

THE ANNUAL UN WOMEN CHINA NEWSLETTER

2022: SOLIDARITY SUSTAINS OUR DRIVE TO ADVANCE WOMEN'S RIGHTS

UN Women is a global champion for gender equality and women's empowerment. We work to create a world in which every woman and girl can exercise her human rights and live up to her full potential. We are a trusted partner for advocates and decision-makers from all walks of life. Working in China since 1998, initially as UNIFEM, we provide technical and financial assistance to innovative programmes and strategies for gender equality and women's empowerment.

A WORD FROM OUR COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE

As we enter the new year, I send warm greetings to all. May you and your loved ones enjoy a healthy, happy, and prosperous Year of the Rabbit.

The last year has posed many hardships from the continued spread of COVID-19 and measures to stop it. Yet solidarity and support for realizing women's rights never wavered in China. UN Women forged ahead through collective efforts and partnerships. We are proud to share some of our best results from 2022, knowing these are the foundation for much more to come in 2023.

The current moment is one of multiple crises everywhere. On top of the pandemic, the climate emergency is escalating. Prices have climbed and more people struggle to find enough food and fuel. Our world is sharply divided. All these challenges have specific consequences for women and girls and are driving a generational reversal in gains on women's rights. Without Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5, we cannot achieve the SDGs more broadly. We have an enormous and urgent task ahead to move back on course towards a fair and equal world.



Smriti Aryal
Country Representative, UN Women China

Fortunately, we know this is possible given what we have learned and achieved so far. In China in 2022, for example, the landmark revision of the Law on the Protection of Women's Rights and Interests is a step forward to advancing women's rights. This provides a more enabling legal policy environment for all of us to continue advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in all fronts.

In 2023, UN Women remains optimistic that a brighter future is on the way. We are inspired and encouraged by those who have walked with us this far—my heartfelt thanks go to you. We continue to count on your support, solidarity, and partnership in our common quest for gender equality and women's empowerment.



MAKING ECONOMIES WORK FOR WOMEN

Throughout 2022, we at UN Women remained tireless in our efforts to cushion the economic blows of the COVID-19 pandemic on women, in firms small and large, and in urban and rural areas. We sought and found opportunities to push for women's empowerment and digital inclusion as well as new policies putting workplaces on track for gender equality.

Support pandemic recovery for women-owned small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)



With the support from Rockcheck Puji Foundation, UN Women, and the All-China Women's Federation (ACWF) partnered on empowering women-led SMEs in the context of COVID-19 recovery. In Wuhan and Tianjin, among the hardest-hit regions, our model recovery schemes reached over 550 women-owned small and medium-sized enterprises and 6,000 women employees. Dedicated business support and cash grants increased income and access to markets. Six hundred hours of free online services and 50 courses built entrepreneurial skills.

Reaching over **550** women-owned SMEs and **6,000** women employees

In Beijing, [a symposium](#) co-organized with ACWF to learn more about accelerating the empowerment of women-owned SMEs during pandemic recovery was organized in May 2022. High-level government officials from Asia and Africa joined senior staff from the United Nations, practitioners, and experts to take stock of impacts and potentials to scale up good practices.

The project aims to benefit **164,000** women and girls

Empowering rural women

UN Women partnered with IFAD, Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of Hunan Province, and Hunan Women's Federation on [a five-year joint programme](#).

We are working to improve the economic empowerment and livelihoods of over 320,000 rural people, half of whom are women and girls. As a first step, a comprehensive survey of 1,500 households was done. The

finding of the survey is used to inform the gender-responsive interventions to ensure women are equally benefited from infrastructure construction, public services, and business development.



Transforming corporate workplaces through the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs)



With funding from the European Union through the [WeEmpowerAsia](#) programme, UN Women brought gender into corporate social responsibility guidance in ICT and textile industries. We also worked with 25 major companies with over 80,000 employees to integrate gender dimensions into corporate policies and practices. Fourteen companies took part in the WEPs Activator, which guides progress towards a gender-equal workplace in line with the WEPs.

Under IKEA China-funded [WeCare](#), a partnership among UN Women, the ILO, and the China Enterprise Confederation, five champion companies began improving internal policies to set up gender-based violence prevention and response mechanism in the workplace and to develop a family-friendly workplace.

UN Women worked with **25** major companies with over **80,000** employees to integrate gender dimensions into corporate policies and practices

INFLUENCING THROUGH POLICY ADVOCACY, CONVENING AND KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

The forum reached over **320,000** views online

In March, an online symposium on “[Biodiversity and Climate Change from a Gender Perspective](#)”, hosted with the Center for China and Globalization, spotlighted gender-just climate solutions from government agencies, embassies, UN entities, financial institutions, development practitioners, academia and leading think tanks. The theme of the symposium is aligned with the 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66) at country level. The symposium was livestreamed, attracting over 320,000 views online. A joint op-ed, “[Gender equality today for a better tomorrow](#)”, was published China Daily and Xinhua News.



In September, UN Women and UNDP joined the China Association of Women Scientists and Technology Workers to host “[Leading the Way: Empowering Women and Girls in Science and Innovation](#)”. Senior government and UN officials and business leaders defined solutions to deep-rooted gender inequality in science field, urging a whole-of-society drive to attract and keep more women in leadership roles. Over 200,000 people tuned in online. China Daily published [a joint UN Women and UNDP op-ed on how women in science can change world](#).

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In October, UN Women, the ILO and the China Enterprise Confederation jointly organized [a policy dialogue](#) on supporting family-friendly workplaces. Representatives from the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, National Health Commission, All-China Federation of Trade Unions, UN entities, academic institutions, and companies attended the dialogue. Participants discussed how to establish family-friendly policies in China’s specific context. The dialogue cultivated opportunities for multistakeholder collaboration.



In November, [the Gender-just Green Transitions workshop](#) was held online by UN Women, UNDP and GIZ to tackle the gender gap in climate action. The workshop convened representatives and stakeholders to discuss challenges and opportunities for women to meaningfully participate and lead in green transitions, and the potential for gender mainstreaming in relevant policies and practices. Representatives of governments, financial institutions, industrial associations, private sector stakeholders, civil society, think tanks, and bilateral and multilateral organizations exchanged their experiences from different perspectives.

A UN consultation with the Legislative Affairs Commission to inform the revision of the law on the Protection of Women's Rights and Interests

In 2022, UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA, and the ILO held a closed-door consultation with the Legislative Affairs Commission of the People's Congress of China. The meeting offered a chance to provide feedback on the second draft amendment of [the Law on the Protection of Women's Rights and Interests](#). First adopted in 1992, the Law upholds the broad spectrum of women's rights and promotes gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE). The Amendment came into effect on 1 January 2023, providing an important opportunity to further strengthen the legal policy environment to promote GEWE in China.

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Leading the joint UN effort for gender equality

UN Women and UNDP co-organized the "Training on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Principles and Approaches for the UN system in China" as a joint activity of the UN Gender Theme Group (UNG TG), targeting members of UNSDCF Results Groups, Thematic Groups, and the Programming, Monitoring and Evaluation Group. 50 colleagues from 22 UN entities have increased knowledge to enhance gender equality and women's empowerment within and across joint programmes and systematic coordination structures.

Ready for Risk: A Business Continuity Management Toolkit for Women SME Entrepreneurs

Towards a more resilient future, UN Women China partnered with the China Centre for the Promotion of SME Development to develop [Ready for Risk: A Business Continuity Management Toolkit for Women SME Entrepreneurs](#). Step-by-step guidance and checklists put gender-responsive risk control and business continuity with reach for SMSE.



OUR EFFORT TOWARDS GENDER RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE AND WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

Wins in women's participation in local governance in 2021, which were reported in 2022, included a county that became the first in Yunnan Province to set a 30 per cent quota for women in village committee leadership. Supported by China Gender Fund for Research and Advocacy, the project implemented by the Dehong Lechuang Women's and Children's Development Centre, help officials in Dehong County set and implement the quota. One pilot site, Dawan Village, saw women's share of committee seats shoot up to nearly 60 per cent. Before, one woman sat on the seven-member committee. Today, four do, and one is even the deputy head of the village.



UN Women collaborated with the Zhejiang Women Carders School to create the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and CEDAW Training Center. Many training centres, still mainly serve personnel in large government and other institutions. This newly established training centre will provide technical assistance for CSOs and individuals who are interested in gender equality and want to be equipped with knowledge and capacity to advocate for gender equality.

A LONG WAY TO GO ON ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

With support from the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and PILnet, in 2022, UN Women and Beijing Dongcheng Yuanzhong Family and Community Development Service Center (Yuanzhong) jointly developed the Domestic Violence Social Service Training Manual with national experts and frontline practitioners. It is the first localized and adapted technical guidance for social service on gender-based violence (GBV) response aligning with international standards, aiming to address the intersectional violence against women with disabilities, women living with HIV/AIDs, and Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGIE) community members.

Together with Yuanzhong, we also provided a series of training, technical mentorship, and supervision on case management services for GBV survivors. By the end of 2022, 60 frontline service providers from 29 civil society organizations in 8 provinces in China were trained and equipped with knowledge on gender equality, GBV, multi-sectoral coordination, case management, and legal policy. Later, more quality services on GBV response and prevention were extended to reach the most vulnerable groups.

Trained **60**
frontline service
providers
from **29**
civil society
organizations
in **8**
provinces
in China



[Anti-Domestic Violence Service Map](#), a joint effort of UN Women and Shenzhen Pengxing Anti-Domestic Violence Centre

In 2022, UN Women signed a MoU with the Supreme People’s Court of the People’s Republic of China (SPC) to work on promoting the effective implementation of the Anti-Domestic Violence Law and strengthening the survivors-centred justice services in domestic violence case trials. To implement this MoU, we supported the China Institute of Applied Jurisprudence, an affiliated research institute of SPC, to develop a series of guiding cases to identify the survivor-based court practices and practices to be strengthened by analyzing against international conventions and standards.

Mobilizing men
and boys
to affirm
their
commitments
to transform
the gender-biases
that
perpetuate
violence

Three major social media campaigns galvanized a drive to shift harmful gender norms and invited people everywhere to act to prevent violence. The campaigns attracted nearly 120 million views and generated over 11,000 comments. Men, boys, and young social media users were among those affirming commitments to transform the gender biases that perpetuate violence. One campaign tackled gender stereotypes in the gaming industry with a call to “break the norms, be brave to chase your dream”. By opening space for gamers to unpack different dimensions of gender inequality, the campaign encouraged debate on ways to resolve them.



UN Women provided direct financial and technical support to over 20 community-based organizations to conduct GBV prevention activities for women living with HIV/AIDs across China and women from ethnic minorities communities in Sichuan and Qinghai province. “After participating in the training on the skills and knowledge of ending violence against women and girls, I’ve been equipped with knowledge on how to protect and support myself and my beneficiaries. Men and Women are equal, which is not only reflected in the social division of labor, and family status, but should also be reflected in our mindset to be responsible for our feeling and decisions.” Ms. Deng Yulin, one of our programme beneficiaries from Tianjin Dongli Sunflower migrant women center says.

COMMUNICATING FOR IMPACT



International Women's Day sets the stage for a sustainable tomorrow

On International Women's Day in 2022, our #WithHerAGreenerFuture campaign kicked off on Weibo, attracting over 24 million views. Echoing the theme of the day, "Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow", the campaign invited 17 UN agencies, UN Women goodwill ambassadors, advocates and the public to stand up for women's participation and leadership in climate action.

[A joint Op-Ed](#) co-authored by UN Women, UNDP, IFAD, UNFPA, and UNEP China Offices, was published on key media outlets including China Daily and Xinhua News provided concrete recommendations for full representation and reflection of women's contributions, roles, and rights in climate policies, programmes, and investments.

Shifting media coverage to reduce bias and embrace equality

September was the moment for our [Annual Media Workshop](#). Around 30 journalists, editors, key opinion leaders, and PR agency staff debated what they could do to stop gender bias and discrimination. Practical suggestions and techniques to advance gender equality in reporting were discussed at the workshop, including a special focus on women's economic empowerment. As of 2022, UN Women has a professional media monitoring system to track mentions of our work in Chinese media. Our team uses new data and insights for the analysis of the media landscape as well as reporting and evaluation.



Reaching millions with ideas and achievements

Social media platforms highlight UN Women's ideas and achievements far and wide. One striking editorial series during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, [#VoicesFromTheField](#), shared interviews with service providers on their challenges, experience, and hopes for change. In 2022,



102 articles

on Wechat featured human interest stories, news, reports, and data analysis.



310 posts

on Weibo shared messages and insights, led discussions and interactions.



155 million

received nearly views altogether.

PARTNERING FOR CHANGE



UN Women and Ant Foundation jointly announced the launch of “[Together Digital](#)”, a five-year partnership to support women-led micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and empower them to participate and thrive in the digital economy in China, Indonesia, and at the regional level in Asia and the Pacific. This initiative was launched at the W20 Summit in Lake Toba, Indonesia. In China, UN Women China has partnered with the China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchange-

es to establish a digital training package and two dedicated training hubs for women entrepreneurs in Chengdu and Changsha. A regional network will also be established to facilitate knowledge exchanges, skills transfers, and mentorship opportunities, all towards promoting women’s digital empowerment.

In 2022, UN Women China Office signed a MoU and established partnership with the Center for China and Globalization (CCG), a non-governmental think tank, with ECOSOC special consultative status, to support policy advocacy on gender equality and women’s empowerment based on international and China’s experience. As part of the partnership, at [the Forum on Global Talent Mobility and Development, China International Import Expo 2022](#), UN Women addressed the importance for the global society to acknowledge the structural barriers that women face and called for global gendered talent policies at country and institutional level. Panelists from private sectors also shared companies’ practices and measures to promote the retention and development of female employees.



SHINING MOMENTS

We asked our colleagues for their favourite moments of the year working for UN Women.



Weijia Luo
Operations Manager

In a challenging time of COVID-19 impacts on the office, I am very touched by the timely and strong support provided by the office, including caring and consideration from the management, flexible working arrangements, necessary supplies provision, peer support among teams, various team-building activities, mental caring, etc. The inclusive caring, encouragement, and support to everyone in the office brings us in solidarity together in a difficult time and ensures accountability with high performance in delivering the UN Women’s mandate. I am so proud of being part of the great aim of the UN Women’s China office.



Xiaerbati Daositeke
UN Volunteer,
Women’s Economic Empowerment

As a newcomer to the UN Women family this year, there is no greater recognition and motivation than seeing your ideas recognized by your team members and office colleagues, and then adopted into the project. The name Together Digital conveys the vision and mission of our programme, which is to support women entrepreneurs in micro-, small, and medium-sized enterprises to get better in the digital economy. For members of the younger generation like me, getting this kind of recognition at the beginning of my career, and the fact that this programme will be seen and spread by more people in the future, makes me feel empowered, which is one of the biggest sources of motivation for my work.



Bingqian Zhan
Communications intern

One of my favorite events this year is our annual media workshop and 16 days campaign. Through the media workshop, participants from the media industry got together to discuss unbiased reporting and then further reshaped the negative social gender norms by influencing their audiences. The 16 days campaign matters to me in another way. It has enabled me to connect with service providers against gender-based violence. Their practices have inspired me to begin with small actions for a violence-free world.



A GROWING OFFICE MOVING FORWARD

UN Women in 2022 celebrated its first year as a full-fledged country office since the Delegation of Authority was granted in October 2021. We carried out capacity development for staff and set up internal control measures for every business stream, ensuring a smooth transition and full adherence to business operations standards.

Training sessions covered internal controls, results-based management, and

the management of projects, finances, and procurement. Experiences shared in brown bag sessions strengthened bonds among teams. Team-building activities further enhanced solidarity and inspired a sense of joyfulness in working together. Challenged by COVID-19, we provided flexible working arrangements for more work-life balance. A staff well-being committee was established to continuously support each other.

At the start of the new year, we are ready and reinvigorated to maintain an inclusive, empowering and engaging work environment. At the same time, we also renew our commitment to continue pushing our mandate and our hope for a better future for women and girls in China and everywhere around the world.

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2-8-2 Tayuan Diplomatic Office Building, 14 Liangmahe Nanlu, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100600

T: +86 1085325843 F: +86 108532

www.unwomen.org

unwomen.china@unwomen.org