



Uvurkhangai Area Development Programme Mongolia

In Uvurkhangai, almost 40% live under the poverty line. A key challenge in the community is securing employment. Mongolia's economic transition has led to many people losing their jobs in former state-owned enterprises. They lack the education and skills required by modern private industries, making it difficult for them to find new work. World Vision began an ADP in Uvurkhangai in 2002 to contribute to national efforts to alleviate the poverty of households and ensure the well-being of children, who are always the most vulnerable.

Brief Information

Impact Area Population: 43518 people
Programme Lifespan: 2002 – 2019
Children Available for Sponsorship
(as of Nov 2015): 250

Geographical Location

Uvurkhangai is situated roughly in the middle of Mongolia. The flat-top mountains of the Khangai range are in the north while the south is mainly desert and grassland. The climate is harsh, with winter temperatures as low as -35°C , and sometimes snowmelt can bring about flooding.



Realities

Economic Poverty

The poverty in the ADP is directly related to the lack of jobs available. In one of the three sub-communes, unemployment is as high as 28.6%. The main economic activities are in animal farming, herding and dairy production. In recent years, animal herders faced severe winter conditions, locally known as “dzud”, which decimated their livestock. The herders have a traditional mindset which is feed preparation depending only on natural grazing. There are many additional resources to produce livestock feed locally, but herders have lack of capacity in terms of skills, techniques, equipment and tools. There is poor pasture management

Healthcare Concerns

The local community has limited knowledge on hygiene and sanitation and use water from non-protected water sources such as rivers. 48.2% of households still use unsafe drinking water. The lack of toilet facilities in schools built during the Soviet era means that students have to practise open defecation; girls queuing up for use of a single pit toilet in the wilderness outside the school are at risk of urinary tract infection and sexual harassment. Waiting for a chance to use the toilet in the bitter cold is a daily reality for Mongolian children.

Educational and Child Protection Challenges

In Uvurkhangai, the kindergarten enrolment rate is only 41.8% and primary school enrolment rate is even lower, at 40.3%. In Mongolia, an estimated 10.1% of children are engaged in child labour, and nearly a fourth of them do not attend school. 15.1% of children in rural areas do not study as they are employed in the agriculture sector. The shortage of schools, especially kindergartens, also contributes to poor school attendance. The inability of families to pay fees and buy supplies for their children further exacerbates this issue, causing the school dropout rate in this province to be the highest in the country. Many schools were built during the socialist period with facilities that are now outdated.

Programme Goal

To secure child and family well-being in economically strengthened communities, with good access to education and health services.



Key Challenges and World Vision's Key Initiatives

Challenge: Poor food security as farmers are affected by low productivity and workers by job insecurity

 **Initiative: Enhance economic resilience of households within target communities**

To increase knowledge and skills of households in livestock rearing, training on farming practices is conducted. There are initiatives to diversify income generation opportunities for poor households. Solidarity groups for small business owners in trades such as sewing, baking, agriculture with green houses, dairy produce are also established and supported. Equipment and tools are provided to strengthen businesses, and groups undergo training in finance, ethics and teamwork. Some families are given goats and cows so that the dairy products like yoghurt can generate income. Savings groups are established and houses are constructed for homeless families. Youths are provided with vocational skills to facilitate employment. The graduation approach implemented means a carefully sequenced combination of consumption support, financial services for saving and credit, livelihood planning, skill trainings, asset transfer and regular coaching and monitoring. Through the approach, the parents are working with group, saving money at least twice a month, earning income and partnering. Also the children are protected, well nourished, developing and participating.

Challenge: Poor household resilience as herders are affected by frequent natural disasters

 **Initiative: Enhance disaster mitigation and disaster response at the community level**

World Vision conducts disaster preparedness training for the community, covering issues like food management and emergency procedures. Simulations are conducted and emergency assistance is provided to affected families. Schools are enabled to create a safe and child-friendly environment with emergency supplies in place. This means that children from junior rescue clubs are also trained in first aid to deal with burns and falls in the family.

“I am happy joined in junior rescue club. My capacity for first aid and disaster preparedness were increased. One time, I helped to first aid for man who broken her arm. First aid skill was useful for everyone. In addition, I learnt to manage group through the club activity” (Nyamkhuu.T, Group leader of Junior rescue club, 4th school, Arvaikheer)



Initiative: Improve hygiene practices and increase access to potable water and sanitation facilities

World Vision supports initiatives to create a childfriendly learning environment, including the provision of stationery, and providing capacity building training for teachers. Scholarship programmes are in place to support the tuition fees of needy children. Summer programmes are conducted to build life skills, effective and positive relationships. The scholarship youths also act as rolemodels to the younger children who would realise the importance of education and fulfilling their potential.

Challenge: Poor sanitation conditions and lack of clean water, compounded by indiscriminate disposal of waste in public areas



Before – Pit Latrines in the Wilderness

Training on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is conducted in schools. Sanitation facilities in schools are improved by constructing toilets and hand washing units, and by connecting toilets to water and sewage systems. Community education campaigns are organised to raise awareness about WASH issues, and households and clinics are equipped to improve hygiene facilities. Water tanks and toilets are also constructed.



After – Real Toilets in the School: No more shivering and queuing in the bitter cold

Through all these interventions, World Vision is transforming the lives of children in Uvurkhangai, making a change today as well as giving them hope for the future!

How You Can Help

Sponsor a child in Uvurkhangai or give towards a **Gift Catalogue** item, which benefits the community!

Thank you for your heart for the poor, and for making a difference in the lives of children and families in Mongolia.