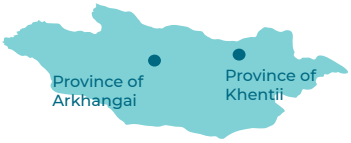
WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVE SYSTEM

MONGOLIA

EN-GENDERING RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN MONGOLIA



40 % of animal husbandry labour force are women.

75 % of vegetable farmers are women.

BENEFICIARIES

- 1700 households
- 30 herders and farmers CSOs and cooperatives, producers or service providers, women activist NGOs, informal groups, local NGOs
- National and Local authorities of 6 soums* and 2 provincial capitals
- Indirect beneficiaries: 50,000 people, including 50% women, from targeted areas

* Sub-division of a province.

CONTEXT

Rural areas of Mongolia, a country with an extreme continental climate, face social and environmental challenges exacerbated by climate change, such as overgrazing and rangeland degradation, desertification, and difficulties to locally produce vegetables, generating nutritional deficiencies affecting in particular children and women.

Khentii and Arkhangai provinces have a rural population of 140,000 people, 80% of whom derive their livelihood from the agricultural sector that is to a large extent underdeveloped. In transition towards a free market, herders and small-scale Mongolian farmers have difficulties to adjust their productive systems to create value, preserve their natural resources and altogether secure their livelihoods and resilience to climate change.

Within this patriarchal agro-pastoral rurality, women's place and role remain fragile and lacks mainstreaming and mentoring schemes. Women suffer from limited access to natural resources, financial services, and property. They are mainly involved in informal and unpaid family work schemes and household tasks, and are not involved in community and collective decision-making. Like other members of the population, women are concerned by issues of transition and resilience, and wish to participate in sustainable local development.

OBJECTIVES AND SOLUTIONS

To meet these challenges, and based on their field experience, the MONES, Geres and AVSF consortium is working for an inclusive and sustainable rural economic development following two major levers:

- Support agricultural activities with high added value: sustainable cashmere and local vegetable production, through the dissemination of energy-efficient and environmentally friendly solutions, and promotion of sustainable natural resources management and production practices.
- Empower women as key drivers of change in local development by promoting their role to work on par with men and local authorities in their productive activities and in the policy making process in Mongolia. In turn, including men into strong advocates and supporters of women's role in rural economic development.

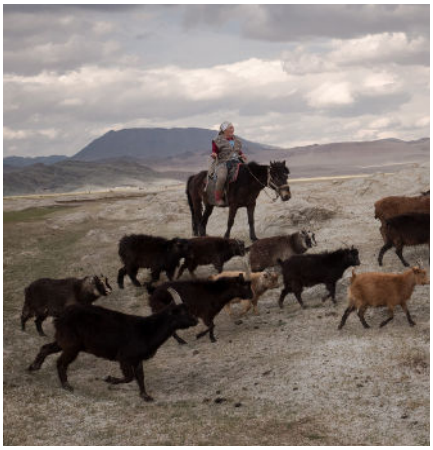
MONES

AVSF AGRONOMES & VÉTÉRINAIRES SANS FRONTIÈRES
VSF INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

geres ACTING FOR CLIMATE SOLIDARITY

ACTION PLAN 2019 - 2022

- **Support high potential agriculture value chains and women's empowerment:** training of trainers, up-scaling dissemination of sustainable and energy-efficient solutions, strengthening of producers, technical and financial assistance...
- **Strengthen women's groups in their role in IGA *, rural cooperatives, and household financial management:** study on women's participation, needs and constraints in their activities, capacity building...
- **Empower women in their dialogue capacities with local and national authorities:** creation and animation of a network of women leaders, gender equality training for CSOs ** and local authorities, development and promotion of a women's herders and farmers Council...
- **Promote inclusive economic development through an advocacy campaign towards national decision-makers:** review and monitor the implementation of existing regulations, disseminate recommendations to the relevant authorities, set up a platform of women champions, and carry out advocacy events.



EXPECTED RESULTS AND IMPACTS

Socio-economic impacts

- Improvement in household's income, livelihoods and quality of life
- Development of innovative and local economic activities
- Women Empowerment and increased involvement in financial management
- Recognition of women's role and place in their productive systems, decision-making processes and resources management
- Influence rural development policies towards gender equity and economic justice

Environmental and health impacts

- Development of sustainable value chains (organic vegetables and sustainable cashmere)
- Reducing overgrazing through participatory management of pastoral resources and a shift towards sustainable herding practices rewarded by a premium
- Increase and diversification of organic and locally produced vegetables and enrichment of local population's diet
- Diffusion of energy-efficient solutions for production and storage of vegetables

CONSORTIUM OF DEVELOPMENT ACTORS

- **Geres** has been supporting since 2010 the development of the organic vegetable sector, relying on energy-efficient solutions such as passive solar greenhouses and bioclimatic cellars.
- **AVSF** has been supporting Mongolian herders to develop and take ownership of sustainable fibers value chains since 2010.
- **MONES** - Mongolian Women's Fund is a Mongolian organization, which promotes and supports women's empowerment.

** Income Generating Activities
*** Civil Society Organisation

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