

STEPPE AND HOOF NGO



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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| ABOUT US

Steppe and Hoof is a non-governmental organization (NGO), founded in 2018 by initiation of founder Mrs. Shatarchuluun Galbadrakh, to help Mongolian herders preserve the nomadic lifestyle while offering crucial services to herders.

Our two main programs are veterinary services and medical assistance which address vital needs of herders in remote areas, and it's wonderful that these services are provided free of charge, with the support of our donors and sponsors.

We organize veterinary outreach programs that bring together international and Mongolian veterinarians to conduct livestock checkups and offer essential treatments directly at herders' pastures. In addition to delivering necessary veterinary medicine packages, we educate herders on modern veterinary practices through hands-on training, ensuring sustainable animal care and improved livestock health.

Organizing onsite medical checkups with advanced medical equipment like sonography and electrocardiograms brings healthcare directly to the remote herder communities that would otherwise struggle to access such services. In the framework of the health outreach programs, we provide improvised First Aid and Trauma Training for herders, empowering them with practical skills to respond to emergencies in the field. The addition of first aid kits for herder families is a thoughtful and practical step in ensuring they are equipped to handle such medical situations.

MISSION

Steppe and Hoof NGO is dedicated to providing veterinary care and medical assistance to Mongolian herders in rural areas, helping to sustain their traditional nomadic way of life. Through advanced training, comprehensive veterinary care, and livestock examinations, we equip herders with the knowledge and resources needed to ensure the well-being of their animals. Furthermore, we supply essential medical and first aid kits, fostering long-term healthcare of herders and resilience within herding communities.



2024 REVIEW

With the help of the ongoing contributions and invaluable support from our donors and the Mongol Derby Rider Fundraising campaign, we successfully reached herders in 39 remote bags (villages/(smallest territorial unit in Mongolia) across 11 soums (towns/sub-provincial territorial unit in Mongolia) in five provinces—Tuv, Uvurkhangai, Bulgan, Arkhangai, and Dundgobi—throughout 2024, primarily on a monthly basis.

A total of 436 herder families (1,241 herders) participated in our veterinary and medical programs. Medical First Responder training reached 297 herders and 153 veterinary students. Additionally, 173 first aid kits and handouts in Mongolian were distributed to herder families.

Our 2024 initiative was structured into two main programs: veterinary services and medical assistance, both provided free of charge, made possible by the generous support of Steppe and Hoof NGO donors.

In terms of medical assistance, we provided onsite medical checkups with professional doctors using advanced equipment like sonography and electrocardiograms. Additionally, we conducted hands-on Medical First Responder training, equipping herders with emergency skills. Each herder family received a first aid kit and comprehensive handouts in Mongolian for ongoing guidance.

Our veterinary outreach programs, led by international and Mongolian veterinarians, provided livestock checkups and medical treatments directly in herders' pastures. Additionally, we offered updated veterinary training and distributed essential veterinary medicine packages under professional supervision, ensuring long-term livestock health and sustainable care.

Winter Veterinary Outreach Program

January, February 2024

The winter of 2024 proved to be exceptionally harsh, beginning with the first snowfall in late November 2023. It became one of the most challenging winters on record, resulting in the loss of 9.4 million livestock and leaving over 800 herder families completely without animals. This unprecedented disaster severely impacted livelihoods, threatening the traditional nomadic way of life for many ways.

In Arkhangai province, where northern Soums suffered immensely, herders struggled under the relentless burden of Dzud, a severe winter disaster.

Despite the extreme conditions, our veterinary outreach program remained active during the coldest months of winter, January and February of 2024, covering 14 bags across four Soums in Arkhangai province:

- Erdenemandal Soum – 5 bags
- Khairkhan Soum – 2 bags
- Ulziit Soum – 2 bags
- Ugii Nuur Soum – 5 bags

Throughout our outreach efforts, we assisted 160 herder families, providing them with essential veterinary medicine packages along with professional guidance and livestock check-ups and treatment conducted by our head veterinarian E. Munkhbat.

Harsh Conditions and Challenges

Traveling through the province was extremely difficult, with snow depths ranging from 35 to 86 cm, often with an icy layer underneath. Morning temperatures plummeted to -29 to -31°C, afternoons remained at -21 to -23°C, and nighttime temperatures dropped even further to -32 to -43°C. The 2,300-kilometer journey was grueling, with frequent incidents of vehicles getting stuck in the snow, requiring rescue efforts to pull out both our team's and herders' vehicles.

Livestock faced dire conditions—confined to fenced areas, suffering from extreme cold, malnutrition, and a complete lack of grazeable grass. Many animals struggled to move even 10 meters due to exhaustion and starvation.

Veterinary Assistance and Treatment

Due to the thick snow cover, many livestock suffered from open hoof wounds, lacerations, and malnutrition. Our veterinarians treated animals with essential medications, including antiseptics, wound sprays, IV fluids, and multivitamins. However, sub-zero temperatures made injectable treatments nearly impossible, forcing our vets to find alternative oral treatment solutions.

Outcome

Through our dedicated efforts, we were able to support over 160 herder families, impacting approximately 617 people. In the face of such unbearable hardship, our program provided not just medical aid, but also hope and care for the struggling herding communities.

Winter Veterinary Outreach Program

January, February 2024



Winter Veterinary Outreach Program

January, February 2024



Winter Veterinary Outreach Program

January, February 2024



Medical First Responder Training for Internship Vet Students March 2024

The Medical First Responder Training was successfully organized for senior-year veterinary students at the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Agricultural and Life Sciences of Mongolia. Additionally, some internship students from this course actively participated as volunteers in our Spring Veterinary Outreach Program in April 2024.

The training was conducted by paramedics from the Civil-Military Support Element (CMSE) of the U.S. Embassy in Mongolia. The course focused on equipping veterinary students with essential medical inquiry skills and emergency response techniques to assist both themselves and others in critical situations while they work with herders out in the steppe. A key highlight of the training was the hands-on practicum and real-time guidance provided by experienced paramedics.

Upon completion of the course, each student received a certificate of participation, recognizing their achievement and preparedness in medical emergency response.



Medical First Responder Training for Internship Vet Students March 2024



Spring Outreach Program

April 2024

The calving season posed immense challenges for herders in the spring 2024, especially following the devastating Dzud of winter. With harsh weather conditions, sudden snowstorms, and extreme temperature fluctuations, newborn livestock faced a high risk of mortality. Additionally, herders struggled with limited food supplies for both their animals and the vulnerable newborns. During the outreach, our team traveled up to 158 km each day to reach herders in their spring pastures, while some families remained in winter pastures, following water sources and seeking warmth amid strong storms.

To support herders during this critical period, the Spring Outreach Program focused on two key areas:

1. Veterinary Service Assistance and Calving Assistance
2. Medical First Responder Training and First Aid Kit Delivery

Program Impact

- Reached five bags in Tsenkher Soum, Arkhangai Province
- Contributed manpower in husbandry and receiving newborns to 12 herder families for 10 days thanks to our volunteer vet students
- Assisted 58 herder families, supporting over 5,300 livestock including special treatment, vaccination and deworming.
- Provided Medical First Responder training to 123 herders
- Delivered first aid kits to 50 herder families
- Delivered packed veterinary medicines and animal supplements to 50 families.
- First aid kits delivered to 50 herder families

Spring Outreach Program

April 2024

Veterinary Service Assistance & Calving Assistance

Our team, led by veterinarian D. Ochirbat, provided veterinary services and livestock checkups to animals in need of treatment and professional care. In addition to delivering hands-on veterinary support, we educated herders on modern veterinary practices and the proper use of medicine, ensuring long-term improvements in livestock health. Furthermore, our veterinary internship students from the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Agricultural and Life Sciences of Mongolia assisted herders with calving support, easing their workload during this critical season.

The spring is the busiest time of the year for herders. 10 senior veterinary students stayed with 10 different herder families, actively helping with animal husbandry and assisting in the birth of newborns. Meanwhile, Dr. D. Ochirbat provided essential veterinary services and treatments.

Overall, our head vet treated 58 livestock (cattle, horses, sheep, and goats) for 58 families, administered Selenium and Vitamin E shots to 800 newborn lambs and kids to prevent white muscle disease (Tocopherol Deficiency), and delivered necessary veterinary medicine and animal supplement packages paired with instruction and proper usage training to 50 herder families.

Through this initiative, we not only delivered life-saving treatments but also empowered herders with the knowledge and support needed to ensure the well-being of their livestock during the challenging calving season.

Spring Outreach Program

April 2024



Spring Outreach Program

April 2024

Medical First Responder Training & First Aid Kit Delivery

The paramedic team from the Civil-Military Support Element (CMSE) of the U.S. Embassy in Mongolia played a crucial role in supporting our Medical First Responder Training as part of the Spring Outreach Program.

We successfully trained over 180 herders across five different bags in Tsenkher Soum, Arkhangai Province. To maximize participation, we traveled from one bag to another and visited herders' pastures, ultimately reaching 50 herder families with first aid kit's donation respectively after conducting practical training and educating them. The total of 123 herders took part in the training.

The training covered essential emergency care topics, including wound treatment and management, how to identify veins and control bleeding from open wounds, and proper use of bandages and dressing techniques

This training equipped herders with critical first aid skills, enabling them to respond effectively to medical emergencies in their remote environments.

Spring Outreach Program

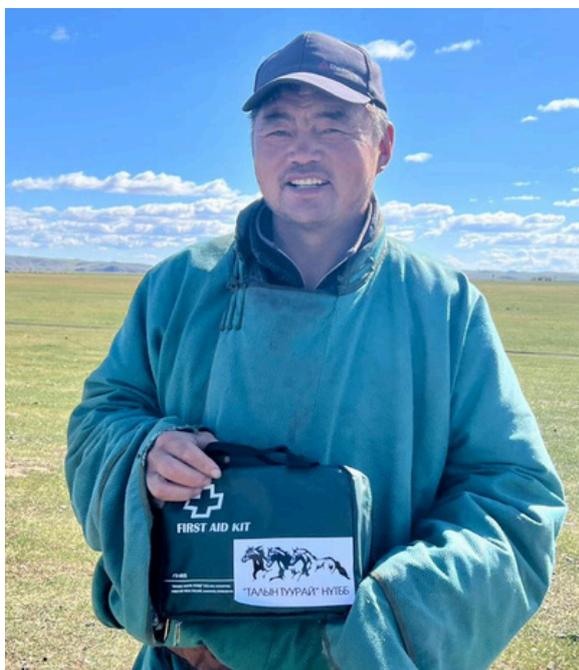
April 2024



First Aid Kit Delivery Program

May & June 2024

Aligned with our goal of educating herders in medical first response and equipping them with essential first aid resources, we reached out to herder families in their spring pastures. During our visits, we delivered First Aid Kits along with Mongolian-language handouts, ensuring they had both the knowledge and tools needed to handle medical emergencies effectively. Thus, we reached 38 families in Tuv and Bulgan Provinces.



Summer Veterinary Outreach Program

July 2024

This year, our team, led by Mr. Don Crosby, an Australian veterinarian with 37 years of experience, traveled to Mandalgobi Soum, Dundgobi Province, to conduct an outreach program focused on veterinary services, consultations, and training for local herders and veterinarians.

As part of the program, our veterinarian Don Crosby delivered a lecture on colic and lameness diagnosis and treatment to a group of local veterinarians. The session, conducted in a classroom setting, included a practical component under the theme of "Equine Colic and Lameness." The training covered advanced diagnosis and examination of equine gastrointestinal colic and horse lameness, treatment protocols for common conditions, and equine nerve blocks for pain management and diagnostic purposes.

We also visited over 25 herder families, delivering veterinary care and medications donated by Randlab Australia. Our vet treated a range of conditions, including upper respiratory infections, cuts and abrasions, post-colic recovery cases, suspensory ligament injuries and joint effusions, and shin splints and related orthopedic issues. Additionally, he dispensed medications and provided expert guidance on managing tendon injuries. More complex cases included of a paralyzed goat, and a foal with a fractured tibia, which was successfully treated.

Summer Veterinary Outreach Program

July 2024



First Responders Training

October 2024

The Medical First Responder Training was successfully organized for sophomore year veterinary students at the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Agricultural and Life Sciences of Mongolia to empower their education and first response capability in emergency cases out in the steppe.

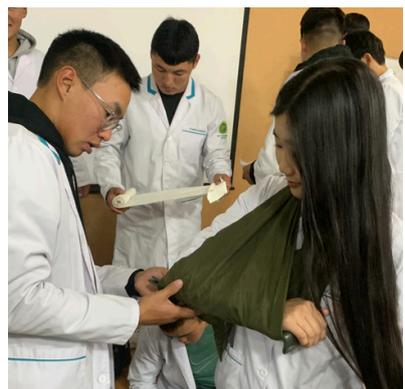
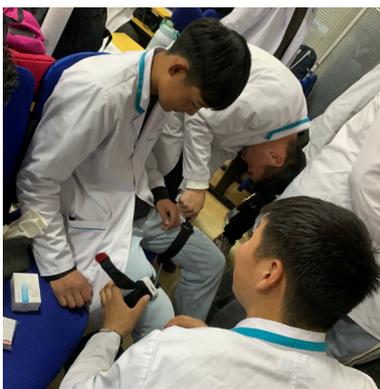
The training was conducted by paramedics from the Civil-Military Support Element (CMSE) of the U.S. Embassy in Mongolia. The course focused on to empower veterinary students with fundamental and essential medical inquiry skills and emergency response techniques to assist both themselves and others in critical situations in the countryside or further.

Upon completion of the training, each attendee received a certificate of participation, recognizing their achievement and preparedness in medical emergency response.



First Responders Training

October 2024



Autumn Medical Outreach Program November & December 2024

As part of the Autumn Project for herders, we visited herder families in their winter grazing areas and conducted preliminary medical checkups and Medical First Responder training at remote Bag centers. Additionally, we distributed First Aid Kits to support their healthcare needs paired with the training. Our efforts focused on Uvurkhangai and Bulgan Provinces.

During the medical checkups, we utilized endoscopic ultrasound and EKG equipment to conduct initial assessments, including sonography and electrocardiograms, for 158 herders from 129 families. Sonographer E. Khishigjargal and EKG technician L. Altantuya worked diligently, offering professional advice on health conditions and recommended treatments, while paramedic Sashane J.O provided medical screenings. In some cases, our physicians demonstrated exercises for relieving back pain and muscle cramps. Many herders were found to have high blood pressure (above 140), and they were advised to take this condition seriously by starting medication and adjusting their diet.

Over 158 herders participated in Medical First Responders training at two different Bag centers in Burd Soum, Uvurkhangai Province. Paramedic Sashane J.O, along with his team of four, conducted effective training sessions that combined presentations with practical exercises.

We distributed First Aid Kits and handbooks to 68 herder families. Additionally, we taught herders how to improvise first aid using available materials, as carrying kits daily in remote grazing areas can be challenging. Overall, providing medical training and First Aid Kits to herder families in remote areas has greatly improved their ability to handle medical emergencies.

Autumn Medical Outreach Program November & December 2024



Sonographer Dr. E. Khishigjargal performed ultrasound examinations, scanned and analyzed the images, and provided medical guidance to the herders. The ultrasound results were documented on official medical forms.



Physician and cardiologist L. Altantuya conducted EKG examinations for the herders, provided medical advice based on their conditions while paramedic Sashane J.O provided medical screenings including blood pressure monitoring, offering appropriate consultations.



Autumn Medical Outreach Program November & December 2024

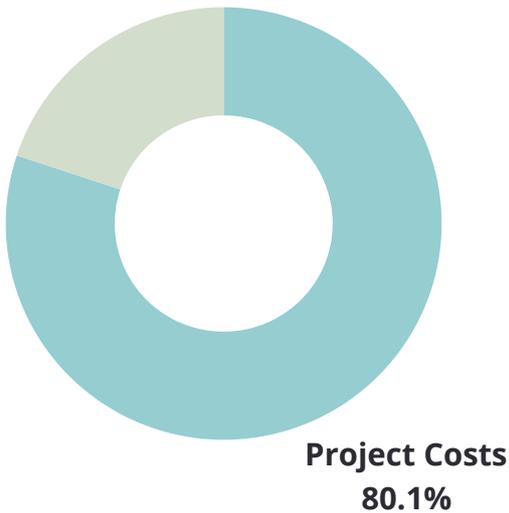


Autumn Medical Outreach Program November & December 2024



Financial Review

Administrative Costs
19.9%



Given here are the two figures of indicate the project cost and administrative cost respectively.

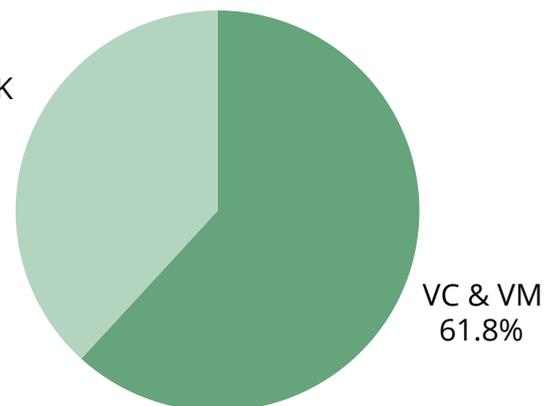
In 2024, administrative expenses totaled 18,997,427 MNT, comprising 19.9% of the overall budget. These expenses encompassed financial services, stationery, and administrative related cost and taxes.

In 2024, project costs accounted for 80.1% of total expenses, amounting to 76,429,831 MNT.

Medical checkups constituted 38.2% of project costs (24,444,000 MNT), covering diagnostic equipment rentals, doctors' payroll, first aid kits, paramedic training fees, and transportation.

Veterinary services represented the majority at 61.8% (39,528,404 MNT), covering veterinarian payroll, medical supplies, and transportation costs.

MC & FAK
38.2%



- **MC & FAK** - Medical Checkup, First Aid Kits, Training
- **VC & VM** - Veterinary Service & Medicine

CONCLUSION

Throughout 2024, veterinary training programs educated herders on disease identification, parasite prevention, and proper herd management. Our team provided guidance on animal medications, which herders found invaluable for daily livestock care. With distributed medicines and supplies, herders learned to treat animals promptly, reducing reliance on veterinarians.

During our summer outreach, we provided critical veterinary medications and hosted exclusive training for local vets, led by Australian veterinarian Don Crosby, for the second year. Herders received essential treatments, including horse wormers, antibiotics, anti-inflammatories, and corticosteroids for joint and tendon injections. This initiative significantly improved livestock health and strengthened veterinary expertise in the region.

This year, medical services for herders improved with advanced diagnostic tools, including EKG machines and medical screenings. Checkups using sonography and EKGs provided precise health insights, with documented records for follow-up care. This streamlined medical processes, saving time and improving efficiency. Some herders discovered conditions like prostate inflammation and pancreatitis, requiring further treatment. Additionally, doctors taught essential exercises for nerve health and back pain relief, promoting overall well-being.

As part of our first responder training initiative, we launched ongoing courses for veterinary students, equipping them with essential emergency response skills to assist herders in the field. By educating herders on first aid and trauma response and providing them with First Aid Kits and essential medical supplies, we empowered them to act in critical situations until professional medical assistance arrived. The practical, hands-on training conducted in collaboration with Steppe and Hoof NGO was particularly impactful, as herders learned not only how to use First Aid Kits properly but also how to respond effectively in emergencies, potentially saving lives within their communities.

HEARTFELT GRATITUDE FROM STEPPE AND HOOF NGO

Steppe and Hoof NGO sincerely thanks our individual donors for making our projects possible, allowing us to provide medical and veterinary services, first aid kits, and essential medications to remote herders.

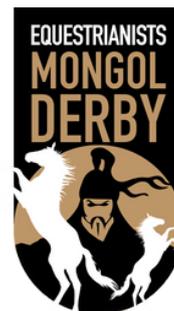
Special thanks to The Equestrianists for sponsoring us and encouraging Mongol Derby Riders to launch a fundraising campaign. We deeply appreciate the riders' efforts in supporting Mongolian herders—every contribution was unique and meaningful.

We are also grateful to Randlab Australia for supplying critical veterinary medications and to the Civil-Military Support Element of the U.S. Embassy for their ongoing support in First Responder training and medical services. Your collaboration has been invaluable.

A huge thanks to GlobalGiving and GivenGain for connecting us with donors who share our mission and trust in Steppe and Hoof as a reliable charity.

Lastly, our deepest gratitude to the volunteers, veterinarians, doctors, and paramedics who dedicated their time and skills to making our programs impactful.

By educating and contributing to herders and their communities, we remain committed to improving animal welfare and expanding veterinary and medical services across Mongolia's vast steppe. Your support ensures we can continue this vital work sustainably and effectively. Thank you!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Fundraising initiatives:

Arthur Dobell
Christine
Claire & Hannah
Corrina
Cortney Kangas
Elizabeth Bailey
Gus, Charlie & Hubert
Kelly Dudley
Pippa Henderson
Sam Jones
Tom Kompier

Sponsor organizations:

The Equestrianists
CMSE Mongolia
Randlab Australia
Agrimatco Mongolia
Lingors

Program volunteers:

Don Crosby
Enkhzul Khurelbaatar
Ergekhe-Ayalguu. M
Munkhbat Erdenetsogt
Munkhdelger Dashdorj
Sumiya Dulamtsoo
Temujin Jargalsaikhan

Individual donations:

Adrianus N. Leeflang	Frank Reemer	Lois Courtney
Alex Mckellar	Gavin Mallon	Marise
Alyssa Yell	Gijs Kruikemeier	Martha Helena R.W
Andrew Crang	Godfrey Morgan	Michael Wilson
Ann Thestrup	Grey Godsal	Mohsin H Raza
Anna Dunne	Heidi Emery	Natasha Robinson
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B Feeders	Hetty Ohlen	Nick van Wouwen
Bas Van Den Heuvel	Høgni S. Jóanesarson	Nikita Daley
Bianca Farmas Griffith	Holly Anthony	Nomin Amgalan
Bregje Sijpesteijn	J. Pennings	Pascal Sparidans
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Ellen Aalten	Maria Josefina Geisse	Tracy Martin
Elles	Mariaan Hattingh	William Shannon Fu
Emily Everson	Marie J Sutton	
Family Jongbloet	Mia Karlsson-Matthews	

Contact Us



+976 95859121



steppeandhoof@gmail.com



www.steppeandhoof.org



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