the Daurian Steppe have been decimated by over hunting, removing an ecologically, culturally and economically important species across much of the steppe.

Avian Influenza in Wild Birds: WCS continues to survey wild bird populations across the Eastern Steppe for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). In June 400 fecal samples were collected for testing from Gun Galuut, Sumium Tsagaan, Hukh, Chukh and Kholboo

Lakes. The team took advantage of the time in the field to continue a survey of white-naped cranes visiting 20 established and 63 new observation points along the Herlen and Ulz rivers. No new outbreaks of avian influenza in wild birds in Mongolia have been detected or reported in 2011.

Conservation Leadership Internship: Mr. Turkhoo Bilegt has been selected for a Conservation Leadership Program (CLP) Internship with the WCS Mongolia Country Program. CLP is a partnership of WCS, Conservation International, BirdLife International and Fauna & Flora International focused on programming that supports the development of future conservationists. The internship will run for 1 year and Mr. Turkhoo will be exposed to the broad range of conservation activities implemented by WCS in Mongolia including the USAID-funded Daurian Steppe SCAPES project.

Farmer to Farmer Special Program Support Project -- USAID Mercy Corps

Two of the six short documentary/educational films to be used for further dissemination of the trainings provided by the volunteers to a larger audience in Mongolia upon completion of the assignments were produced during June. These 10 minutes films will provide the precise information of branding, marketing 4P's and marketing strategy using simple definitions and examples for rural entrepreneurs. Each of the films were duplicated for 100 copies for distribution to the Mongolian milk and meat processing enterprises and also posted on the Mercy Corps-supported Business Development Services Providers' website www.zuvluh.com. The educational videos will be downloadable and will serve as marketing training resource available to rural milk and meat processing enterprises.

Preparations are undergoing for the third volunteer assignment planned for July 2011, to be conducted by Mr. Liam Wustenberg, named *Introduction of Artisan Dairy Products and Improving the Cheese Making Process in Central Province in SME Dairy Sector of Mongolia*.

Recruitment of US Volunteers continues for the additional three technical volunteers Scopes of Work. With the help of International Link Recruitment Services in USA received two resumes of dairy experts and interviewing them for the selection of next assignments.

Enabling Market Integration through Rural Group Empowerment (EMIRGE) -- USAID CHF International

Mongolia National Cooperatives Association Promoting Youth Leadership In Cooperatives

A "Young Cooperators" meeting was held for youth active in cooperatives in Mongolia. The event was co-organized by the Mongolia National Cooperatives Association (MNCA), The Small and Medium Sized Enterprise Agency of the Ministry of Food Agriculture and Light Industry and CHF. Over 60 participants from urban and rural areas took part in the 3-day event. Participants discussed issues uniquely affecting youth participation in cooperatives. During the assembly, members developed a youth action plan to [increase information sharing, exchanging ideas](#) and improve cooperation between cooperatives.

Building Capacity of Zuunharaa Dairy Farmer Groups

This month CHF organized trainings for dairy farmer groups on business management, group leadership, and organizational management. The trainings were conducted by local service providers and included basic business skills such as accounting and book-keeping, as well as leadership skills, team building, organizational management, and conflict resolution. While building the capacity of the groups, the trainings also gave the members an opportunity to connect with local service providers and learn about what additional services are available to their groups.

CHF held a follow-up meeting with local veterinarians in Zuunharaa to get their feedback on the vet training held in January. The veterinarians noted that the cooperation among dairy farmers and vets has improved since the training. They also observed that the dairy group farmers are beginning to outperform other farmers in the area. By collaborating to improve their knowledge of [farming, feed, shelter, and animal handling, the groups' animals are healthier and more productive](#).

Social Safety Nets Project (SSNP) --USAID Mercy Corps

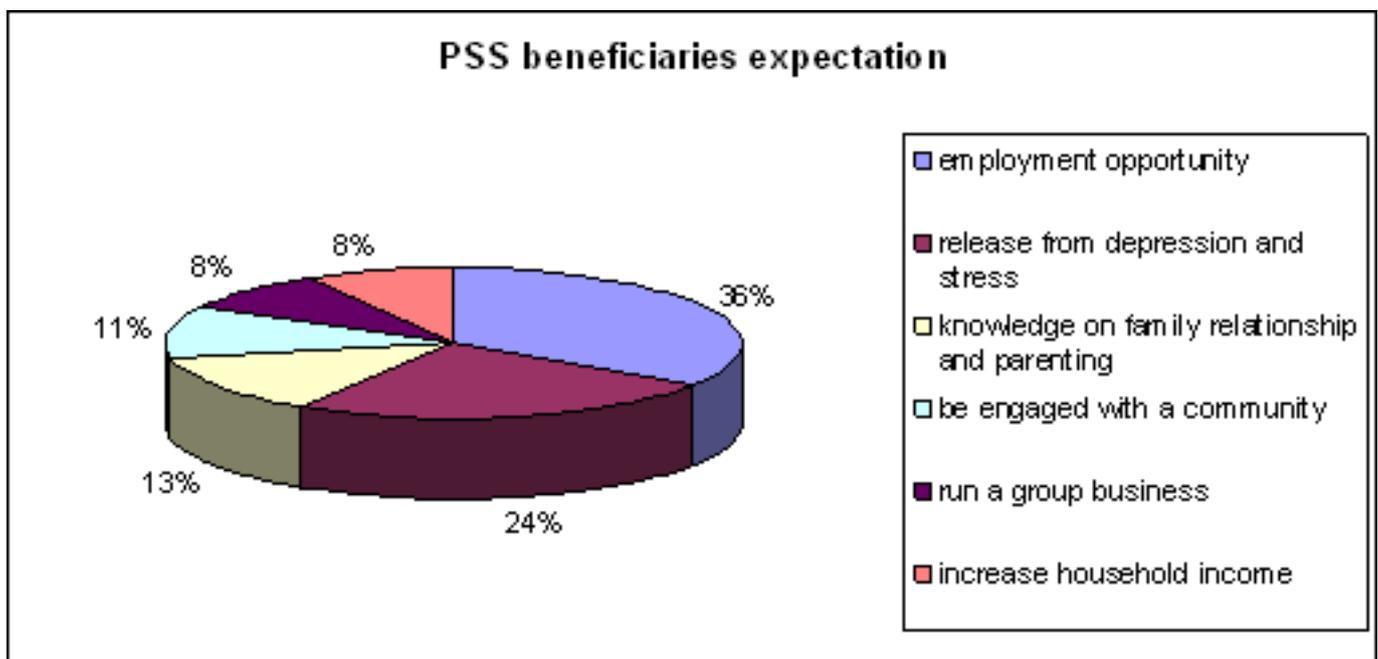
Mid-term evaluation of psycho-social support training was done by the project team among 72 trainers (89%), 766 trainees (48%) who attend regularly and 20 field staff of Mercy Corps in 10 aimags, in order to measure training progress, beneficiaries' expectation and their future needs within the project term. From the survey, conducted among PSS trainees, we found out that the following behavioral and attitudinal changes occurred among beneficiaries within last 3 months since the start of PSS training:

- 68% - able to express their opinions freely in front of others;
- 51,3% - now consider the importance of being in social relationship and having own community;
- 48,6% - becoming more motivated and responsible for their actions;
- 41,6% - now more self-confident;
- 31,9% - more motivated to improve their knowledge and skills;
- 29,1% - significant changed their appearance, clothing and personal behavior;
- 27,7% - positive communication skills;
- 20,8% - improved their self-value;
- 11,1% - all of them have a beautiful smile on face.

from the evaluation survey.

3134 individuals have improved their marketable skills by attending 33 different vocational skills trainings (one training per individual) by June 20, 2011 in the 10 aimags. Out of these 3134 people, 570 people were trained in June. Among the trained beneficiaries, 392 of them had employment already upon completion of the training; 199 or 30% have obtained temporary work and 273 or 70% are on permanent jobs. These figures clearly show that the vocational skills trainings are helpful to people to become employed.

To raise responsibilities of the beneficiaries, Mercy Corps asked the individuals to cover some amounts



Participants of PSS training were asked an open ended question: What did you expect from PSS training? The results showed that 36% of them wanted to find a job opportunity while attending in the training. While the objective of the PSS training is not to refer people to jobs, Mercy Corps and local trainers provide information about available jobs. In addition, the PSS training builds their confidence to prepare people for job relationships.

Upgrade for training of trainers on psycho-social support is taking place in all aimags by Mongol Urkh psycho-therapy association starting from June 10, 2011. So far, the training was organized in Dundgobi, Uvurkhangai, Bayankhongor and Gobi-Altai aimags involving 34 local trainers. The training in remaining aimags will be completed by July 10th. Main focus of the refreshment training is on emotion management, decision making abilities, family relationships and understanding of others – the topics which are incorporated based on the trainees’ needs found out

of the training fee by themselves. The minimum payment by the beneficiaries themselves was MNT 5,000 and the maximum amount was MNT 65,000. Besides that, local PLSWD shares costs in some of the aimags on some of the training. By now, total value of the training for 3134 individual reached MNT 187 million, out of which MNT 22,1 million was covered by PLSWD and MNT 20,9 million by the trainees.

Labor Market Day (LMD) was organized in Uvs, Bayankhongor and Gobi-Altai aimags by the SSN staff and PLSWD in June and disseminated information about locally available open vacancies at local enterprises to about 750 citizens. On organizing the LMD, Mercy Corps is partnering with local government, civil society and business organizations and sharing funds as well. Total value of the LMD in the 3 aimags was MNT 2.2 million and out of which only 42% was covered by Mercy Corps and the rest of the amount was shared by PLSWD and other government agencies.

Thirty-one (31) employers presented their organizations during the event and offered 439 open jobs to the participants. 633 citizens registered to compete for those open jobs, and to date, more than 117 jobs have been filled. Most number of jobs were announced in Gobi-Altai aimag which are 385 jobs such as common construction workers, agricultural workers and auto road maintenance workers. In Uvs aimag, most common job openings were for a boot maker. In Bayankhongor, cooks were in high demand.

During the event, 7 training providers, who are Skills Training Partners of SSN, promoted their skills trainings and registered 62 citizens. Graduation of boot making class of “Uran Chadamj” training organization in Uvs aimag was due on same date of the LMD and the trainees exhibited their products (10 different designs of 4 seasons’ boots) for the visitors while they receiving their Certificates.

Mercy Corps representative office in Gobi-Altai aimag is collaborating with XacBank in order to support the skills training beneficiaries to develop their own businesses. During the LMD, XacBank announced that the bank is able to provide a loan up to MNT 3 million without loan guarantee to the skills training participants if they complete the training successfully with a certificate. This was attractive information for our beneficiaries.

Potential local employers are selected for Employer Support mechanism. SSN will support local employers on the basis of their business expansion plans in order to increase employment opportunities for marginalized household members.

In May, the assessment process continued. Mercy Corps issued a grant acceptance form for each employer on which grant conditions are described clearly such as:

- Minimum amount of own investment should not be less than 50% of total investment plan,
- Skills training component beneficiaries should be hired on the new job placements according to their accomplished course types,
- Respective amount of social security and medical care insurance taxes should be paid by the employer, and
- Overall grant amount should be reimbursed upon completion of business plan and hiring of the new staff.

By now, 150 employers in the 10 program aimags have received notification of acceptance. If they agree on the conditions, bilateral agreements will be made with the employers. We estimate that 380 new

jobs will be created by the employers in the next half of this year through the Employer Support mechanism of the SSN project.

JUNE IN PICTURES



Abundant rains in June nicely greened up the countryside.



Yash and USAID/Mongolia driver Duluu by Sand dunes...



Jennifer Butz, Chief of Party for Mercy Corps. in Mongolia, US-AID/Mongolia’s implementing partner, introduces Yash to products handmade by Mercy Corps. clients at Mercy Corps. semi-annual meeting in Arhangai aimag.