



MONGOL MONITOR

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JULY 2011

July Mission News

- Mercy Corps was awarded a grant for the implementation of the Fostering an Inclusive Environment for Local Disabled (FIELD) II Project in Mongolia. The period of the agreement is 24 months.
- Procurements are continuing through the bureaucracy.
- Embassy held the July 4th Reception which was a good time to meet with counterparts and development colleagues.
- Ethel Brooks, Participant Training Advisor from USAID/EGAT/HCD visited to discuss with staff and meet with implementers about the training needs of the Mission's programs.
- Reid Click, Senior Credit Analyst from the USAID Office of Development Credit, assessed our proposal for a credit guarantee program with the Mongolian Mortgage Corporation.
- Accepted delivery of Avian Flu commodities worth \$15,000 and transferred to Mongolia's National Emergency Management Agency.
- CHF's Glenn Moller departed for his new position in CHF Headquarters.
- CHF's MASP activities were transferred to Development Solutions.
- Annual leave is in full progress with staff enjoying summer and Naadam.
- We received the draft environmental impact document from the May trip to Oyu Tolgoi gold and copper mine and the Tavan Tolgoi/Energy Resources coal mine. It will be distributed widely when finalized.



USAID/Mongolia bids farewell to Ioli, Patrick and Kiran...

First Look at August Activities

- Our new Regional Legal Advisor, Ian Robertson, will come in early

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WEATHER

Weather was great!! It included some passing rain storms from time to time allowing most of the country to glow green.



August to assist with our proposed grant to the German development agency, “GIZ” and to discuss Development Credit Authority issues.

- Annual leave continues.
- We will lose Ioli Filmeridis and her family to Zimbabwe after a very productive two years. We all wish them the best.
- Mongolia will receive the new “Secure Image and Storage Tracking” (ASIST) system, a Documentum-based user interface developed and maintained by the USAID to improve the efficiency and security of handling documents at USAID Missions and Washington.

PRIVATE SECTOR-LED ECONOMIC GROWTH

Business Plus Initiative Project (BPI) Chemonics

The Business Plus Initiative (BPI) is a five-year project, designed to support an enhanced role for the private sector in Mongolia’s economic growth by complementing and supporting the Government of Mongolia’s (GOM) strategy to advance the following objectives: 1) Improved implementation of business enabling policies; 2) Strengthened private sector capacity and competitiveness; and 3) Increased financial sector capacity and enabling environment.

BPI is still in start-up mode. We conducted an introductory/work planning workshop at the Corporate Hotel July 28-30. The first year work plan is due to USAID on August 5.

All three of the expatriate LT advisors have mobilized. Most of the Mongolian EPRC staff identified in the proposal have joined BPI. At present, we have three open positions; financial sector analyst, translator and driver/interpreter. We are in the process of negotiating for new office space located near the current EPRC building, which is scheduled to be demolished in January, 2012.

MORE EFFECTIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE

Mongolia Anti-Corruption Support Project (MACS)

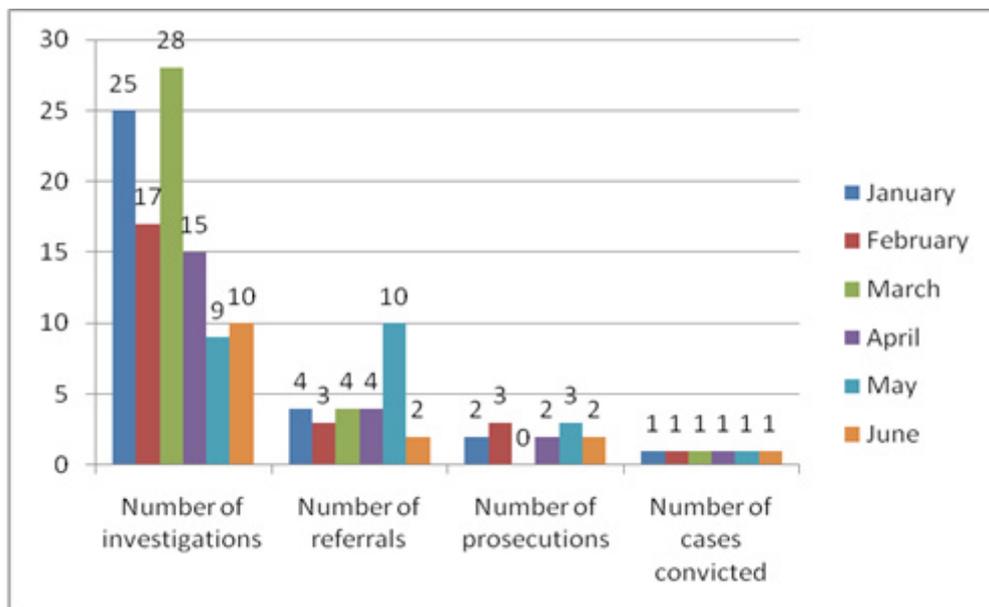
The Asia Foundation (TAF)

Strengthening Capacity to Prosecute and Adjudicate Corruption Cases

Following the counter corruption training in Singapore for eight members of the Mongolian judiciary, TAF has received reports from each participating judge and is currently preparing the draft training report to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. TAF is also planning to organize a meeting in August 2011 where the participants of the training will share their knowledge with other judges appointed to the special panel focused on adjudicating corruption cases.

In mid-July, TAF received relevant draft parts of the prosecutor’s handbook on corruption cases from the General Prosecutor’s Office and Independent Authority Against Corruption (IAAC). TAF is now working on finalizing the handbook for release in August.

In June, the IAAC conducted a total of 10 investiga-



tions, with 2 cases being referred to the prosecutor’s office for prosecution. There was one corruption case involving a citizen bribing a public official that was adjudicated at court in June. The charge of bribery was dropped and the individual was charged with fraud instead.

Strengthening IAAC and Government Capacity to Prevent Corruption

TAF completed the installation of an online database and software for registration of legal entities at General Agency for State Registration (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 con-

duct 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.

In the scope of the cooperation work plan, TAF and General Agency for State Inspection (GASI), the Mongolian Employers' Federation conducted a client satisfaction survey, which covered 1,200 respondents representing all 21 aimags, Ulaanbaatar and three border areas. Current client satisfaction level index and recommendations for improvements were provided to GASI to initiate further reforms to improve service, reduce bureaucracy, and promote a corruption free agency.

In order to promote the transparency of services provided by the Capital City Land Authority (CCLA), as well as prevent bureaucracy and red tape, TAF concluded a contract with Bambaikhurd LLC to procure and install three touch screen displays at the CCLA office. Now citizens are able to find necessary information including CCLA 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.

Public Awareness and Education

Within the public awareness support activities, the ICIC NGO published 5,000 copies of a poster to increase public awareness on the GASR Hotline 1890. In addition, several publications were developed by ICIC in the framework of CCLA media campaign. Currently, 2,000 copies of a poster to advertise the new CCLA Hotline 1285 and 12,000 copies of brochures to increase public awareness on CCLA activities were produced and distributed to all branches of the land authority.

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

Improve social inclusion of marginal households by increasing access to social and community support networks: Enkhjin is 10 year old girl, a daughter of Badamtsetseg, PSS trainee in Dundgobi aimag. She drew a painting which is called "My Mom in My Eyes".

Enkhjin divided the painting into two parts; before and

now. In the "before" part, she drew her mom in black and white. There was no color, but in the "now" part, her mom is smiling and dressed with nice colors. Also she put lots of colorful flowers surrounding her mom. It is what her mom looks like now in her eyes after being attended in the PSS training. This painting can clearly show how the training is changing people and affecting their family members positively.



One Day of Bagh (ODB). This community event was organized in Dundgobi aimag with active participation of Psycho-Social Support (PSS) beneficiaries. Main goal of the event was to display how the PSS training contributed to the lives of the beneficiaries. Main external audiences were family members and friends of the beneficiaries. They presented short role plays and stories about who they were before attending in the training and what have changed since then in term of their personal attitude, behavior and family relationship. In addition, children of the PSS beneficiaries were involved in the ODB as drawing what they noticed in their home since their mom or dad start going to the training.

PSS Attendance. 317 beneficiaries of the PSS training have been obtained temporary and permanent job opportunities by the time being. Now that some are working, they have less time to attend the PSS training, which affects the attendance rate. Currently, 1256 individuals or 78.5% of the beneficiaries are engaging with PSS in the aimags. Both the local trainers and Mercy Corps staff are working to identify new people to the training.

Refresher TOT. The 72 local PSS trainers in the 10 program aimags received an 18-hour refresher course in July. Primarily the coursework focused on particular issues related to adult learning, family relationship, emotion management, decision making and planning skills as general knowledge and skills to de-

liver better psycho-social support.

Improve economic inclusion of marginal households by enhancing marketable skills: The SSN project targeted improving the marketable skills of 4000 individuals in the program aimags. To date, 3300 unemployed people from vulnerable households have been trained under 37 different types of skills training. So far, 429 of these people have secured temporary and permanent jobs in their aimags. Importantly for the rural economic context, 76% of these now-employed people have permanent jobs.

In July, we organized a Labor Market Day (LMD) in Arhangai aimag and 422 local citizens were involved. In Arhangai aimag, 400 individuals were trained on certain vocational skills and 10 employers were selected to get ESM grant. Therefore, it was perfect timing to organize the LMD in order to enable job seekers and employers find each other not only the ones related with SSN, also other local citizens and employers. During the LMD, 13 employers offered 59 vacancies and 120 citizens applied for them.

By July, 472 individuals have been employed thanks to the LMD. The LMD was organized 13 times in the 10 aimags. From the events, 1667 citizens have been applied for 1512 open vacancies of 178 employers. Since then 28.3% or 472 of them already obtained jobs. This is pretty good result of SSN project.

Increase employment among marginal household members through an Employer Support Mechanism: Employer Support Mechanism (ESM) is another approach we are using to promote employment opportunities among marginal household members. Local small and medium enterprises, who are expanding their businesses as investing certain amount of funds and creating new jobs, are our target clients to receive USD 600 grant per job.

Throughout May, June and July, project and aimag staff conducted feasibility assessments among the applicant employers, visiting working places and interviewing managerial level staff. Finally, we selected 154 local employers to receive the employer support grants for business expansion. Once the business expansion process is completed, 400 new jobs will have been created. Among the 154 employers, 72.7% or 112 are limited liability companies, 14.9% or 23 are cooperatives and 12.3% or 19 are partnerships.

Mercy Corps requires from employers as one of the conditionality of the business expansion grant. The social security and health care insurance provides many benefits such as in the case of retirement, loss

of the ability to work, sickness, or unemployment, and to his or her dependents in the case of death. Moreover, the employee is able to have cheaper health care services at some private clinics and to be eligible to take civil servants exam. For the 400 individuals these new jobs represent improved household income and access to health and social service.

In total, 1218 individuals have obtained job opportunities since the project started including all the three components. When we set up the project database, we decided to count the number of employments per component without duplication and trained our field staff on how to follow up with the database with correct numbers. Actually the high number of employment is surprising us and in coming months we will remind our field staff to make sure that the numbers are not duplicated between components.

USAID CENTRALLY AND REGIONALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

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

Daurian Steppe SCAPES

Eastern Steppe Rare Pride Campaign: The Eastern Steppe Rare Pride campaign is designed to engage local communities in wildlife conservation. In July the campaign focused on raising awareness about hunting laws and regulations with an emphasis on the procedures for obtaining hunting licenses and the certificates of origin necessary for the legal trade of wildlife products. The campaign organized talk shows with local officials and programming for children which was broadcasted on FM radio and local television stations. The media work was coupled with community events (Naadam festival participation, parades, visits to local markets, etc.) at which print brochures, t-shirts and bags with the hunting and trade laws were distributed. To date the public interest in the campaign has been very high and initial results in the area of awareness building and dissemination of the message (person-to-person communication) have indicated that the campaign has been very successful.

Community-Based Conservation & Wildlife Monitoring: WCS and the DS SCAPES project will conduct a wildlife monitoring training August 9-12, 2011, for Environmental Inspectors, Protected Area Rangers and Volunteer Rangers from Livestock Herder Community Groups at Chukh Lake camp in Dashbalbar Soum of Dornod Aimag. During July WCS and DS SCAPES project staff tested and finalized protocols

for monitoring species like the Siberian marmot and produced the training materials for the workshop. Siberian marmot populations and the populations of other economically important species across the Daurian Steppe (wolf, fox, corsac fox and to some extent Mongolian gazelle) have been decimated by over hunting. The distribution and abundance of these species may also be impacted by climate cycles and climate change. These trainings are designed to provide the local wildlife managers, primarily community-based volunteer rangers, with the tools they need to monitor wildlife populations and practice adaptive management. This activity is also supported by the USAID-funded Livestock & Climate Change Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP).

Collaborative Wildlife Protection: Preparations were begun in July for a training designed to promote collaborative wildlife protection in important protected areas in the Daurian Steppe transboundary region along the Russian-Mongolian and Chinese-Mongolian borders. The first training will be held in Mongol Daguur Strictly Protected Area in Mongolia and is scheduled for early September 2011. The collaborative wildlife protection program promotes information sharing and coordination among the multiple agencies operating within these border regions (border guards, environmental inspectors, rangers, etc.) to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of wildlife protection activities.

WCS Asia Regional Meeting: WCS Mongolia Country Program Director, Amanda Fine, attended the WCS Asia Regional Meetings in New York July 24-29, 2011. WCS leadership engaged with field staff from across the region with the goal of advancing our efforts to conserve wildlife and wild lands and inform our institutional strategies to address climate change, health, natural resource extraction and livelihoods in the landscapes and seascapes where we work. Amanda Fine presented the rapid growth of activities related to natural resource extraction in Mongolia and the infrastructure projects (road, rail, and electrical grids) designed to support the development of the sector. WCS and the Daurian Steppe SCAPES project is committed to the conservation of the Daurian Steppe ecosystem which will require careful coordination between the private and public sectors, local communities and national government, conservation organizations and industry to ensure that business practices support sustainable management of the grasslands, protecting and managing the steppe as a single, unified landscape for species and communities of livestock herders who rely on vast tracts of continuous habitat for their survival.

Avian Influenza in Wild Birds: WCS continues to sur-

vey wild bird populations across the Eastern Steppe for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). In July another 400 fecal samples were collected for testing from Gun Galuut, Sumium Tsagaan, Hukh, Chukh and Kholboo Lakes. The team also continued surveys of the white-naped crane along the Herlen and Ulz rivers. No new outbreaks of avian influenza in wild birds in Mongolia have been detected or reported in 2011.

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

International Republican institute (IRI)

IRI finalized arrangements to present the last set of focus group discussion data to political party, local and national officials in Umnugobi aimags: IRI finalized plans to travel to Umnugobi on August 1 to present the focus group discussion (FGD) report for Umnugobi to local officials, MP district staff, and political party officers. The report will provide opinion leaders with qualitative information about citizen attitudes on the pace of local development, the benefits of mineral development and mining, employment opportunities, quality of life local and central government performance, the level of civic engagement and public consultation, political party favorability, as well as their views on recent protests.

IRI began developing its autumn public opinion poll: IRI held initial discussions with the Mongolia-based Social Policy and Development Institute, the InfraTest Training and Research Center, and Virginia-based American Viewpoint to discuss preferred methodologies, review their proposals, and develop poll questions and test messages for IRI's next public opinion poll. This poll will allow us to measure any perceived improvement or decline in the responsiveness and quality of local or central government performance, perceptions about opportunities for citizen involvement, the popularity of political parties (including the newly formed Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party), citizen views on current events and social problems, and to test the favorability of individual political leaders and policy proposals.

IRI began making final revisions to a soum khural member manual / handbook: IRI has nearly finished editing a soum khural member's manual, and is now making final revisions to the content and layout. When completed, this handbook will be distributed to soum khural members, who can use the book as a reference guide as they carry out their responsibilities. The book will be most useful to new khural members, who make up over half of all soum khural

members. Among other things, the handbook covers the basic legal framework governing the operation of local government, a historical perspective on the development of local government in Mongolia, the rights and responsibilities of soum khural members, the day-to-day-functioning of the khurals, the current constitutional relationship between the national government and sub-national administrative units, and how to improve transparency and expand public participation in khural activities.

Fostering an Inclusive Environment for the Disabled Project 2 (FIELD-2) ***Mercy Corps***

On July 1, 2011, USAID awarded a grant to Mercy Corps for implementation of FIELD 2 project. The FIELD 2 is the successor of Fostering an Inclusive Environment for the Disabled implemented by Mercy Corps between January 2009 and December 2010. The FIELD 2 project was built on the achievements and lessons learned from the original FIELD. The overall goal of FIELD 2 will be to enhance the physical accessibility, social and economic inclusion of PWDs in Mongolia with two specific objectives building on the achievements of FIELD: 1) Promote implementation of the newly established Accessible Construction and Walkways Standards; and 2) Improve livelihood opportunities and life skills of PWDs through provision of quality Community Based Social Welfare Services. The target areas will be the three aimags of targeted by FIELD, Arkhangai, Uvurkhangai and Dundgobi plus two new aimags: Uvs and Bayankhongor. In July, the project staff worked on the draft Performance Monitoring Plan and submitted it to USAID for review and approval.

Farmer to Farmer Special Program Support Project ***Mercy Corps***

U.S. Volunteer, Liam Wustenberg came to Mongolia on July 18 to complete the assignment of "Introduction of Artisan Dairy Products and Improving the Cheese Making Process in Central Province in SME Dairy Sector of Mongolia". Mr. Wustenberg is affiliated with Tillamook Cheese Factory in Oregon.

From 22 July to 30 August, Liam will conduct two direct technical assistances in Hangai soum and Tsetserleg town of Arkhangai aimag. He will teach the host companies employees and owners in new products development and production of different types of safe and marketable cheese products such as Havarti, Quark, Feta, Whey Ricotta and soft spreadable cheese and demonstrating vanilla and cacao flavored milk drinks. During the assignment period Liam will deliver his direct consultancy to two host or-

ganizations (a cheese maker & an artisan dairy producer) and a local dairy consultant of BDS provider. Also general recommendations for good hygiene and manufacturing practices will be issued to the host processors employees and management.

In August Liam will be facilitating a cheese making workshop to be conducted at the Dairy Training Center in Ulaanbaatar for the owners and employees of 15 milk processing companies' producers and BDS consultants. The three days cheese workshop will consist of theoretical and practical presentation and demonstration of the production of above mentioned cheese varieties using cow and goat milk as well as covering relevant topics in food safety assurance and dairy product quality.

Two marketing films for educational use were uploaded in the website of www.zuvluh.mn for public outreach. Another short educational video showing the demonstration of cheese processing will be produced by the film maker of ICI center. The purpose of these 10 minute educational videos is to disseminate the training conducted by the FtF volunteers to a wider audience of companies and BDS providers. The videos are downloadable, free and can be found on <http://zuvluh.mn/topic/show/350/1>.

Recruitment of US Volunteers continues for the additional three technical volunteers Scopes of Work. Identifying appropriate meat processing experts represents still a challenge, although several candidates for a September deployment are under consideration.

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

Building Capacity of business groups: This month CHF organized consulting for Zhunharaa dairy farmer groups on silage production using wild nettle. The local consultant guided group members on how to produce the silage at their khashaas. By collaborating on production and processing the silage, group members were able to produced 2500 kg of si-



lage. Using the silage to continue milk production into the winter months is projected to increase the group members profits by 1.5 times.

Group behavior change assessment: CHF conducted an assessment of groups to gauge their satisfaction with group activities undertaken through EMIRGE and to measure the degree to which farmers have changed their behavior to adapt new practices.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FUNDED PROJECTS MANAGED BY USAID

Rural Agribusiness Support Program (RASP)-USDA Mercy Corps

Client Sales: Clients made \$ 472,310 in sales in July 2011. The sales generated by business clients under RASP from January 2005 to date total \$16,792,281. The following table details the actual sales of the RASP clients during the previous years.

Loans: Access to Finance: Through July 20, 2011, RASP clients took out 36 loans with a combined value of \$124,308 of which Mercy Corps provided \$44,971 (36.2%) as additional cash collateral to commercial banks. In 2011, RASP clients have accessed a total of 354 loans totaling \$1,063,982 with the average loan size for the year reaching \$3,005. Since the start of the program in May 2004, a total of 2,733 loans have been dispersed, with a total value of \$7,132,702. Mercy Corps has provided 37.7% as additional cash collateral to secure our client's loans. The repayment

Fund (CGF)" was registered in July as NBFI under the current Mongolian regulations. To date, the NBFI has received capitalization funding from GIZ through a grant to the Mongolian Bankers Association, and from a number of commercial banks. Mercy Corps will likely support the CGF with an initial grant for institutional strategy development; however we are still waiting for a formal, final business plan prior to making any funding decisions.

Training and TA that promoting value added products development: During July Mercy Corps and contracted local Business Development Service (BDS) providers conducted more than 20 trainings and technical assistance interventions involving 160 rural entrepreneurs on following topics: business plan-



ning, dairy and meat product development, woolen handcraft product technologies, food safety and greenhouse and pastoral management. The participants have set to work to expand their business by 10-12 new and improved products.

Zavhan days market event in Ulaanbaatar: The Zavhan MC Aimag Representative office collaboration with the Aimag Governor's office organized "Zavhan Brand Market Days" market event in Ulaanbaatar at July 6-07, 2011. More than 300 rural producers from 24 soums of Zavhan aimag participated in this market event. They displayed 500 types of products such as dairy, meat, vegetable, fish and bakery products, wooden furniture, handcrafts, hand making Mongol clothes, shoes and woolen products. The participants of the market events generated \$ 172 thousand in sales during the two days event. The participating businesses established supply relationships with UB based distributors through 14 types of contracts with total initial value of \$ 58,728. 40% of the exhibiting companies are regular RASP beneficiaries. Zavhan RASP beneficiaries

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	3,843,478,666	3,124,779	1230
July 2011	590,387,300	472,310	1250
Total	22,051,485,461	16,792,281	

rate to date stands at 97.73%. 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.

During the reporting period Mercy Corps continued its collaborative effort for establishment of a Mongolian non-bank financial institution with a mission to provide loan guarantees. The "Credit Guarantee

also won the most lucrative prizes for product quality from the aimag government.

Mercy Corps staff were awarded a special recognition from the Zavhan aimag governor for extraordinary contribution to the economic development of Zavhan aimag.

Market days and market linkage activities: Hovd aimag MC representative office with collaboration with the local Chamber of Commerce organized a market event named “Hovd partnership-2011” on July 21 and 22. 125 local businesses participated in this event exhibiting 165 types of products and achieving direct sales of \$ 271,200.



Uvurhangai aimag representative office organized “Yak Festival and Handicraft Market” event in Bat-Ulzii soum of the aimag at July 20-21, 2011. Seventeen local producers participated, displaying more than 50 types of hand-crafted products with value \$ 5,000.

The “Tsagaan Iish” cooperative, RASP client, participated in an international trade fair conducted in Manchuria City in China in July. The cooperative exhibited 15 types of felt and woolen hand craft product in order to expand their products market. Results and lessons learned from this activity will be reported in the next monthly update.

Local Economic Development (LED) Planning: Since 2009, RASP has supported the development of 77 soum Master Development Plans that have been fully adopted by the local Soum Representative Citizens Hurals. Recently, the Citizens Representative Hural of Hovd soum (Hovd aimag) and Baatsagaan soum (Bayankhongor aimag) approved their Soum Master Development Plans. Currently RASP supports the development of 20 Soum Master Development Plans which are at various points in the development cycle. In July, Participatory Local Economic Development Planning training in five aimags brought 98 participants together ahead of community discussions to develop additional LED plans.

Local Economic Development Investors' Forums: In July, Tes soum of Zavhan aimag conducted Investors' Forum in Ulaanbaatar for initiation of the implementation of their LED Plan. The Citizens Representatives Hural, the Soum Governor's office in collaboration with the Ulaanbaatar based Local Council and Mercy Corps organized the activity which was attended by 40 individuals, representatives of the national government agencies and private entrepreneurs. During the soum investment forum, a total of MNT 1.1 billion were committed towards implementation of 26 local social and economic development projects.

Veterinary sector development activities: In July, an additional 500 copies of “Emerging Infectious Disease Reference Book” were produced in collaboration and upon request by the Agency of Veterinary and Animal Breeding. This is a second edition of this reference book. Local practitioners and the Veterinarian Agency prize this text and requested additional copies.

The production-theoretical conference on the Challenges Facing Veterinary Clinics in the Gobi Region was co-organized by the representative office in Dundgovi aimag on 21-22 July. Over 170 veterinarians from Umnugovi, Dornogovi, Govi-Sumber, Suhbaatar, Uvurhangai, Bayanhongor and Dundgovi aimags as well as the representatives of Veterinary Research Institute, State Central Veterinary and Sanitary Laboratory and Mongolian Veterinary Medical Association participated in the event. During the event the reports and papers on the challenges facing the veterinary sector and the ways to solve it has been presented and debated, in addition to the capacity building trainings organized.

Food markets laboratory upgrading testing facilities project: During July Mercy Corps selected 11 proposals from Bayanhongor, Gobi-Altai, Uvs, Suhbaatar, Dornogobi, Zavhan aimags laboratories proposals for grant support to upgrade food market laboratory infrastructure and increase the food safety assurance in above aimags. Mercy Corps provided equipment grants valued at \$18,600 for four types of laboratory equipment. The beneficiaries invested \$21,600 in equipment and reactives as part of their cost share in this food safety assurance effort. The efficiency, quality and reliability of the food testing for food safety assurance at the markets with the food laboratories now being able to conduct standard tests and diagnostics within short period of time are tremendously improved.

Future events:

- Continuation of food safety training in targeted

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- aimags.
- Continuous implementation of value added business expansion projects in target aimags.
- Conduct business, product and technology development training to rural and herder enterprises by contracted local training providers.
- Ongoing monitoring and reporting on value added business expansion sub grant projects in target aimags with participation UB staffs.
- Participate of appropriate small equipment international exhibition from China in Hovd aimag.
- Ongoing consultancies on LED planning in soums.
- Local farmers market day event in Dundgobi aimag.
- Organize Hand craft products market days in Uvurkhangai, Umnugobi and Arkhangai aimags.
- “Bulgan-Hovd Partnership market day -2011” event in Bulgan soum of Hovd aimag.



Opening of the Naadam Festival on July 11

Mongolia Agribusiness Support Program (MASP)--USDA

CHF International Development Solutions (DS)

Business Development: In July, CHF sub-awardee, Development Solutions (DS) helped to expand or improve 9 businesses and 21 start-up businesses. DS conducted 45 agricultural and business trainings, provided 24 consultations, and delivered 78 information services. Moreover, DS facilitated approximately \$1,492 worth of agricultural business linkages.

Following the Naadam holiday, many aimags are celebrating the anniversaries of establishment. In Selenge aimag, the local government presented DS business advisor Z. Zolboo with an anniversary medal for her service to local agribusinesses.

DS conducted organized trainings on vegetable storage, seeds and seedlings, pesticides and compost linkages in July.



Bidding farewell to Ioli and Kiran



Serene beauty of Mongolian summer