



UNITED NATIONS  
CHINA



# UNITED NATIONS IN CHINA 2022 ANNUAL COUNTRY RESULTS REPORT





# FOREWORD

In 2022, the work of the United Nations (UN) in China was carried out against the background of a complex geopolitical and macroeconomic context. In addition to exacerbating divisions among our Member States, the war in Ukraine brought about a crisis in the global markets for energy and food. This, coupled with the expansionary monetary policies of many countries to address the impact of COVID-19, led to spiking inflation in much of the world.

Internally, China's rigorous zero-COVID policy continued for most of 2022. While it minimized infections, the policy required extended lockdowns, most notably in Shanghai, making it hard for businesses to conduct normal operations and exposing the fragility of global supply chains.

As a result of both the external and internal environment, China recorded one of its lowest GDP growth rates at 3.0 per cent in 2022. With the loosening of COVID-related restrictions at the end of 2022, the outlook for 2023 and beyond is more optimistic, leading the IMF to revise its 2023 growth forecast from 4.4 per cent in October to 5.2 per cent by the end of the year. Globally, however, the war in Ukraine continues to undermine international relations, increase market uncertainty and negatively impact the economic outlook for the world.

Within this context, the UN in China continued to support the Government of China to advance progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and realize the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. During the second year of implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), the UN in China contributed to inclusive social and economic development, rural revitalization efforts and improved service delivery in the country. We also supported China's efforts toward environmental conservation and its transition to a low-carbon and circular economy. Finally, we provided our knowledge and expertise to align China's international financing, investments, business engagements and development cooperation efforts with international norms and standards and specifically in support of SDGs achievement. In this respect, China's Global Development Initiative (GDI) offers significant potential to accelerate SDG progress globally. The UN in China will continue to provide its best technical advice and support to align GDI outcomes to the SDGs and international norms and standards.



Fostering partnerships remained a key priority throughout 2022, including in our engagement with the Government of China, Member States, civil society, academia, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders to support actions both within China and abroad. It is clear that the gap between development needs and investments is substantial and growing. To help fill this gap, encouraging public-private partnerships (PPPs) will be critical. For example, in Kenya, UN-built partnerships reduced maternal mortality ratios by one-third in some of the highest-burden counties. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic challenges that it created, PPPs can offer the potential of expanded access to capital, the better harnessing of technologies, innovation and big data, and improved allocation of risks, thus helping to create more jobs and opportunities for youth.

In this spirit of multi-partner cooperation and in response to the ask of the Secretary-General, discussions are currently ongoing to establish a Joint SDG Fund in China, to engage with foundations, business, and Chambers of Commerce, including from the European Union, United Kingdom, United States, and Switzerland, along with Member States and all stakeholders, to help convene, connect and catalyze resources to accelerate the SDGs in China and with China.

We have placed increasing importance on facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation partnerships. Significant efforts were made to support China-Africa cooperation, including in the context of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. Discussions have already started to develop a Transformative Partnership Initiative, to bring China and countries in the Horn of Africa together to advance progress on food security with the support of the UN system.

At the mid-point of the SDGs implementation, and with only seven years remaining before the 2030 deadline, the international community faces a critical moment. Global challenges are growing in number and complexity, while local realities too often lead to insularism and divisions. And yet we know that global challenges require global solutions. As per Our Common Agenda promoted by the Secretary-General, we need a more networked, inclusive, and effective multilateralism. Increased international cooperation, rather than isolation, is sorely needed to address many of the critical challenges we face, including climate change, inequality, financing, and the 2030 Agenda more broadly.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with our Host Country, other Member States and all stakeholders to ensure we move towards a more sustainable, inclusive and equitable world. We are committed to strengthening our joint planning and programming and bringing to the table ambitious, innovative, transformative, and forward-looking ideas and proposals to deliver on the UNSDCF and SDGs in a coherent and coordinated manner, while ensuring that no one is left behind. This will ensure that we, the UN Country Team in China, are fit for purpose in an ever-changing context and can respond to and support China in its development priorities in line with international norms and standards, both at home and abroad.

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AI</b>	Artificial Intelligence	<b>LGBTQI</b>	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex
<b>AU</b>	African Union	<b>LNOB</b>	Leave No One Behind
<b>CIDCA</b>	China International Development Cooperation Agency	<b>MMR</b>	Maternal Mortality Rate
<b>COP 15</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity	<b>MoE</b>	Ministry of Education
<b>COP 27</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	<b>MOFCOM</b>	Ministry of Commerce
<b>CSE</b>	Comprehensive Sexuality Education	<b>MOHRSS</b>	Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations	<b>MSMEs</b>	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
<b>CSR</b>	Corporation Social Responsibility	<b>NHC</b>	National Health Commission
<b>ECC</b>	Early Childhood Care	<b>ODS</b>	Ozone Depleting Substances
<b>ECD</b>	Early Childhood Development	<b>OMT</b>	Operations Management Team
<b>ECE</b>	Early Childhood Education	<b>PLHIV</b>	People Living with HIV
<b>EENC</b>	Early Essential Newborn Care	<b>POPs</b>	Persistent Organic Pollutants
<b>eMTCT</b>	Eliminate Mother-to-Child Transmission	<b>PSEA</b>	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
<b>FDI</b>	Foreign Direct Investment	<b>PVC</b>	Polyvinyl chloride
<b>FFW</b>	Family Friendly Workplaces	<b>PWDs</b>	Persons with Disabilities
<b>FOCAC</b>	Forum on China-Africa Cooperation	<b>SCP</b>	Sustainable Consumption and Production
<b>GBSS</b>	Gender-biased Sex Selection	<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-based Violence	<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
<b>GDF</b>	Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund	<b>SOGIE</b>	Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression
<b>GDI</b>	Global Development Initiative	<b>SRH</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health
<b>GEWE</b>	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment	<b>SRHR</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
<b>GHG</b>	Greenhouse Gas	<b>SSC</b>	South-South Cooperation
<b>GoC</b>	Government of China	<b>SSCAF</b>	South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund
<b>HBCD</b>	Hexabromocyclododecane	<b>STEM</b>	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
<b>HEC</b>	High Energy-consuming	<b>TVET</b>	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
<b>HoA</b>	Horn of Africa	<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>ICPM</b>	Integrated Child Protection Model	<b>UNCG</b>	UN Communications Group
		<b>UNSDCF</b>	UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
		<b>WEPs</b>	Women's Empowerment Principles

# 1. BACKGROUND



Throughout 2022, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact people’s lives and livelihoods in China and the world. In addition to the lingering effects of the pandemic, various crises, including high inflation, supply chain disruptions, conflicts, geopolitical divides, and more frequent and stronger natural disasters due to climate change, presented unprecedented global challenges to food systems, public health, and socioeconomic development.

In China, economic activity tracked the ups and downs of the pandemic, with economic slowdowns due to the lockdowns that took place in many cities throughout the year. In 2022, its GDP grew by 3.0 per cent, marking the second lowest growth rate since 1976, excluding the 2.2 per cent expansion after the initial COVID hit in 2020.<sup>1</sup> After long pursuing a zero-Covid policy, China relaxed and lifted its COVID-19 restrictions in late 2022. This major policy shift posed huge challenges to the public health system of China as COVID-19 cases quickly rose, but it substantially improved the economic and business outlook for 2023 and beyond.

In March 2022, the yearly plenary meetings of the National People’s Congress and the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference were held in Beijing. The so-called “Two Sessions” focused on areas such as economic development, food and energy security, environmental conservation, low-carbon development, and public and social service improvement. The 20<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Communist Party of China held in October reiterated the goal of building a modern socialist country in all aspects through high-quality and green development, innovation and technology, domestic market resilience, rural revitalization, urbanization and rural-urban integration, further reform and opening-up, and improved public services, in alignment with the Outline of the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development (14<sup>th</sup> FYP) and Vision 2035 of the People’s Republic of China adopted in 2021.<sup>2</sup>

In the second year of implementing the 14<sup>th</sup> FYP, the Government of China (GoC) developed and issued a variety of action plans, measures, and policies to operationalize the Plan. The Government continued to pursue the common prosperity and rural revitalization strategies emphasized in the 14<sup>th</sup> FYP. It released Document No. 1 on promoting the key work of rural revitalization in 2022<sup>3</sup> and an Action Plan on Rural Construction to improve people’s livelihoods in rural areas,<sup>4</sup> covering a wide range of areas, including road transport, water supply, energy, logistics, informatization, comprehensive services, rural housing and living environment.

Regarding health, China issued the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan for National Health to improve policies on national health<sup>5</sup> and pushed forward the Healthy China Initiative to meet people’s growing need for well-being.<sup>6</sup> The Plan urges local governments to accelerate the creation of institutions and systems that put people’s health first, stresses taking health into consideration in all policies, and underlines the importance of developing healthy life and work styles, while highlighting disease prevention with a focus on major diseases, risk factors and vulnerable groups. Moreover, the Government issued the Notice on the Key Tasks to Deepen the Reform of Medical and Healthcare System in 2022 to foster a new and orderly medical service and treatment pattern, improve public health services, and push forward the high-quality development of medical health.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> National Bureau of Statistics, “National Economy Withstood Pressure and Reached a New Level in 2022”, 17 January 2023. Available at [http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/PressRelease/202301/t20230117\\_1892094.html](http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/PressRelease/202301/t20230117_1892094.html).

<sup>2</sup> National Development and Reform Commission, “Outline of the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and Vision 2035 of the People’s Republic of China adopted in 2021”, 13 March 2021. Available at [http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-03/13/content\\_5592681.htm](http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-03/13/content_5592681.htm).

<sup>3</sup> The Central Committee of the CPC and the State Council, “Opinions of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council on Doing a Good Job in Comprehensively Promoting the Key Work of Rural Revitalization in 2022”, 22 February 2022. Available at [http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2022-02/22/content\\_5675035.htm](http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2022-02/22/content_5675035.htm).

<sup>4</sup> The General Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the General Office of the State Council, “Action Plan on Rural Construction”, 23 May 2022. Available at [http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2022-05/23/content\\_5691881.htm](http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2022-05/23/content_5691881.htm).

<sup>5</sup> General Office of the State Council, “14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan for National Health”, 20 May 2022. Available at [http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2022-05/20/content\\_5691424.htm](http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2022-05/20/content_5691424.htm).

<sup>6</sup> National Health Commission, “Healthy China Initiative”, 15 July 2019. Available at [http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2019-07/15/content\\_5409694.htm](http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2019-07/15/content_5409694.htm).

<sup>7</sup> General Office of the State Council, “Key Tasks to Deepen the Reform of Medical and Healthcare System in 2022”, 25 May 2022. Available at [http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2022-05/25/content\\_5692209.htm](http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2022-05/25/content_5692209.htm).

<sup>8</sup> General Office of the State Council, “14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan for Enhancing Special Education Development”, 25 January 2022. Available at [http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2022-01/25/content\\_5670341.htm](http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2022-01/25/content_5670341.htm).

<sup>9</sup> General Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the General Office of the State Council, “Opinions on Deepening the Reform of the Modern Vocational Education System Construction”, 21 December 2022. Available at [http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2022-12/21/content\\_5732986.htm](http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2022-12/21/content_5732986.htm).

<sup>10</sup> General Office of the Ministry of Education, “Vocational Education Law”, 25 April 2022. Available at [http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengceku/2022-04/28/content\\_5687679.htm](http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengceku/2022-04/28/content_5687679.htm).

<sup>11</sup> Ministry of Education, “White Paper on China’s Development of Vocational Education”, 20 August 2022. Available at [http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2022-08/20/content\\_5706220.htm](http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2022-08/20/content_5706220.htm).

<sup>12</sup> National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China, “Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Women”, 30 October 2022. Available at <http://www.npc.gov.cn/npc/c30834/202210/d80092ae46b24946b30b3a880c2f2be5.shtml>.

<sup>13</sup> Official data from National Bureau of Statistics, 18 January 2023. Available at [http://www.stats.gov.cn/tjsj/sjjd/202301/t20230118\\_1892192.html](http://www.stats.gov.cn/tjsj/sjjd/202301/t20230118_1892192.html).

<sup>14</sup> National Health Commission and other 16 Ministries/Departments, 16 August 2022. Available at [http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengceku/2022-08/16/content\\_5705882.htm](http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengceku/2022-08/16/content_5705882.htm).

<sup>15</sup> National Health Commission and other 15 departments, “14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan of National Undertakings for the Aged and Elderly Care Service System”, 1 March 2022. Available at <http://www.nhc.gov.cn/ljks/pqt/202203/b6fc49ddf06349aca697536e5321e7ed.shtml>.

<sup>16</sup> Ministry of Ecology and Environment and other 16 Ministries/Departments, “National Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation 2035”, 13 June 2022. Available at [https://www.mee.gov.cn/ywdt/xwfb/202206/t20220613\\_985408.shtml](https://www.mee.gov.cn/ywdt/xwfb/202206/t20220613_985408.shtml).

<sup>17</sup> Ministry of Ecology and Environment, National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Transport, and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and China Coast Guard, “14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan for Marine Ecological and Environmental Protection”, 17 January 2022. Available at [https://www.mee.gov.cn/ywdt/hjywnews/202201/t202117\\_967330.shtml](https://www.mee.gov.cn/ywdt/hjywnews/202201/t202117_967330.shtml).

<sup>18</sup> Ministry of Ecology and Environment, “Five-Year Plan for Ecological Protection Supervision Plan”, 18 March 2022. Available at <https://www.mee.gov.cn/xxgk2018/xxgk/xxgk03/202203/W020220323551716506114.pdf>.

<sup>19</sup> National Development and Reform Commission and the National Energy Administration, “Implementation Plan on Promoting High-quality Development of New Energy in the New Era”, 30 May 2022. Available at [http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengceku/2022-05/30/content\\_5693013.htm](http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengceku/2022-05/30/content_5693013.htm).

<sup>20</sup> State Council, “14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Comprehensive Work Plan for Energy Conservation and Emission Reduction”, 24 January 2022. Available at [http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2022-01/24/content\\_5670214.htm](http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2022-01/24/content_5670214.htm).

<sup>21</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Statement by H.E. Xi Jinping President of the People’s Republic of China at the General Debate of the 76<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly, 21 September 2021. Available at [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/wjdt\\_665385/zy-jh\\_665391/202109/t20210922\\_9580293.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjdt_665385/zy-jh_665391/202109/t20210922_9580293.html).

<sup>22</sup> 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/wjtb\\_663304/zwjg\\_665342/zwbdt\\_665378/202202/t20220209\\_10640393.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjtb_663304/zwjg_665342/zwbdt_665378/202202/t20220209_10640393.html).

<sup>23</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Speech Delivered by President Xi Jinping at the High-Level Dialogue on Global Development, 25 June 2022. Available at [https://www.mfa.gov.cn/web/zyxw/202206/t20220625\\_10709860.shtml](https://www.mfa.gov.cn/web/zyxw/202206/t20220625_10709860.shtml).

<sup>24</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Keynote Speech by State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends of the GDI, 21 September 2022. Available at [https://www.mfa.gov.cn/web/wjzbzh-d/202209/t20220921\\_10769136.shtml](https://www.mfa.gov.cn/web/wjzbzh-d/202209/t20220921_10769136.shtml).

On education, in 2022, the GoC published several related plans and policies, including the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Action Plan for Enhancing Special Education Development to establish a high-quality special education system by 2025,<sup>8</sup> and the Opinions on Deepening the Reform of the Modern Vocational Education System Construction,<sup>9</sup> the amended Vocational Education Law,<sup>10</sup> and the White Paper on China’s Development of Vocational Education,<sup>11</sup> which puts forward a series of major measures for the reform of vocational education.

The Government also amended the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Women,<sup>12</sup> which will take effect in 2023. The law stipulates that the state shall take necessary measures to promote gender equality, eliminate discrimination of all forms against women and prohibit exclusion or restriction of women’s legitimate rights and interests.

During 2022, China’s population declined for the first time in six decades from 1.4126 billion in 2021 down to 1.4118 billion.<sup>13</sup> In response to the continued decline of the fertility rate and an ageing population, following the three-child policy released in 2021, the GoC issued the Guiding Opinions on Further Improving and Implementing Active Fertility Supporting Measures in 2022,<sup>14</sup> with specific measures including affordable early childhood care (ECC), maternity leave, and family friendly workplaces (FFW), among others. In addition, the Government released the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan of National Undertakings for the Aged and Elderly Care Service System to address the population ageing issue and develop a national elderly care service system.<sup>15</sup>

In terms of the environment, the GoC released the National Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation 2035, which lays out clear guidelines and principles for climate change adaptation and proposes specific adaptation goals.<sup>16</sup> In addition, the Government issued a series of plans on ecological and environmental protection, including the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan for Marine Ecological and Environmental Protection<sup>17</sup> and its first Five-Year Plan for Ecological Protection Supervision Plan.<sup>18</sup> Furthermore, to accelerate its transition to low-carbon and green development, China released a circular on the Implementation Plan on Promoting High-quality Development of New Energy in the New Era<sup>19</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Comprehensive Work Plan for Energy Conservation and Emission Reduction.<sup>20</sup>

At the most recent 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27), in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, China participated in the global community to agree on the creation of a Loss and Damage Fund, which will provide financial assistance to nations most vulnerable and impacted by the effects of climate change, most of whom bear little responsibility for the increased global temperatures due to CO2 emissions. In addition, the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15), chaired by China and hosted by Canada, saw a similar breakthrough agreement reached to address biodiversity loss and restore ecosystems through the adoption of the landmark Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which contains proposals to increase financing to developing countries, and guides global action on nature through to 2030.

At the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in September 2021, China also announced the Global Development Initiative (GDI) aimed at expediting progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.<sup>21</sup> The GDI covers eight key areas, including poverty alleviation, food security, health, financing for development, climate change and green development, industrialization, and connectivity.<sup>22</sup> Following its launch, President Xi Jinping announced steps to implement the GDI at the BRICS Summit in June 2022, including upgrading the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund to a Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund (GDF), increasing input in the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund, and setting up a global development promotion center.<sup>23</sup> The GoC released 32 deliverables to kickstart the implementation of the GDI after the summit.<sup>24</sup>

Against this background, the UN in China continues to work with China to meet and respond to the new opportunities and challenges presented by the country’s and the world’s development landscape, including building forward better in the post-COVID-19 era, promoting high-quality, inclusive and green development, and enhancing international development cooperation partnerships for the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), through the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021-2025.



# 2. PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNSDCF



Achievements were made across the six outcome areas of the UNSDCF in 2022, with steady progress in the three priority areas of People and Prosperity, Planet and Partnerships underpinned by principles of gender equality and women empowerment (GEWE), disability inclusion, youth engagement and Leave No One Behind (LNOB).



Providing handicraft production courses and entrepreneurial services to women employees from SMEs hit hard by COVID-19 / UN Women

## 2.1. PEOPLE AND PROSPERITY: OUTCOME 1

Contributing Entities: ESCAP-CSAM, FAO, IFAD, ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UN Women, WFP

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.

Since the commencement of reform and opening-up in 1978, China has witnessed remarkable economic and social transformations, and lifted over 770 million people out of extreme poverty, leading to the announcement of the eradication of extreme poverty in 2021. Despite these rapid gains, China's journey towards sustainable development is not complete, and it still faces many challenges on the road to completing its transition to a sustainable and equitable economy. In 2022, per capita disposable income in China was CNY 36,883, a real increase of 2.9 per cent over the previous year. However, the ratio of urban and rural disposable income per capita in 2022 was 2.45, indicating an important urban-rural gap.<sup>25</sup> The Gini Index remained high at 0.466 in 2021, showing the unequal distribution of income in China.<sup>26</sup> During 2022, 12.06 million new urban jobs were created, exceeding the annual target of 11 million.<sup>27</sup> The average surveyed urban unemployment rate of 2022 is 5.6 per cent, 0.5 per cent higher than that of 2021.<sup>28</sup>

In addressing these remaining challenges, the UN has remained a firm partner of the GoC and its people to promote rural revitalization and more inclusive employment and development.

<sup>25</sup> National Bureau of Statistics, "Households' Income and Consumption Expenditure in 2022", 18 January 2022. Available at [http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/PressRelease/202301/t20230118\\_1892303.html](http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/PressRelease/202301/t20230118_1892303.html).

<sup>26</sup> Official data from National Bureau of Statistics. Available at [https://data.stats.gov.cn/search.htm?s\\_](https://data.stats.gov.cn/search.htm?s_)

<sup>27</sup> National Bureau of Statistics, "National Economy Will Rise to A New Level in 2022 Despite the Pressure", 17 January 2022. Available at [http://www.stats.gov.cn/tjsj/zxfb/202301/t20230117\\_1892090.html](http://www.stats.gov.cn/tjsj/zxfb/202301/t20230117_1892090.html).

<sup>28</sup> National Bureau of Statistics, "Statistical Communique of the People's Republic of China on the 2022 National Economic and Social Development", 28 February 2023. Available at [http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/PressRelease/202302/t20230227\\_1918979.html](http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/PressRelease/202302/t20230227_1918979.html).

### 2.1.1 RURAL REVITALIZATION

To promote rural development and bridge the rural-urban gaps, the UN implemented a variety of agricultural and rural development projects in over 15 provinces throughout China that improved the resilience and income of rural farmers by enhancing their capacities and financial and market access.

#### I IMPROVED RESILIENCE AND INCOME

- A total of 25,794 households and 75,204 smallholder farmers from Hunan, Ningxia, Shaanxi, Sichuan and Yunnan, of whom 45 per cent were female, increased their market access and income, benefitting from the inclusive cooperative development projects and improved rural public infrastructure in these regions.
  - ▶ In Hunan Province, a variety of infrastructure was constructed or installed, including 56 km of rural roads, 52 km of water pipeline, 662 mu of land levelling, 160 km of ecological ditches, 98 pools for farmland waste recovery, 378 sets of streetlights, 80 sanitary toilets and 31 public garbage collection points.
  - ▶ In Ningxia and Sichuan, water pools with a total volume of 138,800 cubic meters were rehabilitated or built; 4.3 km of electricity lines and four transformers were constructed; and 257.8 km of village and farm roads were rehabilitated.
  - ▶ In the project area of Shaanxi Province, tap water penetration increased from 89.3 per cent in 2020 to 100 per cent.
  - ▶ In Yunnan Province, 70 km of rural roads were built.



Silk farming in Hanyin County, Shaanxi / IFAD

- 60,000 people in the pilot projects sites of Guangxi, Hebei, Heilongjiang, Jiangxi, Sichuan, Yunnan, Beijing, and Tianjin have improved access to treated drinking water (14.444 million tons) through innovative nature-based solutions and enjoyed more sustainable agricultural development and rural livelihoods. The project experience translated into policy recommendations that have been shared with the GoC for replication at a nationwide level.
- About 6,000 farmers of Gansu Province improved their potato crop productivity by 18 per cent with the agricultural inputs, technical training and nutrition-related knowledge and information provided by the Zinc-rich Potato Project, resulting in diet and social behavioural change and enhanced the health status and livelihoods of local farmers.
- 928 farmers in Jilin Province participated in the holistic agricultural risk management pilot project and joined the insurance scheme under the innovative “insurance +futures” model, receiving a total insurance compensation of CNY 222,000 after harvest season. Through this, participating farmers also increased their awareness and capability of risk management, enhanced their resilience to climate-related disasters and market risks, and improved their income stability from grain production in the context of complex agricultural risks.
- In Shaanxi Province, agricultural insurance subsidies were provided to the local tea gardens and large pig farms, covering 61,500 mu of plantations and 39 farms and cooperatives. Around 2,000 farmers benefitted from the compensation (CNY 2.1 million) for crop losses due to the sudden drop in temperature during Spring.
- In Yunnan Province, more than 700 farmers, of whom 48 per cent were women, benefitted from a sustainable tourism pilot project with enhanced socio-economic livelihoods and increased their income by double compared to the baseline six years ago. The pilot project, including its ecotourism livelihood model, was shortlisted globally by the Reuters Business Award under the SDG Pioneer category.
- 511 farmers, including 311 women farmers, benefitted from the kiwi value chain project in Anhui Province. They produced a high-quality kiwi orchard and obtained better income through the pro-poor benefit-sharing mechanism of the cooperative. Women farmers were better empowered in the socioeconomic decision-making process. This cooperative was awarded as a model agricultural cooperative by national and Anhui provincial authorities.
- 409 farmers in Hunan, Guangxi, Gansu, and Sichuan, mostly from low-income families, increased their market access and income by engaging in the school feeding supply chain and providing foodstuffs to the school feeding programmes.



Water compensation pilot site in Guangxi / UNDP

## I STRENGTHENED CAPACITY OF FARMERS AND AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES/ENTERPRISES

- 161 rural cooperatives and enterprises, including 21 women-led ones, received funding, capacity-building support and technical guidance and improved their business management and profits, benefiting local farmer households.
- The Mengdingshan Training Institute for Cooperative Development provided entrepreneurship training to over 40 female rural entrepreneurs from Gansu, Shaanxi, and Sichuan Provinces, empowering women farmers in the agribusiness sector.
- 479 farmers of the 16 pilot villages from Hubei, Hunan, Hainan and Sichuan Provinces received training from Farmer Field Business Schools and improved their knowledge and skills in e-commerce and business.
- In the pilot project sites of Hunan Province, 10 counties developed localized business development plans to enhance the economic empowerment of local rural women farmers.
- Over 20 government and public entities and 1,885 people, of whom more than half are women, in Shilin Yi Autonomous County of Yunnan Province, increased their awareness and capacities of harnessing culture's role in rural revitalization and sustainable development by participating in UN pilot projects. More than CNY 2 million was mobilized from the public and private sectors as matching funds to foster culture-driven sustainable development in the project sites.
- 50,000 community members and villagers acquired knowledge and skills in agriculture, arts and craft, vocational development, environmental management, health and well-being, and disaster risk reduction through the 47 rural community learning centres in 12 provinces supported by the UN, contributing to rural revitalization and ecological civilization efforts.
- 75 farmers, mostly women, from Chishui City of Guizhou Province, improved their skills in bamboo weaving by participating in a workshop on decent employment, which helped 25 women find flexible and home-based jobs as bamboo weavers at local handicraft workstations. Moreover, the Chishui Municipality gained institutional capacity in low-carbon development using bamboo resources from a cultural perspective, complementing the government's ongoing efforts on bamboo carbon sink development.



- Local farmers and agro-enterprises in Quannan County of Jiangxi Province became better value chain players and improved the safety and quality of their agro-products under the support of the agro-industrial value chain and supervision capacity project.
- The community-led local governance models (e.g., women-led cooperatives), the rural tourism models generated from the nature-solution-based pilot projects and the prototype of women development fund for rural farmers demonstrated new approaches for sustainable livelihood development, which provided replicable models for the Government in implementation of the rural revitalization strategy.

Yueya Lake Village is located in the arid area of Northwest China, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, with poor natural conditions for agricultural development. Farmers lead a hard life. Many young people migrate elsewhere to earn a better living.

In 2019, the UN in China started implementing an Innovative Poverty Reduction Programme - Specialized Agribusiness Development in Sichuan and Ningxia. The programme helped this village to establish the Yueyi Agricultural Arts Professional Cooperative, following the project requirements in promoting inclusiveness, standardized governance and gender focus for cooperatives and as means to integrate smallholders in value chains. At least 80 per cent of cooperative members were smallholders or registered poor households, and 40 per cent were women. The cooperative consolidated members' lands together, and started growing and marketing high-value agricultural products such as morel mushrooms, high-quality fruits and vegetables through the 21 newly established greenhouses under the support of the programme. This created many new local jobs and increased the farmers' income.



Ms. Yan Yingfang, a 60-year-old villager, who recently became a contract labourer in one of the greenhouses, said: "I can work on my own land with rent, and there are also wages – at least CNY 120 a day. I can walk home in just a few minutes, which helps balance the time for agricultural work and time watching over my grandchildren."

Women farmers working in the cooperative / IFAD

The programme brought huge changes to farmers' life in Yueya Lake Village. Now women farmers can work near home, while still having time for childcare and other responsibilities; villagers rent out their land tenancy rights to the cooperative, which then can be cultivated more efficiently through joint investments, while also earning wages for their labour. These opportunities have also attracted many young people to return to this village from the surrounding towns and cities.



China depositing the instruments of ratification of two forced labour conventions / ILO

## 2.1.2 EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK

The UN continued to promote decent work and a more inclusive and equitable working environment in China, in partnership with the government, private sector and other related institutions, paying special attention to migrant workers, women, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI) community.

Through solid research, technical assistance and policy dialogues, the UN supported China in expanding its legal and policy support for improving employees' rights and gender equality in the workplace, by undertaking the following actions:

### Protection of Workers' Rights

- The ratification of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) and the Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105) by the GoC, as a result of continuous collaboration between the UN and China in the past decade.
- The issuance of the Implementation Methods for Personal Pension, which provides implementation measures on the development of the third pillar of the pension system of China.
- The development of a Pilot Scheme of Occupational Injury Insurance for New Forms of Employment.
- The issuance of the Opinion on Further Strengthening the Work on Consultation and Resolution of Labour Disputes, which reinforced the role of social partners and social dialogue in labour dispute resolution.
- Support to the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MOHRSS) in developing several initiatives to promote equal employment opportunities for PWDs, including an assessment of the "Quota Schemes" on the promotion of employment opportunities for PWDs.
- Pilot of a Learning Guide on LGBTQI Inclusion in the Workplace to advocate a rights-based agenda in the private sector.
- Support in preparation of the expansion of the occupational disease list and amending the diagnostic standards of occupational diseases.





GREEN Forum on Intellectual Property Acceleration for Green SMEs in Beijing / WIPO

**Incorporation of Gender Perspective**

- Technical support to the development of the Guideline for the Implementation of Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs) in the Textile and Garment Industry under the framework of CSC9000T, China’s first standardized management system of social responsibility.
- Development of a guideline on gender reporting in alignment with the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Environment, Social and Governance reporting framework.
- Contribution to the inclusion of the goal of supporting women entrepreneurs in Chengdu’s 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan for New Economic Development.
- Collaboration with the China Centre for the Promotion of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise (SME) Development to prepare and publish the Ready for Risk: A Business Continuity Management Toolkit for Women SME Entrepreneurs, which provides step-by-step guidance, checklist and various tools for SME leaders to better address risks and build their own gender-responsive business continuity management system.
- Contribution to the creation of FFW in China in collaboration with MOHRSS, National Health Commission (NHC), local governments, All-China Federation of Trade Unions, Chinese Academy of Labour and Social Security, researchers, and company representatives. Tangible results include the expansion of FFW policies to four sectors of Shenzhen, which gained strong buy-in from local governments.

The UN in China also helped to strengthen the government’s and private sector’s knowledge and capacities in adopting inclusive employment practices and gender-responsive measures to develop more inclusive and equitable workplaces and employment opportunities. As a result:

- The State Grid Corporation of China and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutes developed a textbook on green skills for apprenticeship training under the support and guidance of the UN and MOHRSS, which integrated green skills into vocational training curricula of the China New Apprenticeship Programme.
- 76 companies signed the WEPs and committed to promoting equal employment and decent work opportunities for women, bringing this to a total of 352 companies as of the end of 2022.
- 30 companies integrated gender into their corporate policies and practices, with the potential to benefit more than 100,000 employees, including at least 50,000 women.
- A total of 450 women-led SMEs and their 6,000 women workers hit hardest by COVID-19 participated in the model recovery schemes in Wuhan and Tianjin, received business and funding support, and increased their profits and access to markets. The handmade flowers produced by some participants were supplied to the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics.
- Over 1,700 staff members from about 150 companies and associations received training on eliminating gender-based violence (GBV) and discrimination in the workplace and contributed to building an FFW.
- With UN support, Chinese SMEs increased their intellectual property awareness in China. Two of them won the first-ever WIPO Global Awards for their outstanding commercial solutions based on intellectual property rights to impact economic, social and cultural progress.

**2.2. PEOPLE AND PROSPERITY: OUTCOME 2**

Contributing Entities: **FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Global Compact, 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.

With the rapid development over the past decades, people in China have enjoyed improved access to social and public services, including education, health, and social protection. China has made solid efforts to ensure zero dropouts in the nine-year compulsory education programme,<sup>29</sup> promoting balanced and integrated development of compulsory education in urban and rural areas. In 2021, the gross enrollment ratio for pre-school education climbed to 88.1 per cent, with an increase of 23.6 per cent over the past decade. And the gross enrollment ratios for senior secondary education and higher education rose to 91.4 per cent and 57.8 per cent, respectively.<sup>30</sup> In terms of health, the average life expectancy in China increased to 78.2 years in 2021.<sup>31</sup> The infant mortality rate reduced to 5.0 per thousand<sup>32</sup> and the mortality rate was 7.37 per thousand in 2022.<sup>33</sup> Social protection coverage has also been greatly improved in China. In 2022, the national basic medical insurance coverage remained above 95 per cent. The minimum living standard guarantee (Dibao) programme, the major social assistance programme of China, covered 6.83 million urban residents and 33.49 million rural residents in 2022.<sup>34</sup>

The UN continued to support China in improving the accessibility, equitability, affordability, and quality of public and social services, in particular for vulnerable groups, including children, women, ethnic minorities, PWDs, People Living with HIV (PLHIV), the LGBTQI community, migrants, victims of trafficking, and refugees, etc.

**2.2.1  
SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY FOR  
IMPROVED SOCIAL AND  
PUBLIC POLICIES**

The UN supported China’s efforts to create an enabling environment with improved policies and measures on education, health, protection against violence, social assistance, and good governance.

**EDUCATION**

- Assisted in developing the Guidance Manual on Combating School Bullying and Child Protection in Schools, the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Literacy Framework for Chinese Adolescents, and the standards and assessment tools for county-level teacher training institutions.
- Contributed to the revision of China’s lifelong learning policy and the TVET reform and policy review and development, including the Action Plan for Promotion of Vocational Skills (2019-2021), State Council’s Opinions on Deepening the Construction and Reform of Modern Vocational Education System, Vocational Education Law, and the White Paper on the Development of Vocational Education in China.

<sup>29</sup> The compulsory education in China covers from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

<sup>30</sup> Ministry of Education, “Statistical Bulletin of National Education Development in 2021”, 14 September 2022. Available at [http://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb\\_sjzl/sjzl\\_fztjgb/202209/t20220914\\_660850.html](http://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb_sjzl/sjzl_fztjgb/202209/t20220914_660850.html).

<sup>31</sup> National Health Commission, “2021 China’s Health Development Statistical Bulletin”, 12 July 2022. Available at [http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2022-07/12/content\\_5700670.htm](http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2022-07/12/content_5700670.htm).

<sup>32</sup> National Health Commission, Transcript of Press Conference, 30 May 2022. Available at <http://www.nhc.gov.cn/xcs/s3574/202205/71ecabbcf8f46ec920f1b7545cf02f0.shtml>.

<sup>33</sup> Official data from National Bureau of Statistics. Available at <https://data.stats.gov.cn/easyquery.htm?cn=C01>.

<sup>34</sup> National Bureau of Statistics, “Statistical Communique of the People’s Republic of China on the 2022 National Economic and Social Development”, 28 February 2023. Available at [http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/PressRelease/202302/t20230227\\_1918979.html](http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/PressRelease/202302/t20230227_1918979.html).

- Supported the issuance of the Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) Technical Guideline-Adaptation of Global Standards for Potential Use in China (First Edition), which serves as a technical resource for Chinese policymakers, sexuality education practitioners, educators, program managers, youth development professionals, and young leaders in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of quality CSE curricula and programs.
- Contributed to the development of a training guide on green skills for apprenticeship training and integrated green skills into the vocational training curricula of the China New Apprenticeship Program.
- Assisted the Ministry of Education (MoE) in completing national benchmarking of SDG 4 Indicators for China.
- Supported MoE in preparing the final report consisting of 38 innovative best practices and case studies across China with in-depth policy analysis, supporting the policy dialogue on the contribution of education to poverty reduction in China.



# HEALTH

## I PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF HIV/AIDS

- Supported the development and release of the National Action Plan to Eliminate Mother-to-Child Transmission (eMTCT) of AIDS, Syphilis and Hepatitis B (2022-2025), which is supposed to accelerate the process of eMTCT in China. A National Women Living with HIV Advisory Committee was established to ensure the rights of women living with HIV during the rollout of this Action Plan.
- Successfully advocated for the inclusion of a brand name medicine (dolutegravir) as the second-line drug in the National Free Antiretroviral Therapy Programme, which will become effective from 2023 and potentially benefit the 1.1 million PLHIV with better access to medicine.
- Convinced China to use the global standard methods to estimate and understand the trend of AIDS-related deaths with localized parameters.



## I PROMOTION OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

- Contributed to the development of the Strategic Framework for Achieving 2030 Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in China
- Provided evidence-based policy advice based on progressive pilot interventions to advocate for the fulfilment of SRHR for vulnerable populations in Shanxi and Qinghai Provinces, including ethnic Tibetans.
- Provided policy advice on emerging SRHR issues based on solid research results and advocated for achieving universal health care that includes essential sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services for vulnerable groups.
- Offered high-quality, gender-responsive, and evidence-based policy advisory services to empower women on fertility decisions and older persons to plan their life cycle events in responding to China's demographic transition.
- Worked with the NHC on the Second National Review of the Status of Adolescents and Youth Health Services in Maternal and Child Health Institutions, which provided the government, maternal and child health hospitals, and relevant institutions recommendations in improving the enabling environment for the provision of youth-friendly SRH services.

## I STRENGTHENING OF HEALTH SYSTEM



- Supported the Government's ongoing efforts to deepen the health care reform and facilitated the inclusion of people-centred integrated care in the Key Tasks of Deepening Health Reform to effectively manage health challenges such as noncommunicable diseases, ageing and infectious diseases.
- Continued to support China's move towards Universal Health Coverage and full implementation of the Healthy China 2030 initiative by strengthening its health system in prioritized areas such as health financing, primary health care, healthy ageing and digital health.
- Advocated for 100 per cent smoke-free policies and their full implementation, along with recommendations on flavour bans, nicotine levels, and testing and safety standards being well adopted and quoted by the Mandatory National Standard for Electronic Cigarettes.
- Provided technical support to upgrade the adolescent mental health service package to tackle emerging mental health issues in 10 provinces.
- Supported the inclusion of Early Essential Newborn Care (EENC) as one of the 41 Health-Related Standard Development Plans, making EENC an official and compulsory standard of the health system.





## NUTRITION

- Contributed to the development of a national guideline on maternal nutrition to standardize maternal nutrition counselling and ensure the on-demand provision of early screening, treatment and timely referral to pregnant women at risk or with nutrition-related diseases.
- Advocated for policy actions on the prevention of childhood overweight and obesity, particularly in definitions of high sugar, high salt and high fat for prepackaged food and regulating unhealthy food marketing for children.
- Supported China in advancing the Front-of-Pack Labeling agenda through policy dialogues and technical consultations, including sharing innovative salt reduction practices and developing and disseminating a nutrition labelling communications toolkit.

## SOCIAL PROTECTION & SERVICES

- Supported the social assistance system reform for developing child-sensitive and shock-responsive social protection systems, through in-depth situation analysis of local social assistance systems in a few selected local sites and policy dialogue with national government partners.
- Provided evidence-based policy recommendations to extend social security, multi-tier pension system and digital transformation of social security administration and services to workers in diverse forms of employment, including migrant workers and platform workers.



- Supported the issuance of Dehong County Government Order for Election, which stipulated that the proportion of women in three important leadership positions of village committees should reach at least 30 per cent. The Order has been implemented in all townships of the county and improved women's political participation and leadership in rural communities.
- Provided policy advice for five sub-national provincial planning and financing based on localized SDG assessment reports.
- Supported the standardization of national Basic Public Services and assessed the ECC service models and financial support systems, to inform the policy for promoting high-quality and equitable ECC services.
- Made technical contributions to the Three-year Plan of Action for the Development of Social Work Professionals (2023-2025) and helped to finalize a first-ever national online training module for rural social workers.
- Provided technical inputs in the development and release of the National Guideline on Urban Child-friendly Space.
- Strengthened data collection and analysis to report on the situation of women and children in China, including support to monographic analysis on children and older persons in China, the compilation of NPAs for 2011-2020: Facts and Figures and the annual publication of Statistics on Women and Children in China of the National Bureau of Statistics, making disaggregated and quality data available to relevant government agencies and the public for better decision-making and policy development.
- Promoted the implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled, which came into force in China on 5 May 2022. This is the first copyright treaty to include a clear human rights perspective and is expected to facilitate 17 million persons with print disabilities in China to access books and other printed works.
- Contributed to the discussion on measures to enhance and facilitate safe, orderly, and regular migration and mobility, including addressing policy and operational challenges and opportunities in the EU-China migration corridor and developing pilot procedures for streamlining return and reintegration assistance of vulnerable migrants.

## ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND GBV

- Provided technical feedback and suggestions based on international laws and regulations to the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of the Amendment of the Law on the Protection of Women's Rights and Interests in China. The amended law has several significant improvements, including the mechanism to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and assault, protection of women's equal rights to employment and child protection, etc.
- Developed the Domestic Violence Social Service Training Manual with standalone sections on strengthening survivor-centred response services to sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGIE) community members, women with disabilities, women living with HIV/AIDS, and older women, aiming to address the intersectional violence against these populations.
- Assisted in the development of 10 guiding cases on survivor-based court practices aligning with international standards, which supported the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China to promote the effective implementation of the Anti-Domestic Violence Law and strengthen survivor-centred justice services in domestic violence case trials.
- Provided technical inputs related to child protection that were integrated into the draft of the Law on Accessible Environments.
- Supported evidence-generation efforts to inform policies on the definition of roles as well as licensing of social workers and efforts to strengthen the child rights lens of regulations on child online protection, and advocated for a more ambitious industry standard on artificial intelligence (AI) for children in line with UNICEF Global Policy Guidance on AI for Children (2021).

# 2.2.2. STRENGTHENING OF SERVICE DELIVERY

To promote more accessible, equitable, and higher-quality public and social services in China, the UN put increasing efforts into strengthening the capacity of service providers, improving service delivery mechanisms, and providing services in need.



## EDUCATION

- Strengthened service providers' capacity in delivering quality early childhood education (ECE) services through the replication and implementation of the Community-based Family Support and Responsive Care model, with Play Kits containing 100 games and its accompanying mobile application as well as a series of training resource packages developed.
- Improve the quality of services in early childhood care and education centres by providing 200 training sessions to community volunteers, benefiting 31,384 children and 32,855 caregivers.
- Assisted in the development of pre-service and in-service teacher training courses on inclusive education to enhance teachers' professional competencies and supported the demonstration of the scalable inclusive school model.
- Developed and promoted digitized educational resources for Social Emotional Learning and Sport for Development projects via a new Smart Education Platform, with a particular aim to benefit rural schools.
- Worked with partners on upgrading four rural off-campus STEM learning centres by building the capacity of service providers and providing essential packages of teaching and learning resources.
- Facilitated the enrolment of 25 refugee children into public schools.
- Trained 145 school health teachers in Zhejiang Province on CSE and HIV/AIDS.
- Supported the provision of CSE to nearly 10,000 adolescent students in Qinghai and Yunnan Provinces through live-streaming technology and enhanced their knowledge of SRH.



## HEALTH

- Improved vulnerable refugees' access to free healthcare services through extended partnerships with health service providers.
- Strengthened the capacity of more than 2,100 local health workers by providing training, increased access for more than 90,000 women (including Tibetan ethnic minorities) to updated, better-quality reproductive health care, and significantly contributed to the reduction of the maternal mortality rate (MMR) in Qinghai and Shanxi Provinces.
- Enhanced the knowledge of 50 young people on SRH through trainings and assisted young people in scaling up social-entrepreneurial innovation projects on SRH promotion by providing financial and technical support.
- Provided technical advice and support on epidemiology, monitoring of variants, vaccination, clinical care, communication, and research and development in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Promoted reformed payment methods for diabetes and hypertension, which incentivized community health practitioners to focus on prevention and disease management and reduced hospitalizations and non-communicable disease complications.
- Piloted gender-sensitive, disability-inclusive, and climate-smart sanitation facilities for schools and health facilities in high-altitude regions of Qinghai Province.
- Improved EENC service provisions across different levels of the health system by strengthening the capacity building of service providers in 31 provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities.
- Promoted equal and affordable access to Early Childhood Development (ECD) services with the endorsement of the national ECD scaling-up plan by NHC, National Working Committee on Children and Women, and National Rural Revitalization Administration, aiming to integrate the ECD services into the National Primary Health Care Service Package.



## NUTRITION

- Provided 9,342 preschool children with nutritious meals in 81 preschools and reduced the malnutrition rates among children in underdeveloped rural areas in Hunan, Guangxi, Sichuan and Gansu.
- Improved the knowledge and awareness of healthy diets and behaviours among 16,725 rural people, including preschool children, schoolteachers, school cooking staff and caregivers, through 214 sessions of nutrition education and training activities.
- Strengthened 60,000 health workers and 192 provincial project facilitators' capacity in delivering quality infant and young child feeding services for children under two years old in rural areas through the National Infant and Young Child Feeding Counselling Training Programme.
- Strengthened health providers' capacity for improved delivery of EENC across 13 provinces through the establishment of EENC early essential newborn care Centers of Excellence.



## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

- Provided emergency supplies (gender-sensitive hygiene kits, first aid kits, hand sanitizers, winter clothes and diapers) worth USD 457,482 in response to the Luding earthquake in Sichuan Province, donated personal protective equipment worth USD 7.6 million to Jilin and Shanghai, and delivered essential medical equipment worth USD 95,744 to two remote counties of Qinghai Province to help overcome COVID-19 outbreaks.



## SOCIAL PROTECTION & SERVICES

- Expanded the positive parenting programme to the Integrated Child Protection System pilot sites in four provinces. By the end of 2022, the positive parenting programme has benefitted 6,685 parents and caregivers through group sessions on topics such as parenting, child rights, child development, building good relationships and communicating with the child, and positive discipline.
- Supported capacity building for child protection workers (2,365 child directors, 197 supervisors and 204 social workers) and improved the access of 2,244,903 children to a better-functioning child protection system, with 293,811 vulnerable children accessing government social assistance schemes and 706 vulnerable children receiving case management services.
- Supported the expansion of the Hand-Holding Project, an initiative pairing social work agencies in areas with more resources with those in more deprived areas and promoted the newly initiated pilot on the professionalization of child directors.
- Improved the knowledge of 109 government officials, including 41 women, on social security and strengthened their capacity in applying digital solutions for human-centric social security administration and services.
- Provided training to 60 frontline service providers from 29 civil society organizations (CSOs) and equipped them with knowledge and skills on gender equality, GBV, multi-sectoral coordination, and case management, who provided high-quality social services to 26 girls and women and 23 SOGIE community members experiencing GBV.
- Developed the capacity of 33 frontline service providers on GBV response and prevention, who provided GBV essential services to 319 women living with HIV/AIDS and SOGIE community members.
- Provided direct financial and technical support to over 20 community-based organizations to conduct prevention activities for women living with HIV/AIDS and women from ethnic minority communities in Sichuan and Qinghai Provinces and increased their access to local justice, legal aid, and response services.
- Provided cash assistance to 216 refugees to cover their basic living expenses and to 18 individuals to cover their medical needs and helped 31 refugees and asylum-seekers get vaccinated against COVID-19 through financial support.



### 2.2.3.

## ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION AND REDUCTION OF INEQUALITY

The UN continued to work with China to eliminate violence and discrimination against vulnerable populations and reduce various forms of social inequality.

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- Continued to promote comprehensive child protection mechanisms through the implementation of the integrated child protection model (ICPM), which combines community-based mechanisms and statutory services to prevent and respond to violence, abuse and neglect. With regard to child online safety and protection, an important result was the establishment of a child online protection committee engaging government agencies, the private sector, and academia.
- Strengthened the government’s capacities to address child multi-dimensional poverty by providing strong, evidence-based knowledge products.
- Addressed the gaps, challenges, and opportunities in sexuality education by developing a special issue on "Development of Sexuality Education in China" in the Journal of Children, which included 11 peer-reviewed academic articles. Marginalized children and youth, such as sexual minority youth and students who are bullied at school, are emphasized in the journal.

### WOMEN

- Enhanced China’s multi-sectoral coordinated mechanisms and response to GBV and gender-biased sex selection (GBSS) by providing technical assistance and evidence-based advice generated from extensive research work, strengthening the capacity of relevant government agencies and CSOs (covering 1,280 workers from 24 CSOs) through seminars and training, and increasing people’s awareness through various communication and advocacy activities.
- Challenged gender stereotypes and encouraged girls and women’s engagement in STEM through a series of communication and advocacy initiatives, technical consultation workshops and policy dialogues engaging relevant stakeholders.

### PWDS

- Provided a series of trainings on the rights of PWDs and disability inclusion to government institutions, organizations of persons with disabilities, academia, and CSOs.
- Enhanced the inclusion of children with disabilities by raising public awareness and strengthening the capacity of child directors and relevant institutions for improved service delivery.
- Included PWDs in the national HIV response effort through a high-level advocacy engagement with government and diverse stakeholders on the promotion of CSE and HIV prevention among PWDs and raised relevant stakeholders’ awareness about ending inequality and discrimination against PWDs and PLHIV.

### PLHIV AND LGBTQI

- Supported media advocacy to combat stigma and discrimination against PLHIV and LGBTQI groups. Main activities included a variety of social media campaigns and a biweekly e-Journal, "Equal Eyes", with a focus on national and international news on HIV and key populations, which served as an important source of information for community-based organizations, PLHIV and LGBTQI people. 20 issues were published in 2022, gaining more than 7.7 million views on social media platforms.



- Strengthened legal aid and empowerment for vulnerable populations, including LGBTQI people, in order to reduce discrimination and GBV against them and support advocacy capacity development of LGBTQI organizations.
- Continued to promote LGBTQI inclusive and protective policies by engaging with academia, experts, and community groups, and by convening national policy symposiums with multiple stakeholders.

### MIGRANTS, VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING AND REFUGEES

- Provided direct assistance to vulnerable migrants to return and reintegrate into their home countries, following the newly developed pilot National Framework for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration in 2021.
- Provided technical assistance for the piloting of a coordination mechanism on the Identification, Referral and Support of Trafficked Persons and Vulnerable Migrants in Guangxi and Yunnan, integrating a rights-based and gender-sensitive approach to streamline the delivery of victim-centred assistance.
- Advocated for the inclusion of refugees in China’s education and health system.

## 2.3. PLANET: OUTCOME 3

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

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

The GoC places great emphasis on environmental issues and has taken a series of environmental protection and natural habitat preservation measures to construct a healthier and more resilient environment. The national forest area and stock volume have continued to increase in the past decade. Since 2012, the forest area has increased from 3.12 billion to 3.46 billion mu, and the forest stock volume increased from 15.137 billion to 19.493 billion cubic meters.<sup>35</sup> 2022 also saw the establishment of five new national parks, a significant milestone in preserving and protecting the environment. Furthermore, efforts to combat soil erosion have been successful, with a total of 63 thousand square kilometres of land being saved as of the end of 2022.<sup>36</sup> Nevertheless, environmental issues such as air, water and soil pollution, climate change, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation persist in this country.

The UN has been supporting China’s efforts in strengthening climate-smart agriculture and sustainable food systems, protecting biodiversity, and conserving natural habitats.

### 2.3.1

## CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

By cooperating with farmers, cooperatives, authorities, and financial institutions, the UN supported a vast range of programmes to develop agricultural and food systems that are increasingly climate-smart and sustainable. As a result:

<sup>35</sup> The People’s Daily, “The Afforestation Accumulated 960 Million mu and the Forest Coverage Rate Increased to 24.02 Per Cent in the Past Ten Years”, 13 November 2022. Available at [http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2022-11/13/content\\_5726682.htm](http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2022-11/13/content_5726682.htm).

<sup>36</sup> National Bureau of Statistics, “Statistical Communique of the People’s Republic of China on the 2022 National Economic and Social Development”, 28 February 2023. Available at [http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/PressRelease/202302/t20230227\\_1918979.html](http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/PressRelease/202302/t20230227_1918979.html).

- 196,983 smallholder farmers, including 92,955 women, practised climate-smart agriculture with capacity building and technical support from the UN.
- Around 10,000 hectares of farmland were brought under climate resilience practices through drip/sprinkler irrigation, greenhouses, canals, water pools, water ponds, retaining dams, drainage ditches, and land levelling. A total area of 164,384 m<sup>2</sup> of greenhouses and 91,668 m<sup>2</sup> of animal sheds were constructed. 896.96 km of drip irrigation systems were lined.
- 25 hectares of ecological forest were planted. 548 hectares of land were introduced with Integrated Pest Management practices such as pest traps. 235 hectares of land were used for the demonstration of new varieties and technologies.
- 12 innovative tools and approaches were developed for promoting climate resilience and biodiversity conservation, and 148 agricultural companies and institutions adopted these technologies and approaches in support of climate resilience and biodiversity conservation.
- Four agricultural cooperatives successfully adopted climate-smart agricultural technologies and sustainable agricultural mechanization skills.
- 2,814 government officials, farmers, and villagers, among whom 30 per cent were women, were trained on various sustainability topics, including sustainable agriculture, black soil protection, law enforcement, biodiversity conservation, and nature education.

The burning of straw residue after crop harvesting is a key concern in agriculture. Apart from accelerated greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, straw burning causes loss of soil carbon and micro-nutrients in the long term while adversely affecting agricultural production and farmers’ income. The UN in China has implemented a pilot project in Laixi County of Shandong Province to identify, test and promote an integrated model of straw management using agricultural machinery. In 2022, the project demonstrated the application of a range of agricultural machinery for the sustainable use of straw residue as a base material for mushroom growing, fertilizer and fodder. Through field experiments involving agricultural machinery, optimization of the machinery and technical patterns, and training and capacity building of farmers and farmer cooperatives, the project provided an alternative approach to replace straw residue burning and promoted climate-smart agriculture. This resulted in the increase of soil organic matter by up to 12 per cent and farmers’ net income by up to 10 per cent as compared to the pre-pilot project stage in 2019. The pilot site also demonstrated the potential to reduce its CO2 emissions by 68.7 tons per hectare per year.

Processing of corn silage / ESCAP-CSAM



Tanghe Fish Road in Jiangjin District, Chongqing / FAO

### 2.3.2

## BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL HABITAT CONSERVATION

Throughout 2022, the UN in China supported the GoC in its role as Chair of the COP 15 and served as the focal point to liaise with the Government’s organizing and negotiating team. The UN provided the team with global analyses on baselines and trends in biodiversity conservation, as well as policy insights and recommendations, contributing to the agreement of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

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

- Strengthening Ecological Flow Management in River and Lake Management.
- Revisions of the Marine Environmental Protection Law via policy insights on community-led mangrove conservation, recycling incentive mechanisms for abandoned fishnets, and oyster aquaculture management.
- Two guidelines on implementing the China Wetland Conservation Law.
- Jiangxi Province's Migratory Bird Protection Ordinance, the first of its kind in China.
- Implementation Opinions of the General Office of Hebei Province's Government Strengthening the Conservation and Utilization of Germplasm Resources, incorporating the suggestions on the conservation and sustainable use of local varieties.

The UN continued to support China’s efforts in the conservation of protected areas and strengthen its capacities on biodiversity and habitat conservation.

- 23,893 hectares of protected areas were added. As flagship species and target genetic resources, the Chinese white dolphin, the giant panda, the Przewalski's gazelle, and the black-necked crane were included in the four projects on China’s Protected Area Reform. The protected area network in Shennongjia Area in Hubei Province was expanded and strengthened to enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.



- 100,000 data points covering 371 species were gathered for a bird species management database in the Yellow River Delta National Nature Reserve to improve wetland and waterbird monitoring and patrolling capacity.
- 10,000 youth representatives, students and teachers acquired skills and raised awareness in nature education and community services in the biosphere reserves in Guangdong and Jiangxi Provinces. 50 governors and biosphere reserve managers, among which 20 were women, strengthened their capacity on biodiversity conservation, ecotourism, and sustainable tourism development.
- 280,349 customs officers, including 53 per cent women, were trained to identify and detect invasive alien species through 13 video materials.
- Under the UN technical support, the National Access and Benefit-sharing Schemes Framework for genetic resources and its corresponding training materials and codes of conduct targeting different entities were developed.
- 15 community seed banks were established across seven provinces in China to preserve plant diversity. The “Montreal Declaration of Supporting Small Farmers and Indigenous Communities” to promote multi-stakeholder exchange and cooperation in farmer seed systems enhancement was launched at COP15-Part Two.



## 2.4. PLANET: OUTCOME 4

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

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

China has been actively implementing the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, carrying out effective actions in meeting the targets to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and to reach carbon neutrality before 2060. In 2022, the new installed capacity of wind and solar power generation combined increased by an unprecedented 125 GW.<sup>37</sup> Although coal consumption accounted for 56.2 per cent of the total energy consumption, 0.3 per cent higher than the previous year, and thermal power generation<sup>38</sup> increased by 1.4 per cent, the electricity generated by low-carbon energy sources such as hydropower, nuclear power, wind power and solar power was simultaneously increased by 8.5 per cent over the previous year. The carbon dioxide emission per CNY 10,000 worth of GDP was also cut by 0.8 per cent.<sup>39</sup> At the same time, the country followed in its efforts to reduce ozone depleting substances (ODS) and harmful pollutants and improve the low-carbon and environmental impact of urban habitats while engaging in responsible, sustainable consumption and production (SCP). The UN in China provided support in these areas using its expertise, experience, and partnerships.



Launch of the Global Development Initiative for SDG pilot project / UN Global Compact

<sup>37</sup> National Energy Administration, “National Energy Administration Released Statistics on the Country’s Power Industry in 2022”, 18 January 2023. Available at [http://www.nea.gov.cn/2023-01/18/c\\_1310691509.htm](http://www.nea.gov.cn/2023-01/18/c_1310691509.htm).

<sup>38</sup> Thermal power refers to electricity generated by coal, oil, gas, residual heat, pressure and gas, waste incineration and biomass.

<sup>39</sup> National Bureau of Statistics, “Statistical Communiqué of the People’s Republic of China on the 2022 National Economic and Social Development”, 28 February 2023. Available at [http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/PressRelease/202302/t20230227\\_1918979.html](http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/PressRelease/202302/t20230227_1918979.html).

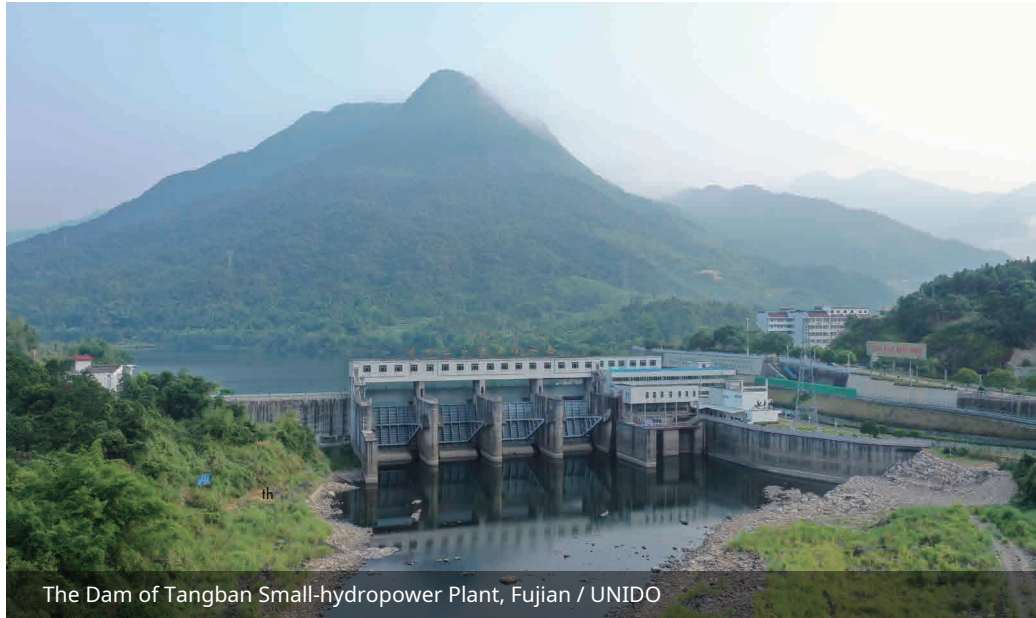


## 2.4.1 CLIMATE CHANGE AND LOW-CARBON TRANSITION

To help China reach its carbon neutrality objective before 2060, the UN supported the country's low-carbon, just and inclusive transition in the main emitting sectors as well as in innovative fields and areas.

- In the power sector, the UN in China promoted renewable and low-carbon energy such as small-hydropower plants, wind and solar that help mitigate climate change. As a result, 20 pilot hydropower plants in eight provinces were upgraded with minimum ecological flows maintained year-round. After refurbishment, the installed capacity was increased by 21.3 MW and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were reduced by 76,100 tons. Local governments were supported to accelerate the adoption of policies and mobilize financial investment to expand the use of modern district energy systems and reduce GHG emissions.
- Crucial future energy system components such as hydrogen that enable low-carbon electricity storage were developed with a foresight to make it more scalable, inclusive and affordable globally. Three pilot demonstrations of hydrogen application took place in Beijing, Hebei, and Inner Mongolia. Joint efforts have been made to develop the world’s largest hydrogen commercial vehicle operating demonstration park in Zhangjiakou, Hebei Province, where more than 850 hydrogen fuel cell buses were used to transport athletes and officials during the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics. Furthermore, the fuel cell vehicle environmental warehouse equipment for the National Hydrogen Energy Vehicle Research and Testing Public Service Platform was set up in Rugao, Jiangsu Province, to support development of testing, certification, technical research and standards services for the hydrogen industry.





The Dam of Tangban Small-hydropower Plant, Fujian / UNIDO

- In the building and construction sectors, energy efficiency was given particular attention. In the 20 demonstration sites, energy consumption was reduced by 20 per cent as part of the low-carbon public sector buildings programme, including the landmark pilot of the Beijing Daxing Airport. The UN in China also worked to improve the social, environmental and economic performance of construction enterprises by adjusting and adopting CSR strategies. Over 7,000 trainees from the construction sector attended trainings and gained knowledge on sustainable development, construction waste disposal, low-carbon buildings, and building information modelling. A series of national standards, industrial standards and group standards for CSR, such as the Guidance on Zero-carbon Community Construction and Evaluation, was released. During the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics, the UN in China also engaged the GoC to successfully apply International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure throughout the whole process of planning, preparing and organizing the Games.
- In the industrial sector, energy-efficient heat systems and High Energy-consuming (HEC) Equipment were promoted with three industrial and national standards and one technical specification for HEC special equipment being developed and published.
- The UN in China organized capacity-building events to support the just transition and creation of green jobs. A specific collaboration with the GoC in the Textile and Garment sector was developed. 120 stakeholders were trained on Just Transition Guidelines.
- Innovation and technology approaches are fundamental for a successful low-carbon transition. The UN organized several technology-oriented pilots and initiatives to leverage the opportunities brought by research and innovation with two flagship accelerators: 1) The GREEN City Acceleration Pilot Project collected 10 green technology needs from Beijing and over 40 corresponding innovative technologies worldwide to promote real-world reductions of GHG emission and pollutants. Four pairs of collaboration Memorandum of Understanding were signed, and two reached real-world implementation through demonstration projects with the potential of significant green benefits; 2) The Climate Ambition Accelerator programme built up the capacity of companies to set carbon reduction goals based on the Science-Based Target initiative that is aligned with the Paris Agreement and SDGs. Meanwhile, the UN-led SDG Innovation Labs in Chengdu and Suzhou provided thought leadership on integrated solutions for low-carbon development pathways that brought forward nine research products. A Call for Case Studies on Innovation and Practices in Carbon Reduction and Low-Carbon Development in and around World Heritage Sites was also launched to engage with relevant stakeholders, with 89 good practices and innovations being identified.
- Education was also at the centre of climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. Six schools in rural areas were identified to pilot a module on climate change awareness. The UN also supported capacity-building and youth engagement in disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation.
- Courses developed based on Global Environment Outlook were integrated into the formal curriculums of the universities of China. More than 300 university students attended the class and were equipped with state-of-art knowledge on environmental issues.



## 2.4.2. REDUCTION OF OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCES AND POLLUTION

The UN in China provided expertise and support to ODS reduction via the Montreal Protocol initiatives and contributed to the reduction of pollution from the chemical sector, persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and mercury through the implementation of several projects.

By providing cohesive investment, technical assistance, and raising awareness, the UN supported the gradual phasing out of ODS and hydrochlorofluorocarbons in China. The UN in China also supported pollution reduction efforts through pilot projects on POPs, hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD) and chemical pollution. As a result, six centralized battery transfer points and 35 collection outlets were established, which created 130 jobs, including 82 for women. Two groups of clustering companies started adopting HBCD alternative flame retardants, which avoided 2000 tons of HBCD per year.

These efforts were complementary to Mercury Reduction programmes and the promotion of the Minamata Convention's objective to protect human health. The replication of low-mercury technologies application in pilot plants was conducted by seven polyvinyl chloride (PVC) enterprises, and the mercury consumption of these plants is now below 49 g/t PVC.

## 2.4.3. SUSTAINABLE URBAN PLANNING AND RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

The UN worked with China to promote urban sustainability as well as SCP practices. Under UN support, six cities adopted sustainable approaches and practices in urban planning and construction, including urban resilience, child-friendly city initiatives, green finance regulations via the Biodiversity Finance initiative, and waste management in urban areas through the Waste Wise Cities Programme. Two pilots were developed at the district and subdistrict level to test models in the fields of low-carbon development, public transportation, public service, participatory planning and governance, cultural vitality, resilience and safety, and public space improvement. Technical assistance was also provided to develop the Roadmap on Plastic Pollution Control for the Zero-Waste Cities in China.

The UN also engaged with key think tanks to assist China's national capacity in research and policymaking on environment and development and to advocate carbon neutrality and SCP. High-level policy dialogues were held with key policymakers, such as the National Consultation titled "Stockholm+50: a Healthy Planet for the Prosperity of All – Our Responsibility, Our Opportunity" as part of a series of consultations organized around the world, which gathered insights on the nexus between climate change, biodiversity conservation and prosperity, as well as on concrete actions to accelerate the implementation of environmental SDG targets.

The private sector was also engaged on innovative sectors, such as ocean plastic pollution, to promote the concept of the circular economy and the UN Global Compact's Sustainable Ocean Principles. Pilot projects brought together corporate actors and other stakeholders and provided guidance to them to adopt a full value chain perspective and cross-sector partnerships, by incubating and scaling-up market-accepted business solutions to mitigate the marine plastic crisis.



A multi-stakeholder consultation titled "Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity" / UNDP & UNEP



## 2.5. PARTNERSHIPS: OUTCOME 5

Contributing Entities: **FAO, ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNEP, UNGC, UNICEF, UNIDO, UN Women, WFP**

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

China has ranked among the world's top three providers of foreign direct investment (FDI) since 2020. In 2022, China's outbound FDI flows reached USD 146.5 billion across 160 countries, involving 6,430 Chinese investors.<sup>40</sup> The country has also become a major trading partner with over 140 countries and regions in the world,<sup>41</sup> with a total trade value of goods amounting to CNY 42.07 trillion.<sup>42</sup>

Within this context, the UN's priority is to work with China to leverage its international development and business engagements to help advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To this end, the UN aims to share experience and best practices with national institutions to ensure that investments, financing and practices are aligned with the SDGs. The UN's support entails two key workstreams as follows:

- On private financing, as outlined in section 2.5.1, the UN in China is focusing on advising state-owned enterprises, private-owned enterprises and CSOs to apply Environment, Social and Governance principles and sustainability in their cooperation engagements and business models.
- On public financing, as described in section 2.5.2, the UN works with national development banks and policymakers to inform investment approaches and ensure that they are socially, environmentally and economically sustainable through strengthened alignment of frameworks with the SDGs and SDG-informed risk analysis tools.

<sup>40</sup> Ministry of Commerce and State Administration of Foreign Exchange, "Statistics of China's Foreign Direct Investment in the Whole Industry in 2022", 13 February 2023. Available at <http://hzs.mofcom.gov.cn/article/-date/202302/20230203384450.shtml>.

<sup>41</sup> The People's Daily, "China has become a major trading partner of more than 140 countries and regions - new advantages in international economic cooperation and competition have been constantly strengthened", 23 November 2022. Available at [http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2022-11/23/content\\_5728355.htm](http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2022-11/23/content_5728355.htm).

<sup>42</sup> The State Council Information Office, Press Conference on China's Imports and Exports in 2022, 20 January 2023. Available at [http://english.scio.gov.cn/m/press-room/2023-01/20/content\\_85069805.htm](http://english.scio.gov.cn/m/press-room/2023-01/20/content_85069805.htm).

The UN actively engaged with private sector partners from China and partner countries, including Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), women-led businesses, and multinational corporations. Cooperation aimed to help promote sustainable trade, investment and value chains in support of inclusive economic development. By facilitating exchanges and trainings on sustainable global business practices, the UN strengthened the awareness and capacities of national stakeholders on applying a demand-driven approach and incorporating green and gender-responsive solutions into decision-making and corporate management.

In particular, a platform has been launched on sustainable infrastructure for the SDGs that aims to align corporations' operations and strategies with the ten principles of the UN Global Compact covering human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

The UN's work also focused on fostering a gender-responsive entrepreneurship ecosystem and strengthening women's digital empowerment and entrepreneurship in China by improving women entrepreneurs' access to digital skills, finance and markets. As part of the efforts, a new five-year programme – "Together Digital" – was launched to empower women-led MSMEs in China and the wider Asia Pacific region to participate and thrive in the digital economy. By setting up two dedicated women entrepreneur training hubs, the programme is expected to support over 30,000 women entrepreneurs to start, grow, or expand their businesses. A multi-country study on women-led MSMEs in China, Indonesia, Thailand, Rwanda and Uganda was conducted to support the design and implementation of gender-responsive women's entrepreneurship programmes.

Leveraging its Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership, the UN created a policy dialogue platform for stakeholders from China, Latin America, and the Caribbean. The platform strengthened their capacities to implement approaches in infrastructure planning, investment and delivery from the International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure towards advancing the SDGs.

The UN in China also continued to engage multilateral development banks and national policy banks to promote a more child-friendly investment environment by applying a child-rights lens to their financing vehicles and strategies.

Furthermore, the UN in China contributed to fostering innovative public-private partnerships and galvanizing funding and resources to support initiatives in the areas of sustainable agriculture, food security and improved nutrition.

### 2.5.1. ENGAGING PRIVATE SECTOR FOR SUSTAINABLE AND RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENTS

In the past year, the UN continued to actively engage in strengthening and informing institutional capacities of private sector partners in China, using international best practices, norms and standards, and forging multi-stakeholder platforms and strategic alliances to incubate innovative and gender-responsive solutions for sustainable development.

A joint UN initiative has been rolled out with the objective of facilitating the incorporation of Responsible Business Conduct principles and UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights into Chinese overseas business operations and investments, building on recommendations from the latest Human Rights Action Plan of China (2021-2025), released in September 2021.

The UN in China also continued to strengthen international labour standards of Chinese overseas investments while integrating the principles of gender mainstreaming, LNOB, and disability care. It provided technical contributions to the MOHRSS's training programmes for human resource managers of large Chinese companies with overseas operations, focusing on familiarizing them with the fundamental principles and rights at work.

### 2.5.2. DEMONSTRATE THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS ENGAGING PUBLIC PARTNERS

On public financing, the UN in China continued engaging with regulatory authorities and national development banks to promote the integration of an SDG-aligned investment lens into policies and strategies as well as decisions on overseas investment programmes, by demonstrating thought leadership, providing policy advisory, and facilitating policy dialogues.

To inform and engage both policymakers and market players domestically and abroad on international financing and investment to advance the SDGs, the UN in China hosted the International High-level Policy Forum on Financing for Low-carbon Transition. This dialogue fostered exchange and policy debate around innovative solutions to boost financing for an accelerated low-carbon transition.

## 2.6. PARTNERSHIPS: OUTCOME 6

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

Through South-South cooperation and humanitarian 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 China's International Development Cooperation in the New Era of 2021, China reaffirmed its commitment to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.<sup>43</sup> At the UN General Assembly in September 2021, China also announced the GDI aimed at expediting progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.<sup>44</sup> Further details on the roll-out of the initiative – including a list of 32 deliverables – were subsequently specified in the Chair's Statement at the High-Level Dialogue on Global Development convened on the margins of the China-hosted BRICS Summit in June 2022.<sup>45</sup>

Following this, the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund (SSCAF) was also revamped into the GDF, with an additional USD 1 billion being added to the USD 3 billion already pledged under the fund.<sup>46</sup> Additionally, a new Global Development Promotion Center under the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) was inaugurated in November 2022.<sup>47</sup>

Within this context, the UN works with China to ensure that its international development cooperation strategies and engagements are fully aligned with the spirit and principles of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and enhance SDG impact in partner countries. This is done through a two-fold approach:

- Leveraging its global networks, the UN in China continues to facilitate 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 connecting demand with supply as outlined in section 2.6.1.
- The UN also aims to help China's development cooperation institutions incorporate international best practices and standards into policy and implementation practices for optimal SDG impact. To that end, efforts are made to inform the decision-making and fund allocation processes of Chinese cooperation providers to strengthen transparency and a results-based approach. Acting as a convener, the UN creates opportunities for demand-based cooperation and two-way knowledge and experience exchanges between China and its partners, as described in section 2.6.2.



Inspection of China-aided PPE items in South Sudan / UNHCR © Sarah Velasco

<sup>43</sup> State Council, "China's International Development Cooperation in the New Era", 10 January 2021. Available at [http://english.scio.gov.cn/whitepapers/2021-01/10/-content\\_77099782\\_6.htm](http://english.scio.gov.cn/whitepapers/2021-01/10/-content_77099782_6.htm).

<sup>44</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Statement by H.E. Xi Jinping President of the People's Republic of China at the General Debate of the 76<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly, 21 September 2021. Available at [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/wjdt\\_665385/zy-jh\\_665391/202109/t20210922\\_9580293.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjdt_665385/zy-jh_665391/202109/t20210922_9580293.html).

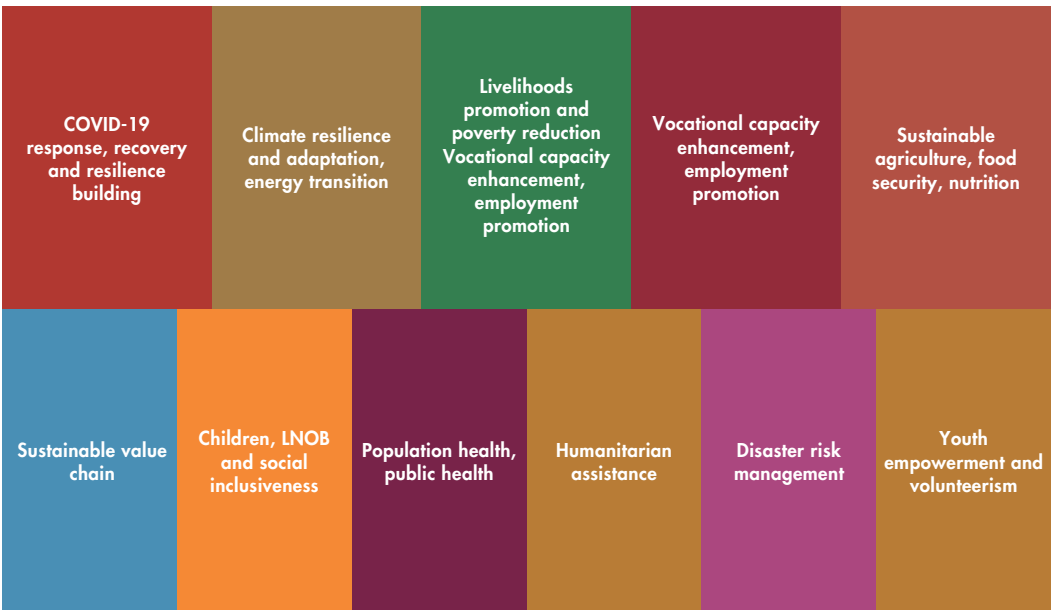
<sup>45</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chair's Statement of the High-level Dialogue on Global Development, 24 June 2022. Available at [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/zxxx-\\_662805/202206/t20220624\\_10709812.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/zxxx-_662805/202206/t20220624_10709812.html).

<sup>46</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, President Xi Jinping Chairs and Delivers Important Remarks at the High-level Dialogue on Global Development, 25 June 2022. Available at [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/zxxx-\\_662805/202206/t20220625\\_10709866.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/zxxx-_662805/202206/t20220625_10709866.html).

<sup>47</sup> China International Development Cooperation Agency, CIDCA Chairman Speaks at Unveiling Ceremony of Global Development Promotion Centre, 12 November 2022. Available at [http://en.cidca.gov.cn/2022-11/14/c\\_831582.htm](http://en.cidca.gov.cn/2022-11/14/c_831582.htm).

### 2.6.1. CATALYZING DEMAND DRIVEN SDG PARTNERSHIPS IN RESPONSE TO DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

In 2022, functioning as a multi-country platform, the UN in China supported more than 85 southern partner countries in accessing China's resources, expertise, and experiences in response to their specific SDG development context and other emerging needs through approximately 80 South-South Cooperation (SSC)/trilateral cooperation projects, totalling USD 115 million (see Annex 1). Among these, 15 were newly approved, accounting for USD 15.35 million with resources mobilized from CIDCA, the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, MOHRSS, the UN Office for South-South Cooperation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. These projects contributed to addressing a wide array of local development needs and priorities in partner countries with a focus on the following aspects:



In the past year, the UN in China continued to support the development of a strong and balanced partnership between China and Africa. This was done by providing support to the implementation of commitments made under the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), in particular at the 8<sup>th</sup> FOCAC Ministerial Conference held in Dakar, Senegal, in November 2021.

Playing a convening role, the UN in China facilitated a follow-up Symposium between the African Ambassadors' Group in Beijing and the GoC. This marked the first time in FOCAC's two-decade history that the UN has been closely engaged as a strategic partner.

Building on this momentum, the UN in China proactively engaged stakeholders across China and Africa to exchange perspectives and identify common ground for SDG-aligned development results in Africa. In particular, this was done through two high-level dialogues titled, "China and the Horn of Africa (HoA): Opportunities for a Transformative Partnership" and "Agricultural Cooperation and Food Security: Towards A HoA that is More Resilient and Sustainable", respectively. Through these exchanges, partners agreed to prioritize the implementation of FOCAC outcomes in HoA countries and advance the UN's Comprehensive Regional Prevention Strategy for the HoA and the African Union (AU)'s Agenda 2063.



Similarly, the UN in China has also been functioning as the convening platform for Member States' initiatives that involve China as an important partner. By bringing China in on such initiatives, the momentum behind them can be strengthened. In addition, it can create space for exchanges on mutual positions and expectations, helping to identify common ground for SDG-informed development results. An example in 2022 was a roundtable on food security held in Beijing and led by the Czech Republic, who held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union from July to December 2022. This roundtable, supported by the UN in China, brought together major partners from China and both the Global North and South to discuss this critical multilateral issue.

### 2.6.2.

## ENHANCING SDG IMPACT IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND SSC ENGAGEMENTS

The UN continued to provide technical advice to development cooperation institutions in China to ensure that they support the SDGs, and that cooperation is green, inclusive, and benefits the most vulnerable. These efforts involved shaping policy discourse and practices in China's international development cooperation engagements by providing policy and technical advice on alignment with international best practices, norms and standards.

- Efforts were made to help enhance the assessment of the development effectiveness of SSC initiatives. This included supporting the evaluation of SSCAF/GDF contributions towards the SDGs, as well as China's role in technology transfer, experience sharing, and knowledge dissemination among developing countries. In addition, a UN-CIDCA joint publication took stock of SSC best practices, focusing on SDG results and impact generated on the ground.
- To facilitate and inform dialogue and exchange on how to further strengthen results and effectiveness of international development cooperation for the SDGs, the UN in China and the MOFCOM co-hosted a high-level international forum. International best practices were shared during discussions on climate action and the low-carbon transition, financing for development, debt for development swaps, and inclusive development for vulnerable communities, including children.<sup>48</sup> A summary brief capturing the insights of national and international partners, identifying common ground, and mapping opportunities for further engagement is being put together.
- The UN in China continued to help promote child rights in China's international development cooperation projects. Through policy dialogues and sharing of international best practices, efforts focused on strengthening the capacity of government counterparts to support child-centred international development. In addition, the UN expanded its engagement in SSC to support child health with a regional focus on Africa. Frontier issues tackled included the eMTCT, climate-resilient water systems, rural sanitation, and child nutrition.
- Through a joint multi-year initiative in partnership with government counterparts, including the NHC, the UN in China helped inform Chinese pharmaceutical companies and associations in increasing local access to quality and affordable HIV/SRH medicines and commodities in Africa. Efforts aimed to advance the global goal of ending AIDS by 2030, and the priority on health outlined in the AU's 2063 Agenda. The initiatives included advisory support to take stock of good practices in the local production of HIV medicines in Africa, and a mapping report on China's HIV-related health commodities that meet international qualification criteria.
- The UN also helped to engage China in regional and global platforms on GBSS. This included support for China's participation in dialogues on the follow-up to the Inter-Ministerial Declaration on Son Preference and GBSS, as well as workshops on advancing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.



- The UN informed international experience, including via knowledge and best practice sharing on border and identity governance, by engaging China's National Immigration Authority in two regional platforms in Asia and the Pacific.
- With the UN's support, China's National Medical Products Administration achieved maturity level three for its vaccine regulatory system, creating a stable and well-functioning framework that benefits public health both in China and worldwide. This accomplishment contributes to the provision of global public health goods by increasing the availability of quality-assured vaccines to save lives.

In addition, the UN continued to leverage its multilateral platforms and SSC networks to facilitate two-way exchanges and mutual learning between China and partner countries on best practices and lessons learned. This includes supporting a number of international events, platform building, and capacity development. Through these efforts, a wide array of development areas was covered, such as ecosystem management, food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, poverty alleviation and rural employment, gender equality, and HIV/AIDS control.

- On poverty reduction and rural development, the UN, leveraging its Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation in China, fostered mutual sharing on food security and nutrition improvement through a number of policy dialogues and technical trainings engaging over 70 countries across Asia, Africa, and Latin America. An online SSC knowledge-sharing platform was launched for stakeholders, including those from China, to conveniently see the demands of partner countries, and share SDG-focused solutions.
- The UN in China also continued to actively engage national stakeholders, including the International Poverty Reduction Center in China, to strengthen global poverty reduction partnerships for the SDGs. This included the facilitation of exchanges between countries on long-term resilience building as well as digital solutions, with emphasis on rural employment and entrepreneurship, targeting youth and women to ensure no one is left behind.
- The UN in China, together with government counterparts and private sector partners, developed a series of flagship reports sharing good practices and lessons learned between countries in applying digital technologies to empower rural transformation. This included a focus on rural e-commerce development, as well as grain storage and reserves.
- On environmental protection, the UN promoted integrated ecosystem management in the Lancang-Mekong region by supporting exchanges between China and partner countries. Specifically, a policy dialogue was convened with the theme Green Lancang-Mekong Initiative Towards COP15, in addition to the production of five regional knowledge products.
- On industrial development, based upon its Centre for South-South Industrial Cooperation, the UN in China continued to facilitate demand-driven capacity building and mutual learning between China and southern partner countries to advance innovation for sustainable industry and infrastructure.
- In collaboration with the MOFCOM, the UN facilitated a dialogue with national partners to build capacity and exchange ideas and experiences regarding effective SSC in the field of SRH, gender equality and population dynamics and data.
- The UN supported youth leadership and empowerment in China and beyond by providing platforms for young people to express their creativity and share ideas for heritage protection and preservation, as well as digital technology.
- The UN also continued its support of volunteer-based exchange programmes and dialogues in China, harnessing the potential of youth and volunteering to support SSC in accelerating the SDGs.

<sup>48</sup> United Nations Development Programme, UNDP and CAITEC Co-host Forum on Strengthening the Effectiveness of International Development Cooperation for the SDGs, 3 December 2022. Available at <https://www.undp.org/china/press-releases/undp-and-caitec-co-host-forum-strengthening-effectiveness-international-development-cooperation-sdgs>

# 3. UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

The UN Country Team in China has been working continuously to deliver on the 2030 Agenda and the UNSDCF in a more coherent, cohesive, and collaborative manner through joint planning and programming, coordinated communication and advocacy, and common business operations.

## 3.1. JOINT PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING

The implementation of UNSDCF helped bring all UN entities together to adopt a collective and integrated approach to address China's development challenges. The UN inter-agency working groups<sup>49</sup> have played an increasingly important role and have become effective mechanisms and platforms to promote and ensure joint planning and programming of the UN in China. This greatly improved the communication, information exchange, and knowledge and resource sharing between different agencies and led to an increase in joint activities and initiatives among the UN Country Team in China. Despite this progress, there are still limited joint programmes within the Country Team. Therefore, the UN in China is exploring the possibility of establishing a Joint SDG Fund to further promote collaboration, stimulate joint planning, and support the development of joint flagship programmes across different UN entities.



Heads of UN entities in China at UN Day 2022 / UN in China

<sup>49</sup> Three Results Groups on People and Prosperity, Planet, and Partnerships; four Thematic Groups on Gender, Youth, Disability, and Leave No One Behind; and the Programming, Monitoring and Evaluation Group, UN Communications Group, and the Operation Management Team.



Celebration of World Children's Day / UNICEF © Ma Yuyuan

## 3.2. COORDINATED COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY

The UN entities in China, through the UN Communications Group (UNCG), worked together to jointly strengthen public awareness of the SDGs, gain support for their achievement, and raise the consciousness of the programme, mandate, and broader concerns of the UN development system. Over the past year, the UNCG has continued per its mandate to respond to the growing importance of enhancing the coordination and coherence of communication and advocacy efforts undertaken by the UN System in China.

In putting forward a unified image of the UN System in China, steady progress has been made in strengthening interagency efforts in the field of communications and advocacy, through a variety of traditional and digital mediums and in support of the UN's ongoing work, key International Days, and global priorities such as climate change, gender equality, and youth empowerment. Meanwhile, innovative methods have been explored to show how the UN is delivering results for the people it serves on the ground, while calling for action on the remaining challenges faced by vulnerable groups.



Zero Discrimination Day Poster Exhibition / UNAIDS



National launch of the 2022 State of the World's Volunteerism Report / UNV





### ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY (1<sup>st</sup> MARCH)

Remove Laws that Harm,  
Create Laws that Empower

A poster exhibition highlighting the urgent need to take action against discriminatory laws was held, attracting hundreds of visitors from schools, universities, community-based organizations and other sectors.

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (8<sup>th</sup> MARCH)

Gender Equality Today for  
a Sustainable Tomorrow

Two social media campaigns were held, including one advocating for women's participation and leadership in climate action, which received roughly 24 million views; and the other to inspire more girls to pursue science in their studies and careers, engaging about 1,000 rural children and nine top female scientists and attracting more than 100 million views on social media. A joint Op-Ed was published, highlighting the importance of gender just climate governance, action, and mitigation.

### WORLD HEALTH DAY (7<sup>th</sup> APRIL)

Our Planet, Our Health

A week-long campaign was conducted to raise public awareness on public health, receiving more than 760,000 views and comments.

### WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY (5<sup>th</sup> JUNE)

Only One Earth: Living Sustainably  
in Harmony with Nature

Through the dissemination and sharing of social media cards and the publication of a joint Op-Ed highlighting the importance of resetting the balance with nature, people were inspired to protect and restore the planet, which received over 520 million views.

### WORLD POPULATION DAY (11<sup>th</sup> JULY)

A World of Eight Billion: Towards a Resilient Future for  
All – Harnessing Opportunities  
and Ensuring Rights and Choices for All

Half a million people were reached, through an online campaign, and raised their awareness on the urgency of preventing unintended pregnancy among women and young people in China.

### UN DAY (24<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER)

Building Back Together for  
Peace and Prosperity

Two events were organized to commemorate UN Day, including a formal ceremony with high-level representatives from over 100 Member States in attendance together with other key stakeholders and a Youth Dialogue to explore the potential and contributions of young people to the SDGs, engaging 200 participants from the government, CSOs, embassies, and youth organizations.

### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SIGN LANGUAGES (23<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER)

CSE and HIV Prevention for PWDs

A joint event on CSE and HIV prevention for PWDs was held, and a CSE video series featuring sign language interpretation was launched for young people aged 9-14 to promote their sexuality education, improve their ability to protect themselves from HIV and enhance their health.

### WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY (19<sup>th</sup> AUGUST)

It Takes a Village

A refugee-themed book exhibition was held, featuring a curated list of 22 books written by, for and about refugees revealing how refugees struggle, survive and thrive. Over 50,000 people visited the bookstore during the exhibition period.

### INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY (12<sup>th</sup> AUGUST)

Intergenerational Solidarity:  
Creating a World for All Ages

12 dialogues on promoting intergenerational solidarity were held and reached 10 million people, including an online dialogue on youth health and HIV prevention with the participation of around 120 young students, attracting more than four million views.

### WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY (20<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER)

Inclusion, for Every Child

41 cities and counties participated in light-up or going blue activities to demonstrate their commitment to the rights of the child. This World Children's Day campaign featured a child-led and disability-inclusive livestream event across multiple social media platforms, accompanied by interactive digital World Children's Day activations. The campaign generated 607 million social media impressions.

### 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER – 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER)

UNITE! Activism to End Violence  
against Women & Girls!

Through the interview with service providers on GBV, a striking editorial series was produced to share challenges, experiences and hopes for change, attracting 2.84 million views.

### WORLD AIDS DAY (1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER)

Putting Ourselves to the Test: Achieving  
Equity to End HIV - "Equalize!"

The public awareness of inequalities faced by PLHIV was raised through the dissemination of posters in various public locations and an online social media campaign, which attracted more than 31 million views on social media.

### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER)

Transformative Solutions for Inclusive  
Development: The Role of Innovation in  
Fueling an Accessible and Equitable World

An online photo exhibition featuring PWDs in varied contexts was shared via social media channels, together with an online story sharing activity demonstrating the professionalism, sporty and authentic lives of PWDs, reaching three million people.

### INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY (5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER)

Together, Act Now

Social media cards were shared to emphasize the role of volunteering for economic and social development, with a video featuring UN Volunteers from across China in 21 languages and local dialects, together with the launch of the State of the World's Volunteerism Report, gaining over 600,000 views.

Moving forward, the UN in China will continue to expand its communication and advocacy efforts to support UNSDCF implementation by finding ways to enhance capacity, more effectively collaborate, and reach out to new audiences, and by better capitalizing on its relationships with key stakeholders from the media, the private sector, and civil society, among others. Priorities will also be given to promoting information integrity, especially on combating mis- and disinformation and hate speech.

### 3.3. COMMON BUSINESS OPERATION

The UN in China continues to promote and enhance common business operations across the UN system through the inter-agency Operations Management Team (OMT). The OMT strengthened its function with revamped structure and increased level of cooperation and engagement of UN entities, leading to more effective common business operations of the UN in China. Specific results include:

- Improved the premises and facilities of the UN entities in China and increased the accessibility for PWDs.
- Contributed to improving UN China’s work on diversity, gender and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).
- Regularly updated and shared the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers database for all implementing partners with micro-assessments.
- Extended the common long-term agreements for travel, security, cleaning, building maintenance, and gardening services, which helped to save the cost and improve the operation efficiency of the UN in China. By making joint efforts in managing procurement and administrative services, a total of USD 50,318 was saved as a result of cost avoidance in 2022.
- Established a new information technology agreement, enabling UN entities who opt for the service to increase their bandwidth at no additional costs or lower prices.
- Provided support, including mental health assistance and rapid test kits, to UN personnel in response to COVID-19.

### 3.4. CROSS-CUTTING AREAS

As indicated in Section 2, the progress and results achieved across the six outcomes of the UNSDCF are underpinned by the principles of GEWE, disability inclusion, youth engagement and LNOB. The UN in China put continuing and increasing efforts in mainstreaming and integrating the four cross-cutting themes in the implementation of the UNSDCF to ensure vulnerable groups are at the centre of the UN’s work.

To regularly monitor and assess to what extent the UN County Team has mainstreamed gender, disability, and youth in both its programmes and operations, the Annual Scorecard Assessments on these three themes were conducted, which highlighted opportunities and challenges for more inclusive working approaches and placed a spotlight on key areas where actions and further efforts would be required for the UN in China to promote GEWE, disability inclusion and youth participation and engagement.

In 2022, the UN China became one of the four UN Country Teams piloting Gender Theme Group Standards and Procedures in the Asia-Pacific Region, shared its good group practices, and provided inputs and feedback for the rollout and implementation of the group standards and procedures. To better integrate gender equality in the implementation of UNSDCF through joint work planning, monitoring, and reporting, the UN in China developed a Gender Equality Marker Guideline and put it in use when developing the Joint Work Plan. A gender equality training targeting different inter-agency working groups was organized, which enhanced the GEWE of joint programmes and coordination of the UN in China. In the area of preventing sexual exploitation and abuse, the PSEA network of UN China conducted a mapping exercise to identify achievements and gaps in PSEA of the UN entities in China and provided training to UN staff to deepen their understanding of this topic. Moreover, the UN in China developed PSEA materials in the Chinese language for distribution to counterparts and organized the first PSEA awareness training targeting 87 implementing partners of the UN in China, which strengthened an understanding of PSEA and compliance with UN standards and norms. The UN in China also made good progress in promoting the inclusion and participation of PWDs, youth and other vulnerable groups through theme groups on disability, youth and LNOB, with many tangible results being elaborated in previous sections. Other key results included the launch of the UN Joint Programme on Disability, support to the organization of the first World Youth Development Forum in China, and the carrying out of capacity-building workshops on human rights, migrant rights, and child rights.

## 4. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



The UN in China recorded a total of USD 128.72 million in programmatic expenditures<sup>50</sup> in 2022, marking a decline of USD 12.98 million compared to the previous year. As indicated in Figure 1, among the UN organizations, IFAD recorded the highest programmatic expenditure at USD 42.01 million, followed by UNDP at USD 28.89 million, UNICEF at USD 18.45 million, and UNIDO at USD 9.05 million. In terms of programmatic expenditure per UNSDCF Priority Areas, more than half of the expenditure was allocated to People and Prosperity, whereas 34.57 per cent was allocated to Planet and 7.19 per cent to Partnerships, as shown in Figure 2.

<sup>50</sup> The financial report in this section does not include the total expenditure of the UN but counts only the programmatic expenditure for UNSDCF implementation.

Figure 1. Programmatic Expenditure of the UN Entities in China in 2022 (USD Millions)

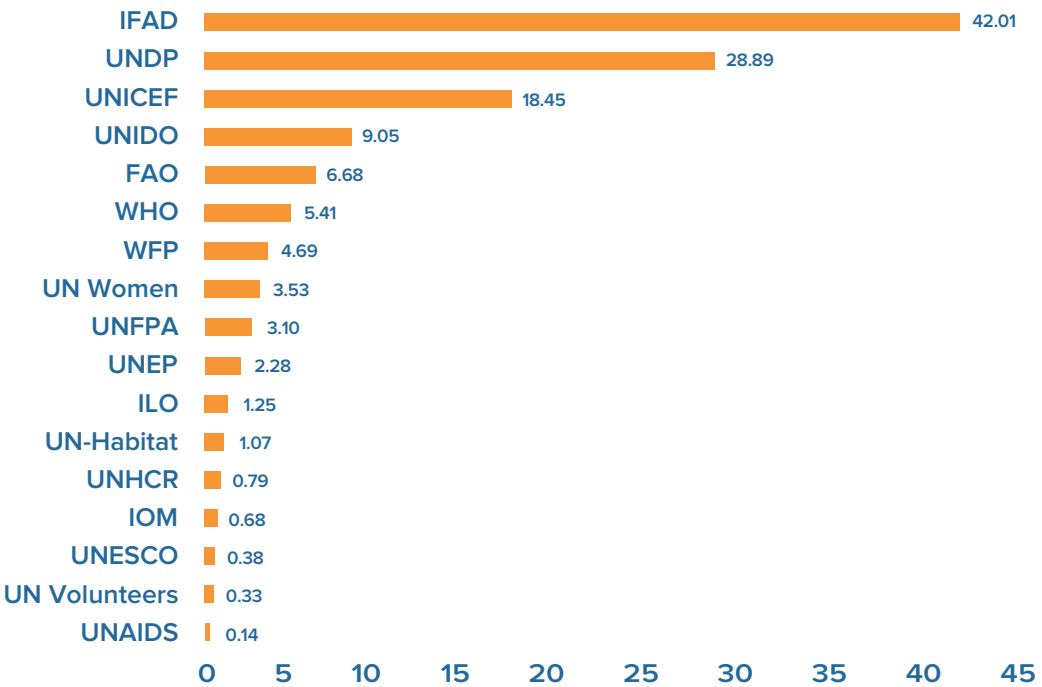
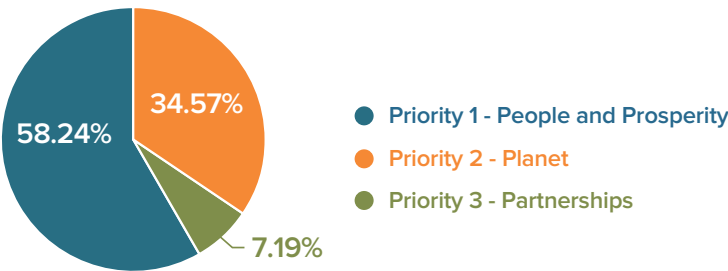


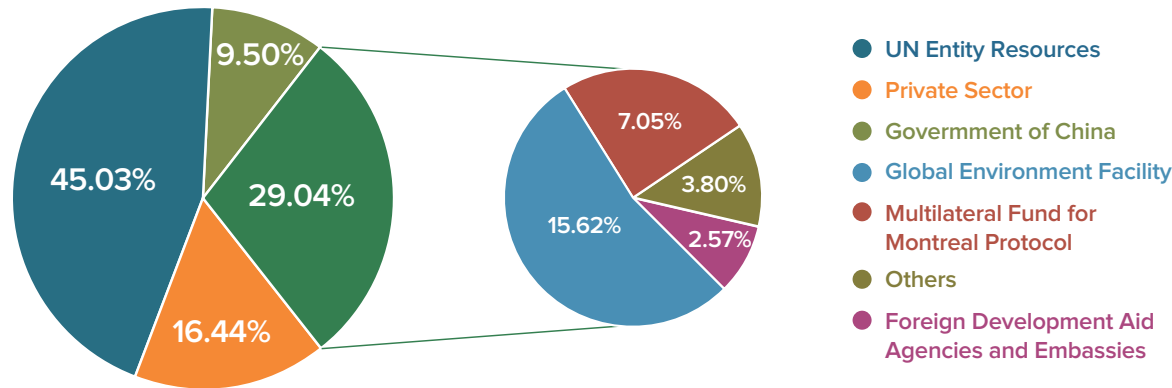


Figure 2. Programmatic Expenditure of the UN in China in 2022 per UNSDCF Priority Areas



As shown in Figure 3, 45.03 per cent of UN China’s funding was provided by UN entities, 16.44 per cent by the private sector, and 9.50 per cent by the GoC. The remaining 29.04 per cent of the funding came from other sources. Among these, the Global Environment Facility was the largest funding partner, accounting for 15.62 per cent of the total expenditure, followed by the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol (7.05 per cent), others (3.80 per cent), and foreign development aid agencies and embassies in China (2.57 per cent).

Figure 3. Programmatic Expenditure of the UN in China in 2022 per Source of Funding



IFAD, as an international financing institution of the UN system, provided loans exceeding USD 40 million to China in 2022, comprising the most significant portion of UN entity resources. However, the funding sources present a different picture, excluding IFAD. As per Figure 4, the private sector emerged as the largest contributor, accounting for 24.40 per cent of the total funding, while the UN became the third-largest funding source (18.39 per cent) after the Global Environment Facility (23.18 per cent).

Figure 4. Programmatic Expenditure of the UN in China in 2022 per Source of Funding (Excluding IFAD)



# 5.

## CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

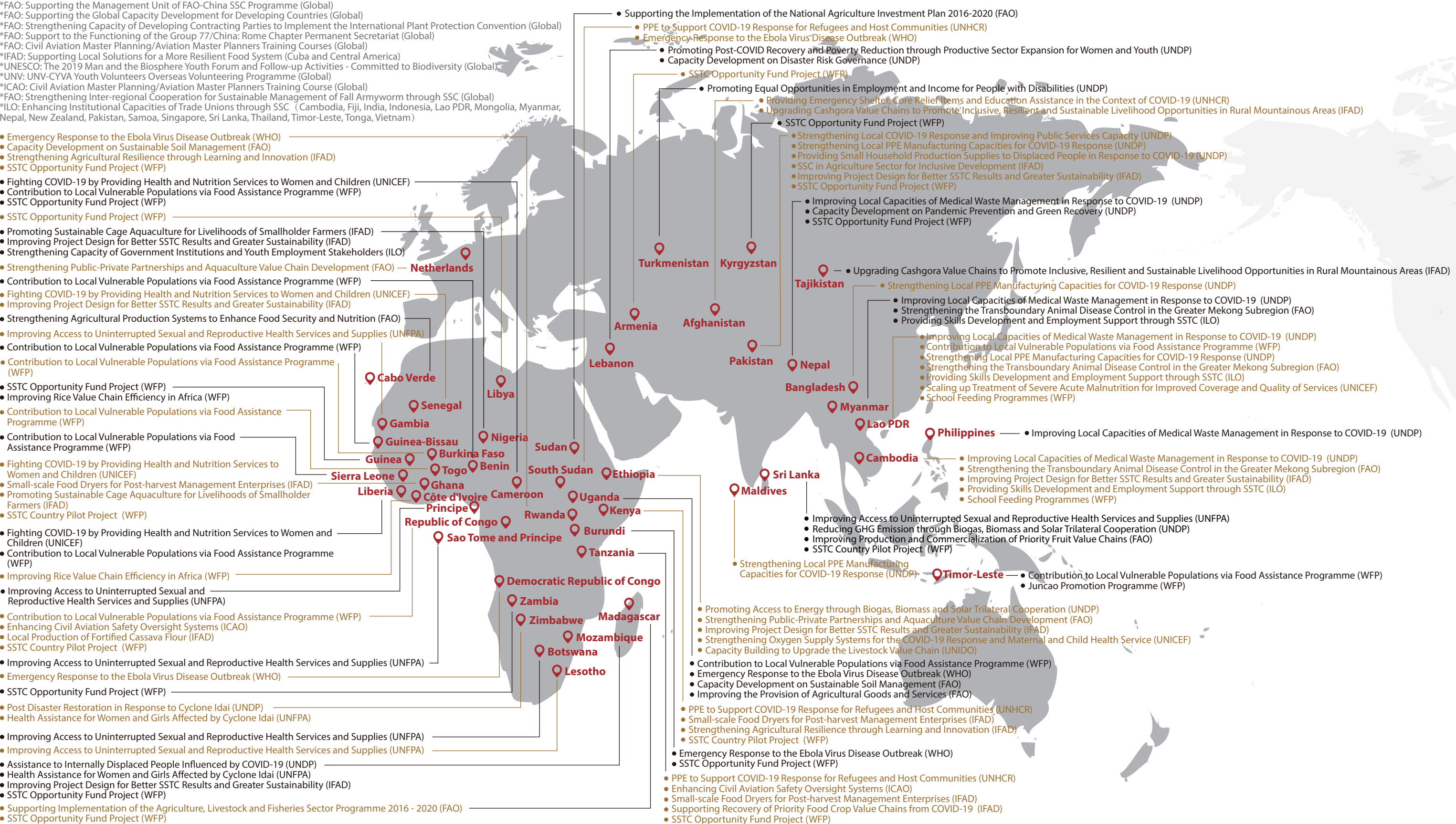
As China experienced the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the implementation of the UNSDCF faced persistent challenges due to prolonged prevention and containment measures. Lockdowns and travel restrictions posed significant hurdles to regular communications, meetings, on-site project monitoring, and technical support, and caused delays and cancellations of some project activities. The UN in China adopted an adaptive approach to mitigate the risks and impacts and ensure the smooth implementation of the UNSDCF to the furthest extent possible. The UN’s efforts facilitated inclusive social and economic development, rural revitalization, and enhanced public and social services in China, focusing on vulnerable groups; supported China’s agenda on biodiversity and habitat conservation and green and low-carbon development to achieve a sustainable and resilient environment; and provided technical assistance to China’s global and South-South cooperation efforts with a view to ensure compliance with recognized international norms and standards and accelerate the achievement of SDGs across the world.

With the lifting of COVID restrictions, China is expected to have a sharp economic rebound after the pandemic dampened growth in 2022. The UN will work with the country to pursue a more balanced, inclusive, and green recovery. This includes bringing the left-behind groups who have been most significantly affected by the pandemic to the attention of the Government and including them in the national development agenda; and supporting China’s efforts to achieve its dual carbon goals, through a transition to a people-centred, low-carbon and circular economy with enhanced natural resources management capacity.

Looking ahead, the UN in China will continue to facilitate SSC efforts, leveraging China’s expertise, experiences, and resources to respond to the many global, regional and national emergencies and specific needs and priorities in partner countries to advance the SDGs. The UN Country Team will collaborate with China in the implementation of international development cooperation partnerships and mechanisms for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Moreover, to further stimulate and promote collaborations and joint programmes/initiatives across different UN entities, in the coming year, the UN in China plans to establish a Joint SDG Fund and explore suitable modalities for implementation of the Fund, including integration of the Fund with an SDG Public-Private Partnership Platform, possibly starting with shared priority areas such as climate, youth, public health, and food security. This will be a high priority of the UN in China in 2023, aiming to help the UN Country Team deliver on the UNSDCF and SDGs in a coordinated and coherent manner.

ANNEX 1: MAPPING OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROJECTS OF 2022







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