



**INTERIM REPORT ----- March to June 2019**

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*Improvement of housing conditions for families and children with disabilities*

*Access to sanitation and hygiene*

*Construction of pilot houses*

*Insulation of houses and yurts*

*Accessibility of housing*

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Written on 05/15/2020

**In partnership with :**

PTA - Parents Teachers Association

MNFB - Mongolian National Federation of the Blind

HLO - Healthy Life Organization

MONES - Mongolian Women's Funds

## I. ADMINISTRATIVE PART

### I.1. General informations

<b>Name of the NGO</b>	PADEM (Aid and Development Programs for Children of the World)
<b>Name of the project manager</b>	Magali Getrey, Founder and Managing Director
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<b>Local partners</b>	PTA (Parents Teachers Association), MNFB (Mongolian National Federation of the Blind), HLO (Healthy Life Organization), MONES (Mongolian Women's Funds)
<b>Project dates and locations</b>	<p>The project takes place in Mongolia. The project of the PTA association is located in Bayankhangai, in the province of Tuv. MNFB, HLO and MONES projects are located in the capital, Ulan Bator.</p> <p>The program runs from April 1, 2018 to October 31, 2019.</p>
<b>Total amount of the Abbé Pierre Foundation grant</b>	€ 200,000
<b>Total budget</b>	€ 244,655



### I.2. ACRONYMS

- **PADEM:** Aid Program For Children Of The World
- **HLO:** Healthy Life organization
- **MNFB:** Mongolian National Federation of the Blind
- **MONES :** Mongolian Women's Fund.
- **PTA:** Parent-teacher association

### I.3. Project: Reminder of the context and objectives

### **I.3.1. Context reminder**

The serious difficulties experienced by the countryside in recent years (droughts and extreme cold) have pushed large numbers of peasants to the cities, mainly to and around the capital, Ulaanbaatar, which is estimated to number around 1.4 million people, or half of the country's total population. This strong migration of nomadic populations towards the capital or the big cities has led to the formation of slums called “Gers Districts”, or yurt districts in French.

The residential plots on which the yurts are installed, called “Hashaa”, do not benefit from an appropriate sanitation system, and the charcoal and wood heating method in the yurts is the main cause of pollution in winter (1 winter lasts 8 months in Mongolia, with extremes of negative temperatures down to minus 50 °). According to the WHO, this phenomenon of concentration makes Ulaanbaatar the most polluted city in the world from September to April, with a rate of carbon particles up to 300 times the maximum standard. Yurts, originally used in rural areas and in the steppes, are usually considered environmentally friendly, but when you find yourself in an area made up only of this type of habitat,

Since 2007, the Mongolian government has made undeniable efforts to build the necessary housing in the big cities and eliminate the yurt quarters. He launched major urbanization plans. Nevertheless, some companies responsible for these achievements, enriching themselves at the expense of the State, have speculated or multiplied the defects: thus, several buildings collapsed before being delivered or the very day of their inauguration. The yurt quarters therefore continue to invade the surroundings of large towns, mining and border regions.

Between 2000 and 2008, the reform of the public sector, administered with the help of international organizations, led to a decrease in social assistance and increased poverty. Today, nearly 30% of the population lives below the poverty line. Poverty has dramatic consequences for the youngest. Among the 10,000 children registered on medical registers, about half are suffering from chronic diseases, most often due to vitamin D deficiency, anemia or iodine deficiency. Official or illegal, child labor is also a problem. In rural areas, the children of pastoralists help their parents or work in the mines. In town, children work in industry and commerce.



*Pollution in the yurt quarters of Ulan Bator (Source: time.com)*

### **I.3.2. Reminder of project objectives**

Overall objective of the project: The living conditions of the most vulnerable populations in Mongolia are improved by improving their living conditions.

#### **I.3.2.1. Access to sanitation and hygiene in a rural school and boarding school, Bayankhangai, Mongolia (PTA)**

Specific objective: 220 children attending school and boarding school in Bayankhangai improve their hygiene practices at the end of the project.

**Results 1:** Child-friendly sanitary facilities as well as an environmentally friendly sanitation system have been built.

- R1.1. Sanitary rooms are built
- R1.2. A sanitation system is built

**Results 2:** Hygiene and health are improved through training in good practices.

- R2.1. Training is organized for teachers.
- R2.2. Training is organized for parents of pupils.
- R2.3. Trainings are organized for students

**Results 3:** The model of child-friendly toilets and the improvement of sanitary conditions in rural schools are promoted at local and national level.

- R3.1. An exchange visit to the Bayankhangai school is organized for directors and members of the management of schools in the province
- R3.2. Communication tools are developed on the project and on the model of child-friendly toilets and published in the media

**Allocated budget :** € 65,284 (including € 21,129 by the Abbé Pierre Foundation and € 44,155 by the co-funders)

### **I.3.2.2. Improvement of housing conditions for 42 blind or visually impaired people (MNFB)**

Specific objective: The living conditions of 42 blind or visually impaired people living in Ulan Bator are improved.

**Results 1:** 42 blind people and their families sharing an apartment gain autonomy and comfort thanks to the construction of bathrooms and kitchens

- R1.1. 21 bathrooms are built in the building for blind people in Ulaanbaatar
- R1.2. 21 kitchens are set up in the building reserved for blind people in Ulan Bator

**Allocated budget :** € 40,060

### **I.3.2.3. Improvement of housing conditions for 10 disabled people (HLO)**

Specific objective: The living conditions of 10 disabled people living in Ulan Bator are improved.

**Results 1:** Ten disabled people living in a neighborhood of yurts see their quality of life increased thanks to the improvement of their habitat and better health and psychological support

- R1.1. The beneficiaries are selected by a committee created for the project and following transparent methods
- R1.2. Specific needs are assessed and an action plan is proposed to families integrating home improvement and training
- R1.3. The houses are renovated by a company or a craftsman, with the help of the team of HLO volunteers and the beneficiary families
- R1.4. People with disabilities and their families benefit from physical, psychological and essential skills training according to their specific needs and by investing in social workers and family doctors
- R1.5. Beneficiaries are put in touch with the various competent institutions according to their specific needs

**Allocated budget : € 22,675**

**I.3.2.4. Improvement of the housing conditions of vulnerable women in the yurt district of the Chingeltei district and test of the construction of houses for three of these families (MONES)**

Specific objective: The living conditions of the families of 9 mothers of disabled children, or 45 people, have been improved in the yurt district of Chingeltei in Ulan Bator.

**Results 1:** Three pilot houses have been built to sustainably improve the social conditions of 15 people, including three disabled children and their mother.

- R1.1. Three families are selected in Chingeltei district to benefit from the construction of a house
- R1.2. The builder is selected by a competent committee and through transparent methods
- R1.3. The houses and the latrines are built according to the minimum standards and integrating ecological methods

**Results 2:** Six yurts are isolated in order to offer better living conditions to 6 families, one of whose children is disabled

- R2.1. Six families are selected in the district of Chingeltei to benefit from the improvement of their yurt.
- R2.2. A hall is built at the entrance of the yurt to serve as insulation.
- R2.3. Insulating blankets are provided to families to protect their yurts and reduce the use of heating coal
- R2.4. Six latrines are built according to the standard model of the Ministry of Health

**Allocated budget : € 44,550**

## II. ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHANGES MADE

### **II. 1. Description of activities carried out.**

#### **II.1.2 Access to sanitation and hygiene in a school and boarding school in rural areas, Bayankhangai, Mongolia (PTA)**

**Results 1:** Child-friendly sanitary facilities as well as an environmentally friendly sanitation system have been built.

##### R1.1. Sanitary rooms are built

Activity budget: XX Expenses on date: XX

% of activity completion

As part of its participatory approach, the PTA team led a meeting including various stakeholders (school staff, children, parents and local authorities) with the aim of presenting the project. A second working meeting made it possible to develop the infrastructures to be built, while considering the model of “Child-friendly toilets” previously set up by the association.

The following infrastructure has been built in the school:

- Boys' sanitary facilities: 2 urinals, 3 toilets and 3 sinks (including 1 of each suitable for children under 10), 1 sanitary tub for maintenance staff.
- Girls' sanitary facilities: 3 toilets and 3 sinks (including 1 each suitable for children under 10), 1 sanitary bin and storage space for maintenance staff.
- Sanitary facilities for people with reduced mobility (2m x 2m): 1 toilet, 1 sink and handles, all adapted to the reduced mobility of adults and children.
- Sanitary facilities for staff: 1 toilet and 1 sink.

The following infrastructure has been built in the dormitory:

- Boys sanitary facilities: 2 toilets and 1 toilet suitable for children under 10 years old, 1 sink and 1 sanitary basin for maintenance staff.
- Girls' sanitary facilities: idem.
- Boys' bathroom: 2 showers, 1 sink and 1 bench.
- Girls' bathroom: 4 showers, 2 sinks, 2 benches and a place for the washing machine.

All sinks and showers are supplied with hot water by water heaters. PTA worked with the school administration on the management of costs incurred by electricity consumption. Given the lack of comfort in these rooms, some heaters and windows have been replaced and all the finishing touches have been carried out (easy-to-maintain materials such as tiling).

The association is now planning to install hand basins (for children and for staff) as well as a toilet in the school dining hall and kitchen.



*New boys' toilets at Bayankhangai school*

### R1.2. A sanitation system is built

In collaboration with the University of Science and Technology of Ulan Bator, the association set up during the summer of 2018 an environmentally friendly sanitation system. Following the principle of a septic tank, this system consists of 3 underground tanks with a capacity of around fifteen cubic meters linked together, thus allowing the treatment of wastewater (toilets, bathrooms and kitchens for the whole of school). The treated water is released into the environment through a drain. A ventilation process ensures the proper development of bacteria and prevents bad odors. This process makes it possible to avoid soil pollution and does not involve any maintenance cost, unlike the wastewater collection systems usually used for this type of school.

For the construction of the pipes, with the agreement of the engineer and the technical coordinator of PADEM, the company rehabilitated and reused the existing pipes dating from the Soviet era. These good quality, unblocked pipes are located at a distance of 2 meters below ground level, thus allowing them to operate in winter (below freezing ground level).

For all of this work (R1.1 and R1.2), site visits were organized regularly, involving in particular the technical coordinator of PADEM and the local contacts (school staff and local authorities).

**Results 2:** Hygiene and health are improved through training in good practices.

### R2.1. Training is organized for teachers



In order to increase hygiene education and ensure the sustainability of the project, PTA conducted training for school staff, including the management team, teachers, janitor, cleaning staff, doctor and responsible for the dormitory, to present and raise awareness of the infrastructures built and their proper functioning.

First, the participants were divided into 4 distinct groups and then visited 4 different sites (the external sewage system, the toilets at the school, the toilets and shower rooms in the dormitory as well as the storage room which maintains water tank and well pumps). During the training, the engineer of the construction company explained the operation of the various technical elements and provided advice to prevent the pipes from freezing in the cold season. School staff were very satisfied with the implementation of the project, especially in the new toilets for students and teachers. Second, teachers and dormitory staff have been trained to teach hygiene education to their students and parents. They developed, together with PTA, the training plan for parents and students. These trainings will be provided by the teachers themselves.

A total of 33 teachers and school or dormitory staff participated in the training.



*Preparation of the training plan for the children and parents of pupils of the school by the teachers themselves.*

## R2.2. Training is organized for parents of students

During this training, parents said they were very satisfied with the new toilets and shower rooms for their children. The project team briefly presented the project process, including how the project proposal was developed, funded and implemented. At the end of the training, PTA mobilized parents on certain arrangements such as the provision of soap, toilet paper and

cleaning materials in order to ensure the maintenance and management of the new facilities in collaboration with the staff of the school and students.

### R2.3. Trainings are organized for students

During these trainings, delivered by teachers and dormitory staff, students received basic hygiene education as well as instruction on the proper use of the new bathroom and toilet. After the training, the students made their own schedule to clean the toilets / showers by themselves with the advice of the teachers.

About 200 students and 180 parents were trained by teachers and dormitory staff.

**Results 3:** The model of child-friendly toilets and the improvement of sanitary conditions in rural schools are promoted at local and national level.

### R3.1. An exchange visit to the Bayankhangai school is organized for directors and members of the management of schools in the province

The infrastructure promotion visit took place on April 12, 2019. All the school directors and dormitory managers of the 27 soums in the province of Tuv were invited. PTA presented the principles of this type of installation, and more broadly all the methodology followed during the project: planning, involvement of stakeholders, support of the local community, integrated program of health education for teachers, parents and students. Local authorities as well as journalists have been informed of issues related to health and hygiene in schools so that adequate solutions can be found. Local authorities have thus benefited from key elements to improve the living conditions of students in schools in their district.

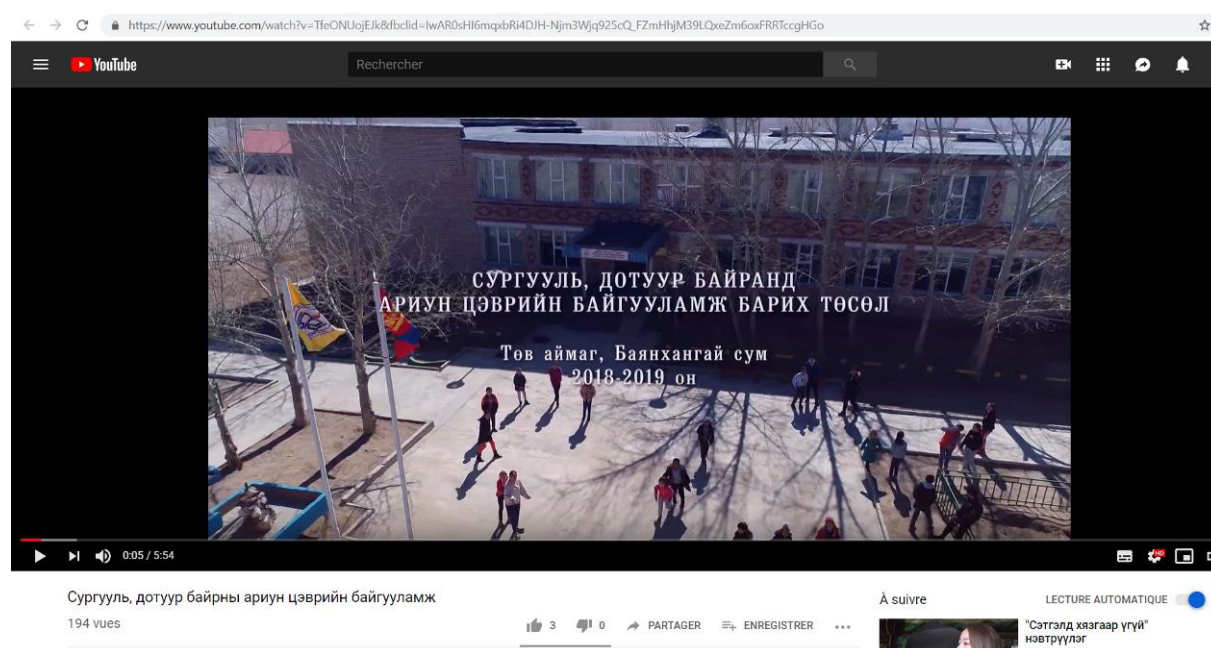
After the presentation, an exhaustive tour of the facilities was carried out. In view of the ease of maintenance of the installations, some school principals expressed the wish to carry out a similar installation within their school. PTA will provide them with the technical and financial elements for setting up this type of facility.

### R3.2. Communication tools are developed on the project and on the model of child-friendly toilets and published in the media

The journalists who took part in the exchange visit interviewed all the project stakeholders. The articles were notably published on the following media: ikon.mn and montsame.mn.

The provision of sanitation facilities is a drastic change in hygiene behavior for school children. Thus, PTA produced a video explaining the proper use of these sanitary facilities for teachers and children (flush draw, hand washing with soap, hand drying, etc.).

A video promoting the project was also produced and posted online by PTA. It presents the improvement of the hygienic conditions for the children of the school and the improvement of the teaching conditions from the point of view of the school staff.



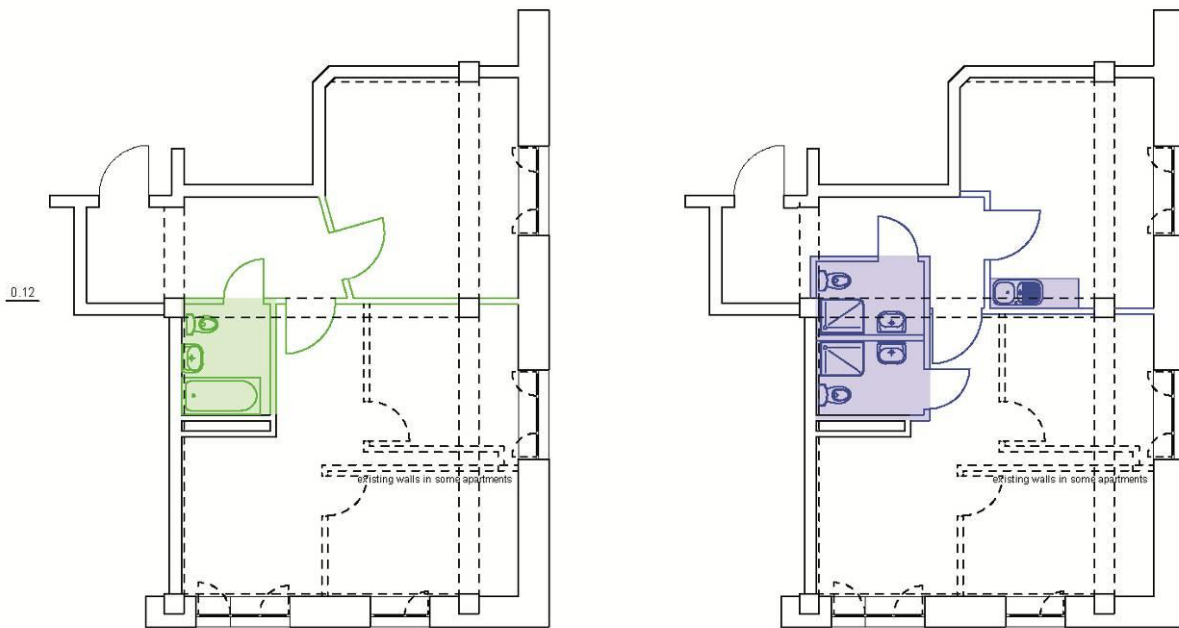
*Video of the promotion of the project on youtube.com*

### **II.1.3 Improvement of housing conditions for 42 blind or visually impaired people (MNFB)**

**Results 1:** 42 blind people and their families sharing an apartment gain autonomy and comfort thanks to the construction of bathrooms and kitchens

**R1.1. & R1.2. :** 21 bathrooms and 21 kitchens are built in the building reserved for blind people in Ulan Bator

During the summer of 2018, MNFB carried out a precise assessment of the needs of the inhabitants of the building regarding access to sanitary and kitchen facilities. Following this first survey, a model was produced for each of the 4 apartment configurations, allowing blind or visually impaired people to identify and understand the possible transformations of their housing and the changes inherent in the work.



*Plan for adding a bathroom in an apartment*



*Model accessible to blind or visually impaired people*

Once the needs assessment was consolidated, MNFB organized a call for tenders to designate the construction company that will carry out both the additional bathrooms and the fitting out of the kitchens. This company was selected on the basis of objective evaluation criteria by the selection committee made up of 5 members of MNFB and PADEM together.

The following works were carried out from the end of December 2018 to mid-March 2019:

- Layout of 13 kitchens
- Construction of 6 bathrooms

Periodic site monitoring made it possible to verify the proper conduct of the work and compliance with the functional requirements inherent to this fragile public (safety, accessibility, brightness, durability, easy maintenance, etc.). The beneficiaries of the installations are now

very satisfied with the work and the company's intervention method (respect for privacy, nuisance, work on an occupied site, etc.).

Given a positive balance following the completion of this work, MNFB plans to come back to the beneficiaries to inquire about additional needs. This balance would make it possible to fit out 2 kitchens or build 2 additional bathrooms for the inhabitants of the building.



*Illustration of the work carried out (new bathroom and fitted kitchen)*

#### **II.1.4 Improvement of housing conditions for 10 disabled people (HLO)**

**Results 1:** Ten disabled people living in a neighborhood of yurts see their quality of life increased thanks to the improvement of their habitat and better health and psychological support

R1.1. The beneficiaries are selected by a committee created for the project and following transparent methods

HLO linked up with local authorities to identify people registered as disabled for 3 neighborhoods in Bayanzurkh District. The members of the association visited most of these people and thus made an initial assessment of the needs (housing, physical and mental conditions). Depending on their district of residence, the 10 beneficiaries were then selected on objective criteria by a selection committee made up of 6 to 7 people: director of HLO, local governor and deputy governors of the district (Khoroo) and volunteer members. by HLO.

R1.2. Specific needs are assessed and an action plan is proposed to families integrating home improvement and training

A needs assessment questionnaire was developed by HLO based on the following themes: general information, technical assessment of housing, social condition and health condition. The team thus visited the families and gathered their specific needs according to their constructive dispositions, their social situation and their handicap. Subsequently, intervention proposals were formulated for 3 beneficiaries by the voluntary technical referent of the association and PADEM.

R1.3. The houses are renovated by a company or a craftsman, with the help of the team of HLO volunteers and the beneficiary families

HLO requested quotes from 3 construction companies to carry out the work for these 3 beneficiaries. The following work was carried out before winter 2019, with the help of the beneficiaries themselves and / or volunteers of the association:

- Complete renovation of a home for a person in a wheelchair suffering from acute diabetes (reinforcement of the roof structure, insulation of the walls, replacement of windows, installation of suitable outdoor sanitary facilities that respect the environment, construction of a ramp to access the accommodation, installation of an economical stove)
- Insulation and installation of a bathroom in a dwelling occupied by a person on a crutch suffering from dislocation of the hip (installation of an environmentally friendly wastewater tank outside the house, construction of a bathroom inside the home consisting of a shower, toilet and sink, insulation of the walls of the home and the workshop, replacement of windows)
- Installation of a suitable bathroom for a person with glass bone disease.



*Complete renovation of a home*

Regular monitoring of the work by the members of the association made it possible to ensure that the recommendations relating to the accessibility and safety of the beneficiaries were taken into account. The insulation work carried out has already enabled beneficiary families to save on their heating bills. Today, the association plans to carry out the work for the 7 additional beneficiaries during the summer of 2020: installation of adapted outdoor toilets, construction of entrance halls, interior renovation and accessibility, complete renovation of housing.

R1.4. People with disabilities and their families benefit from physical, psychological and essential skills training according to their specific needs and by investing in social workers and family doctors

The following training sessions were provided to some beneficiaries and their families:

- Water, hygiene and sanitation,
- Medical follow-up according to pathologies,
- Psychological support,
- Adapted nutrition (diabetes, etc.),
- Management of epileptic seizures,
- Fall prevention,
- Physical assistance for people with reduced mobility,

Water, hygiene and sanitation training was also provided to clinic staff and local administrative staff.

R1.5. Beneficiaries are put in touch with the various competent institutions according to their specific needs

Volunteers from the HLO association assisted a beneficiary to obtain recognition of his disability from the authorities and thus receive an invalidity pension. They also assisted this person's mother in obtaining a caregiver's pension.

Through HLO, a beneficiary was admitted to a vocational training center linked to the National Rehabilitation Center. He recently received a qualification in Handicrafts and Sculpture. In addition, thanks to volunteers from the HLO association, 4 beneficiaries were admitted to treatment centers adapted for their disability (rehabilitation clinic, hospitals, etc.).

**II.1.5 Improvement of the housing conditions of vulnerable women in the yurt quarter of the Chingeltei district and house construction test for three of these families (MONES)**

**Results 1:** Three pilot houses have been built to sustainably improve the social conditions of 15 people, including three disabled children and their mother.

R1.1. Three families are selected in Chingeltei district to benefit from the construction of a house

MONES organized a business planning meeting with all staff to share the strategy to be implemented and thus ensure better coordination. MONES held a number of consultations with representatives of the construction industry. In total, 4 meetings were held with members of the NGO Gegeelen (Chingeltei association, MONES partner), during which information on the PADEM - Abbé Pierre Foundation program was disseminated and the first information gathered from members ( diagnosis of living conditions and needs assessment).

The NGO Gegeelen has 15 members, of which 11 are active. These 11 households were assessed and 3 households were selected based on objective criteria (land ownership, number of people living in the households and number of disabled children). Members of the NGO

Gegeelen also attended a one-day training course on different types of non-polluting latrines available in Mongolia. During the training, they also learned about sustainable water use, local laws governing hygiene and family budgeting.

### R1.2. The builder is selected by a competent committee and through transparent methods

The construction company for the 3 houses was chosen by a call for tenders published on the classic publication networks. The selection committee consisted of 5 people: 3 people from the MONES project team, the technical coordinator of PADEM and the part-time engineer, hired to supervise the construction works. The company was selected according to objective criteria: cost, experience, technical and human resources.

### R1.3. The houses and the latrines are built according to the minimum standards and integrating ecological methods

The 3 houses of around 30 square meters were built in accordance with the requirements of the project. The interior design of the houses is different according to the needs of the households, flexibility allowed thanks to the dialogue between MONES, the construction company and the beneficiaries.

The houses are lit by solar energy, which can also power small electrical appliances. They are heated on the floor, and according to the government decision in 2017, electricity is free during night hours from November to February, which allows families not to consume coal at night.

Two latrines were built because one of the beneficiary families already had one.



*Construction of a pilot house for a family with a disabled child*

**Results 2:** Six yurts are isolated in order to offer better living conditions to 6 families, one of whose children is disabled

### R2.1. Six families are selected in the district of Chingeltei to benefit from the improvement of their yurt.



6 households were selected at the start of the project, using the same methods as the previous result. The assessment of the needs of these 6 families led to the planning of work different from those initially planned:

- 3 families lived in very precarious yurts (fragile structural elements). MONES thus wanted to provide these families with new, more resistant yurts, benefiting from two layers of insulation (winter configuration). These three families also benefit from the construction of an entrance hall.
- 2 families lived in poorly insulated houses. MONES proposed to isolate these accommodations to improve the comfort of these families. One of these families also benefits from the construction of an entrance hall.
- These 6 families benefit from the construction of latrines, as initially planned.

All of this work was completed in June 2019 thanks to regular site monitoring by the MONES team and the PADEM team.

#### R2.2. A hall is built at the entrance of the yurt to serve as insulation.

Given the reassessment of the needs of the inhabitants and the discussions with the construction company, MONES enabled the construction of 4 entrance halls (3 for the yurts and 1 for a house), thus improving the insulation of the dwellings and providing additional storage space especially for heating materials in winter.

#### R2.3. Insulating blankets are provided to families to protect their yurts and reduce the use of heating coal

Following the reassessment of the needs and housing conditions of the 6 families, 3 new yurts were provided to the selected families living in precarious yurts and 2 house isolations were carried out.

The beneficiaries chose and set up their yurts themselves. These have wood floors, a double layer of felt, and an outer airtight layer, and beneficiaries have confirmed that they are warmer than their previous yurt, although burning charcoal remains a necessity. The insulation of 2 houses (walls and ceilings) was carried out by the construction company.

#### R2.4. Six latrines are built according to the standard model of the Ministry of Health

The 6 latrines are built in accordance with the Mongolian national standard MNS 2459. Given the maintenance constraints of this equipment, the beneficiaries of the latrines have been trained in hygiene and sanitary conditions specific to this type of equipment by the association. HLO.



*Construction of a new latrine for a family with a disabled child*

## **II. 2. General problems and recommended solutions.**

The cold and the length of the Mongolian winter created difficulties for the construction activities. Thus, we were faced with the problem of freezing and condensation of the water pipes, which pushed us to seek more reliable technologies, and some work was postponed (setting of concrete and plasters impossible). Construction companies are generally unfamiliar with the technologies that work during the winter, which means that local specialists must be consulted to ensure the sustainability of the facilities.

PADEM also realized that the quality of the works did not always correspond to standards and / or construction practices ensuring the sustainability of the facilities. The main fields of poor workmanship observed are as follows: waterproofing, construction of latrines, equipment and dimensions adapted to disabled people. Through its participation in site monitoring and thanks to close collaboration with partner associations, PADEM has encouraged companies to respect construction standards and good practices. Partner associations, not specialized in the field of construction, are now able to identify the standards to be followed, good waterproofing practices and ensure the durability of the work provided.

The work was also complicated by the assessment of the housing situation of beneficiaries and the identification of housing pathologies, which was not always adequate. This is for example important for the insulation of houses, which first requires fixing the structure and waterproofing of the house. A better assessment would provide more relevant information for planning the budget for housing renovation.

Some difficulties were also encountered due to the context of the intervention. For example, it was difficult for our partners to identify the people to help in the yurt quarters because many people new to the countryside or people in extreme poverty are not registered on the local registers. It is also difficult to convince people of what they can do on their own when they usually expect a lot from the government or international organizations. If these expectations are still there, the participatory approach of the program showed them that they could work on their own to improve their living conditions.

Another difficulty linked to Mongolian culture has been the location and orientation of the latrines. Usually, people want their latrines to be far from home, but in the context of a family including a person with a disability, it is important, for the sake of access, that the latrines are located near the home.

### **II.3. General conclusion (s)**

Despite extreme climatic conditions (very cold winters), the partner associations succeeded in carrying out the work planned for the first year of the project. The remaining work is planned taking into account previous experiences and lessons learned.

After one year of implementation, we see that the approach is relevant and effective: by focusing activities mainly on improving the habitat, beneficiaries are able to focus more on their health, their social situation or economic, instead of investing a significant portion of their resources and energy in basic needs. For example, members of the NGO Gegeelen (MONES project) are now more active in their community because they face fewer housing issues and are inspired by the results of the project.

The partners wanted to combine training and construction / rehabilitation work, in particular training on the efficient use of sanitation facilities. This is a new approach initiated by our local NGOs since public construction projects do not communicate and do not involve the local community on these issues. PADEM will strive to strengthen the capacities of partner associations in this area.

The participatory approach is also very important in the project. Particular attention was paid to the needs of people by involving them in decision-making. For example, the beneficiaries were directly involved in the interior design of their new house, in the choice of their new yurt or in the design of their new kitchen, and for some, actively participated in carrying out the work or additional work. Thanks to this strong participation, the beneficiaries realized that they themselves could improve their living conditions, and the construction companies were also attentive to the needs of the people and even provided additional works for the benefit of the beneficiaries. .

PADEM's strategy is to support local partners to implement their projects. We help them to define their proposal and to follow their actions, in particular on the technical aspects because they are not specialized in this field. In general, they manage to access the main technical information on their own and thus develop their own skills and knowledge. And of course, PADEM learns a lot from each organization's project. PADEM also helps build a network of knowledge and experience among the four organizations. Everyone learns from each other and in the future the partners will work with each other, especially in a potential future program to come.