



United Nations in China Annual Report 2019



UNITED NATIONS
CHINA



FOREWORD

The year 2019 marked 40 years of UN presence in China. Over the past four decades, we have maintained a strong development partnership with the Government of China. With China's rapid development, our role in the country has evolved over time, from a donor providing assistance for basic needs to a development partner that provides policy advice and technical expertise, with the aim to support China's implementation of the 2030 Agenda and achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Today, a total of twenty-eight UN entities have presences in the country.



Heads of UN agencies in China at the opening of UN Day 2019

2019 was also a significant year for China. Over the past seven decades, China has made remarkable economic and social achievements. The country has enjoyed impressive levels of economic growth, helped over 800 million people to lift themselves out of poverty—the greatest anti-poverty achievement in history—and significantly improved the health and education outcomes of the population. We are proud of being a witness as well as a contributor to these achievements.

During 2019, we continued working closely with the people and the Government of China in implementing the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2016-2020 for China. This report provides a consolidated overview of the key implementation results of the UN in China in 2019. Overall, the UN's work contributed to improved living conditions of poor and vulnerable people in China, strengthened equitable and quality service delivery, better evidence for decision and policy making by the Government, improved environmental protection and enhanced alignment of China's international engagements and cooperation with the 2030 Agenda.

Turning to 2020, we look forward to strengthening our collaboration with China to better respond to national and international development challenges, including the economic and social impacts brought about by the COVID-19 crisis, and accelerate progress on achieving the SDGs. 2020 will be the last year for the implementation of both the UNDAF 2016-2020 and the 13th Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of China, and the foundation year for the preparation of the new UN-China Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2021-2025 and the 14th Five-Year Plan. Looking ahead, our work will become increasingly geared towards facilitating incorporation of the SDGs into China's mainstream development agendas, pursuing innovative solutions to help unlock bottlenecks in China's transition towards high-quality development, addressing complex development challenges through a collective working approach, and supporting China's engagements in international cooperation in alignment with the SDGs.

Nicholas Rosellini
UN Resident Coordinator in China

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OVERVIEW

The UN's work in China is closely in line with the country's national development agenda and 13th Five-Year Plan. Now an upper-middle income country, China is undergoing a transition from a development model focusing on "high speed growth" to one that places stronger emphasis on "high quality development", promoting coordinated economic, political, cultural, social, and ecological advancement. While poverty alleviation, particularly through rural development, remains a prioritized goal, the Government agenda also emphasizes promoting balanced development across regions, integrated rural-urban development and improved basic public services. Moreover, resource conservation and environmental protection are regarded as two basic state policies. For China, "clear waters and green mountains are as good as mountains of gold and silver". Internationally, China is an increasingly active participant in international development and cooperation to pursue shared growth and development globally.

These development strategies are consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and well aligned with the three priority areas laid out in the current United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for China: 1) Poverty Reduction and Equitable Development; 2) Improved and Sustainable Environment; and 3) Enhanced Global Engagement. Working under the UNDAF structure, the UN's programme supports China in implementing its national development agenda and achieving the SDGs. In 2019, the UN in China reported a total of USD 150.24 million in programmatic expenditure, which represents a decrease compared to 2018 (see Figure 1). Figure 2¹ shows that how programmatic expenditures were distributed amongst different UNDAF priority areas, while Figure 3 presents the various sources of funding for the UN's programmatic expenditures in 2019.

Figure 1. Programmatic Expenditure of the UN in China in 2018 and 2019 (USD million)

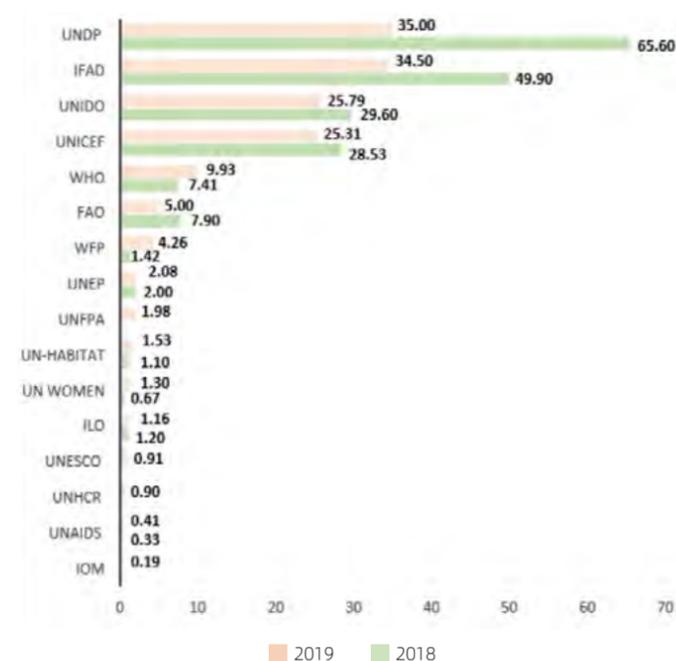


Figure 2. Programmatic Expenditure in 2019 by UNDAF Priority Areas

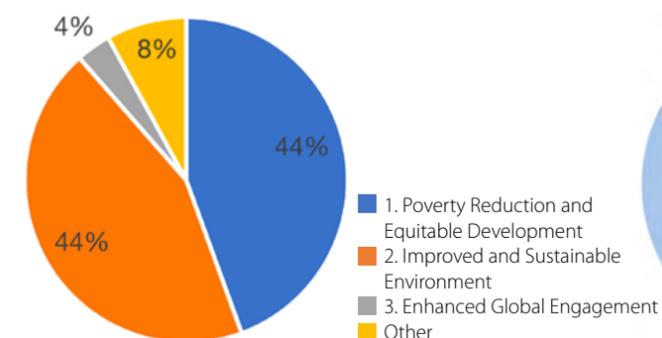
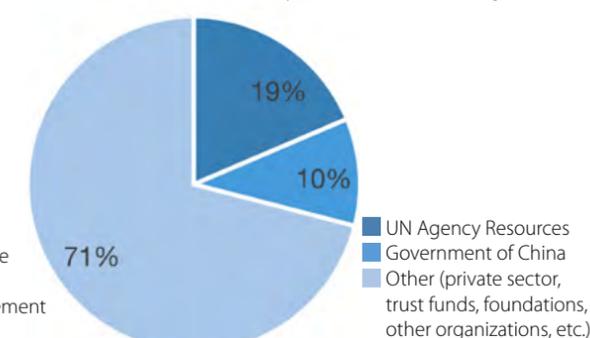


Figure 3. UN's Programmatic Expenditure in 2019 by Source of Funding



¹ Funds mobilized from China by the UN for South-South Cooperation activities directly implemented in other countries are not included in the programmatic expenditure of the UN in China under Priority Area 3.

RESULTS AND IMPACTS

UNDAF Outcome Area 1:

Poverty Reduction and Equitable Development

The goal of eliminating extreme poverty by the end of 2020 has remained a top priority on the Government's development agenda. In 2019, China helped 11.09 million people to lift themselves out of poverty and its per capita GDP passed the USD 10,000-mark for the first time. The poverty rate decreased to 0.6 percent by the end of 2019, with an official headcount of 5.51 million people remaining in poverty. Despite this great achievement, China still has further to go in terms of reaching SDG 1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere — as the Government's poverty reduction goal is focused on income poverty in rural areas. Besides, persistent internal development gaps across urban-rural and inter-regional divides and between different population groups, are a long-standing problem in China. The Government's goal of shared development, and its ambitious plan to achieve equalization in public and social service delivery are aimed at overcoming this problem.

The UN continued its efforts to support China in reducing poverty, with a focus on supporting the Government to help alleviate poverty through rural development and promoting more equitable access to and use of public and social services, in particular for vulnerable populations. UN agencies took a multidimensional approach to address this issue with programmes/projects and activities targeted at supporting diversified aspects of the poverty alleviation agenda, including rural and livelihood development and improved access to and use of education, health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), social protection and community-based services.



Rural Development

Contributing Agencies: CSAM, FAO, IFAD, UNDP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNIDO, UN Women, WFP

To tackle rural poverty and bridge the gaps across urban-rural and inter-regional divides, UN agencies implemented rural and agricultural development projects in more than 10 less developed provinces in western and central China, in line with the national rural vitalization strategy. By enhancing the capacity of small-holder farmers and farmer organizations in farming, marketing and agribusiness development through training, financial support and technical assistance, the UN enabled farmers to emerge as more empowered players in the value chain so as to increase their economic opportunities and income. Below are some examples of selected results of UN projects reflecting contributions to rural development.



A farmer from Huangshan, Anhui Province is transplanting rice seedlings/FAO



Increased Income

- In Chengbu County of Hunan Province, 6,091 families were supported to lift themselves out of poverty by improving their financing and marketing accessibility.
- In Chishui City of Guizhou Province, the establishment of bamboo processing and weaving workstations generated over 650 jobs and annual revenues of more than CNY 3,000,000.
- In Anhui and Gansu Provinces, 3,300 poor farmers enhanced their livelihood from growing zinc-enriched potatoes and kiwi, by increasing their resilience through a more sustainable food system and their income-generating capacity through a nutrition-sensitive value chain approach.

Nutritious lunch provided to pre-school children in Jingxi County, Guangxi Province/ WFP

Improved Capacity

- 806,243 small-holder farmers from Hubei, Jiangxi, Qinghai, Shaanxi, Sichuan and Ningxia, particularly poor women and youth, increased their capacities and opportunities to access markets with the support of inclusive value chains, specialized farmer cooperatives and agribusiness services.
- Over 1,000 persons with disabilities (PWD), women and ethnic minorities from Guizhou were trained on bamboo processing and weaving.
- 13,543 women farmers of Qinghai Province improved their farming, marketing and business development skills.

Strengthened Farmer Cooperatives

- About 100 farmer cooperatives of Hubei, Jiangxi, Qinghai, Shaanxi, Sichuan and Ningxia were trained and equipped with the capacity to standardize their business operations and governance structure in line with the cooperative law.
- Several cooperatives in Sichuan enhanced their productive and industrial capacities through improved agricultural mechanization, technical assistance in value chain development and food safety support to supply markets.
- Young farmer cooperative leaders from more than 10 provinces and regions (including Xinjiang, Yunnan, Guangxi and Shanxi) strengthened their capacity in agriculture value chain development, marketing and sales.
- Six women's associations and cooperatives in Qinghai were established and strengthened.

From where I stand:

“Empowering women benefits the entire family and our next generation.”



Tie Lingmei in her farm field of Qiaotou Village, Qinghai Province/ UN Women

Tie Lingmei, a farmer of Qiaotou Village of Qinghai Province, used to work as a taxi driver along with her husband in the county. One day, she decided to come back and set up an agricultural cooperative in her hometown, so as to improve the living conditions for herself and many others in her village, and for them to better take care of their families. Although they enjoyed a good harvest in the first year, the cooperative later failed due to damages from flooding.

At this time, the UN came in with a project aiming to strengthen Qinghai women farmers' income security and resilience in a changing climate. The project supported female farmers to build up their communities with technologies, market information, and new skills and knowledge learned in trainings, benefiting about 40,000 female farmers. In Qiaotou Village, the project helped the women form a mutual-aid group, provided them with the knowledge and skills on operational mechanisms of e-commerce, and introduced ecological farming to the cooperative.

As a result, 53 women members of the cooperative benefited from more stabilized and improved income. Moreover, the project raised the women's gender awareness. As Tie Lingmei said, “we started to realize for the first time that women are not inferior to men. We have the same rights as men do. With our increased incomes, we have more say at home. We can invest more in the education of our children. I believe that our next generation will definitely have a better life. Empowering women benefits the entire family and our next generation.”

Improved Public and Social Services

Contributing Agencies: ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP, WHO

The UN worked to improve the enabling environment of public and social service provision through providing technical support and advocacy on policy/law development and implementation.

Education

- Provided technical inputs on the drafting of Early Childhood Care and Education Law and National Kindergarten Teacher Training Guidelines
- Provided technical support in developing National Technical Guidance on Comprehensive Sexuality Education
- Supported the development and issue of the Implementation Order of Gender Mainstreaming in the Education System at the Elementary and Middle School Level (Shangyou County, Jiangxi Province)



Students at the Maduqiao Village School, Hunan Province receiving live-streamed sexuality education/UNFPA

Health



Healthy Children and Immunization Campaigns/WHO

- Provided technical support to the National Health Services Survey, which generated data and information for the development of the National Adolescent Health Strategy
- Supported the development of the National Strategic Framework for Achieving 2030 Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in China
- Provided strategic advice and international experiences towards the formulation of China's Basic Healthcare and Health Promotion Law
- Contributed to strengthened tobacco control policies, which are reflected in the Healthy China Action Plan (2019-2030): As of July 2019, more than 20 cities had adopted comprehensive smoke-free measures, covering around 10% of China's total population
- Supported the development of a strategy for building healthy villages in China, with recommendations on development criteria and policy guidance

Social & Employment Protection

- Supported the development of China's first-ever Social Assistance Act by providing relevant international approaches on policy framing and codification of social assistance systems and provided technical consultations of the social assistance reform, particularly on Dibao (minimum living standard guarantee program) standard setting
- Promoted policy discussions and research for improved employment protection on the Future of Labour Law to better govern new and non-standard forms of employment, including social protection for gig economy workers



Quality Apprenticeship Training Workshop in Beijing/ ILO

Besides, UN agencies supported China in providing more accessible, equitable and better-quality public and social services in the areas of health, education, nutrition, WASH and community services for people throughout the life course, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups.

Pregnancy and infants
Young and school children
Adolescent & Youth
Adults
Older People

Health Education Nutrition WASH Community-based Service

• Contributed to the elimination of mother-to-child-transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B, generating positive impacts in three pilot provinces.
• Increased access to and uptake of child survival and early childhood development services by promoting the use of the Healthy Family App, which reached 291,388 pregnant women and caregivers.

Streamlined mother and child health information into the government information systems of nine provinces, covering 65,475 health facilities across all tiers of the health system.

• “Ying Yang Bao” pilot to tackle childhood micronutrient deficiency among children aged 6-23 months, was scaled up to all 832 poverty counties.
• Reduced malnutrition among school children through pilot projects, which directly benefitted more than 4,500 preschool children and created market access and job opportunities for 94 poor households.

Promoted community-based services for children through the Barefoot Social Worker Model (in 120 villages of five provinces benefiting over 130,000 children and scaled up to 620,000 villages of 45,000 townships) and Child Friendly Space Model (126 spaces).

Improved the quality and equity of early childhood education: Demonstration pilots benefited 48,916 children aged 3-6(22,411 girls and 26,505 boys).

Improved children’s access to adequate sanitation through WASH projects in 70 primary schools, benefiting 27,913 children in total, with 13,321 girls who can now access gender-sensitive toilets with lockable doors.

• Improved adolescents’ awareness of mental health issues and access to services through the piloting of comprehensive mental health service package in 14 counties, which were used by more than 18,000 adolescents in pilot counties, and around 310,000 adolescents benefited through online counselling service nationwide.
• Promoted sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, with a particular focus on women and girls with disabilities and young people.
• Promoted comprehensive sexuality education and combination prevention of HIV among young people and key populations.

• Supported the inclusion of 21st century skills in the curriculum and teacher training resources for vocational education, which were tested and promoted in the schools and communities of 28 counties of 13 provinces.
• Promoted youth employment through the business development training programme started in 2000, which has cumulatively benefited over 10 million entrepreneurs and potential start-ups and resulted in the creation of millions of new businesses and jobs.
• Established 70 community learning centres across China, which provided community members with new opportunities for lifelong learning and enhanced their technical and vocational skills that enable livelihood gains.

• Improved HIV testing and treatment: about three in four people living with HIV (PLHIV) knew their HIV status, of whom 86.7% were on treatment and 93.5% of those on treatment were virally suppressed. HIV medication coverage was expanded to include refugees as well.
• Facilitated the implementation of National Action Plan on Prevention and Control of Pneumoconiosis to reduce the risk of the most widespread occupational disease in China.
• Contributed to the reduction of hepatitis and multiple drug resistant tuberculosis treatment cost: 85% for direct-acting antiviral agents in treatment of hepatitis C and up to over 95% for hepatitis B drugs.

Promoted integrated and quality SRH services for elderly women.

How Learning Chinese Folk Music Helped a Child Build Confidence

With the support of the UN and the National Working Committee on Children and Women, a Child Friendly Space (CFS) was opened in a community in Dianjiang County, Chongqing Municipality in 2017 and provided a variety of services to children in the community, which brought life-changing benefits to them. Music class was one of most popular activities among the children. Xiaolin is one of the children benefiting from the space. He was drawn to the centre to read and borrow books at first but was always alone and didn’t talk much. Things began to change when he started attending music classes.



Xiaolin in community center and learning Suona, Chongqing/UNICEF

The CFS invited a Chinese folk music artist, Mr. Long, to teach children how to play the flute and the suona, an instrument resembling a trumpet. Xiaolin was very interested and started attending the class. He practiced very hard and has learned to play over 80 songs. He even set a goal to learn the “Song of Phoenix”, a tune that requires exceptional skills.

Xiaolin had been a shy boy and felt uncomfortable expressing himself, but has now made friends at the CFS and is more open with people. The change in Xiaolin makes his mother happy. Xiaolin has decided to continue his journey with the suona and apply for music college when he finishes high school. “My dream is to promote Chinese folk music, and help more people appreciate the suona.”, Xiaolin said.

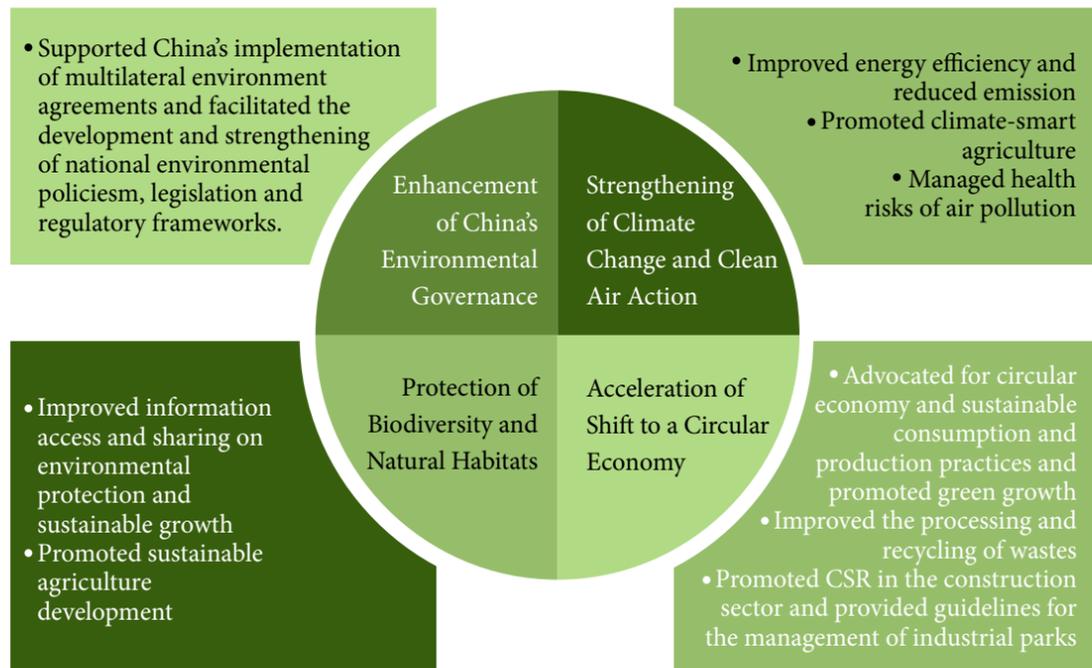


“I like the suona. It is loud and cheerful. Every time I learn to play a new song, it gives me a sense of accomplishment. If I can’t learn it well, all I need to do is to practice even harder.”

UNDAF Outcome Area 2: Improved and Sustainable Environment

As China strives to reverse and remediate environmental deterioration that resulted from the earlier prioritization of rapid economic growth, environmental sustainability has become a focus of the country's current development agenda. Efforts to overcome environmental challenges have resulted in China now generating over one third of the world's wind power, hosting about a quarter of the world's solar power capacity, and having eight of the top ten solar panel manufacturers and four of the top ten wind turbine makers in the world. China has achieved its nationally determined contribution targets under the Paris Agreement and cut CO₂ emissions by 46% per unit of GDP growth from 2005 levels. Nevertheless, bring down CO₂ emissions remains a top priority of the Government's environmental policy agenda, including further increasing the share of renewable energy in the energy production and consumption mix.

The UN continued to support China in improving its environment and promoting sustainable green growth in compliance with international environmental treaties and standards, through the following four main aspects.



Enhanced Environmental Governance

Contributing Agencies: UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO

- The UN participated in the review and update of the National Implementation Plan under the Stockholm Convention, which was endorsed and submitted by the Government of China (GoC) to the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.
- The UN supported China Customs in its key role in the enforcement of transboundary waste movement and control of illegal trade of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and wildlife; and supported the Supreme People's Court of China on its judicial commitment to environmental rule of law.
- The UN provided assistance for the revision of China's regulations and acts on ODS. The promotion of ODS elimination reached 1,175 manufacturers.

Improved Actions on Climate Change and Clean Air

Contributing Agencies: CSAM, IFAD, UNDP, UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, WHO



Enhanced Climate Resilient Irrigation Infrastructure in Huangyuan County, Qinghai Province/IFAD

- The UN's initiative of the HCFC Phase-out Management Plan in the air conditioning sector, which aimed to convert China's air conditioner manufacturers to more responsible enterprises in compliance with the Montreal Protocol's control measures, helped phase out over 10,000 tons of ODS, reduce pollutants equivalent to 33 million tons of CO₂ in total and increase energy efficiency by up to 12 percent.
- The UN supported 22 provinces to take forward LED market transformation to reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency. The 1st green logistics index was introduced to 400 enterprises. As a result, a total of more than 5,000 Fuel Cell Vehicles and 30 Hydrogen Refueling Stations provided cleaner mobility services. Through upgrading 36 production lines of 19 enterprises and related projects, another total of 11,050 tons of ODS were reduced.
- Under the UN's support, the world's 1st Hydrogen Economy Vocational Training Institute was established for future based clean tech employment.
- The UN's policy advice was incorporated into the Action Plan on Green and Efficient Refrigeration, jointly issued by seven ministries of China, which set the targets of energy efficiency of household refrigeration by 2022.



Environmental education courses for primary school students in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province/UNEP

- The UN promoted climate-smart agriculture to increase China's adaptation capacity to climate change. The integrated straw management initiative contributed to improving current practices for the utilization of straw residue and discouraging straw burning, thus reducing air pollution. The promotion of drought resistant and/or salinity tolerant crops and the use of film mulching techniques and greenhouses helped protect the agricultural assets and activities of small-holder farmers. The development and rehabilitation of irrigation schemes increased small-holder farmers' resilience to climate change impacts by improving irrigation water supply continuity and reliability. In some dry areas, the improved irrigation design increased the water efficiency by 10%.

- Through research, evidence-based policy recommendations and policy dialogues, the UN supported China in revising and developing national standards and guidelines on indoor air quality and air pollution on health.

Accelerated Shift to a Circular Economy

Contributing Agencies: UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO

- The UN actively engaged with key think tanks and high-level policy consulting platforms to advocate for sustainable consumption and production and provided advice for mainstreaming it into national policies, regulatory frameworks and sectoral practices. Examples included providing policy recommendations on sustainable public procurement for the Government and recommendations on sustainable consumption, which were submitted to the State Council.
- The UN's work also contributed to dismantling and processing 11.92 million pieces of e-waste, the recycling of 35,760 tons of PBDE-containing plastics and the safe disposal of 12,500 tons of CRT leaded glass.
- The UN promoted corporate social responsibility (CSR) in the construction industry of China by helping develop CSR strategies, standards and guidelines and contributed to the approval or enactment of two CSR related laws and policies in the construction sector.
- With the support of the UN, the International Guidelines for Industrial Parks were published, and provided step-by-step advice on the planning, development and operation of industrial parks in compliance with international health, safety, energy management and environmental safeguarding standards.



Sector plan for the phase-out of methyl bromide production in China/UNIDO

Increased Protection of Biodiversity and Natural Habitats

Contributing Agencies: FAO, IFAD, UNDP, UNESCO, WFP



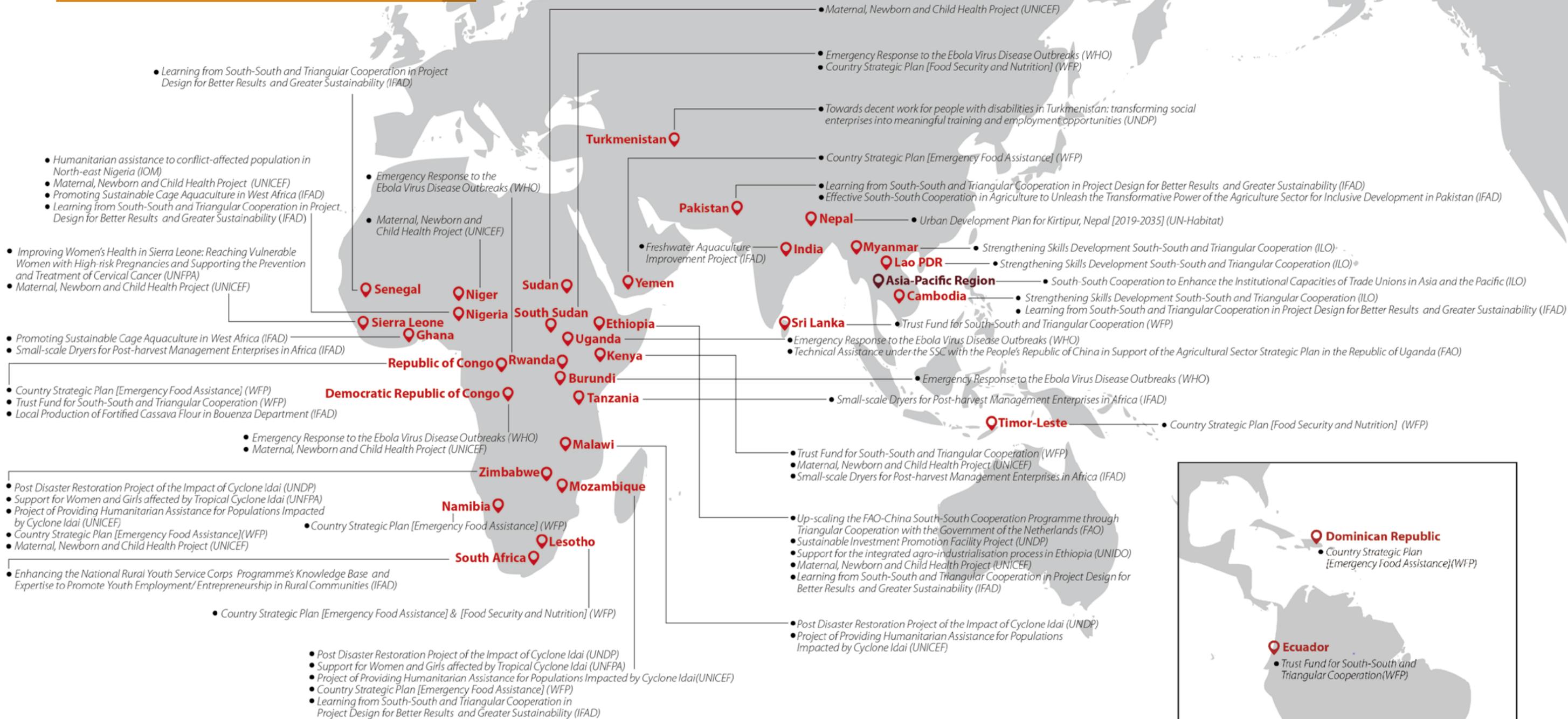
The Snub-Nosed Monkey in Gansu Province is under threat from infrastructure development and unsustainable land management/ UNDP

- The UN helped the Government with the establishment of the Wetland Protection Information Platform to reduce information management barriers and facilitate knowledge sharing amongst stakeholders. Through the initiative, citizens around 10 key wetland regions benefited from China's commitment and achievements on improved ecosystem and biodiversity protection, with CNY 36 billion of government funding leveraged since the end of 2016.
- Aligning with China's national development priority in constructing an ecological civilization and encouraging nature education in protected areas, the UN strengthened its efforts at the Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries World Heritage Site in mainstreaming sustainable beekeeping practices, biodiversity protection and nature education with local development agendas, benefiting local villagers and cooperatives.
- UN agencies promoted sustainable agricultural development to better protect biodiversity and natural habitats. A sustainable agriculture project piloting key endosulfan alternative technologies was implemented on 42,000 hectares of farmland. The agricultural infrastructure development activities supported by the UN were planned with a view to minimize natural asset degradation. Farmers were encouraged to use waste and livestock manure to produce organic fertilizers. The production and use of organic agricultural inputs free from chemicals and pesticides were promoted among the enterprises and cooperatives which reduced agrochemical use and benefited the environment.

UNDAF Outcome Area 3: Enhanced Global Engagement

Internationally, China continues to increase its role as a global player through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and South-South Cooperation (SSC). The UN supports the GoC with the aim to enhance alignment between China's international engagements and the 2030 Agenda. In addition, the UN facilitates dialogues between China and partner countries based on countries' specific development needs and priorities to promote international exchanges, learning and cooperation between China and other developing countries for their mutual benefit.

Mapping of Humanitarian Assistance and Development Cooperation Projects of 2019



South-South Cooperation

Contributing Agencies: CSAM, FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, UN-Habitat, WFP, WHO, WHO

On the programmatic side, a main vehicle for the UN's engagement with China on SSC is the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund. In 2019, through the mobilization and coordination of UN agencies in China, the GoC provided humanitarian and development assistance to more than 30 countries, with a total funding amount of over USD 70 million. In addition, the UN supported in organizing numerous international exchanges and capacity building events in the areas of agriculture, health, circular economy and environment, child development, youth engagement and population dynamics, which promoted mutual learning, knowledge sharing and experience exchange between China and other developing countries.

Engagement on the Belt and Road Initiative

Contributing Agencies: CSAM, FAO, ICAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Global Compact, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP, WHO



UNSG António Guterres delivering remarks at the opening of 2nd BRF in Beijing

Since its launch in 2013, the BRI has turned into an important international cooperation platform to facilitate China's global engagement and support regional connectivity and international cooperation. Under the BRI, China had concluded 195 intergovernmental cooperation agreements with 136 countries and 30 international organizations by late July 2019. The scope of negotiation and conclusion has extended from Eurasia to African, Latin American and South Pacific and Western European countries. Given the scope of the initiative, the BRI provides significant opportunities to contribute to global development, provided that investments are conducted in a socially, environmentally and financially sustainable manner. It is therefore a priority for the UN in China to work with the GoC on further alignment between BRI investments and projects and the 2030 Agenda.

In April 2019, the GoC hosted the 2nd Belt and Road Forum (BRF) in Beijing, bringing together the state leaders from 38 countries and high-level representatives of international organizations, including the UN Secretary General (UNSG), Mr. António Guterres. The UNSG gave remarks at the Opening of the BRF, calling for inclusive, sustainable and resilient development. In his meeting with the Chinese President Xi Jinping, the UNSG expressed his appreciation for China's support for the UN's work, and the two exchanged ideas on the potential of the BRI to align with the 2030 Agenda.

Under the BRF umbrella, the GoC and the UN agencies together:
 launched 3 initiatives
 signed 12 cooperation agreements
 established 6 multilateral cooperation mechanisms



More specifically, UN agencies supported to promote the alignment of China's BRI investments and projects with the SDGs through different modalities.

- Improved Chinese outgoing business sustainability through an in-depth analysis on the environmental, social and economic sustainability of 700 private-owned companies and case studies of the operation of Chinese Special Economic Zones across different countries
- Provided recommendations on harmonizing investment and lending standards along the BRI for SDG attainment by co-developing a flagship report with the China Development Bank, which received high acclaim in and outside of China
- Enhanced the capacities of Ethiopia for policy making and implementation on business-driven sustainable investment through the implementation of the Sustainable Investment Promotion Facility Project
- Fostered dialogue, communications and collaboration on BRI sustainability by engaging with some of the largest Chinese state-owned enterprises and foreign companies to identify sustainability challenges, opportunities and best practices along the BRI
- Promoted good practices and strengthened planning and management capacities of the member states along BRI to increase green and sustainable investment flows through the BRI International Green Development Coalition
- Provided technical guide to the Kirtipur Municipality of Nepal to prioritize their future development work on urban planning, industrial development, transportation and administration, and historical and cultural protection by jointly developing the "Integrated Development Plan of Kirtipur (2018-2035)"



Filed investigation for development planning in Kirtipur, Nepal/UN-Habitat

Cross-cutting Areas

Gender equality and “Leaving No one Behind” are two of the fundamental programming principals of the UN. The UN’s work in China focuses on the most vulnerable segments of the population, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Gender Equality

Contributing Agencies: FAO, ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women

The goal to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” is a cross-cutting theme for all SDGs. Although China has made remarkable advancements towards promoting gender equality and women empowerment over the last few years, progress has reached different groups of women to different extents. Gender inequality remains an important issue in China and continued efforts are required to ensure all women benefit equally from development in all areas. UN agencies put great efforts in promoting gender equality in China through different modalities.

"Achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls is the unfinished business of our time, and the greatest human rights challenge in our world."

—António Guterres, UNSG

Energement with the Private Sector

By mobilizing the private sector’s and women entrepreneurs’ role in promoting women’s empowerment in the workplace and marketplace, six companies signed the Women’s Economic Empowerment Principles, committing to empowering women within their companies and across value chains.

Change of Social Norms

Training and awareness raising activities were conducted to foster social norm change in schools and at community levels by promoting effective responses to gender discrimination, gender-based violence (GBV) and other harmful practices including gender-biased sex selection. For example, the UN joint activity on the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV was held, with more than 42,000 people participating and expressing their support to ending violence against women. The online campaign on Weibo was viewed more than 72.5 million times and was discussed up to 420,000 times.

Support to Policy Development and Advocacy

With the UN’s support, seven departments of Gansu Province issued a joint Provincial Order urging all companies in Gansu to protect women’s employment and their right of maternity leave, reducing the negative impact of the “Universal Two-Child Policy” on women’s employment. Policy recommendations were provided for the formulation of national policies to promote women’s equal employment and eliminate gender discrimination in the context of the implementation of the Two-Child Policy.

Technical assistance were provided in the development of “Guidelines to Promote Gender Equality in the Workplace” and the Circular on “Further Regulating Recruitment Practices to Promote Women Employment”, so as to prohibit employers and job recruitment agencies from using gender and maternity conditions in job advertisement and recruitment.

Policy dialogues were conducted to discuss progress, opportunities and challenges in the implementation of China’s Anti-Domestic Violence Law and the delivery of domestic violence prevention and response services, fed into the strengthening of legal and policy frameworks.

Leaving No One Behind

Contributing Agencies: IOM, ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO

The concept of “Leaving No One Behind” is at the core of the 2030 Agenda. Different population groups benefit disproportionately from China’s development, with some left-behind. In 2019, the UN continued to work towards the promotion and protection of the rights of vulnerable groups.



International Day of Persons with Disabilities/UNESCO

Children

Contributed to the revision of the Law on the Protection of Minors and release of the Opinions on Further Improving the Services System for Rural Left-behind Children and Vulnerable Children for a strengthened enabling environment and an integrated child protection system safeguarding children from violence and exploitation.

PWD

Improved the employability of PWD and reduced discrimination against them through skill training, awareness raising campaigns and disability-inclusion initiatives such as the Global Business and Disability Network – China Chapter.

LGBTI

Helped to expand legal aid services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) persons affected by domestic violence and increased capacity of 52 community-based service providers on this.



Refugees

Advocated for the inclusion of refugees in national systems in China and improving their access to education, subsidized healthcare and the labour market: children from some refugee families were able to be enrolled in public schools for primary education.

PLHIV

- Supported China in harmonizing its laws and regulations in line with international normative guidelines to promote the rights of PLHIV and address stigma and discrimination against them: In 2019, China was again recognized as a country without HIV-related travel restrictions.
- Successfully engaged the Government, employer organizations and private enterprises to commit taking actions to address HIV-related employment discrimination through training, workshops and policy advocacy.

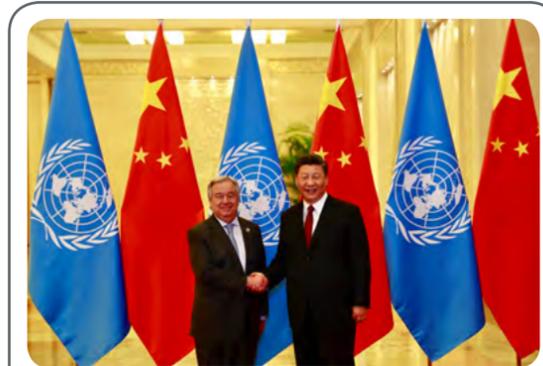
Victims of Trafficking

Facilitated cross-border discussions and cooperation on combating trafficking of human beings between China and Mongolia and supported the GoC to implement the Second National Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons (2013-2020) by piloting Provincial Standard Operating Procedures for the Identification and Referral of Victims of Trafficking and Vulnerable Migrants.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019



Workshop between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the UN Development System in China



UNSG António Guterres meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in the Great Hall of the People, Beijing



"UN in China 40 Years" Exhibition/Ministry of Commerce



Joint Seminar on SSC and Sustainable Development between China International Development Cooperation Agency and the UN Development System in China



Celebration of UN Day 2019



Digital exhibition of "UN in China 40 Years" on UN Day 2019



Celebration of the 100-year anniversary of the ILO



UN Resident Coordinator in China Nicholas Rosellini presenting the Letter of Credentials to Chinese President Xi Jinping



Launch of "Excellence in Poverty Reduction - Case Studies on Four Decades of China-UN Collaboration"/Ministry of Commerce





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No. 2 Liangmahe Nanlu, 100600, Beijing, P.R. China
www.un.org.cn