

UNITED NATIONS IN CHINA 2021 ANNUAL COUNTRY RESULTS REPORT





FOREWORD

The Annual Country Results Report showcases the collective progress made in 2021 by the United Nations (UN) in supporting China to implement its national development priorities and enhance its international development cooperation efforts, as outlined in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021 – 2025 for the People's Republic of China (PRC). This is the first Annual Report under the new country programme cycle.

The year 2021 marked the 50 th anniversary of the restoration of PRC's lawful seat in the UN and the first year of the implementation of China's 14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development. During the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, both China and the world have continued to suffer from the impacts of the virus. China, to its credit, has kept in place effective public health measures in containing the pandemic while maintaining significant economic growth. China's development ambitions to achieve "common prosperity" and carbon neutrality signifies a vision of an inclusive, prosperous and green future, with significant alignment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In the past year, working closely with the people and Government of China (GoC), the UN in China provided extensive programmatic support and technical assistance to advance rural development, promote quality employment opportunities and decent work, improve public services and social protection systems, reduce social inequalities, enhance environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon and circular economy, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups in order to leave no one behind. The UN in China has also supported China's international development cooperation efforts in line with the 2030 Agenda. Throughout the year, new partnerships were forged, and novel initiatives were initiated to tackle global development challenges through mechanisms such as South-South Cooperation and China's newly proposed Global Development Initiative.

Turning to 2022, we will continue to lead, coordinate and strategically position the UN Country Team in China to deliver on the UNSDCF as a whole and make the UN system fit for purpose in China, not only by supporting its domestic efforts to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but also by acting as a conduit to leverage China's experiences, expertise and resources and bring them to bear beyond the country's national borders for the benefit of other developing nations, thus giving further velocity to the SDGs in the Decade of Action.

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UN Resident Coordinator in China



















































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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACFTU All-China Federation of Trade Unions
CSE Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSOs Civil Society Organizations
EENC Early Essential Newborn Care
eMTCT Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission

FCVs Emergency Use Listing
FCVs Fuel Cell Vehicles

FFW Family Friendly Workplace
GBV Gender-based Violence
GDI Global Development Initiative

GEWE Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

GHG Greenhouse Gas
GoC Government of China

HACT Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers

HCFCs Hydrochlorofluorocarbons

ICT Information and Communications Technology
LGBTI Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex

LNOB
 NCDs
 Non-communicable Diseases
 PLHIV
 People Living with HIV
 PPE
 Personal Protective Equipment
 PRC
 People's Republic of China

PSEA Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

PWDs Persons with Disabilities

SCP Sustainable Consumption and Production

SDGs Sustainable Development Goals
SMEs Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SRH Sexual and Reproductive Health

SRHR Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

SSC South-South Cooperation

SSCAF South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund

Stem Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

TVET Technical and Vocational Education and Training

UN United Nation

UNSDCF UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

WASH Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WEPs Women's Empowerment Principles

14th FYP Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development

1. BACKGROUND

2021 was another challenging and unprecedented year for China and the world. Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, the world is still struggling with the virus and its socio-economic impacts, but hope has emerged with the roll-out of vaccination efforts and the development of anti-viral drugs. China has been on a good track of economic recovery. The country's economy grew by 8.1 percent in 2021, indicating a significant rebound from the 2.3 percent growth of 2020.¹

In 2021, China adopted the Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development (14th FYP) and Vision 2035 of the People's Republic of China. The 14th FYP laid out the key development priorities of China for the next five years, such as high-quality and green development, innovation and technology, domestic market resilience, rural revitalization, urbanization and rural-urban integration, further reform and opening-up, and public service improvement.²

Despite remarkable achievements in the past decades, including the elimination of rural extreme poverty in 2020, China is still faced with tremendous challenges posed by demographic transformation, persistent rural-urban and regional inequalities, and multi-dimensional poverty of vulnerable groups. Given this, China has developed a series of policy responses, such as the Three-Child Policy aiming to boost the declining birth rate against an ageing population,³ as well as the Outline of Women's Development in China (2021 - 2030) and the Outline on the Development of Chinese Children (2021-2030)⁴ with specific goals and measures to improve the health, education, social security, environmental safety and empowerment of women and children through the improvement of the institutional and regulatory frameworks in the next 10 years. China also continues to implement its rural revitalization strategy to further bridge the rural-urban development gap. Furthermore, "Common Prosperity" has been identified by the Government of China (GoC) as a means of reducing inequality and promoting shared prosperity.⁵

To achieve high-quality development, China's future development trajectory must be inclusive, balanced, and also green. In 2021, China has moved forward with its commitment to realize peak carbon emissions by 2030 and formalized a "1+N" policy framework to transition to a low-carbon and green economy.⁶ The "1" refers to the long-term approach to tackle climate change, including the carbon neutrality goal. The "N" covers a variety of policies aiming for concrete areas in China's zero-carbon transition. In the coming years, China plans to enrich the "N" part by providing a series of zero-carbon transition strategies in all specific sectors. To realize the ambitious goal of carbon neutrality by 2060, more drastic policies and measures have yet to be developed to facilitate China's low-carbon transition.

In terms of international development and cooperation, China issued a white paper on China's International Development Cooperation in the New Era, which introduces China's international development cooperation strategy and provides a guidance policy framework. At the 76th United Nations (UN) General Assembly, China also put forward a Global Development Initiative (GDI) that builds on "2030 SDGs for Stronger, Greener and Healthier Global Development" to overcome the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerate

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), "Preliminary Accounting Results of GDP for the Fourth Quarter and the Whole Year of 2021", 19 January 2022. Available at http://www.stats.gov .cn/english/PressRelease/202201/t20220119 1826672.html.

2 The State Council, "Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and Vision 2035 of the People's Republic of China", 13 March 2021. Available at http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-03/13/content_5592681.htm.

³ The State Council, "Decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council on Optimizing the Fertility Policy and Promoting the Long-term Balanced Development of the Population", 20 July 2021. Available at http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-07/

4The State Council, "State Council on the issuance of Outline of Women's Development in China (2021-2030) and Outline on the Development of Chinese Children (2021-2030)", 27 September 2021. Available at http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2021-09/27/content 5639412.htm.

5 Xinhua. "Xi stresses promoting common prosperity amid high-quality development, forestalling major financial risks", 18 August 2021. Available at http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-08/18/c 1310133051.htm.

6 National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC),
"Working Guidance for Carbon Dioxide Peaking and Carbon
Neutrality in Full and Faithful Implementation of the New
Development Philosophy", 24 October 2021. Available at
https://en.ndrc.gov.cn/policies/202110/t20211024_1300725
.html; NDRC, "Action Plan for Carbon Dioxide Peaking before
2030", 27 October 2021. Available at https://en.ndrc.gov.cn/
policies/202110/t20211027_1301020.html; The State Council
Information Office, "Responding to Climate Change: China's
Policies and Actions", 27 October 2021. Available at
http://english.scio.gov.cn/whitepapers/2021-10/27/content_
77836502.htm; Government of China, "China's Mid-Century
Long-Term Low Greenhouse Gas Emission Development
Strategy", 28 October 2021. Available at https://unfccc.int/
documents/307765.

7The State Council Information Office, "China's International Development Cooperation in the New Era", 10 January 2021. Available at: http://english.www.gov.cn/archive/whitepaper/ 202101/10/content_WS5ffa6bbbc6d0f72576943922.html.

8 Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Remarks by Ambassador Zhang Jun at the Launch Meeting of the Group of Friends of Global Development Initiative", 20 January 2022. Available at https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zwjg_66534 2/zwbd_665378/202202/t20220209_10640393.html. the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The UN welcomes the push for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and stands ready to provide techn⁸ical assistance to ensure the Initiative's compliance with SDGs.

In this context, the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021 – 2025 for China has commenced. The following three priority areas of the UNSDCF, which are underpinned by the cross-cutting themes of gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE), disability inclusion, youth, and leaving no one behind (LNOB), and serve as the key guiding framework for the UN's work in China, are closely aligned with both China's evolving national development agenda and expanded commitment to international development:



PEOPLE AND PROSPERITY (OUTCOME 1 & 2):

Achieving innovation-driven, coordinated and shared development. Equitable and high quality economic, social and human development for all throughout the life-course.



PLANET (OUTCOME 3 & 4):

Achieving green development towards a more sustainable and resilient environment.



PARTNERSHIPS (OUTCOME 5 & 6):

Realizing the full potential of China's international engagement to promote its open development and partnerships to accelerate achievement of the SDGs across the world.

2.

PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNSDCF

In the first year of the implementation of the UNSDCF, the UN in China has been on track to achieving the planned targets and made great achievements in all six outcome areas.

2.1. OUTCOME 1

Contributing Entities: FAO, IFAD, ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UN Women, WFP, WIPO Relative poverty and multi-dimensional poverty are reduced, and more coordinated development leads to reduction in gaps between rural and urban areas and among regions, as more people in China, including left-behind groups, benefit from sustainable, innovation-driven and shared high-quality economic development, with enhanced access to economic opportunities arising through innovation, entrepreneurship and rural revitalization, enjoying decent work, sustainable livelihoods and the right to development, equally for both women and men.

With consistent poverty alleviation efforts, especially the targeted poverty alleviation programmes since 2012, China has successfully eliminated extreme poverty in rural areas, lifting 98.99 million people out of poverty. In 2021, the per capita income for the people in China continues to grow to CNY 35,128, with a real growth rate of 8.1 percent. Despite remarkable achievements in poverty alleviation, persisting relative poverty and multi-dimensional poverty remain a challenge for China, as well as the rural-urban, coastal-inland and inter-regional development disparities indicated by a ratio of urban and rural disposable income per capita of 2.56, the regional economic gap between the Eastern and Western areas, and a Gini Coefficient of 0.468.

Acknowledging the above challenges, the UN has continued its support in the past year towards alleviating relative poverty in China by advancing rural revitalization, and promoting inclusive employment and decent work in compliance with international labour standards.

- 9The State Council Information Office, "China's Epic Journey from Poverty to Prosperity", 28 September 2021. Available at http://www.scio. gov.cn/ztk/dtzt/44689/47054/47062/Document /1713905/1713905.htm.
- NBS, "2021 Statistical Communique on Social and Economic Development", 28 February 2022. Available at http://www.stats.gov.cn/ english/PressRelease/202202/t20220227_1827 963.html.
- 11 In 2021, the GDP per capita of China's Eastern Area is CNY 105, 503, which is 68 percent higher than that of Western Area as CNY 62,611. Source: 2021 Statistical Communiqué on Social and Economic Development.
- 12 NBS, China Yearbook of Household Survey 2021 (Beijing, China Statistics Press, 2021).

2.1.1. RURAL REVITALIZATION

In line with the rural revitalization strategy, the UN provided financial support, technical assistance and capacity building for agricultural and rural development in 15 less-developed provinces and regions of China, giving priority to the most vulnerable rural populations, including female farmers, ethnic minority farmers, migrant workers and youth. This has resulted in increased incomes, enhanced livelihoods, strengthened capacities, and improved economic opportunities for farmers and farmer cooperatives and enterprises, helping to bridge rural-urban and inter-regional development disparities.





INCREASED INCOME, ENHANCED LIVELIHOOD AND IMPROVED CAPACITY

- Through sustainable agriculture and ecotourism development, 16,000 farmers from Hebei, Guangxi, Jiangxi, Sichuan, Xinjiang, and Yunnan improved their economic situations and developed more sustainable livelihoods. It is estimated that another 1.65 million people living close to the project villages also indirectly benefitted from the improved livelihoods and living environment.
- 19,700 farmers from Jiangxi Province increased their income as a result of the improved capacity, productivity, and quality of the local agricultural and food production and processing sector.
- 8,500 farmers from Hunan Province raised their income through an industrial capacity-building project that introduced new technologies and increased the efficiency of the local bamboo and dairy industry.
- 4,580 smallholder farmers, including 975 female farmers, increased their economic opportunities and income by participating in the kiwi value chain project in Anhui Province and the zinc-rich potato project in Gansu Province.





Ms. Tian Maoyuan, a provincial living heritage bearer of Songtao Miao Embroidery in Guizhou Province, has reaffirmed her responsibility after attending the 15-day UN sustainable livelihood training workshop. Her hometown of Songtao Miao Autonomous County was one of the key counties under China's targeted poverty alleviation programme, despite its rich and unique cultural and natural resources. Among the total of 3,843 households in her community who lifted themselves out of poverty, 3,445 still need to make efforts to further increase their income and enhance their wellbeing. To respond to this, Ms. Tian set up a Miao Embroidery workstation in March 2021. Her workstation produced 124 pieces of handmade embroidery products with a total of CNY 240,000 gross income in 2021, creating jobs for 17 women, including two people with disabilities, with an annual income of approximately CNY 13,000 per person. To benefit more people, especially the left-behind groups, her workstation offers free trainings every Saturday. She plans to expand the workstation in 2022 to provide employment to 80 people and flexible working opportunities for 150 people.

- Local farmers from Gansu Province increased their yield and monthly income by CNY 2,800 through two high-tech greenhouses that created 280 jobs.
- Ethnic minority farmers from Guizhou Province raised their cultural awareness and enjoyed a higher income and cultural prosperity through the development of Miao Embroidery, an intangible cultural heritage. In Hunan Province, 200 people received training on Miao embroidery skills, e-commerce brand building and marketing development. A local Miao Ethnic Culture Museum was established.
- 229,500 persons above 50 years old from Guangdong Province and Xin'an of Henan Province gained improved access to financial services. Specifically, 761 women gained access to credit services and 53,159 farmers received financial support to procure raw materials.

STRENGTHENED RURAL COOPERATIVES/ENTERP-RISES AND AGRIBUSINESS

- 124 rural cooperatives and enterprises, including 22 women-led ones, were newly established with UN support and received continued capacity building support and technical guidance.
- Inclusive cooperative development was promoted in Anhui, Hunan, Ningxia, Shaanxi, Sichuan, and Yunnan through capacity building training, funding of business plans and support of operation standardization, benefiting a total of 25,150 households and 84,514 farmers, of whom 45 percent were female. The projects in Anhui, Hunan and Yunnan have a particular focus on female farmers.
- The Mengdingshan Training Institute for Cooperative Development was established in Sichuan Province to train high-quality agricultural personnel across China.





- With the strengthened capacity of provincial and local governments in Hunan, Ningxia, Shaanxi, Sichuan, and Yunnan, the farmer cooperatives and entrepreneurs, in particular local youth and women entrepreneurs, gained better access to inclusive financial services.
- Through farmer business school training, 2,000 smallholder farmers from Hunan, Hubei, Sichuan, and Hainan improved their knowledge of rural e-commerce and online business development.
- 850 government officials, civil society organizations (CSOs) leaders and rural entrepreneurs, of whom
 556 were female, improved their knowledge in sustainable livestock farming through capacity building.
- With the increased capacity of local government officials and young people, the bamboo industry of Chishui County, Guizhou Province strengthened its capability in sustainable production, benefitting local farmers with increased employment and income.
- In Chengbu Miao Autonomous County of Hunan Province, local farmers and enterprises significantly improved the yield and quality of bamboo shoots with increased knowledge and skills in bamboo cultivation and improved processing and packaging equipment. Moreover, a 10-year development plan for local bamboo industrial development was designed, including facilitating the transformation of bamboo resources from extensive management to ecological planting.



2.1.2. EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK

Partnered with the government, private sector and other related organizations, the UN provided technical assistance and capacity building to advance the development of an inclusive, equitable and entrepreneurial labour market in China, with a focus on vulnerable groups such as migrant workers, women and people living with HIV (PLHIV). These efforts have helped China expand its legal and policy support for vulnerable groups at the workplace, increased the number of companies that have adopted inclusive employment practices, improved the technical skills of employees and raised the social awareness of labour protection.

Based on solid evidence generated from various sources of data analyses and research, the UN in China contributed to a series of policy areas that improved the inclusiveness and gender equality of employment while promoting decent work in China, including:

Incorporation of Gender Perspective

- Support to the China Electronics Standardization Association to update the Evaluation Index System on Social Responsibility Governance Level of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Industry with an integrated gender perspective aligned to Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs).
- Technical advisory to the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) on the development of the Handbook on Prevention and Elimination of Sexual Harassment in the Workplace.
- Provision of gender-responsive policy recommendations to enhance women's employment confidence and develop supporting policies and opportunities for women to work in digital industries in response to COVID-19
- Policy proposals to the National People's Congress aiming to create a family-friendly social environment, safeguard women's employment rights, and address gender discrimination in the workplace.
- Review of China's laws and policies on eliminating Gender-based Violence (GBV) and the promotion of Family Friendly Workplace (FFW) through policy dialogues and evidence generation.
- Technical support to the ACFTU for promoting FFW through the development of policy recommendations and Handbook on Creating FFW.

Promotion of Workers' Rights

- Contribution to the newly issued Guiding Opinion on Protecting the Rights of Workers in New Forms of Employment, with an aim to improve working conditions and protect the rights of people employed by online platforms.
- Technical suggestions for the revision of the Law on Prevention and Control of Occupational Diseases by aligning the law with international labour standards.

Improvement of Working Skills

- Incorporation of methodologies and tools for quality apprenticeship and core skills into China's New Apprenticeship Programme, which helped to reduce skill mismatch, promote sustainable employment, and enhance youth employability.
- Contribution to the Working Guide for China's New Enterprise-based Apprenticeship Programme.



Powering More Advanced Apprenticeship Systems in China

Since 2018, China has been implementing a national enterprise-based apprenticeship programme, in which apprentices are instructed jointly by company trainers and teachers from local technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions. In 2020, the UN introduced new expertise and tools to power a more advanced apprenticeship system in China, which aims to help enterprises, TVET institutions, and policymakers gain a comprehensive understanding of how to implement quality apprenticeships.

Ms. Miaomiao Yao has been running an apprenticeship training programme for a large manufacturer of automotive and agricultural machinery based in Rizhao City of Shandong Province. The demands on the workforce, fast changes in the labour market, and the impacts of COVID-19 took a toll on the programme. "Due to the high intensity of our work, it has been difficult to manage the time given to apprenticeships in each unit. As a result, our training programmes were underperforming," said Ms. Yao.

With the help from the UN, Ms. Yao has been able to tap into global experiences of implementing quality apprenticeship schemes against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. By integrating the training and supervision process via online learning platforms and mobile training logs, she explored excellent ways to solve the conflict between production and training during busy times. Ms. Yao was also inspired to integrate core skill curricula, such as social and emotional, cognitive, digital, and green skills, into apprenticeship training to make it easier for employees to transfer to different jobs when necessary. "For apprentices, equipped with core skills and technical skills, they can brighten their career prospects in the ever-changing world of work," said Ms. Yao.

With the participation and support of many excellent practitioners like Ms. Yao, the UN's apprenticeship project has helped reduce job-skill mismatches, promote the sustainable development of enterprises, and enhance youth employability. In 2021, the project's local piloting was conducted in four municipalities and one large sector in China. Over 1,000 participants from 39 enterprises, 32 training providers, and five local management departments directly benefited from the project and are now putting what they learned into practice, benefiting an even wider range of apprentices.



后企业国际可持续发展和社会责任"旅行前艾滋病知识培



A launch ceremony of an online course to help Chinese enterprises deal with HIV-related issues following international norms during the World AIDS Day/UNAIDS, UN Global Compact, ILO

Beside the go workpl

Besides research and policy support, the UN also worked to strengthen the awareness and capacities of the government, employers and employees, and the public to promote more inclusive and equitable workplace and employment opportunities. As a result,

 Suppliers of global lead buyers improved their capacities on responsible supply chains and advanced supplier development practices beyond social compliance audit through the Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises Project.

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 270 companies signed WEPs, 14 companies developed gender action plans, and six companies started implementing WEPs in their work.

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A total of 450 women-led small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and their 1,000 women workers
hit hardest by COVID-19 benefited through the model recovery schemes in Wuhan and Tianjin. 29
women-led SMEs increased their monthly profit by CNY 5,000 on average. Three SMEs received 100
square meters of free office space, with an estimated monetary value of CNY 486,000.

•

 Companies in Shenzhen strengthened their understanding of FFW and started practising this concept with the support of the Municipal Government for assessment, training, field visits, certification, and awards.

•

 50 low-income women living with HIV from Sichuan and Yunnan developed capacity in income generation and increased their knowledge and skill on how to deal with challenges of GBV and discrimination during employment through two capacity-building workshops.

 Over 6,000 visitors visited the offline exhibition "Do more, for her and for the family" to advocate for male engagement in sharing caregiving responsibilities and increased their awareness and willingness to partake in unpaid care work.

2.2. OUTCOME 2

Contributing Entities:

FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Global Compact, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP, WHO, WIPO

People's lives in China are improved further as headway is made in ensuring access to childcare, education, healthcare services, elderly care, housing, and social assistance, and more people in China, including left-behind groups, benefit from equitable and high-quality public services and social protection systems as well as accelerated efforts to reduce gender inequality and other forms of social inequality throughout the life-course.



In the past decade, China has overhauled its public and social service system with a significant improvement in the accessibility of education, health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), social assistance, social security and services, among others. From 2015 to 2020, the gross enrollment rate for kindergarten in China rose from 75.4 percent to 85.2 percent, and the enrollment for middle school, high school, and college greatly increased as well. Meanwhile, from 2015 to 2020, the average life expectancy in China has risen by 1.59 years to reach 77.93 years, the maternal mortality ratio decreased from 21.1 to 16.9 per 100,000 people, and the neonatal mortality ratio decreased from 8.1 to 5.4 per 1,000 people. In terms of social security development, national medical insurance coverage rose to 95 percent the and social insurance coverage reached around 95.4 percent of the total population in 2020. Also, the minimum living standard guarantee (Dibao) programme, as the major social assistance programme of China, covered 7.443 million urban residents and 34.794 million rural residents by November 2021.

Despite the tremendous progress, there remains a large area for improvement both in the coverage and quality of China's public service and social protection system, especially for vulnerable groups, including children, women, persons with disabilities (PWDs), ethnic minorities, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community, migrants, victims of trafficking, refugees, PLHIV, etc. Moreover, China needs to ramp up its protection, prevent violence against and promote the equal treatment of all vulnerable groups.

Through technical assistance, capacity building, policy advocacy and service provision, the UN has worked closely with the GoC, research institutions, the private sector and social organizations in providing more equitable and better-quality public and social services to people in China to reduce all forms of social inequality.

- 13 From 2015 to 2020, the gross enrolment rate for China's nine-year compulsory education period rose from 93 percent to 95.2 percent, high school's enrolment rate rose from 87 percent to 91.2 percent, college enrolment rate rose from 40 percent to 54.4 percent. Source: Ministry of Education (MOE), "Statistical Communique of the PRC on the 2020 National Education", 27 August 2021. Available at http://www.MOE.gov.cn/jyb_sjzl/sjzl_fztjgb/202 108/t20210827_555004.html.
- 14 NBS, 2021 China Population and Employment Statistical Yearbook (Beijing, China Statistics Press, 2021).
- 15 National Health Commission, "Statistical Communique of the People's Republic of China on the 2015 Health and Family Planning Affairs 2015", 21 July 2016. Available at http://www.gov.cn/shuju/2016-07/21/content_5093411.ht m; and "Statistical Communique of the People's Republic of China on the 2020 Health affairs/", 22 July 2021. Available at http://www.gov.cn/guoqing/2021-07/22/content_5626526.htm.
- 16 National Health Security Administration, "Statistical Communique of the PRC on the 2020 National Health Security Development", 8 June 2021. Available at http://www.nhsa.gov.cn /art/2021/6/8/art 7 5232.html.
- 17 Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MOHRSS), "Statistical Communique of the People's Republic of China on the 2020 Human Resources and Social Security Affairs", 3 June 2021. Available at http://www.mohrss. gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/zwgk/szrs/tjgb/202106/W 020210728371980297515.pdf.
- 18 Ministry of Civil Affairs, "Statistical Communique of Civil Affairs of 2020", 10 September 2021. Available at http://images3.mca.gov.cn/www2017/file/202109/163126514 7970.pdf.



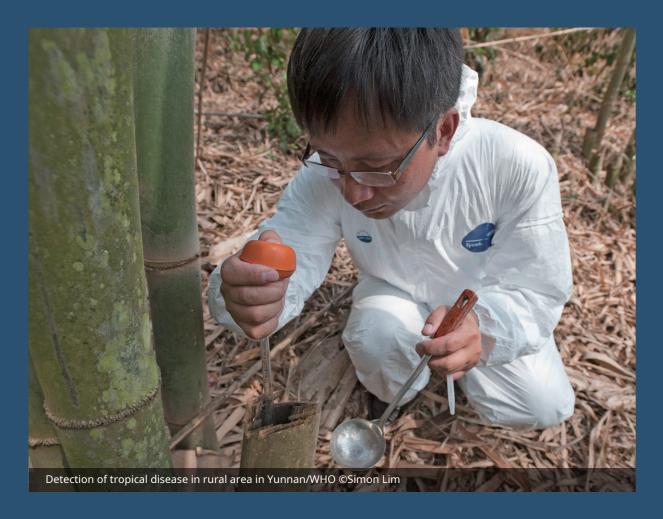
2.2.1. SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY FOR IMPROVED SOCIAL AND PUBLIC POLICIES

The UN in China provided technical advice and advocated for improved social and public policies in the areas of education, health and nutrition, and social protection and services.



- Provided technical inputs on the development of Guidelines for Kindergarten Quality Assessment.
- Contributed to integrating the SDG 4 targets and indicators into the 14th FYP and 2035 Education Modernization Plan.
- Provided technical advice in the preparation of the guidelines for schooling during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Supported the development of the Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) Technical Guideline and the School Protection Regulations for Minors, emphasizing

- the role of schools in providing sexuality education and HIV prevention.
- Provided assistance in the integration of sexuality education in the Law of Protection of Minors and the Outline on the Development of Chinese Children (2021-2030).
- Supported the development and issuance of the Government Red Title Order on Promoting Gender Equality in Education in Dongxiang Autonomous County of Gansu Province, which ensures ethnic minority girls' education rights and promotes gender equality education in all schools in Dongxiang.



*)(>) HEALTH & NUTRITION

- Advocated for integrating Minimum Initial Service Package for Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) in Crisis Situations into national health and disaster emergency preparedness and response systems.
- Facilitated the inclusion of people-centred integrated care pilots and reform efforts in the Key Tasks of Deepening Health Reform in 2021 to more effectively address major health problems, such as non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and ageing.
- Supported China's move toward Universal Health Coverage and full implementation of Healthy China
- Informed the development of the 14th FYP in health-related areas by submitting the Joint Review Report of China's 10-year Health Reform to the State Council leadership of China's health reform multi-sectoral taskforce.
- Supported China to obtain Certification of Malaria Elimination in June 2021, a major milestone in the history of public health in China.

- Advocated China in adopting the global 2025 AIDS targets in its 14th Five-Year Action Plan.
- Supported in development and implementation of new strategies, policies and interventions to accelerate national progress towards triple elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission (eMTCT) and ending tuberculosis and AIDS.
- Assisted in adding three new HIV treatment drugs to the revised national health insurance list.
- Informed the development of a national scale-up plan on Early Essential Newborn Care (EENC) services and contributed to the inclusion of EENC in the National Breastfeeding Promotion Action Plan.
- Contributed to the integration of neonatal mortality rate as a core indicator in the Outline on the Development of Chinese Children (2021-2030).
- Promoted the Front-of-Pack Labeling system for a healthier food environment to support the implementation of the Balanced Diet Action 2017-2030.



SOCIAL PROTECTION & SERVICES

- Supported extending social protection coverage, especially Employment Injury Insurance, to workers in non-standard forms of employment, migrant workers and women.
- Assisted in building an Integrated Management Information System for social assistance to dynamically monitor low-income populations and children.
- Contributed to the update of the Basic Public Service Standards of China.
- Strengthened the child protection legislative and advocacy framework, with technical inputs and suggestions integrated into the Family Education Promotion Law (2021), the Outline on the Development of Chinese Children (2021-2030), the Law on Child Welfare, the Regulations on the Protection of Minors in Schools (2021), and the 2021-2030 National Anti-Trafficking Plan of Action.
- Provided technical contributions to the development of the Opinion on Further Strengthening Professional Social Work Workforce and Promoting its High-quality Development, the Social Work Service Specifications in Child Welfare Institutions and the Juvenile Justice Social Work Service Specification.

- Contributed to development of the National Plan of Action Against Trafficking III and National Framework for the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration of Vulnerable Migrants.
- Supported the development and issuance of first-of-its-kind Gender Equality Guidelines by the China Association for NGO Cooperation, providing guidance to Chinese foundations and CSOs to address gender equality issues in their projects and internal governance of the organization.
- Supported China to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled, facilitating persons with print disabilities to access books and other printed works.
- Provided policy recommendations for the formulation of the Guiding Opinion on Promoting Child Friendly Cities and helped the city of Wuhan to develop the Child-Friendly City Plan.
- Contributed to the development of the 14th National Five-Year Plan on Ageing.



2.2.2. STRENGTHENING OF SERVICE DELIVERY

The UN supported China in improving the accessibility, equitability and quality of public and social services, benefitting more people in China, particularly vulnerable groups.

HEALTH



EDUCATION



NUTRITION



WASH



SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SERVICES

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- Expanded the services of **eMTCT** of HIV, syphilis and Hepatitis B nationwide based on the piloting experience in three provinces

- Improved access to maternal and child health service through the expansion of the Maternal Child Health-Management Information System platform to 11 provinces, covering 76,981 health facilities



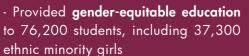
- Provided training to the health workers in 832 counties through the development and implementation of **infant and young child feeding** counselling service training plan, benefiting over 5 million children



- Provided **nutrition meals** to 9,508 rural preschool children (4,437 girls and 5,071 boys) in Hunan, Gansu, Guanaxi and Sichuan



- Facilitated the enrolment of 16 refugee children into public primary schools



- Promoted **CSE** among multiple stakeholders through training workshops, meetings and school lesson delivery, reaching about 20,000 teachers and community social workers and more than 20,000 students
- Provided **life skill and TVET** to disadvantaged students and supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) teaching and learning in rural secondary/vocational schools
- Promoted and provided **life-long learning** opportunities to both rural and urban people through the operation of community learning centres in seven provinces of China

- Provided 60 **drinking water purification units** to 40,000 students and teachers in 47 schools in selected minority areas in Xinjiang, Gansu, and Yunnan
- Provided USD 1,973,447 worth of supplies including gender-sensitive **hygiene kits, first aid kits**, thermometers, medical equipment, teaching and learning kits, and school furniture in responding to the earthquake in Qinghai and floods in Henan and Shanxi
- Improved the access to the basic sanitation infrastructure for poor people through the "Eco-LooBox for All" solution with an all-in-one eco-friendly sanitary system
- Improved 10,000 adolescents' and youth's knowledge and skills on **sexual and reproductive health and rights** (SRHR)
- Developed a multi-sectoral mechanism to identify and respond to adolescent psychological crises
- Strengthening the provision of comprehensive, rights-based, gender-sensitive, and high-quality **SRH services** to vulnerable populations, including Tibetan ethnic minorities in Qinghai and Shanxi
- Promoted equal access to **HIV prevention and treatment** for people living with, at risk, or affected by HIV and supported the implementation of China AIDS Fund for NGOs to support 980 HIV prevention, treatment and care projects led by community-based organizations, benefitting approximately 300,000 people
- Piloted HIV prevention cascades for female sex workers, men who have sex with men, and people who use drugs
- Supported more than 100 community-based organizations in **community-led HIV service provision and HIV drug distribution** during local COVID-19 outbreaks and lockdowns
- Secured support from health facilities to provide free healthcare to vulnerable asylum seekers
- Supported **international PLHIV in accessing HIV-related services** in China by providing information on travel policies, HIV testing, and medications

- Promoted **positive parenting** through training, enhanced 8,254 parents' and caregivers' knowledge and behavior of child development, stress management and communication with children
- Piloted and built a preventive and responsive integrated child protection system at county level, which supported case management services for approximately 200 vulnerable children and families and helped 2,324 child directors to assist children and families, enabling more than 50,000 vulnerable children to access government social assistance programmes
- Provided agricultural insurance subsidies to provincial and county governments of Shaanxi Province, benefitting local farmers there
- Provided **cash assistance** to 256 refugees and asylum-seekers to cover their basic living expenses and medical needs
- Provided **financial support** 367 refugees and asylum-seekers for purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE) and helped 39 of them get vaccinated against COVID-19



- Launched people-centred integrated care pilots and reform efforts in six counties of three provinces to effectively address major health problems such as NCD and ageing
- Strengthened the Government's capacity to sustainably respond to China's demographic transition, particularly on low fertility and ageing issues by providing research analysis and evidence

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YOUNG AND SCHOOL CHILDREN



2.2.3. REDUCTION OF SOCIAL INEQUALITY

The UN worked to accelerate China's efforts to reduce and eliminate gender inequality, violence and discrimination against vulnerable populations and other forms of social inequality.

CHILDREN

- Addressed multi-dimensional poverty faced by children through building more robust evidence, increasing the government's understanding of multi-dimensional child deprivation and convening policy discussions with relevant stakeholders.
- Strengthened the protection of children from injuries and violence by building comprehensive child protection mechanisms, and raised public awareness on child online safety and protection.





WOMEN

Raised awareness on ending violence against women through key measures of reinforcing the importance
of gender equality education for changing harmful norms, supporting capacity development of social
service providers, promoting women's leadership and voice, and strengthening law enforcement to
improve legal remedies and provide justice for survivors.

PWDS

- Strengthened private sector capacity on disability inclusion through information sharing, training and employment promotion campaigns.
- Promoted the inclusion of children with disabilities by building the capacity of child directors, enhancing children's participation, and raising awareness of their rights.
- Promoted SRHR for PWDs through developing and piloting a training package in collaboration with organizations for persons with disabilities.





LGBTI

 Strengthened the legal aid and empowerment for vulnerable populations, including LGBTI people, in order to reduce discrimination and GBV against them and support advocacy capacity development of LGBTI organizations.

MIGRANTS & VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

- Helped vulnerable migrants to return and reintegrate in their home countries through assisted voluntary return and reintegration programmes.
- Supported the piloting of victim-centred, child-sensitive and trauma-informed assistance and referral mechanisms for victims of trafficking at the provincial level.

REFUGEE

 Advocated for the inclusion of refugees in national systems and called on China to develop national asylum procedures.

PLHIV

- Facilitated towards eliminating discrimination and GBV against marginalized populations, including PLHIV, and enhanced their access to justice and social services by empowering them and raising awareness.
- Collected evidence and developed technical reports with national partners and community group organizations to promote equal access to high-quality HIV prevention, testing, and treatment services.



2.3. OUTCOME 3

People in China and the region benefit from a healthier and more resilient environment.

Contributing Entities: ESCAP-CSAM, FAO, IFAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, UN Women, WFP, WIPO

For the past four decades, rapid economic growth in China has come with a cost of environmental degradation such as air, water and soil pollution, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, which has posed a negative impact on people's health and lives. Recognizing the dire need for environmental protection and preservation, the GoC has issued a series of measures to preserve and construct a healthier and more resilient environment and has achieved notable progress. From 2015 to 2021, the average intensity of PM 2.5 particles decreased from 64 microgram/m³ to 30 microgram/m³. Meanwhile, China's forest area increased to 24.1 percent of the total land area. Despite these efforts, China still faces significant challenges in environmental conservation.

The UN has continued to support China's environmental protection and preservation efforts through both technical assistance and programme support. In 2021, UN entities worked closely with China at both the national and local level to promote climate-smart agriculture and sustainable food systems, and strengthen biodiversity and natural habitat protection.

- 19 NBS, "2015 Statistical Communiqué on Social and Economic Development", 29 February 2016. Available at http://www.stats.gov.cn/ english/pressrelease/201602/t20160229_1324 019.html; and "2020 Statistical Communiqué on Social and Economic Development", 28 February 2022. Available at http://www.stats. gov.cn/english/PressRelease/202202/t2022022 7_1827963.html.
- Ministry of Ecology and Environment, "Communique of the PRC on the 2020 Ecology and Environment Development", 24 May 2021. Available at https://www.mee.gov.cn/hjzl/sthj zk/zghjzkgb/202105/P02021052657275618478

2.3.1. CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

The UN utilized its technical expertise and convening power to promote climate-smart and sustainable agricultural practices among farmers, cooperatives and relevant agricultural companies and financial institutions, as a result:

- 50,020 smallholder farmers, of whom 45 percent are female, adopted climate-smart agriculture practices for 1,881 hectares of land through training on climate-resilient agricultural skills and practices.
- Nine new innovative and/or gender responsive tools and approaches for promoting climate resilience and biodiversity conservation were developed with UN support, including climate-smart mechanization solution in Shanxi Province, artificial intelligence farming of tomatoes in partnership with e-commerce platforms, rice-fish co-farming in East Dongting Lake, reed-based mushroom planting in South Dongting Lake, eco-tourism in West Dongting Lake, ecological fish farming and traditional crop planting in Hengling Lake, a toolkit to facilitate the participation of local communities in heritage education at Wolong in Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries, a small-scaled household potato storage system in Gansu Province and a fertigation system of kiwi orchards in Anhui Province.
- 108 agricultural companies and financial institutions and 17 farmer cooperatives, including four women-led ones, applied innovative technologies, approaches, and practices in support of climate resilience and biodiversity conservation.
- A gender action plan was developed and integrated into the Project Management Manual to enhance the gender responsiveness of a new climate change project in 10 pilot counties of Hunan Province and guide local government partners on project implementation.
- Over 69,000 women farmers in Qinghai Province improved their capacity and access to resources for climate-resilient livelihood opportunities and entrepreneurship through the support of a three-year project. Among those who benefited from the entrepreneurship start-up training, 75 percent of these women farmers succeeded in creating their businesses.



- Farmers from Shandong Province improved their capacity in sustainable straw management through a training project that identified, tested and promoted a mechanized and circular model of utilizing straw as fertilizer, fodder and sources of clean energy production.
- 5,441 government officials, farmers and villagers, of whom 34 percent were female, strengthened their understanding of sustainable agriculture through training on various topics, including law enforcement, biodiversity conservation, community co-management, nature education, black soil protection, etc.

2.3.2. BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL HABITAT CONSERVATION

The UN in China provided technical advice and support in the development, improvement and issuance of a series of national and local regulations and policies on natural habitat conservation, including:

- Recommendations on Strengthening Ecological Flow Management in River and Lake Management and Procedures to Implement Ecological Flow.
- Dongting Lake Protection Regulation of Hunan Province.
- Wetland Ecological Compensation Mechanism and the Migratory Bird Protection Ordinance in Jiangxi Province.
- China's national agenda to Establish a System of Protected Areas with National Parks as the Main Body in eight provinces.
- Provincial policy and legislation for migratory bird conservation along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway
 in China.
- Sustainability Plan for the Beijing Winter Olympic Games contributing to natural habitat conservation.

The UN's projects also contributed to expanded protected areas and natural reserves, and strengthened the capacities of biodiversity and habitat conservation across 13 provinces in China.

- 23,600 hectares of forests in Guangxi, Fujian, Hainan and Henan adopted sustainable forest management practices, and 4,519 people, of whom 1,026 were females and 688 were from ethnic minority groups, received training in sustainable forest management.
- The coverage of Protected Areas was widened in Gansu, Qinghai, Sichuan, Zhejiang, Guangdong, Guangxi, Fujian and Yunnan, including 1.9 million new hectares of protected wetlands.
- The Protected Areas and ecological corridor networks were developed and expanded by over 25,000
 hectares in the West Qinling-Mountains, increasing the coverage of key biodiversity areas and habitat
 connectivity in Gansu Province.
- The Marine Protected Area Network in Southeast China was expanded by 40,000 hectares. Among them, 5,997 hectares in Guangxi Province were identified as a potential Marine Park.
- The nursery of Golden Camellia in Yunnan Province was expanded to 3,000 square meters, and 5,000 plants of Golden Camellia were distributed to local communities.
- The Protected Area Network in Shennongjia expanded and improved its management effectiveness and landscape connectivity through UN support. Biodiversity conservation was mainstreamed in the Five-Year Plans of relevant government agencies and the targeted forest district.
- Four natural education plans were implemented in the primary schools of Hunan, Shandong and Jiangxi Provinces and in the Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries World Heritage site, which increased children's and youth's knowledge and participation in nature conservation.
- The local communities of Hunan, Yunnan and Guangxi enhanced their understanding of and access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge through the UN's project support.

2.4. OUTCOME 4

China accelerates its transition to a people-centred, inclusive, low carbon, and circular economy

Contributing Entities: ESCAP-CSAM, FAO, IFAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UN Global Compact, UNICEF, UNIDO, UN-Habitat, UN Women

With climate change presenting an existential threat to humanity as a whole, bringing down CO2 emissions 21 The State Council Information Office, remains a top priority of China's development agenda. China is accelerating its green economy transformation and has made good progress towards low-carbon development. Under the goal of achieving peak carbon emissions by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2060, China cut its CO2 emissions by 48.4 percent per unit of GDP from the 2005 level, and its share of non-fossil energy sources rose to 15.9 percent of the total energy consumption.²¹ In the power sector, China's installed capacity of power generation using renewable energy resources reached 1 billion kilowatts by October 2021, double the level of 2015 and accounting for about 43.5 percent of the country's total installed capacity of power generation.²² In addition, China is currently fast-forwarding its plan to establish a "1+N" policy framework that aims to have detailed action plans for each specific sector to reach carbon peak and neutrality goals.²³ Besides climate change, other environmental challenges have resulted from the decades of rapid growth, such as the management and disposal of hazardous substances and waste, creating hazards to human health and

The UN has supported China in fighting climate change and in transitioning to low-carbon and green development, from both macro and micro levels. At the same time, the UN also continued its programmes to promote responsible and sustainable consumption and production (SCP) practices in China.

- "Responding to Climate Change: China's Policies and Actions", 27 October 2021. Available at http://www.scio.gov.cn/zfbps/3283 2/Document/1715506/1715506.htm
- installed capacity of renewable energy generation exceeded 1 billion kilowatts of water and scenery biomass power generation installed in the world's first", 26 November 2021. Available at http://www.nea.gov.cn/2021 -11/26/c 1310335027 htm
- 23 The State Council Information Office, "Responding to Climate Change: China's Policies and Actions", 27 October 2021. Available at http://www.scio.gov.cn/zfbps/3283 2/Document/1715506/1715506.htm

2.4.1. **CLIMATE CHANGE AND** LOW-CARBON ENERGY TRANSITION

The UN provided both project and policy support to demonstrate a potential pathway for China towards the low-carbon transition and green development. Several major pilot projects have been introduced and implemented, which significantly reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

- The Fuel Cell Vehicles (FCVs) Project launched in 2018 has deployed 3,057 FCVs in eight cities, completing 64.7 million kilometres in mileage and reducing emissions by 138 kilotonnes of CO2. The project has also generated 12,000 job opportunities (3,972 for females), leveraged CNY 675.5 billion of investment commitment to support the hydrogen and fuel cell value chains, and helped shape five industrial clusters across China. Among the eight demonstration cities, five were selected as the first batch for China's national FCVs pilot scheme, which is backed with up to CNY 5.1 billion of public funding.
- 20 pilot projects were conducted to enhance energy efficiency in public buildings, which achieved a cumulative reduction of 56 kilotonnes of CO2 emissions. A Roadmap for Energy Efficiency Improvement of Public Buildings was developed, focusing on standards related to energy conservation, energy efficiency, and low-carbon development. Relevant experiences and lessons generated from the pilots were adopted by the 14th FYP of Beijing, Chongging, and some other provinces on improving the energy efficiency of buildings.
- The Project on Phase-out of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) in the Solvent Sector Plan was continuing in 2021. In collaboration with the enterprises in the Solvent sector, the project has helped the phase-out of 711 million tonnes of ozone-depleting substances.
- In the Industrial and Commercial Air-Conditioning sector, projects have been also ongoing, which have resulted in the reduction of 6,802 million tonnes of HCFCs consumption and the net direct CO2 -equivalent emission reductions of about 12,247,900 metric tons.





- The Project on Increasing Investments in District Energy Systems in Cities assisted the national government and selected local governments to promote policies and investment in the expansion of modern district energy systems to reduce GHG emissions.
- The Alliance of Methane Emissions Control in the Oil and Gas Sector in China was established with UN support, aiming for the reduction of methane emissions-intensity from the natural gas production process to less than 0.25 percent by 2025.
- With UN support, the Chengdu Hi-Tech Industrial Development Zone developed the Sustainable Planning Guidelines for Chengdu Future Science and Technology City that incorporated flexible development models, low-carbon and efficient transportation, as well as energy and intelligent operation management.

Besides project implementation, the UN in China also provided technical advice and policy support to create a more enabling environment for low-carbon and green development through the organization of a variety of workshops and policy dialogues, such as the Policy Dialogue on Green Development (Acting on COVID-posed Challenges: Accelerating the Transition to a Low-carbon Economy), Dialogue on Carbon Neutrality in the Agriculture Sector and Dialogue on the Implementation Plan of Carbon Neutrality.

2.4.2. SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PRACTICE

The UN provided technical assistance and support to promote SCP practices in China. Through project implementation, UN entities helped to reduce the production and consumption of endosulfan by 2,850 tonnes and dispose of 19 tonnes of historic stockpiles in an environmentally friendly way. Through research, capacity building and policy dialogues, the UN promoted multi-stakeholder communication, raised people's awareness and stimulated innovative SCP actions such as sustainable food production and consumption practices, technologies for the circular economy, better management of used and waste electric vehicle batteries, reduction of food waste, and improved corporate social responsibilities. The UN in China also designed localized performance indicator systems as part of the guidelines for the establishment of sustainable industrial parks. Furthermore, the UN proposed specific decarbonization initiatives for six of the infrastructure industries from the consumption side — transportation, agriculture and food, industrial manufacturing, construction, digital and information and financial services, and provided deep-dive case studies for companies to understand more details on decarbonization.

2.5. OUTCOME 5

Contributing Entities: FAO, ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIDO, UN Global Compact, UN Women, WHO

China's international financing, investments and business engagements, including through connectivity initiatives, programmes and projects, contribute to SDG attainment in partner countries.

China has steadily increased its international development financing and investments through both bilateral and multilateral cooperation. In 2020, China's foreign direct investment outflow reached USD 153.7 billion and became the largest in the world, covering 189 countries and regions, as 28,000 Chinese investors set up 45,000 enterprises across the globe.²⁴

Against this background, the priority for the UN is to leverage upon China's global development cooperation engagements and contribute towards advancing progress on critical global agendas such as the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, while adding value, contributing best practices and ensuring compliance to international norms and standards.

To realize this, the UN's focus under this outcome is informing and advising national institutions that are going abroad, ensuring SDG-aligned public and private investment, financing and business engagements. Our support entails: a) advising State-Owned Enterprises, Private-Owned Enterprises and CSOs on applying the ESG (Environment, Social and Governance) principles and sustainable business models; and b) supporting regulatory authorities and national development banks in informing decision making on investment programmes to ensure that they are socially environmentally and economically sustainable and risk-informed. To be specific, the UN contributed to the following results in the past year:

- Strengthened international labour standards in Chinese overseas investments, integrating normative principles of gender mainstreaming, LNOB, and disability care.
- Provided evidence-based analysis on cutting-edge issues on the importance of development of low-carbon technologies and environmental, social, and governance finance, and raised the awareness of the GoC on SDG attainment through global engagements.
- Increased awareness of Chinese overseas enterprises about HIV knowledge and fair employment, as well as international norms that guide Chinese businesses going abroad.
- Sought cooperation with national and international financial institutions, including the China Development Bank, to integrate child-related SDGs in their investment decisions and policies to promote a more child-friendly investment strategy.
- Supported the GoC in promoting SDG resilient infrastructure by participating in key global forums.

2.6. OUTCOME 6

Contributing Entities:

ESCAP-CSAM, FAO, ICAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNV, UN Women, WFP, WHO

Through South-South cooperation and humanitariar cooperation, China makes greater contributions to SDG attainment and the principles of the 2030 Agenda, including leaving no one behind.

In its White Paper on International Development Cooperation, China highlighted the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda as important guiding frameworks for its contributions in partner countries while stressing the importance of multilateralism. China's foreign assistance between 2013 and 2018 cumulatively totalled CNY 270.2 billion in grants, interest-free loans, and concessional loans.²⁵ The South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund (SSCAF) announced in 2015 has become one of the major modalities of China's South-South Cooperation (SSC) engagement. Since the launch of its first project in 2016, the SSCAF has supported over 100 projects in more than 50 countries, benefitting over 20 million people in the world and 26 China International Development Cooperation covering a wide range of areas.²⁶ In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, China has also supported the global response. In February 2021, China officially joined the COVAX Facility, and to date has provided over 2.1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines to more than 120 countries and international organizations.²⁷

25 The State Council Information Office, "China's International Development Cooperation in the New Era",10 January 2021. Available at http://english.www.gov.cn/archive/whitepaper/2 02101/10/content WS5ffa6bbbc6d0f7257694392

24 Ministry of Commerce, NBS and State

Administration of Foreign Exchange, 2020

Statistical Bulletin of China's Outward Foreign

Direct Investment (Beijing, China Commerce Press, 2021). Available at http://www.gov.cn/ xinwen/2021-09/29/5639984/files/a3015be4dc

1f45458513ab39691d37dd.pdf.

Agency, "China provides food aid to Sierra Leone via SSCAF", 9 August 2021. Available at http://en.cidca.gov.cn/2021-08/09/c_652133.htm.

Building on this momentum and using its global networks, the UN in China has facilitated access of UN Country Teams in Southern partner countries to China's expertise, experiences and resources in responding to multiple emergency and development needs, thereby bridging demand and supply while instilling best practices in China's SSC engagements.

As China is broadening its concept from aid to international development cooperation and translating it into practice, the UN in China focuses on shaping the policy discourse and actions in China's international development cooperation engagements. By providing these best practices and international norms and standards, the UN aims to inform decision making and fund allocation processes to strengthen SDG impact, results orientation and transparency.

27 Xinhua, "China provides over 2.1b doses of COVID-19 vaccines globally: spokesperson", 3 March 2022. Available at http://english.www. gov.cn/news/topnews/202203/03/content WS 62209132c6d09c94e48a5db6.html

2.6.1. SOUTH-SOUTH AND HUMANITARIAN **COOPERATION PROJECTS**

In 2021, the UN in China facilitated more than 70 Southern partner counties in accessing China's resources, expertise and experiences in response to their respective development and emergency needs, through around 70 South-South and trilateral cooperation (SSTC) projects (See Annex). Among these, 29 were newly initiated projects totalling more than USD 40 million, with funding support from the China International Development Cooperation Agency, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, Ministry of Transport, as well as the UN and other organizations. These projects have covered a wide range of development areas catering to context-specific needs and priorities based on country demand, with focus on the COVID response, resilience and building back better, food security and assistance, livelihoods and poverty reduction, agricultural development, emergency assistance, disaster management, education, vocational skill development, and employment promotion, etc.

2.6.2. INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT **COOPERATION, EXCHANGE AND LEARNING**

In the past year, the UN in China has been promoting two flagship initiatives, 1) The SDG Partnership Platform: Towards Rural Revitalization and Food Systems Transformation in China and Beyond, which aims to leverage the resources of stakeholders from government, the private sector and the UN to accelerate SDGs implementation by matchina demand-driven priorities on the African continent with supply-side resources, expertise and experiences from China and; 2) The International Center of Excellence for Applied Sustainable Development Solutions in Africa as an independent and technical research outfit based in Africa. It aims to address the development challenges of African countries and advance the SDGs on the continent, in cooperation with the leading scholars, practitioners and experts from China, the United States, Europe and Africa.

On the SSCAF, the UN has been actively engaged with government counterparts in advising and applying the demand-driven, SDG-informed, results-based approach into the proposal review, evaluation and approval process of the fund, bringing in multilateral experience and best practices.

The UN produced an Issue Brief on the White Paper on China's International Development Cooperation, analyzing key developments and novelties reflected in the White Paper and providing recommendations on how to move new and redefined concepts relating to transparency, digital solutions, strengthened dialogue mechanisms and partnerships going forwards. The UN also facilitated an in-depth dialogue on this topic, with participation from Development Partners, Government entities as well as UN Country Team members, identifying future entry points and collaboration opportunities.



In the area of agricultural development and food security, the UN has been actively engaged in the design, development, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting process of SSC projects and supported affected populations to recover from food losses, improve their value chains, increase the resilience of their food systems and promote inclusive agricultural development. Through policy dialogues, technical exchanges and field demonstrations, the UN facilitated the sharing of experiences and lessons learned between China and Southern partner countries on improving food security and enhancing local capacities.

In terms of health, the UN facilitated, coordinated, and advocated for China to support the global response to COVID-19 pandemic, such as joining COVAX, encouraging vaccine development, and applying for the WHO Emergency Use Listing (EUL)/Prequalification Programme evaluation process. Following EUL approval, two Chinese COVID-19 vaccines have been supplied to COVAX. In addition, the UN also continued to work with China and other countries to respond to Ebola Virus Disease, through provision of PPEs, providing technical support and trainings in infectious disease prevention and control.

With strong support from Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, the UN in China continued operating the Global Humanitarian Response Hub in Guangzhou and supported the global response to COVID-19 and other humanitarian crises.

Partnered with government counterparts, the UN in China promoted children's rights in China's international development cooperation projects, strengthened the capacity of government counterparts in child-centered international development through policy dialogues and international best practice sharing. It also advocated for providing SRH and GBV related services to women and girls in humanitarian settings.

The UN in China also actively engaged with Chinese CSOs going overseas, via a joint programme, with the focus on strengthening the capacities and knowledge of CSOs, to ensure adherence to international best practice and transparency and accountability principles.

In the process leading up to the 8th Ministerial Meeting of FOCAC, the UN in China promoted improved access to health commodities and strengthened health systems to better respond to pandemics through China-Africa Cooperation and contributed to the integration of gender equality and women's empowerment into the FOCAC processes and outcome documents through a detailed technical analysis on GEWE.

The UN also contributed to the integration of "refugee" and "migrant" into China's White Paper on its International Development Cooperation, highlighting the importance of protecting and addressing the needs of this vulnerable group as part of China's international humanitarian assistance.

Furthermore, the UN worked with the GoC to leverage its core expertise through the Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership, supporting African partner countries to strengthen environmental planning and management while creating a conducive environment for more sustainable investment flows.

Finally, the UN supported the establishment of the International Hydrogen Energy Centre, with an aim to promote best practices in the global hydrogen energy industry through South-South, triangular and regional cooperation, by way of technology research, development and application, as well as capacity building towards green hydrogen economies.

In addition, the UN supported the organization of a number of international events and capacity-building activities to facilitate and enhance the mutual learning, knowledge sharing and experience exchanges between China and other countries in the areas of poverty alleviation, agricultural development, rural revitalization, disaster response, emergency management, health, HIV prevention and control, WASH, environment, and clean energy. 12 new initiatives were developed to increase exchanges of knowledge, practices and needs between China and other countries to achieve the SDGs, including annual forums, knowledge networks, regular exchange channels, and other communication and collaboration mechanisms.



3.

UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

In following recently implemented reforms of the UN of building a more cohesive, efficient and leaner UN Country Team, the UN in China has put continuous efforts into strengthening joined-up planning and programming, enhancing coordinated communication and advocacy, and promoting common business operations to ensure the Country Team delivers on the UNSDCF in a more unified approach.



3.1. JOINED-UP PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING

The development and implementation of the UNSDCF has improved the joined-up planning and programming amongst the UN Country Team in China. To ensure an integrated and coordinated UN response to UNSDCF implementation, the UN in China has established a coordination and governance structure and developed a system-wide Joint Work Plan. This helps to enhance the understanding of different UN entities' work in a holistic way, identify opportunities for closer inter-agency collaboration through joint programmes or collective actions, and maximize synergies while avoiding duplications across different entities. An increasing number of collective initiatives and activities were planned and implemented in the past year, though strengthened efforts are needed to facilitate more joint planning and programming.



3.2. COORDINATED COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY

Delivering concise and impactful communications with one unified voice is a crucial and fundamental principle that guides the UN's work in China. In 2021, the UN in China developed an associated communication strategy and put collective and joint effort into delivering the UN's key messages to government counterparts, private sector partners, the wide general public and other relevant stakeholders, through both traditional and emerging media modalities. This greatly enhanced the coordination, cooperation, and coherence of the UN's communication and advocacy efforts in China.

To better harness communication to support the UNSDCF implementation, influence public policy, and promote the SDGs, the UN entities in China jointly organized a series of communication and advocacy events on a wide range of SDG related topics. The table below highlights some of the joint activities held for key international days in 2021.

INTERNATIONAL DAYS	CAMPAIGN THEMES	COMMUNICATION IMPACTS
Zero Discrimination Day (1 st March)	End Inequalities	20 plus videos and seven fact sheets on zero discrimination were produced and widely disseminated, which delivered clear messages on HIV prevention, testing, and treatment, and elimination of all forms of discrimination and stigma
International Women's Day (8 th March)	Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in a COVID-19 World	The powerful stories of women's contribution in leading COVID-19 response and recovery efforts were shared through video, which generated over 49 million discussions on social media
	Women in Tech: Promoting gender equality in STEM	A joint social media advocacy campaign was conducted to inspire more women and girls to pursue STEM careers by sharing stories of women leaders working in the tech sector, receiving roughly 73 million impressions
World Health Day (7 th April)	Building a Fairer, Healthier World	A social media campaign featuring the prevalence of health inequalities, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, was conducted, together with a theme video for raising the social awareness and breaking the bias towards vulnerable groups and their rights to high-quality medication. The campaign received 828,000 views
World Environment Day (5 th June)	Restore, Reimagine, Recreate: Launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration	Representatives from UN organizations, government, private sector, and NGOs shared good practices in ecosystem restoration. An event themed Antarctic Ozone Layer Restoration attracted over 20 million online views
	Time for Nature: Amplifying Youth Voices on Biodiversity Conservation	A campaign on the importance of biodiversity protection was held to inspire Youth to speak out. Over 70,000 individuals and organizations participated and shared over 40,000 user-generated videos and posters on social media platforms, receiving over 900 million views
World Population Day (11 th July)	Women's Physical Autonomy and Empowerment	A social media campaign was conducted to raise public awareness of women's bodily autonomy and empowerment, and gender equality. It reached more than 25 million people online and attracted hundreds of women and young people to share their views and demonstrate support of the theme
International Rural Women's Day (15 th October)	Recognition of rural Women's Contribution to Sustainable Agricultural Production and Food Security	A joint Op-Ed highlighted the importance of empowering rural women to build back better from the pandemic. The theme video focused on rural women's contribution to sustainable agricultural production and food security, attracting around 150,000 views and discussions on social media
UN Day (25 th October)	A celebration of the 76 th UN Day and the 50 th Anniversary of the restoration of the lawful seat of the People's Republic of China in the UN	A celebratory event featuring poetry reading and other cultural performances was organized, highlighting the need for a more sustainable and peaceful future. The relevant hashtag for the event attracted over 19 million views on the social media platform
World Children's Day (20 th November)	Unite Our Voices, Light Up for Children	City light-ups expanded to 21 cities or venues and generated extensive media coverage around children's rights. The online campaign received over 14.9 million posts and shares, and 1.29 billion impressions
16 Days of Activism against GBV (25 th November – 10 th December)	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls	The "Stand with her, act for us" campaign joined by the CSOs, Media Key Opinion Leaders and national youth networks, generated 40 million discussions on Weibo and Kuaishou. As part of the campaign, 16 short videos were developed and disseminated
World AIDS Day (1 st December)	End Inequality, End AIDS, End Pandemics	An online Q&A contest on key knowledge related to AIDS was launched and multiple videos for promoting equal HIV services for PLHIV and key population were developed and disseminated. These received more than 96 million views and 250,000 comments on social media
International Day of PWDs (3 rd December)	Making Persons with Disabilities Visible	The social media campaign advanced the visibility and rights of PWDs, reaching over 5 million social media users and generating a collection of positive images showcasing the empowerment and social participation of PWDs

In addition, UN entities in China held many other events to raise awareness, build capacity, and inspire the actions of relevant stakeholders on a variety of themes related to their mandates. Through social media campaigns, forums, workshops, dialogues, and other joined-up communication efforts, the UN Country Team in China successfully brought the issues of vulnerable groups to the public and government's attention and advocated for enhanced protection and rights for those left behind.

Meanwhile, the UN initiated a first-ever UN Country Team China podcast, Delivering as One: a UN in China Conversation, to promote the idea of how UN entities in China work as part of one UN system towards the achievement of SDGs. Since its launch in September 2021, four episodes featuring the heads of UN entities in China were published, with more coming in 2022 aiming to cover the whole system.

The UN in China has consistently leveraged upon its relationships with key stakeholders from state-owned media, new media, the private sector, and technology companies, among others, to reach out to diverse audiences and expand its communication impacts. In future years, strengthening these crucial partnerships will remain an ongoing effort so as to ensure long-term viability and achieve more impactful communications and advocacy results.



3.3. COMMON BUSINESS OPERATION

The UN China has expanded and strengthened common business services and practices across the system for more effective and efficient operation in China. Since mid-2020, the UN Country Team has been implementing the common Business Operation Strategy covering five pillars: Procurement, ICT, Human Resources, Finance/Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) and Common Premises/Administrative Services, with good progress achieved so far, including:

- Improved human resource and orientation procedures for new staff.
- Reduced transaction costs and enhanced operation efficiency through shared long-term agreements on travel management, cleaning, security guard, stationery supply and local transportation services.
- Completed HACT macro assessment for the new cycle of the country programme.

More activities on simplifying and harmonizing the common operation services across the UN system in China are being planned and will be implemented in 2022.

3.4. CROSS-CUTTING AREAS

As noted above, the UN in China has been mainstreaming the cross-cutting themes of GEWE, disability inclusion and youth into the implementation of the UNSDCF across all six Outcome areas, so as to better promote and protect the rights of the vulnerable populations and ensure that no one is left behind.

As a regular practice, the UN in China conducts Annual Scorecard Assessments on GEWE, disability, and youth, which include a comprehensive review of the progress of GEWE, disability inclusion, and youth engagement and participation across the UN system in China while proposing new action points for improvement in terms of both programmes and operations. In addition, UN system-wide training on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) was organized for all UN staff in China, who were informed of PSEA issues, their rights and obligations towards PSEA, and available measures and remedies against prohibited conduct, towards creating a more harmonious work environment conducive to all staff irrespective of gender and other factors of social diversity.

4. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In 2021, the UN in China reported a total of USD 141.70 million in programmatic expenditures. IFAD is the organization with the largest programmatic expenditure (USD 43.44 million), followed by UNDP (USD 31.84 million), UNICEF (USD 16.96 million) and UNIDO (USD 14.21 million) (see Figure 1). In terms of programmatic expenditures per UNSDCF Priority Areas, more than half of the expenditure was spent on People and Prosperity and 38.40 percent was spent on Planet (see Figure 2). While the priority area of Partnerships accounted for only 5.15 percent of the total programmatic expenditure within China, the UN has helped to mobilize over USD 40 million from China to support the SSC and humanitarian assistance projects in more than 60 countries.

FIGURE 1

Programmatic Expenditure of the UN Entities in China in 2021 (USD Millions)

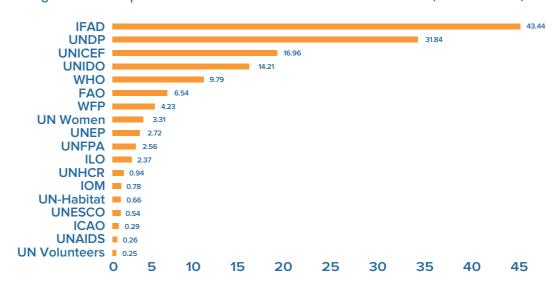
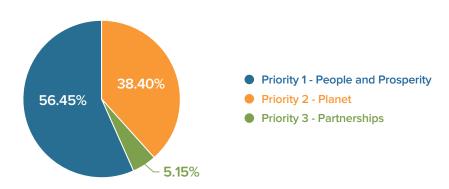


FIGURE 2

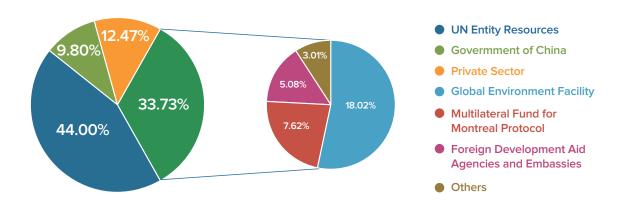
Programmatic Expenditure of the UN in China in 2021 per UNSDCF Priority Areas



According to Figure 3, 44 percent of UN China's funding came from the resources of UN entities, 12.47 percent from the private sector and 9.8 percent from the GoC. In addition, around one-third of the funding came from other sources. Of these, the Global Environment Facility is the largest funding partner, comprising 18.02 percent of the total expenditure, followed by the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol (7.62 percent), the foreign development aid agencies and embassies in China (5.08 percent), and others (3.01 percent).

FIGURE 3

Programmatic Expenditure of the UN in China in 2021 per Source of Funding



5. CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

2021 was a year of turbulence and transformation given the persistent impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, setbacks in economic recovery and the deterioration of the environment and climate change, all of which created challenges for the UN's work in China. Nevertheless, in the first implementation year of the UNSDCF 2021-2025, the UN in China has made good progress and achieved significant results in all three priority areas underpinned by principles of GEWE, disability inclusion, youth engagement and LNOB. These principles have been mainstreamed across all pillars of the UNSDCF. On People and Prosperity, the UN's work in China contributed to the reduction of relative and multi-dimensional poverty, rural development, enhanced sustainable livelihoods, more equitable and better-quality public services, people-centred integrated care and social protection systems, and improved social equality, in particular for the left-behind groups. In the priority area of Planet, the UN's technical assistance, programme support and capacity-strengthening activities accelerated China's efforts in environmental protection, biodiversity conservation and the transition to a green, inclusive, low carbon, and circular economy. In terms of Partnerships, the UN enhanced China's international financing, investments, and business engagements, as well as development and humanitarian cooperation efforts, in alignment with SDGs, which better supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and contributes to SDG attainment both in China and

In the coming year, the UN in China will continue implementing the UNSDCF under the three strategic priorities, with increasing efforts in specific areas including response and recovery efforts for the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and green development, and international development cooperation, in consideration of the evolving context of China and the world.

A major focus in 2022 for the UN in China will remain the COVID-19 response and post-pandemic recovery. The pandemic is expected to have continuing impacts on the global economy and the lives and livelihoods of people. Given this, the UN will continue to assist China in developing stronger, more accessible and sustainable health and social protection systems that focus on vulnerable groups, to build back better from the pandemic. The UN in China will also promote dialogue and cooperation towards global health while supporting international collaboration in response to COVID-19, including in the distribution of vaccines, especially in developing regions.

The UN Country Team in China will provide its best technical assistance for the country's actions toward carbon reduction and green development to combat climate change and environmental degradation. The Country Team will also work closely with the government, private sector, and other partners of China to develop the necessary financial and institutional frameworks to realize its national goal of realizing peak carbon emissions by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2060.

Finally, the UN looks forward to enhanced collaboration with China in aligning its international development cooperation, financing and investments towards stronger results and impacts for the SDGs. Through SSTC and novel initiatives such as GDI, the UN stands ready to work with the Government of China and its' relevant institutions to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the SDGs globally.

• Improving Project Design for Better SSTC Results and Greater Sustainability (IFAD)



