



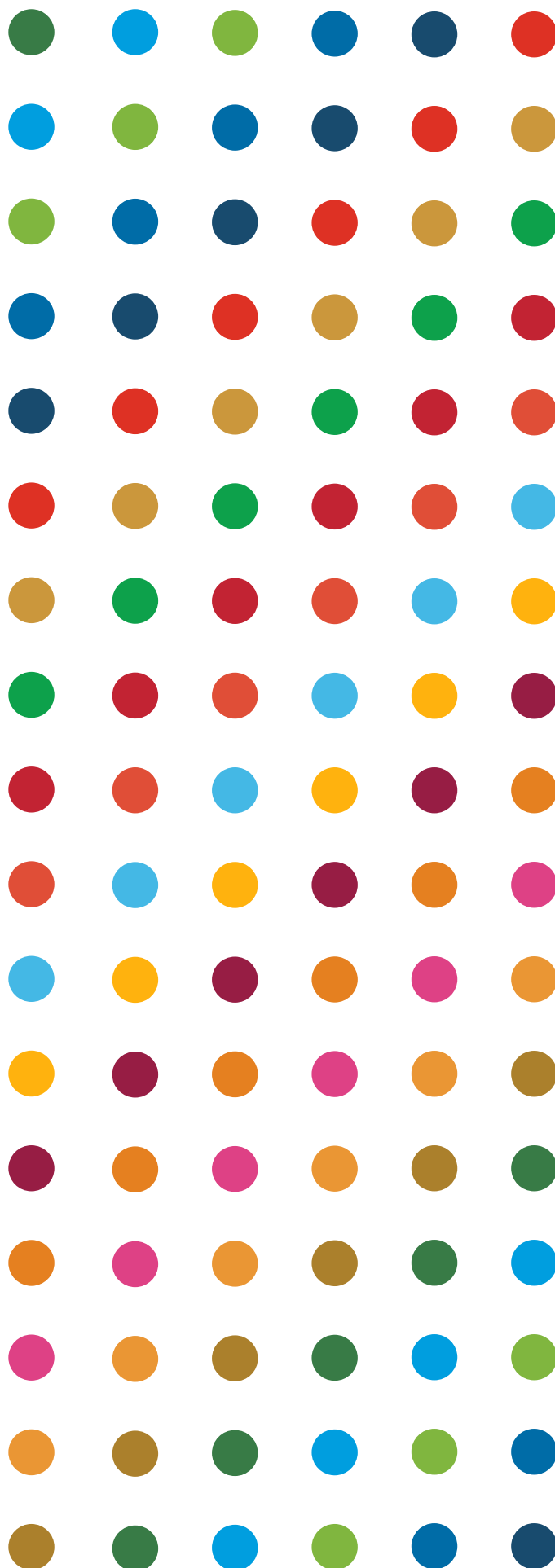
UNITED NATIONS  
CHINA



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**UNITED NATIONS  
IN CHINA  
ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2020**

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# FOREWORD



I am pleased to present the 2020 Annual Report of the United Nations (UN) in China. This report highlights the UN system's collective contributions to poverty reduction, equitable development, improved environmental measures, and enhanced global engagement efforts during the last implementation year of the UN Development Assistance Framework 2016-2020 for China. Despite stresses placed by the COVID-19 pandemic and its severe economic and social impacts in 2020, China has carried on to enact significant achievements.

I congratulate the Government of China for its successful efforts in the fight against extreme poverty, having lifted 98.99 million rural residents out of poverty over the past eight years, a remarkable achievement. The UN has supported China in its poverty alleviation efforts over the last four decades while also highlighting the persistent development challenges and gaps that remain across urban-rural, inter-regional and other demographic divides in China. The UN in China stands ready to offer our full support for the next phase of the country's high-quality development agenda, assisting in rural revitalization and addressing relative and multi-dimensional poverty with a view to leave no one behind.

I also wish to commend China for the leadership and commitment displayed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic through its' implementation of a robust public health response to stop the spread and save lives and livelihoods. China is going beyond domestic solutions to help other countries, notably by joining the COVAX initiative, and its offer to provide vaccines to all UN peacekeepers. Since the outbreak, the UN in China has stood in solidarity with China to fight the pandemic and will continue to assist in sharing China's public health experience with other countries.

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN occurred during a time of unprecedented global health crisis, which has undermined the hard-won progress and achievements on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs are not just a lofty ambition. Their fulfilment is essential to the recovery, flourishing—and, ultimately, the survival—of all humanity. As I start my new role as the UN Resident Coordinator in China in 2021, there are less than ten years left for the world to keep its promise of meeting the SDGs. Such a task will require committed political leadership, sound public policy, and strong partnerships. Here, China can play a vital role and has the resources and experiences to contribute mightily to the achievement of the SDGs.

In 2021, we now embark on the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025 for China, in alignment with the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan. In this new cycle of cooperation, we will also flip the orthodoxy and unlock new forms of finance as we forge partnerships with stakeholders from the private sector and foundations, harness frontier technologies and address development challenges within the South-South Cooperation framework, with a particular focus on the African continent. Leveraging China's resources, experiences and expertise, and boosting their capacity, to support the achievement of the SDGs for everyone, everywhere, will ensure the UN in China lives up to the Secretary-General's vision, to be fit for purpose and deliver as one.

Finally I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the former RC for China, Mr. Nicholas Rosellini as well as the RC a.i Dr Babatunde Ahonsi and Ms Amakobe Sande for their stewardship of the UN Country Team through the turbulent year of 2020. The results achieved by the UNCT is a reflection of their astute leadership.

United Nations in China

Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee  
Resident Coordinator

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# 1. BACKGROUND



2020 was an extremely challenging year for China and the world. The COVID-19 pandemic has posed a great threat to the lives, health, safety and wellbeing of people. It has disrupted global efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and threatened to reverse years of progress on the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The year 2020 was critically important for China. It was the last year for the implementation of the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan (FYP) for Economic and Social Development and the foundation year for the preparation of the 14<sup>th</sup> FYP. Therefore, the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and the National People's Congress of 2020, often dubbed as "Two Sessions", were extremely significant in the juncture of two FYPs and amid the COVID-19 crisis. Response to COVID-19 and accelerating the post-pandemic recovery thus became a predominant topic during the "Two Sessions" of 2020. More proactive fiscal policies, including fiscal stimulus, optimized fiscal allocation taxes and fee cuts, and subsidies for businesses, as well as social protection and other public service programmes were set up as key measures to address the economic and social impacts of COVID-19. "Six Guarantees"<sup>1</sup>, especially the first three, i.e., employment, livelihoods, and functioning of market entities, were underlined in the government agenda of 2020; of which, employment increase along with new job creation was defined as a primary goal. China's first-ever Civil Code was passed<sup>2</sup>, which came into force on 1st January 2021 and covers almost every aspect of people's social life in China. Amid the COVID-19 crisis, the goal of eliminating extreme poverty was still emphasized as a top priority of the Government's work in 2020.

In 2020, China eradicated extreme poverty by lifting the remaining 5.51 million rural poor out of poverty, as defined by the current rural poverty

line of an individual's cost of living per year of CNY 2,300 (at 2010 constant prices). This also implies China has taken a big step forward in achieving its first 100 years' goal as a Xiaokang Society, generally translated as a moderately prosperous society. This achievement is a major contribution to the global effort to achieve SDG 1, especially target 1.1, the elimination of extreme monetary poverty. Building on this extraordinary achievement and past experience, China needs to redefine its poverty reduction and development strategy for 2021 onward, moving from elimination of absolute poverty to alleviation of relative poverty, from a focus on income increase to multidimensional solutions, and from targeting of rural areas to covering of both rural and urban areas.

The extreme poverty eradication cannot be achieved without sound economic development. In 2020, China's economy grew by 2.3 percent, which was the only major economy with a positive economic growth. Following a sharp decline by 6.8 percent in the first quarter of 2020, China's economy gradually normalized and grew by 3.2 percent, 4.9 percent, and 6.5 percent respectively in the second, third and fourth quarter.

To pursue long-term sustainable development, China also worked towards turning the swift recovery to a green one, in line with its consistent efforts in prioritizing the protection of the environment. According to UNEP, a green pandemic recovery can cut up to 25 percent off predicted 2030 emissions.<sup>3</sup> In the UN General Assembly of September 2020, China's President Xi Jinping announced that "China would scale up its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and adopt more vigorous policies and measures" and pledged to "have CO2 emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060". This has the potential to translate into a significant shift in cleaner energy policy and drive the green recovery of China.

<sup>1</sup> "Six Guarantees" include the people's employment, the people's livelihoods, market entities, supply chain stability, basic operation of the government and food and energy security.

<sup>2</sup> The Code consists of 1,260 articles organized in seven chapters, including general provisions, property rights, contract rights, personality rights, marriage and family, inheritance and tort liability. It is often referred to as an "encyclopedia of social life".

<sup>3</sup> UNEP, Emissions Gap Report 2020.

<sup>4</sup> Ministry of Ecology and Environment, Energy in China's New Era, December 2020, available at [http://english.www.gov.cn/archive/whitepaper/202012/21/content\\_WS55fe0572bc6d0f725769423cb.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/archive/whitepaper/202012/21/content_WS55fe0572bc6d0f725769423cb.html)

<sup>5</sup> Ministry of Ecology and Environment, Guiding Opinions on Integrating and Strengthening Efforts in Climate Action and Ecological and Environmental Protection, January 2021, available at [http://www.mee.gov.cn/xxgk2018/xxgk/xxgk03/202101/t20210113\\_817221.html](http://www.mee.gov.cn/xxgk2018/xxgk/xxgk03/202101/t20210113_817221.html).

<sup>6</sup> In the paper, "international development cooperation" refers to China's bilateral and multilateral efforts, within the framework of South-South cooperation, to promote economic and social development through foreign aid, humanitarian assistance, and other means.

China has not only put great efforts in promoting the use of clean and low-carbon energy domestically but has also been an active participant in global energy governance to explore a path of worldwide sustainable energy alongside other countries. In 2020, the Government adopted an energy strategy in the new era featuring Four Reforms and One Cooperation, including 1) One reform to improve the energy consumption structure by containing unnecessary consumption; 2) One reform to build a more diversified energy supply structure; 3) One reform to improve energy technologies to upgrade the industry; 4) One reform to optimize the energy system for faster growth of the energy sector, and 5) Comprehensive cooperation with other countries to realize energy security in an open environment.<sup>4</sup> China has also taken actions to strengthen the coordination between climate action and ecological conservation. For example, the Government released the Guiding Opinions on Integrating and Strengthening Efforts in Climate Action and Ecological and Environmental Protection, aiming to promote the modernization of the environmental governance system and capabilities and make new headways in ecological civilization to build a beautiful China and a beautiful world.<sup>5</sup>

Globally, China plays an increasingly significant role in international development and cooperation. On 10 January 2021, to coincide with China celebrating seven decades of foreign aid that began in the 1950s, the State Council Information Office of China issued the third White Paper on its foreign aid titled China's International Development Cooperation in the New Era. The paper summarizes China's recent engagement in development assistance and introduces China's strategy in the new era. It provides a comprehensive overview of China's foreign aid experience and guiding principles combined with a forward-looking perspective.<sup>6</sup> The paper broadens the concept of foreign aid to include China's multiple South-South Cooperation (SSC) engagements with bilateral and multilateral actors and reflects on the linkages of China's overseas development priorities, as well as the development priorities of partners. South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) remain major mechanisms supporting China's goal of helping other

developing countries to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. China has also developed a strategy in international health cooperation to tackle the COVID-19 crisis, including making Chinese vaccines a global public good.

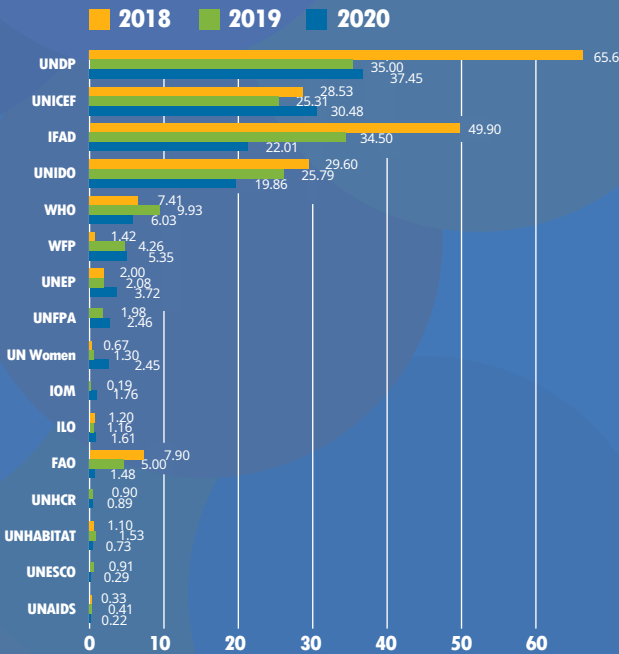
These national development agendas, including COVID-19 response, poverty reduction, economic and social sector reform, green recovery and ecological restoration, and international development cooperation strategy are aligned with the three priority areas of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2016-2020 for China: 1) Poverty Reduction and Equitable Development, 2) Improved and Sustainable Environment, and 3) Enhanced Global Engagement.



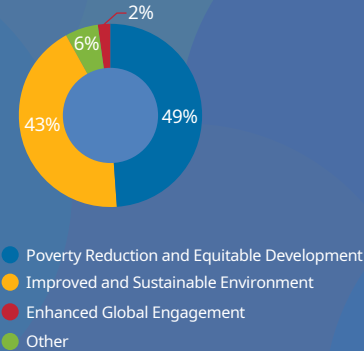
**FIGURE 1**  
TOTAL PROGRAMMATIC EXPENDITURE OF THE UN IN CHINA IN 2018, 2019 AND 2020



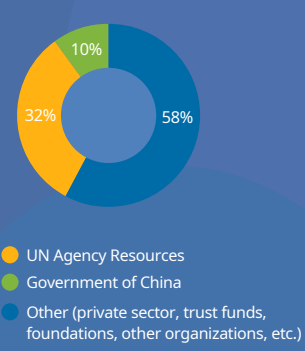
**FIGURE 2**  
PROGRAMMATIC EXPENDITURE OF THE UN ENTITIES IN CHINA IN 2018, 2019 AND 2020 (USD MILLIONS)



**FIGURE 3**  
UN'S PROGRAMMATIC EXPENDITURE IN CHINA IN 2020 BY UNDAF PRIORITY AREAS



**FIGURE 4**  
UN'S PROGRAMMATIC EXPENDITURE IN CHINA IN 2020 BY SOURCE OF FUNDING



## 2. UN PRESENCE IN CHINA

There are currently 29 UN entities having presence in China (see Annex 1). In 2020, the UN in China reported a total of USD 136.79 million in programmatic expenditures, representing a decreasing year on year since 2018 (see Figure 1). This is in line with UN's role in China shifting from a traditional donor to a partner providing policy advice and technical expertise. When the first UN office opened in the country in 1979, an important focus for the UN was to provide assistance for basic needs and support the Government's efforts to build the foundation for further growth and development. In the 1990s, the UN started to help with China's industrialization process and improve health and education among the population. By the 2000s, the UN's support shifted towards capacity building and enhancing the equity and quality of development, bringing the perspective of social and environment sustainability. Today, the UN is no longer a donor providing development assistance for basic needs, but a development partner that can provide advanced policy advice and share international experience. The UN's current focus is to support China's efforts to implement the UNDAF 2016-2020 and achieve the 17 SDGs both domestically and globally.

Same as previous years, UNDP is still the organization with the largest programmatic expenditure (USD 37.45 million), then followed by UNICEF (USD 30.48 million), IFAD (USD 22.01 million) and UNIDO (USD 19.86 million) (see Figure 2). In terms of programmatic expenditures by UNDAF Priority Area, Priority Areas 1 and 2 accounted for the majority of total expenditures (49 percent and 43 percent respectively), while Priority Area 3 made up only 2 percent of the total expenditure (see Figure 3). Figure 4 shows that 32 percent of the UN's funding came from UN entities' own resources,<sup>7</sup> 10 percent was funded by the Government of China (GoC); while the majority came from other sources, including trust funds, private sectors, foundations and other organizations and governments.

<sup>7</sup> Mostly the programmatic expenditure of IFAD is provided to the GoC in the form of loans, which then actually becomes the Government's fund. Therefore, to better reflect the funding sources, Figure 4 does not include IFAD's expenditure.



## 3. RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has generated tremendous socioeconomic impacts and posed serious threats to the lives and wellbeing of people in China, especially the vulnerable groups. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the UN system in China, standing firmly with WHO, has been working together with the Government and people of China to respond to impacts of the pandemic. The UN's work involved immediate assistance and direct response

to the health crisis, care for vulnerable populations, partnership with employers to ensure safe workplaces, monitoring of agricultural and environmental impacts of the pandemic, as well as support to China to build back better with sustainability and resilience. A variety of interventions have been conducted following the UN Socio-Economic Response Framework. Below is a selective summary of some progress and results achieved through UN's work in China.



# 3.1 PILLAR 1

## Health First: Protecting Health Services and Systems during the Crisis

From the earliest days of the outbreak, the UN provided immediate support to China in responding to the health crisis. Personal protective equipment (PPE) and other essential equipment were donated during the peak of the outbreak when China was in short of supply. Other interventions such as health service delivery, policy advocacy and research, training and knowledge sharing, and international cooperation and assistance were conducted to protect health services and systems during the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than USD 6.1 million worth of critical, life-saving PPE and medical equipment such as masks, gloves, medical protective clothing and ventilators were donated by the UN to the Government, health facilities, healthcare workers and people in Hubei Province and other affected areas of China (see Figure 5). At a later stage when the situation in China stabilized, a total of USD 501 million worth of equipment, including masks, gloves, infusion pumps, ventilators, cardiac monitors, oxygen concentrators, testing kits, protective suits, etc., were ordered or procured from China to support other countries through some of the UN organizations in China, including UNICEF, UNDP, WFP, UNFPA, IOM and UN Habitat. UNICEF contributed the largest amount with a total value of more than USD 448 million. UNDP's procurement covered 47

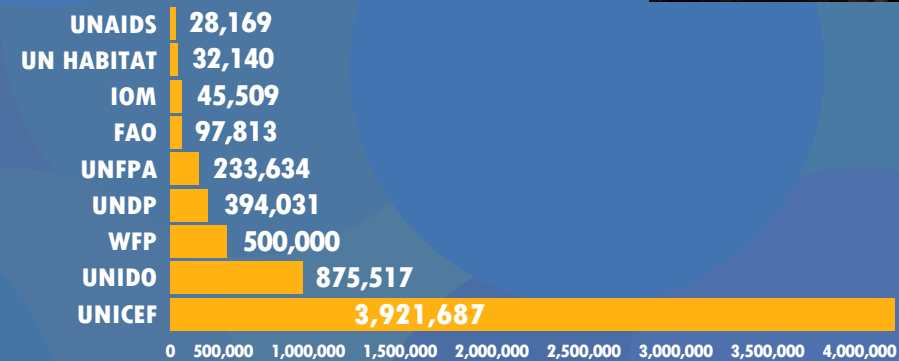
types of medical supplies for 72 country offices and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) with a total value of over USD 50 million. UNDP China also mobilized over USD two million in-kind contributions of PPE from the private sector to five other Asia Pacific countries.



A shipment of respiratory masks and protective suits for health workers landed in Shanghai/UNICEF

## FIGURE 5

TOTAL VALUE (USD) OF PPE AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT DONATED TO CHINA BY THE UN ORGANIZATIONS



Donated adult diapers arrived in Huanggang, Hubei Province/UNFPA

Technical support, trainings, campaigns, and knowledge sharing sessions focused on health and safety were provided and organized during the pandemic period to support different vulnerable groups affected by COVID-19 throughout China. In addition, the UNCT in China was also heavily involved in providing technical exchanges and experience sharing to other regions and countries, such as through the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) facility and South-South platform.

WHO coordinated technical and policy support to the GoC during the initial phase of COVID-19 virus identification and during national response throughout 2020. On policy advocacy, WHO provided policy inputs on reforms towards a more robust and resilient public health system to China's State Council, on provision of high-quality health services and care to vulnerable groups, and on essential health services during COVID-19 through sharing of global guidance and facilitating participation of regional and global discussions.

Under the "One Health" approach, FAO hosted two modules of China Field Epidemiology Training Course for Veterinarians, a 10-year platform which supports the enhancement of epidemiology skills for government workforces on emergency

response, engaging 60 trainees. In addition, FAO organized a technical consultation workshop and an awareness-raising campaign to increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises and to reinforce the capacities of national authorities and stakeholders for emergency preparedness. The awareness raising campaign introduced practical knowledge and skills on COVID-19 response to 400 farmers and veterinarians and increased their crisis awareness and response capacity in the context of reduced production and income losses.

ILO rolled out online training programme "Health-WISE" on protection from COVID-19 related risks to 594 healthcare workers across 128 hospitals in Hubei Province.

To ensure HIV service delivery to people living with HIV (PLHIV) and key populations during COVID-19 outbreak in China, UNAIDS mobilized support to maintain essential health services and systems by donating 10,000 PPE, supporting community-based organizations (CBOs) in Wuhan to dispense HIV drugs for 2,000 PLHIV, and assisting in providing 6,500 times of socio-psychological hotline counselling services to PLHIV, key populations and general population. Joint efforts from UNAIDS and community networks allowed more than 30 Chinese PLHIV stranded in 18 countries to receive antiretroviral (ARV) drugs for free. A number of foreigners living with HIV also received emergency ARV refills in China.

UNEP developed a series of COVID-19 waste management factsheets to support China in strengthening the waste management emergency system and addressing immediate challenges of increased waste from the medical emergency.

UNIDO donated the mobile high-temperature steam medical waste emergency treatment equipment to Wuhan, which helped process 21 tons of epidemic medical waste in 230 batches from March to April 2020. It also provided training and training materials to medical waste workers.

UNFPA provided hygiene and sanitation items, including 262,200 sanitary napkins and 262,200 adult diapers distributed to three prefectures/cities in Hubei Province, which benefited 45,891 people. With UNFPA support, the National Health Commission (NHC) shared China's experiences on



management of maternal care during the COVID-19 pandemic with other countries through webinars. Public communication on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender-based violence (GBV) was conducted together with National Centre for Women and Children Health of China Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Xinhua News during the pandemic.

UNICEF provided PPE to more than 90,000 health facilities' staff and community health workers. Approximately 134,000 people were reached with critical water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies and services. Health workers' capacity were strengthened through UNICEF-supported online training modules related to the detection, referral and management of suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases, as well as infection control and prevention, with a total of 637,850 views.



A Chinese person living with HIV stranded in Poland received medicines/UNAIDS

On global engagement, WHO provided extensive technical support and information related to COVID-19 identification and response in China through the WHO network to support Global Emergency Committee meetings, a joint mission to China, multi-region experience sharing and Global Study on Virus Origins. Besides, WHO facilitated, coordinated and advocated for China's support to COVID-19 global response such as joining COVAX, vaccine development and application to WHO Emergency Use Listing/Prequalification Programme evaluation process. In addition, WHO advocated the provision of essential PPE and medical supplies and coordinated the logistical hub with WFP and other agencies concerned.

WFP set up a temporary logistics hub in collaboration with the GoC, which processed over 80 percent of the UN Humanitarian Response Depot load in 2020. The establishment of a long-term UN Humanitarian Response Depot in China is under planning.

UNAIDS global network was mobilized to secure the continuation of free HIV treatment for PLHIV stranded in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and North America. Moreover, UNAIDS global platforms were leveraged to share the experience of COVID-19 responses in Wuhan and China to African countries and members of the 28 countries in HIV Global Prevention Coalition.

UNDP worked with China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) to strengthen preparedness and response capacity of other countries. USD seven million was mobilized to enhance the capacities of healthcare waste management systems in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Philippines.

UNIDO started an emergency response assistance project to support Iran in response to COVID-19 by providing medical waste treatment equipment and relevant training, based on the country's priority needs. The project helped to ensure safe and environmentally sound management of disposal of medical waste in hospitals in Iran and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

UNICEF mobilized USD six million from the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund (SSCAF) to support COVID-19 response and recovery in six



Donation of the disposable mask to UN-Habitat HQs and Slums/UN-Habitat

African countries, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia and Senegal.

UN-Habitat provided surgical masks and N95 masks to Guangzhou partners and an AI intelligent

bacteriostatic terminal equipment to Wuhan partner. It also provided surgical masks to UN-Habitat Headquarter and informal settlements and slums in Kenya where UN-Habitat implemented programmes.

## 3.2 PILLAR 2

### Protecting People: Social Protection and Basic Services

The UNCT provided social protection and basic services to the people in China through various outreach programmes, cash assistance and distribution of learning materials and resource packages. It also advocated for vulnerable groups and key populations through awareness-raising activities, consultation meetings and policy dialogues.

ILO, UNDP and UNICEF organized a policy dialogue on social protection with participation from Chinese government officials and academia to take stock of social protection responses to COVID-19 in China, analyze emerging social risks resulting from the pandemic, assess the gaps in social protection coverage, and engage in a forward-looking discussion on more inclusive

social protection policy reform and its sustainable financing in the context of economic recovery. The policy dialogue contributed to sharing lessons and learning from different country experiences to support the post COVID-19 recovery and the establishment of a more robust and inclusive social protection system.





A special dialogue on online education in the COVID-19 response and beyond/UNESCO ©Tsinghua University

**UNESCO** organized two inter-sectoral online meetings to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on China's basic education systems, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and higher education and supported the establishment of a coordination mechanism, which strengthened the education sector's response to COVID-19, with a focus on improving schools' safety environment and preparedness for crisis and emergency response, and China's education system's resilience for the future. Besides, UNESCO organized an online Global Dialogue of Higher Education in Response to COVID-19, as the first online discussion of higher education institution to look at education sector's preparedness facing COVID-19 through distance education. Through the special dialogue, university presidents and education experts from 15 countries recognized the extraordinary challenges presented by the pandemic and explored solutions to ensure the continuity of inclusive, equitable and quality education.

A series of Handbooks on Education Urgent Response to COVID-19 was developed by UNESCO with support from **UNICEF** and **WHO**. Moreover, **UNESCO**, **UNICEF**, **WFP** and **World Bank** jointly issued a Framework for Reopening Schools to help governments reopen schools safely, ensure

the marginalized return to the classroom and support continuous children's learning while protecting their wellbeing and safety.

**UNHCR** topped up its quarterly cash assistance with one-off cash assistance to 250 refugees in China to help them cope with the impact of COVID-19. Throughout the year, the agency provided information and counselling to refugees and asylum-seekers on the pandemic to help manage personal and community risks. Advocacy was conducted to emphasize the need to include refugees in the national response to the pandemic, including access to testing, treatment and vaccination.

**UNICEF** worked closely with government counterparts to organize and present information, collect feedback, as well as monitor and assess the resulting changes at the community level when implementing risk communication and community engagement activities. Key messages on COVID-19 were disseminated via social media through the Safe School Campaign, receiving 130 million views. 42 million children, parents, and caregivers were provided with mental health and psychosocial support. To ensure inclusive messaging, videos with sign language interpreters were uploaded to the National Education

Online Platform, and Braille posters were marked for delivery to 400 special education schools. Key messages were also translated into ethnic minority languages, such as Yi and Tibetan, to ensure that ethnic minority children received COVID-19 prevention information.

**UN-Habitat**, together with its partner, developed an elevator public video for preventing and fighting against COVID-19 pandemic, which was played in 200,000 elevators of 80 cities of China, 60 million times per day, and delivered the confidence of fighting against the pandemic. Besides, the organization launched the elevator video message of "Stay strong China, Stay Strong

Wuhan" and disseminated the prevention knowledge to the public.

**WFP** organized various forms of health and nutrition messaging sessions and awareness raising campaigns with the aim to enhance children's nutrition to better resist against virus in the context of COVID-19, reaching 4,357 caregivers and schoolteachers.

**WHO** facilitated the sharing of experiences between China NHC and international community on the emergent mental health service during and after COVID-19, and used strategic communications to advise coping strategies for people experiencing anxiety due to COVID-19.

## 3.3 PILLAR 3

### *Economic Response and Recovery: Protecting Jobs, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, and Vulnerable Workers in the Informal Economy*

The UN organizations in China conducted various assessments and studies on the economic and social impacts of COVID-19, developed solutions based on study results, and provided training, capacity building and technical assistance to support China's economic response and recovery.

**ILO** conducted three pieces of research studies on implications of digital labour platforms for the world of work, which defined employment challenges facing platform workers and presented policy recommendations on regulations and extending social protection to platform workers. Besides, ILO produced and disseminated a number of practical and easy-to-use tools to guide enterprises and workers on prevention and mitigation of COVID-19 at the workplace, safe return to work, and resumption of normal business activities. The tools were advocated in the National Week of Prevention and Control of Occupational Diseases by the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) and other partners. Through its Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE) Project, ILO also collaborated with Ministry of Emergency Management in

introducing new modules on COVID-19 prevention and mitigation, reaching 400 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The SCORE project trained 10 Amazon's suppliers on how to conduct effective Enterprise Improvement Team Meetings to help the companies cope with the impact of the pandemic.

**ILO** and **UN Women** jointly carried out a study on care economy and COVID-19 impact on domestic workers. The study focused on analyzing the current situation and value of unpaid care work and fragility of domestic workers in the COVID-19 crisis and formulating recommendations for solutions to revitalize the care economy.

**UN Women** first mobilized the private sector to sign and implement the women's empowerment





A Yunnan embroidery craftsman demonstrating how to use digital functions on a mobile phone/UNDP

principles (WEPs) and tailored their pandemic response in line with the principles. Through the Mulan Initiative, key message on how to have gender sensitive response to COVID-19 was disseminated to 20,000 entrepreneurs. Besides, together with All China Women's Federation (ACWF), UN Women organized a high level virtual ministerial dialogue on "Ensuring Progress Towards SDG 5 Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic – from Response to Recovery: Experience from China and Global Partners" to share how countries addressed gender-related issues during the pandemic and through recovery programmes. The roundtable meeting brought more than 85 government partners from 10 countries. The dialogue stressed the importance of gender perspective in the COVID-19 response and recovery with concrete policy and programmatic actions that must be considered in all national and local COVID-19 control and mitigation measures.

UNDP conducted a COVID-19 impact assessment on SMEs and privately-owned enterprises, covering 78,000 entities. On digital gaps and needs of the local micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), UNDP customized and conducted

training in three least developed counties and regions in China to bridge the digital divide, leverage digital platforms and assist MSMEs to use proper tools to digitalize their businesses in partnership with social enterprises. In addition, UNDP implemented a household-focused programme to bolster poverty reduction efforts in designated poverty counties to increase readiness to prevent the second wave of the pandemic, strengthen livelihoods and employment generation, and support local governments to build back better. The programme envisaged support to rural clinics and schools and the implementation of the government's stimulus policies. The e-commerce literacy component was embedded to effectively accelerate pandemic recovery.

WFP provided agricultural inputs including seedlings, pesticides and fertilizers to 1,000 smallholder farmers in Anhui and Gansu to resume production and recover from COVID-19. Its preschool nutrition improvement projects in Guangxi and Hunan, through linking school meal provision with local smallholder farmer support, injected investment into targeted smallholder farmers. As a result, up to 27.5 percent of the procurement for school meals were sourced from

122 local smallholder farmers, enhancing their income-generating capacity during the COVID-19 crisis. When many of the migrant workers were restricted to their hometown and could not get back to normal business, the projects, associated food companies and farmer cooperatives helped provide 11 job opportunities to local farmers. On average, farmers increased their income through the school meal projects from CNY 3,000 to 5,000 during the year.

UNEP shared inputs and suggestions to the recommendations initiated by China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development in supporting the development of China's 14<sup>th</sup> FYP, focusing on high-quality and low-carbon pathway, green transition and sustainable consumption and production. The recommendations were submitted to the highest central policy-making board of China.

## 3.4 PILLAR 4

### *Macroeconomic Response and Multilateral Collaboration*

The UN's support to China's macroeconomic response adopted various modalities, including assessments, policy dialogues and other capacity building activities.

UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, with RCO's coordination and the support from IFAD, UN Women and other organizations, undertook a joint socio-economic impact assessment of COVID-19 pandemic in poverty areas through household survey. The assessments provided information and evidence-base for UN's programming, policy dialogue and advocacy in China. FAO also conducted an assessment of COVID-19 impacts on market value chains and smallholder livelihoods in selected provinces and counties through household surveys.

ILO organized webinars on "Impact of COVID-19 on Employment and Future of Work" and "Opportunities and Challenges of Labour Platforms", which enabled ILO tripartite such as

the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MOHRSS), ACFTU and China Enterprise Confederation (CEC) to collect more evidence-based recommendations for the formulation of new policy measures to respond to the challenges generated by COVID-19, changing world of work, new forms of work and labour platforms. 150 participants from government, workers' and employers' organizations, enterprises and academia attended the discussions. Besides, ILO shared and discussed measures to balance monetary, fiscal, trade and employment policies with national partners. With ILO technical support, ILO Constituents and other stakeholders took actions to develop employment-first strategy and strengthen the linkage between macroeconomics and employment priorities.



# 3.5 PILLAR 5

## Social Cohesion and Community Resilience

Efforts focused on social cohesion and community resilience were demonstrated through the UN's efforts in conducting surveys and assessments, organizing policy dialogues and developing training and advocacy materials and guides.

CSAM, FAO, IFAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN Women and WFP held a policy dialogue on "China's Experience in Strengthening Food Systems amid the Response to COVID-19", engaging government officials at central and local levels, academia, woman farmers' representatives and others. The dialogue identified recommendations on how to restore robust and resilient food systems, ensure food security for the most vulnerable and protect ecosystems and food systems, which can serve as the stepping stone for the work of the UN in China towards the Global Food Systems Summit in 2021.

ILO, CEC and All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce (ACFIC) jointly developed a Training Manual on Collective Negotiation for Employers to enhance employers' understanding of collective bargaining's role in enterprise sustainable development. The training manual was applied by CEC and ACFIC in their training programmes. ILO tools and advocacy materials responding to COVID-19 were also applied by Chinese enterprises, in particular SMEs and the mining industry. Moreover, ILO and the ACFTU developed Training Manual on Collective Negotiation for Workers and trade unions for enhancing workers' skills and participation in collective bargaining. The Training Manual has been applied by provincial trade unions.



UNAIDS conducted a series of surveys on COVID-19 outbreak response in China, with one used as a blueprint for UNAIDS' work internationally. A quick healthcare needs assessment among PLHIV and an in-depth survey on the risk of ARV therapy disruption were conducted nationally. An additional survey on 717 community-based organizations (CBOs) was conducted to understand the status of CBO services during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Socio-economic survey was also conducted to understand the impact of COVID-19 towards PLHIV and key populations. All of these survey results were used for UNAIDS' programming in China.

UN-Habitat, in collaboration with its partners in Wuhan, developed and launched the Wuhan Guidance Papers - Emerging Experiences on Responding to COVID-19 in Chinese Cities and Townships, which provided evidence-based strategies that could be replicated in other countries. These papers are the latest result of the close and longstanding collaboration between UN-Habitat and Wuhan.



# 4. PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE UNDAF



IN THE LAST IMPLEMENTING YEAR OF UNDAF 2016-2020, THE UN IN CHINA CONTINUED WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF CHINA TO ACHIEVE

- 1) POVERTY REDUCTION AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT
- 2) IMPROVED AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT
- 3) ENHANCED GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT



## 4.1 UNDAF PRIORITY AREA 1

### *Poverty Reduction and Equitable Development*

The successful implementation of China's targeted poverty alleviation programme has lifted 98.99 million rural poor population and all 832 poverty-stricken counties out of poverty since the 18<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2012. Many of the poor were living in the most remote regions of the country, cut off by distance and arduous topography from the benefits of the rapid economic growth. In 2020, the per capita disposable income of rural residents in impoverished areas was CNY 12,588 with a real growth rate of 5.6 percent over the previous year after deducting price factors.<sup>8</sup> Notwithstanding this extraordinary achievement, the development gaps, between and within urban and rural areas, between coastal, central and western provinces and regions, and among different populations, remain a big challenge for China, as indicated by a ratio of urban and rural disposable income per capita of 2.56, regional economic development gaps<sup>9</sup> and a Gini coefficient of 0.465.<sup>10</sup> Disparities are not only in terms of economic outcomes but are also reflected on the inequalities of access to and use of public and social services.

Acknowledging this challenge, the UN continued its support to China in poverty reduction through rural development and promotion of more equitable development by enhancing employment and entrepreneurial opportunities that comply with international labor standards and improving public services and social systems, in particular targeting the vulnerable groups.

<sup>8</sup>National Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Communique of the People's Republic of China on the 2020 National Economic and Social Development, February 2021.

<sup>9</sup> In 2020, the GDP in the eastern areas was CNY 52,575.2 billion, an increase of 2.9 percent compared with the previous year; the central areas, CNY 22,224.6 billion, up by 1.3 percent; the western areas, CNY 21,329.2 billion, up by 3.3 percent; and the northeastern areas, 5,112.5 billion yuan, up by 1.1 percent.

<sup>10</sup>National Bureau of Statistics, China Statistical Yearbook 2020.

#### 4.1.1 Rural Development

Contributing Organizations: FAO, IFAD, UNDP, UNESCO, UNIDO, UN Women, WFP

In line with China's rural vitalization strategy, the UN organizations have implemented a number of rural development projects in the less developed provinces of western and central China, resulting in improved income, capacity and cultural awareness of farmers through financial support, capacity building, knowledge and information sharing, and awareness raising activities.

FAO continued implementing its "Development of SDG Villages" Project in 16 poverty-stricken villages of Hunan, Hubei, Sichuan and Hainan Provinces. Using an "Internet + Agriculture + Finance" model, the project provided comprehensive assistance to pilot villages, including Farmer Field Business Schools, e-commerce platforms for agricultural products, packaging design

and branding services, and rural financial services for agricultural industry development. FAO has also been supporting the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation to establish the Mengdingshan Training Institute for Cooperative Development in Sichuan, which is dedicated to becoming a national training base to train high-quality agricultural personnel for emerging agricultural themes and serving as a platform for international exchange and collaborations.

IFAD's rural development projects in Jiangxi, Qinghai, Shaanxi, Sichuan, Ningxia, Hunan and Yunnan have been piloting innovative approaches to tackle rural poverty, with a focus on rural youth and women entrepreneurship. By supporting inclusive value chain and rural business development through public-private joint financed business plans and Public-Private-Producer Partnership model, promoting standardized operation and governance of farmer cooperatives, and providing agribusiness services and infrastructure support, a total of 270,912 persons benefitted from the project with increased capacity and incomes.

## "Skilled Embroidery Lady" Joins the COVID-19 Fight

Many Yi women in Qujing, a city of Yunnan with many ethnic minority habitants, are inheritors of Yi embroidery, a traditional art with a history of over one thousand years. Yet, over the centuries, several factors such as weak community organization, the absence of necessary commercial operations, and the resulting dearth of opportunities to develop marketing skills and financing opportunities had left many Yi women in a persistent cycle of poverty.

In 2016, IFAD's funded project entered and helped transform traditional embroidery art into a new source of income and employment by providing Yi women groups with financing, equipment, and facilities, along with skills training. Under the project support, a number of women embroidery teams formed and collectively established the Qujing Women Embroidery Farmers Cooperative. Since then, the cooperative has trained more than 2,800 "embroidery ladies".

use of digital platforms for marketing and sales. The products are now promoted in various online marketplaces, including retail giant Alibaba's Tmall storefront, the popular Chinese e-commerce website JD, and social media sites such as Weibo. Members have even livestreamed their embroidery workshops to attract more customers.



Moreover, the Cooperative also supported community's prevention of COVID-19 by provision of masks. "The cooperative originally planned to buy a batch of masks to donate to the community, but now it is difficult to buy masks online and in pharmacies. We then decided to call on the members to make masks for the community," explains Ms. Wang Luhua, head of the cooperative and leader of the initiative. As a result, the embroidery ladies of the cooperative have joined together to contribute their efforts to produce handmade masks in their sterilized workshop. The finished masks are disinfected according to strict standards, then distributed to the frontline community workers for free.

Faced with the new realities of the pandemic, the cooperative has made the crisis into a turning point and found new ways to communicate and develop a holistic digital supply chain to keep their business running. They have even found an opportunity to support those on the frontlines. The determination and innovative spirit displayed by these women belies more than just their prodigious skills.



When the COVID-19 pandemic struck their community earlier this year, the cooperative, like many others, found their normal way of life completely changed. Their business was also affected by the lockdown, but they didn't let that stop them. Even as the pandemic prevented them from gathering in person, they developed a solid business continuity plan. With the normal marketing channels being disrupted, the Women Embroidery Farmers' Cooperative made extensive





Women Empowerment of Guanglin Agriculture Cooperative/UN Women © Qiu Bi

IFAD and UN Women signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding with Hunan Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs that provided a cooperation framework to promote gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) by enhancing income generating opportunities for rural women and inclusiveness of the benefit-sharing mechanisms under a joint local support framework. This collaboration built upon previous successful experience working with UN Women in a recently completed project in Qinghai.

UN Women's flagship project in strengthening women farmers' income security and resilience in a changing climate has trained over 55,622 rural women in Qinghai and supported six women-led cooperatives and businesses since its launch in 2018. Through the project, rural women increased their resilience to climate disasters. A combination of planting and breeding allowed the cooperative to set up a fully organic and zero-waste circular system, with animal feces being used as fertilizer and agricultural products as feed.

UNDP continued conducting rural poverty reduction projects in Gansu, Henan, Hunan, Hubei and Sichuan Provinces. These interventions enhanced skills, livelihoods, and household incomes of

vulnerable populations in poverty counties and buttressed the impact of COVID-19.

UNESCO supported China's efforts in poverty alleviation and equitable development by creating synergies between World Heritage sustainable livelihood activities and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism's nation-wide programmes on intangible cultural heritage (ICH). Through standard-setting, capacity building and public advocacy measures, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, particularly women and ethnic minorities in remoted areas, were empowered to adopt sustainable means of livelihood and enjoy a deeper sense of shared cultural identity.



Miao embroiderers visiting the China Embroidery Art Museum in Suzhou/ UNESCO © Suzhou Art & Design Technology Institute

- At Songtao of Fanjingshan World Heritage site, UNESCO helped to promote Songtao Miao Embroidery and provided training to 15 women



Miao ICH bearers, resettled community members, small enterprise operators and vocational school teachers.

- At Shilin of South China Karst World Heritage site, UNESCO strengthened both the institutional and community-based governance capacities of the Sani embroidery sector. It facilitated the compilation and approval of the Local Standards for Shilin Sani Embroidery Products, as well as the establishment of a local Sani embroidery cooperative. UNESCO also actively supported the development and promotion of cultural creativity and economy relating to traditional Sani embroidery, and the creation and promotion of local cultural brands. More than 3,000 practitioners of the embroidery industry and students of local primary and secondary schools raised their awareness on this, of which 65% are women.
- At Chishui of China Danxia World Heritage site, UNESCO continued to enhance the capacity and awareness of local communities on bamboo weaving ICH as a means of sustainable source of livelihood. UNESCO developed a set of video courses on bamboo weaving, which sensitized over 200 local community members. The bamboo weaving cooperatives and small businesses fostered by UNESCO began to provide flexible employment to community farmers.
- In Wulong District of Chongqing, UNESCO facilitated the development of a set of nature education curriculum and conducted 13 trial sessions that increased awareness of local

communities and 230 primary school students on heritage values, environmental protection, and biodiversity safeguarding.

- UNESCO fostered the capacity of 178 local Tibetan villagers on adopting sustainable beekeeping livelihood by providing trainings on beekeeping technology, cooperative governance, and marketing. The local beekeeping cooperative, with improved capacity, produced over 100 kilograms of qualified honey and generating nearly CNY 30,000 of gross revenue in 2020. With UNESCO's support, one cooperative successfully registered for trademark.

UNIDO implemented a poverty reduction project in Quannan County of Jiangxi Province to improve the industrial capacity of local farmer cooperatives, relevant governmental institutions and lead agricultural enterprises. It helped Quannan County develop benchmarks for global best agricultural practices and built its capacity for food safety and quality supervision in meat, fishery, aquatic products, fruits and vegetables, and other industries in Quannan. In combination with COVID-19 prevention and control, a series of hardware and technical measures were taken to improve local farmer's market layout for better zoning and prevention of cross-infection. In collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce(MOFCOM) and the National Medical Products Administration Institute of Executive Development, UNIDO helped establish the Centre of Excellence on Food and Drug Supervision in China, which provided systematical and harmonized capacity building services to food inspectors and their trainers in China, in areas of competency-based curriculum framework, qualification enhancement, human resource improvement and quality management system.

UNIDO continued implementing a project in Chengbu County, an ethnic minority area of Hunan Province, that integrated new production technology and equipment into local dairy enterprises, helping enhance local industrial production and processing capacity in the dairy, bamboo and handicraft sectors. With project support, local e-commerce operations capabilities were greatly improved. The survival rate of the bamboo industry also increased significantly, bringing great benefits to the local area.



Farmers working in the field in Chengbu County, Hunan Province/UNIDO







WFP continued to implement its kiwi value chain development project in Anhui Province. It supported local community to finalize a sustainable financing model based on joint contributions through which all 150 targeted smallholder households (511 smallholder farmers) became shareholders of a pro-poor farmers' cooperative. These households received an annual bonus starting from 2020, in addition to other income sources including land transfer fee and remuneration from working on the kiwi planting base. In collaboration with local authorities, WFP strengthened local farmers capacity on value chain development and cooperative governance, including 11 season-long field trainings which benefited 353 farmers, of whom more than two thirds were women, and training to key management staff of the cooperative. Moreover, WFP supported the establishment of a Women Representative Committee in the local community with job skill training and legal advice. The project impact on poverty reduction was praised by high-level government officials of China.

In Gansu Province, WFP supported 850 smallholder farmers to plant zinc-enriched potatoes. By providing agricultural inputs and on-site technical trainings and setting up demonstration plots, the project increased farmers' knowledge and skills on zinc-rich potato production. To reduce storage losses of zinc-rich potatoes, WFP also supported project partners to construct demonstration potato storage facilities at the household level. Training on post-harvest storage was also provided to the 850 project farmers. In addition, WFP helped with the brand building and market development of zinc-enriched potato through the development of marketing strategy, awareness raising on zinc deficiency and education, and training and promotion on balanced diet and nutrition. WFP also placed an emphasis on extending its partnership with research institutes, academia, business sector and advocacy community, which helped the organization leverage resources, engage with the public and deliver messages with new tools and wider impacts.

### 4.1.2 Employment

Contributing Organizations: IFAD, ILO, UN Women

IFAD provided tailor-made off-farm livelihood trainings to the women, people of reduced mobility and surplus rural labors in Qinghai, which helped them to find jobs either in the local area or as migrant workers out of the province. It also supported a good number of start-ups of small business. By 2020, a total of 1,517 new employments and self-employments were created as a result of the skill and entrepreneurial training. The agro-cooperatives supported by the project put women, youth and ethnic groups in priority for training and job opportunities. In the past five years, 3,035 persons, of which 44% were women, received the training on income-generation and business management. There had also been an increased number of women and poor obtaining the cooperative membership and working for the cooperative.

ILO continued to support youth employment through promotion of quality apprenticeship and entrepreneurship. A webinar series to provide employment advice and inspire entrepreneurship among college students were delivered to over 1,000 young people, targeting university graduates and employment promotion trainers. ILO, MOHRSS and social partners jointly promoted a more responsive apprenticeship system to adapt to labour market changes and technological transformation. The Chinese versions of three ILO Quality Apprenticeship tools and guides were completed and were put on trial in the pilots for research on China New Apprenticeship Programme, covering 69 piloting units in four cities and one sector, with the participation of 282 people.



To promote occupational safety and health (OSH), ILO has been supporting the ACFTU on the prevention of pneumoconiosis, which accounts for nearly 90% of reported occupational diseases in China, mostly affecting rural migrant workers. A draft "Checkpoints on Workplace Dust Hazards Prevention and Control" was developed. Over 100 local trade union OSH officers were trained on how to use these checkpoints.

Promotion of international labor standards has always been a core part of ILO's work in China. Through its Responsible Supply Chains in Asia Programme, ILO, in collaboration with MOHRSS, organized a series of responsible labour practice training workshops. These workshops enhanced the capacity of 75 labour inspectors and 121 enterprises in textile and electronics sectors in Guangdong, Jiangsu, Zhejiang and other provinces in the application of international labour standards and national labour laws in global supply chain. ILO also held responsible supply chain training for university students in enhancing the knowledge of international labour standards and corporate social responsibility (CSR) in global supply chain for future business leaders. Together with the Ministry of Transport (MoT), ILO conducted e-learning Training of Trainers targeting Maritime Inspectors in the application of ILO Maritime Labour Convention (MLC 2006). The training enabled maritime inspectors of Asian countries to share information and good practices in the implementation of MLC 2006 as well as the recent amendments to the Convention.



**UN Women's** Women Economic Empowerment Programme continued to empower women to participate equally in employment and better respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. In a dialogue that reached over 20,000 entrepreneurs, businesses were encouraged to put solidarity, empathy and care at the forefront of their engagement in COVID-19 response, promote workplace preventive measures, ensure the safety of all employees and practice zero-tolerance towards GBV at workplaces, etc. By December 2020, over 100 Chinese companies had made commitment to gender equality by signing the WEPs. WEPs is being integrated into the CSR guidance for two industries – textile and information and communication technology — by working with Textile Information Centre and China Electronics Standardization Association.

**UN Women** launched two new projects this year. One aimed at supporting women-owned SMEs in Hubei and Tianjin. Seven women-led SMEs set up new business collaborations and increased their opportunities to access market and finance through an exhibition-style sharing, which attracted more than 203,000 live broadcasting audience and 15 media interviews. Through the project, UN Women made visible the differentiated economic impacts on women-owned SMEs and the need for a differentiated response. The other new project is to address two interlinked issues that hinder women's economic empowerment: unpaid care and domestic work, and violence against women, through awareness raising of the public and key stakeholders and mobilizing companies to play an important role.

4.1.3 Social and Public Services

Contributing Organizations: ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP, WHO

By investing in knowledge generation and sharing, providing technical support, advice and advocacy on policy/law development and implementation, and piloting of innovative technologies and practices, the UN organizations worked to improve the accessibility, equitability and quality of public and social services for people in China, in the areas of education, health, nutrition, WASH, social protection, and community services, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups.

EDUCATION

SERVICE DELIVERY

- Scaled up the play-based early learning programme to improve the quality of early childhood education and narrow the quality gap
- Integrated social and emotional Learning (SEL) components into provincial teaching professional development programmes and teacher training systems
- Created over 70 community learning centres in seven provinces, providing community members with new opportunities for lifelong learning and enhancing their technical and vocational skills

POLICY SUPPORT & ADVOCACY

- Incorporated the community-based model on parenting support for early childhood development (ECD) into guidance to implement the Guiding Opinions of the General Office of the State Council on Promoting the Development of Care Services for Infants and Children Under Three Years of Age
- Contributed to the development of the integrated health education curriculum framework from pre-school to college-level
- Advocated for the addition of sexuality education during the amendment of the national Minor's Protection Law

SOCIAL PROTECTION & SERVICES

- Organized policy dialogues to promote a more inclusive social protection system and sustainable financing
- Built evidence through joint studies to inform better decision making of the Government in improving the social security benefits, particular for non-standard forms of employment
- Provided technical support on the development of

Opinions on Reforming and Improving the Social Assistance System and social assistance legislation

- Provided technical advice on the development of the early childhood care service supply framework and basic public service plan
- Provided technical inputs in the drafting and consultations of the revised Law on the Protection of Minors

HEALTH, NUTRITION AND WASH

SERVICE DELIVERY

- Strengthened HIV prevention among young people and reduced stigmatization and discrimination against PLHIV
- Strengthened integrated sexual and reproductive health (SRH) service delivery system in less developed rural areas
- Provided comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) through live streaming in rural counties
- Improved 27 million citizens' access to reliable public health information
- Optimized the medical insurance management system and improved local capacity for medical care service delivery through high-quality research and recommendations
- Provided three to five years old preschool children with healthy and nutritious school lunches
- Mobilized private sector resources to support nutrition improvement of school children, including the donation of 430,000 cases of milk as complimentary nutrition, benefiting around 2,000 children
- Improved schoolteachers' and public knowledge and awareness on nutrition and health
- Delivered WASH supply and services to 134,000 people
- Treated 40 billion liters of sewage through watershed management, benefiting over 2.4 million rural residents in five impoverished counties

POLICY SUPPORT & ADVOCACY

- Improved China's data transparency on HIV response
- Provided technical support on the development of elimination of mother to child transmission (eMTCT) of HIV evaluation plan
- Prepared good practices and policy recommendations for improving the well-being of older persons utilizing technology
- Provided technical inputs to the expert consensus statement on early essential newborn care (EENC) to ensure standardization and scale-up of EENC services
- Experiences and lessons learned from the Maternal Child Health-Management Information System (MCH-MIS) pilot project adopted by the National Action Plan for Health Information and Management System development
- Evidence-based advocacy for increased attention on adolescent mental health
- Competed the Joint Review of China's Ten-Year Health Reform. The report was submitted to the State Council and used to inform the formulation of the 14<sup>th</sup> FYP.
- Provided advice on the newly issued Preschool Education Law to advocate for preschool nutrition improvement and extended the national nutrition programme to children of 3-5 years
- Contributed to the development of the National Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Core Messages, the updated Chinese Dietary Guidelines for Children aged 0-5 months and 6-23 months and the National Action plan on Childhood Obesity Control (2020-2030)
- Provided technical support to the development of Assessment Guidelines on WASH in Health-Care Facilities, Child Environmental Health Indicators and Handwashing Guidelines in Response to COVID-19 in School

#### 4.1.3.1 Education

Contributing Organizations: UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO

**UNESCO, WHO** and **UNICEF**, upon invitation by the Ministry of Education (MoE), contributed to the development of guidelines and protocols to safely reopen schools and the integrated health education curriculum framework from pre-school through college-level.

**UNESCO** has created over 70 community learning centres across China in seven provinces, providing community members with new opportunities for lifelong learning, enhancing their technical and vocational skills, and empowering disadvantaged population so as to get better livelihoods gains.

**UNESCO**, together with **UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women** and **WHO**, advocated for the addition of sexuality education during the amendment of the national Law on the Protection of Minors through the Law Working Office of the National People's Congress. The organization also facilitated the review of CSE in China as a contribution to the Asia-Pacific regional review, including compilation of case studies and collection data from the MoE. Two of the four case studies from China were included in the regional report, and one was included in the global CSE review report that was done in parallel with the regional one.

**UNICEF** compiled SEL resources into a resource package, including the SEL Training Manual, SEL Teacher's Guide, SEL Manual on Classroom Teaching, SEL Manual on School Climate, SEL Teacher's Manual, SEL Principal's Manual and SEL Manual on Family Activities. Based on summarized resources and lessons learned, the SEL components were integrated into provincial principal and teacher professional development programmes in Guizhou, Chongqing and Guangxi.

Programme experience generated from **UNICEF's** community-based model on ECD and parenting support has been incorporated into the guidance released by ACWF on how to fully implement the Guiding Opinions of the General Office of the State Council on Promoting the Development of Care Services for Infants and Children Under Three Years of Age. In addition, UNICEF and MoE co-launched scaling up of the play-based early learning programme that was piloted in Guizhou and Shandong provinces to

improve the quality of early childhood education and narrow the quality gap across the country.

#### 4.1.3.2 Health, Nutrition, and WASH

Contributing Organizations: UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO

While COVID-19 resulted in additional health needs, disrupted services and changed types of support requested by national and provincial governments, the UN in China advocated for rapid return to programmes that aim to improve the health, nutrition and WASH services.

##### Health

Under the overall coordination of UNAIDS, ten UN organizations (UNAIDS, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women and WHO) continued to implement the Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS. **UNAIDS**, together with **UNFPA**, promoted data transparency by supporting China on sharing more data on HIV response with the global community through the platform of Global Prevention Coalition 2020. Latest HIV response data was validated and presented by State Council AIDS Working Committee Office, with support from UNAIDS, WHO and UNICEF through UNAIDS GAM system, and included in the 2020 Global AIDS Report.

**UNAIDS, UNICEF** and **WHO** jointly provided technical support to the Department of Maternal and Child Health of NHC to adapt WHO eMTCT validation tools, which are tested in NHC-UNICEF eMTCT pilots.

**WHO** and **UNAIDS** supported China CDC and communities in conducting HIV testing and treatment campaigns, which strengthened HIV prevention among young people. In addition, positive social environment changes were observed through repeated and innovative anti-stigma and anti-discrimination efforts from UNAIDS and other UN organizations.

**WHO** provided technical support to the national response to major infectious diseases, such as HIV, hepatitis and Tuberculosis (TB), including using the latest WHO policy recommendations to update national guidelines: e.g. the National Technical Specification of TB Prevention and Control, the National Guidelines on Prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT), the PMTCT clinical management guidelines and the national GP guidelines for the treatment of chronic hepatitis B.

**UNFPA** worked with NHC to strengthen integrated SRH service delivery system in less developed rural areas in Qinghai and Shanxi Provinces to enable provision of quality SRH service including maternal health, family planning, sexuality transmitted infections/HIV and cervical cancer prevention, and diagnosis and treatment services for vulnerable populations including ethnic minorities. UNFPA and NHC also co-launched the 2nd National Youth Reproductive Health Survey to understand the situation, needs and preferred approach for providing reproductive health information and services to youths. An innovation project on providing CSE through live streaming was successfully piloted in five middle schools in the rural counties in Qinghai, Sichuan, and Yunnan Provinces. Participants demonstrated significant positive changes in SRH, gender, HIV related knowledge and attitudes. Besides, UNFPA prepared a report on "Leveraging Technology to Implement the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: The Experiences of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea", which analyzed good practices and policy implications that maximize the development of technology to improve well-being of older persons, particularly the vulnerable groups.

**UNICEF's** technical assistance influenced health policies and helped strengthen national programme delivery. Inputs provided by UNICEF to the expert consensus statement on EENC, co-released by six leading academic associations, is expected to ensure standardization and scale-up of EENC services across the country. UNICEF's advocacy and technical support resulted in substantial progress in the MCH-MIS pilot project in 2020. The MCH-MIS platform, standards for indicators and data exchange, and unique ID developed by the project were adopted by the National Action Plan for Health Information and Management System Development. This will amplify the impact of the project to improve service delivery and decision-making among health workers, managers and health facilities across the country.

**UNICEF** increased attention on adolescent mental health, an often-neglected area of public health. Findings from the UNICEF-supported online survey suggested significant

impact of the pandemic on the mental health of adolescents and young people, providing evidence to urge the Government to take immediate action. Evidence on the changing health risks among adolescents was strengthened through supporting the publication of six papers in a supplement to the Journal of Adolescent Health, which offered insights for collective actions.

**UNICEF** and the Ministry of Finance (MoF) collaboratively explored ways to optimize the medical insurance management system and improve local capacity for medical care service delivery. UNICEF's preliminary technical review on the medical insurance coverage for children, including migrant children, helped flag this as a priority area to achieve the goals set out in the Healthy China 2030. UNICEF conducted research on the institutional and governance issues behind the public healthcare financing in China and proposed key directions for MoF to adjust the structure and system of fiscal investment. The recommendations from the research were adopted by MoF and contributed to the drafting of the healthcare reform workplan.

**WHO's** work in 2020, as noted in Section 3, focused on establishing a sound and resilient public health system. The organization completed the Joint Review of China's Ten-Year Health Reform together with the GoC, with multiple consultations with line ministries. The report was submitted to the leadership of the State Council and used to inform the formulation of the 14th FYP, as well as the future direction of China's health reform.

**WHO** supported the government in implementing WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and MPOWER through the execution of the Tobacco Control Action Plan of Healthy China 2030. It advocated for the inclusion of strong provisions on tobacco control and road safety in the Law on the Protection of Minors and advocated for comprehensive smoke-free laws at the subnational level. The organization's work laid a foundation for future promotion of SAFER technical package by initiating a formal engagement with the government to co-run a public-facing campaign on the health risks of alcohol drinking.

##### Nutrition

**UNICEF** contributed to the development of several guidance documents to improve IYCF and prevent childhood overweight, including the National IYCF Core Messages, the updated Chinese Dietary Guideline for Children aged 0-5 months and 6-23 months, and the National Action Plan on Childhood Obesity Control (2020-2030). In addition, UNICEF



focused on increasing evidence and awareness on the important role of the food environment on child nutrition.

WFP’s preschool nutrition projects in Hunan, Guangxi and Gansu have demonstrated that investing in school meals for preschool children is a vehicle for China to narrow the rural-urban nutrition gap and achieve equitable development. The projects provided three to five years old preschool children, most of whom are from rural low-income families and left-behind children, with healthy, nutritious and diversified school meals, combining food and nutrition education and fostering direct procurement from local smallholder farmers as an effort of poverty alleviation. In 2020, around 5,000 children in the pilot project areas received WFP’s nutrition support, amounting to total nutrition dietary subsidies of USD 334,000.

WFP’s partnership with Guangxi Nutrition Society created the basis for comprehensive behavior change interventions including nutrition education, menu design and dietary guidance, and production of communication materials on healthy eating. WFP continued to broaden its partnership with private sectors and civil societies to forge joint efforts in nutrition improvement work. It mobilized additional resources from private sectors to complement the nutrition and health education component in WFP’s preschool nutrition improvement project. In June 2020, WFP signed an agreement with a private sector partner, who contributed initial 430,000 cases of milk as complimentary nutrition, benefiting around 2,000 children in the Guangxi project.

WFP’s project in Hunan has successfully improved school-teachers’ knowledge and awareness on nutrition and health according to its analysis report. Based on the experience and

lessons learned from the project, WFP prepared and submitted a letter of proposal to the MoE on the newly issued Preschool Education Law to advocate for preschool nutrition improvement and extend the national nutrition programme to children of 3-5 years old. Additionally, WFP used different social media tools and platforms to strengthen communication and advocacy efforts at the local project management level to raise public awareness, enhance project visibility and advocate for Government policy support.

WHO promoted Font-of-Pack Labeling for prepackaged foods through engagement with policymakers, non-governmental organizations and the media.

WASH

As mentioned previously, UNICEF delivered WASH supply and services to 134,000 people in response to the pandemic. UNICEF’s technical support on WASH also influenced three national sanitation standards with regards to toilet construction, operation and maintenance, as well as Assessment Guidelines on WASH in Healthcare Facilities, Child Environmental Health Indicators and Handwashing Guideline in Response to COVID-19 in School.

UNDP helped treat 40 billion liters of sewage through watershed management, benefiting over 2.4 million rural residents in five impoverished counties in Sichuan Province and Xiong’an New Area of Hebei Province. The capacities of these counties were strengthened for managing the multi-dimensional impacts of public health and improved access to medical services. Moreover, UNDP’s advocacy efforts resulted in 27 million citizens gaining better access to reliable public health information.



4.1.3.3 Social Protection and Services

Contributing Organizations: ILO, UNDP, UNICEF

As noted in Section 3, ILO, UNDP and UNICEF jointly organized a policy dialogue on social protection to create a more inclusive social protection system and sustainable financing learning from the response to COVID-19 pandemic.

ILO initiated a research to assess China’s social security coverage of workers in non-standard forms of employment, with a focus on platform workers, migrants and women, to identify measures to close regulatory and administrative gaps and improve portability of social security benefits. It also supported MOHRSS in carrying out an updated study on compatibility of social security regulations and practice in China with the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention (C102) to inform decision by China on ratification of C102. Moreover, ILO organized the first online actuarial training for MOHRSS and its provincial branches and launched an innovative e-coaching programme with the objective to provide oriented technical assistance and enhance technical capacity of MOHRSS in the provision of actuarial services. This is expected to support the improvement of the long-term financial sustainability of the social security system in China.

UNICEF’s technical assistance contributed to advancing the national reform agenda for social assistance and enhancing capacity and knowledge of government officials, which contributed to the newly released national policy – Opinions on Reforming and Improving the Social Assistance System in August 2020. To ensure child-sensitive legislation on social assistance, UNICEF has contributed to and will continue to engage with the wider network of academia in the next steps of the legislation formulation in order to align the Social Assistance Law with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

UNICEF aimed to influence the policy objectives of the Government to prioritize children’s needs during the 14<sup>th</sup> FYP development. UNICEF’s advocacy note on “Putting Children First” was submitted to the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and the National Working Committee on Children and Women. UNICEF worked with NDRC on developing the early childhood care (ECC) service supply framework through proposing financing options to ensure availability, affordability and sustainability of the service provision.

This contributed to the roll-out of the National ECC Sub-plan under the 14<sup>th</sup> FYP. The evidence generated by a UNICEF-NDRC joint study on basic public service (BPS) delivery, specifically in rural areas, also contributed to the development of the National BPS Sub-plan of the 14<sup>th</sup> FYP, which aims to improve the overall access and quality of BPS and bridge the urban-rural divide.

UNICEF invested in knowledge generation, informed learning and exchanges, and supported technical and policy dialogues on child poverty to help strengthen the capacity of national partners to understand and apply multidimensional poverty in national policies and to explore possible models for measurement and monitoring of child poverty. These efforts are expected to help national partners make informed decisions on prioritizing child poverty in the policy agenda, including the development of Social Assistance Law as well as other social and public service programmes.

UNICEF provided technical inputs in the drafting and consultations of the revised Law on the Protection of Minors, a key legislation on child rights and protection adopted at the end of 2020. The revised Law will initiate considerable changes to the legal framework of child protection and trigger further policy development, such as on online protection for children, an emerging area for greater attention. UNICEF also completed a large-scale study on children’s use of the internet in 2020 to inform future policy advocacy and industry engagement.



## 4.2 UNDAF PRIORITY AREA 2

### *Improved and Sustainable Development*

The rapid economic growth and increase in demand for energy and natural resources for the past decades resulted in ecological and environmental deterioration in China, which has posed negative impacts on people's health and lives. Recognizing the increasingly severe environmental problems both domestically and globally such as climate change, environmental risks and challenges, and energy and resource constraints, the GoC has made environmental sustainability a core goal in its development agenda since 2000s.

China has accelerated its transformation and made great progress towards green and low-carbon development and environment restoration. As of the end of 2019, China's total installed capacity of power generation using renewable energy resources reached 790 million kw, accounting for about 30 percent of the global total; China's total surface area of solar panels on solar water heaters reached 500 million square meters; China's solar photovoltaic products were exported to more than 200 countries and regions with the output of polysilicon accounting for 67 percent of the global total; the production of complete wind power assemblies accounted for 41 percent of the world total, making China a key player in the global industry chain of wind power equipment manufacturing.<sup>11</sup> In addition, China has cut CO2 emissions by 46% per unit of GDP growth from 2005 level, raised the share of non-fossil energy to 15 percent in total energy consumption and increased its forest area by 22.9 percent of total land area.<sup>12</sup> Building on this achievement, China has scaled up its NDCs under the Paris Agreement and pledged to further lower CO2 emissions per unit of GDP by over 65 percent by 2030, increase the share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption by around 25 percent, increase the forest stock volume by six billion cubic meters from the 2005 level, and bring its total installed capacity of wind and solar power to over 1.2 billion kw by 2030.

The UN has collaborated with the GoC among other key stakeholders to address the environment problems in a number of ways, including 1) supporting China's implementation of multilateral environment agreements and facilitating the development and strengthening of national environmental policies, legislation and regulatory frameworks; 2) strengthening China's climate change and clean air actions by improving energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and piloting climate-smart agriculture; 3) accelerating China's shift to a circular economy and sustainable urban planning and; 4) protecting biodiversity and natural habitats.

<sup>11</sup> Ministry of Ecology and Environment, Energy in China's New Era, December 2020, available at [http://english.mee.gov.cn/Resources/publications/Whitepaper/202012/t20201222\\_814160.shtml](http://english.mee.gov.cn/Resources/publications/Whitepaper/202012/t20201222_814160.shtml).

<sup>12</sup> Ministry of Ecology and Environment, 2019 Report on the State of the Ecology and Environment in China, December 2020, available at <http://english.mee.gov.cn/Resources/Reports/>.

## FIGURE 6

### UN'S FOUR MAIN APPROACHES TO IMPROVED AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

#### ENHANCEMENT OF CHINA'S ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

- FAO, UNDP, UNEP & UNIDO: Supported China's implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and formulation and strengthening of national environmental policies, legislation and regulatory frameworks

#### STRENGTHENING OF CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE/ADAPTION AND CLEAN AIR ACTION

- CSAM, FAO & IFAD: Promoted climate smart agriculture to increase farmers' resilience to climate change
- UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO & UNGC: Promoted clean energy and reduced CO2 emissions

#### PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY & NATURAL HABITATS

- FAO & WFP: Supported the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the settings of agriculture, forest, water and wetland ecosystems
- FAO, UNDP, UNEP & UNESCO: Strengthened local awareness and capacity on biodiversity conservation

#### SHIFT TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY & SUSTAINABLE URBAN PLANNING

- FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP & UNIDO: Contributed to a circular economy by advocating for a post COVID-19 green recovery, creating green jobs, and promoting sustainable consumption and production
- UNIDO & UN-Habitat: Supported sustainable urban planning





The Altai Mountains and Wetlands Project in Xinjiang/UNDP

### 4.2.1

## Enhancement of China’s Environmental Governance

Contributing Organizations: FAO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO

The UN organizations have continued to support China’s efforts in implementing multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and formulating and strengthening national environmental policies, legislation and regulatory frameworks. **FAO** manages nine Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects in China aiming to mainstream biodiversity conservation, fight against climate change and land degradation, and promote sustainable agriculture. The GEF projects are supporting the China National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2011-2030, National Wetland Conservation Programme (2004-2030), National Climate Change Programme and National Plan for Sustainable Agricultural Development (2015-2030).

**UNDP’s** environmental projects have expanded to 23 provinces, three municipalities and five autonomous regions. With its support and contribution, the GoC adopted more policy regulations to strengthen the control of carbon emission, chemical usage and pollutants, to promote biodiversity conservation and to boost renewable energy industry. In response to COVID-19, China accelerated the passing of first

Biosafety Law, in recognition of the importance of a harmonious relationship between human and nature and sustainable green development.

In support of the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, **UNEP** facilitated the GoC to generate and apply information on how to monitor and reduce mercury emissions and release legislations, policies or action plans for reducing lead-paint. It also provided technical support and advice on the development of China’s national policy initiatives for controlling and banning plastics and the preparation of a sustainable and green 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Game. In addition, UNEP successfully launched the first Chinese language edition of its flagship report in 2020, the Global Environment Outlook 6 (GEO-6), which served as a useful reference to China for finalizing sectoral and local 14th FYP.

**UNIDO’s** projects supported China in meeting its obligations under three MEAs, including the Montreal Protocol, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Minamata Convention. In 2020, the Minamata Initial Assessment Project for China was successfully completed, which helped to formulate policy and strategic decisions and set up priority areas for future interventions. The project of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) Phase-Out Management Plan reduced HCFC consumption in the refrigeration and air-conditioning servicing sector, leading to the reduction of hundreds of tons of ozone depleting potential.

### 4.2.2

## Strengthening of Climate Change Resilience/Adaption and Clean Air Action

Contributing Organizations: CSAM, FAO, IFAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNGC, UNIDO

Strengthening climate change response and climate resilience and improving China’s air quality have always been a focused cooperation area between the UN and China. **CSAM** has been implementing the pilot project on integrated straw management in Laixi, Shandong Province since 2017 to address crop residue burning issue and air pollution by promoting the technologies of using straw as fertilizer, fodder and energy source. The pilot was successful in reducing 134 tons CO2 emission per year on seven hectares, while increasing the net income of farmers from crop production and milk production using straw as fodder. The organization also launched preliminary versions of two e-learning modules on mechanization solutions for integrated straw management and an overview of safety testing of agricultural machinery.

In forestry sector, **FAO** is implementing a GEF funded project on sustainable forest management to enhance the resilience of forests to climate change in China. The project supported local communities in four Chinese provinces to effectively employ incentive-based sustainable forest management practices in reforestation and forest restoration activities, enhancing carbon storage and sequestration and conserving biodiversity.

**IFAD’s** projects implemented diverse climate smart interventions to increase the resilience of smallholder farmers to climate impacts. In some project areas, irrigation efficiency of improved schemes was increased by 30 to 45 percent as a result of rehabilitation. Substantial water resources were saved and risks of agricultural production from drought were mitigated. Rehabilitated irrigation schemes also led to reduction of soil and water erosion and bio-environment improvement in the covered territories in project areas. Greenhouses built allowed farmers to have year-round production and reduced risks of impact from climatic change and extreme events. Agro-forestry activities consolidated the soil base, which reduced the chance of flood. Animal sheds or shelters built by the projects for poor households reduced mortality rate and weaning of project supported livestock. Meanwhile, the projects delivered extensive training and extension services to about 6,000 rural producers to equip them with the awareness and techniques to cope with climate caused side effects. Through which, the projects not only demonstrated efficient management of water resources, but also enabled increase of crop yield and economic return to the household producers.

**UNDP** contributed to China’s emission reduction targets by phasing out 86.88 million low-efficiency electric motors, leading to 23.13 million tons of CO2 savings; reducing 5,646 tons of CO2 emission through green logistics; and improving public buildings’ energy saving by 15% and reducing 21.6 million tons of CO2 in solvent industry and commercial refrigeration and air-conditioning sectors.



Workshop and Demonstration on Integrated Management of Straw Residue/CSAM





The 5<sup>th</sup> UN China Youth Environment Forum and 2020 Youth for Biodiversity Summer Camp/UNEP

UNEP's GEO-6 outreach focused on youth and students in colleges by organizing the 2020 Youth Environmental Forum and Youth Biodiversity Summer Camp of climate change and biodiversity themes. The forum received about 700,000 views within 24 hours. The designed GEO-6 courses were opened in top universities in China to engage more students in environmental protection. UNEP also supported the adaptation of best-practice district energy policies and guidelines to the Chinese context. Through assessing feasibility and mobilizing investment in one district energy project with high potential of achieving good mitigation results and high potential for replication, it demonstrated benefits for Chinese cities.

UNGC promoted Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) linked topics and capacity building opportunities via its Chinese official media channels to scale up the business ambition for climate change among Chinese businesses. The year-to-date number of Chinese signatories of SBTi is 37, with 24 companies joining in 2020. The SBTi mobilizes companies to set science-based targets and boost their competitive advantage in the transition to a low-carbon economy. The initiative defines and promotes best practice in science-based target setting, offers resources and guidance to reduce barriers to adoption, and independently assesses and approves companies' targets.

UNIDO's GEF project on upgrading the capacity of China's small hydropower Plants (SHPs) built up knowledge base and capacities in the field of green SHPs and improved the safe management of SHPs.

4.2.3

Shift to a Circular Economy and Sustainable Urban Planning

Contributing Organizations: FAO, ILO, UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNIDO

Besides climate change actions, the UN has been further supporting China to accelerate its transition to a circular economy and sustainable planning. FAO's three on-going technical cooperation projects provided support to mainstream sustainable agricultural practices in the field, which promoted the green rice development in Shanghai, the circular agriculture development in Hainan and the e-commerce-based contract farming in Anhui, contributing to the transformation towards more resilient and sustainable food systems.

ILO, in collaboration with UNEP and UNIDO, has been implementing the Partnership for Action on Green Economy Project in China, contributing to enhanced awareness on green transition in key industries such as the textile and garment sectors. Through which, the project built capacity for relevant partners, including the industry administration, social partners, private enterprises with a broad representation of international brands, and academic institutions, in promoting a just transition to a low carbon economy and green jobs in the industrial transition process, with the view to jumpstarting the post COVID-19 green recovery. The initiative enhanced multi-stakeholder cooperation and partnership by developing a process for participatory



A session in the 10<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum for Wuhan/UN-Habitat

engagement and building capacity through social dialogue and strengthened inter-agency cooperation.

UNEP supported awareness-raising and policy initiatives for sustainable consumption and production, green transition and green public procurement through the Switch Asia Project. The report on Analysis of the Current Situation on Sustainable Consumption in China developed by UNEP outlined current policy framework of sustainable consumption in China and proposed policy recommendations. UNEP also actively advocated for post COVID-19 green recovery, sustainable consumption and production, biodiversity protection and low-carbon development by engaging key think-tanks such as the National Academy of Governance, so as to increase knowledge, change mindset and influence decision making of the Government. In addition, UNEP supported the efforts on sustainable and efficient electronic mobility.

UNIDO's GEF Project on Integrated Adoption of New Energy Vehicles supported the set-up of low-carbon urban transportation demonstration zones in Shanghai and Yancheng. Through analyzing policy measures, developing technical regulations, piloting charging infrastructure and grid response, and raising awareness of technology integration, the project aims to promote electric vehicles and renewably sourced

electricity in the demonstration zones.

UN-Habitat has worked to build people-centred smart cities and promote urban sustainability utilizing frontier technologies and innovations, ensuring that data and technology are used to improve the lives of citizens, guide global policy discussions, solve real and pressing urban challenges, and achieve sustainable outcomes. In collaboration with Chinese Hi-Tech and AI Companies, UN-Habitat continuously ran the UN-Habitat China Future Cities Council and launched its first report of the "Future Cities Advisory Outlook 2020: Urban Technologies in China". The Outlook reviewed China's emergent smart urbanization policy frameworks, observed several trends with regard to the collaboration between municipal governments and private sectors to establish urban service platforms, and identified 16 different types of services for the platforms, including mobility, energy management, waste management, health services, etc. The organization, together with Chengdu Hi-Tech Industrial Zone (CDHT), produced Smart City Planning Guideline for CDHT to build connected, live-able, thriving and sustainable communities in the digital age. The Guideline analyzed, in detail, the profound situation, challenges and opportunities that CDHT faced, formulated smart city development recommendations and provided specific smart city scenario guidance in the coming years.



Protection of Biodiversity and Natural Habitats

Contributing Organizations: FAO, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, WFP

The UN's work contributed to the protection of biodiversity and natural habitats of China. FAO's GEF projects continued to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the settings of agriculture, forest, water and wetland ecosystems in the country through policy dialogues, pilot activities, capacity building, awareness-raising and knowledge sharing activities, leading to the following results:

Key national and provincial policies and regulations were issued or put forward to strengthen mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation in protected areas.

- Ministry of Water Resources drafted a Guide on River and Lake Health Assessment and approved three national technical guidelines on health assessment, ecosystem conservation, and restoration of river and lake.
- A policy advice to ban wildlife hunting and trade was formulated in the context of COVID-19 and incorporated into Jiangxi provincial regulation.
- The Notice of the Hunan Provincial People's Government on Prohibition of Fishing in Key Waters in the Yangtze River Basin of Hunan Province was issued.
- Proposal on Wetland Protection and Restoration in Jilin Province was reviewed and approved by provincial leaders.

Flagship species were monitored and conserved in protected areas and new species were identified.

- Wintering Pere David's Deer Simultaneous Survey was carried out by Dongting Lake Nature Reserve, monitoring a population of 198 deer.
- A simultaneous survey of migratory water birds around the Dongting Lake area was organized with a record of two black storks, 1,193 whistle swan and 12,428 lesser white-fronted geese.
- Two new mammalian species were identified and three new species of cave insects were discovered in Huangshan.
- The first monitoring of amphibians, reptiles and insects was conducted, which is of great significance to biodiversity conservation in Poyang Lake wetlands.

UNDP supported the national parks of eight provinces in restoring 1,730 mu (1.15 square kilometers) close-to-nature grassland and removing 140,000 meters of fences in Przewalski Gazelle habitat in Qinghai Lake region. It also helped harness the environmental, social and economic benefits of genetic resources and traditional knowledge in six provinces in compliance with the Convention on Biological Diversity and Nagoya Protocol.

UNEP strengthened local capacity by expanding and improving biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the Greater Shennongjia Area, Hubei Province. Moreover, the organization organized and attended a series of World Environment Day events and dialogues on nature conservation, calling for protection of biodiversity.

Innovative mechanisms and practices were implemented in project sites to promote conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

- Chongqing and Sichuan established a joint river chief mechanism and cross-departmental collaboration mechanism to protect transboundary rivers, which are in function at the moment.
- Yunnan and Tibet signed an agreement to protect transboundary rivers and establish a joint mechanism on emergency response.
- APPs of Integrated Information Management System of Dongting Lake Nature Reserve was developed and on trial.
- Innovative co-management models and alternative livelihoods, such as rice-fish co-cultivation, eco-tourism, reed mushroom, ecological fishery, etc., were explored in Dongting Lake Nature Reserve.

Key trainings were organized to strengthen the capacity of government officials and staff of protected areas, and various communication and publicity activities were conducted to raise the public awareness on biodiversity conservation.

- Two trainings on wetland management and saline-alkaline land improvement were provided to over 220 participants from Jilin.
- A big cultural and creative contest themed as "Discovering the beauty of Poyang Lake" was launched on the World Migratory Bird Day, increasing the international ecological brand of the Poyang Lake.
- Cultural and creative products supported by the GEF project were exhibited and introduced during the opening ceremony of the 11th Dongting Lake International Bird Watching Festival.
- Publicity activities on biodiversity conservation were organized in Yunnan and Chongqing during the World Water Day, China Water Week, International Biodiversity Day and World Environment Day.

UNESCO continued to support China's national priority in constructing eco-civilization and new policies to encourage nature education in protected areas through pilot activities at Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries World Heritage site, which strengthened the community ownership of environmental protection and youth awareness on biodiversity safeguarding and sustainable development.

WFP's project in Anhui Province promoted the development of a more sustainable food system. By providing technical trainings on sustainable management of the kiwi orchard, farmers learned how to improve the soil quality with enhanced organic content, while strictly adhered to the "no chemical" principle. This not only improved the taste and quality of the kiwi fruit, but also protected the environment. Through science-based management, the kiwi orchard also demonstrated notable resistance against disaster.

4.3 UNDAF PRIORITY AREA 3

Enhanced Global Engagement

China has steadily increased its international development assistance with a focus on SSC and through cooperation mechanisms such as the BRI. From 2013 to 2018, China allocated a total of CNY 270.2 billion for foreign assistance in the modalities of grants, interest-free loans and concessional loans. About 47.3 percent of the funds were used to help other developing countries build social welfare projects and provide support in human resource development, technical cooperation, material assistance and emergency humanitarian assistance<sup>13</sup>. The SSCAF operationalized in 2017 is becoming a main vehicle in funding SSC projects. Through SSC, China has assisted other developing countries in reducing poverty, responding to health emergencies, building capacity for infectious disease prevention and control, boosting agricultural development, enhancing the provision of public and social services, improving infrastructure and speeding up industrialization, contributing to the achievement of SDGs globally. Since the BRI was proposed, China has signed 205 BRI cooperation agreements with 171 countries and international organizations.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>13</sup> The State Council Information Office, China's International Development Cooperation in the New Era, January 2021, available at [http://en.cidca.gov.cn/2021-01/10/c\\_581228.htm](http://en.cidca.gov.cn/2021-01/10/c_581228.htm).

<sup>14</sup> Belt and Road Portal, available at <https://www.yidaiyilu.gov.cn/xwzx/gnxw/163241.htm>.



Chinese experts training local farmers in Madagascar/FAO



Non-food item distribution in Nigeria/IOM

The UN has worked with China to influence and build China's capacity for global engagement, enhance alignment with the 2030 Agenda and maximize the potential of China's international initiatives and engagements for SDGs achievement.



## International Development Cooperation

In 2020, China has provided development and humanitarian assistance to more than 40 countries through the UN in China, with 38 projects in implementation and 9 projects newly approved (see Annex 2). The map below provides an overview of the projects across the world. The UN organizations engaged with China and partner countries in different development areas through various modalities.

# MAPPING OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROJECTS OF 2020

- Enhancing the National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC) Programme's Knowledge Base and Expertise to Promote Youth Employment/ Entrepreneurship in Rural Communities (IFAD)
- Providing Technical Assistance to the South African Government to Strengthen the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC)
- Contributing to the Development of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in South Africa

- Post Disaster Restoration Project of the Imp
- Providing Humanitarian Assistance to Pop
- Contribution to WFP Mozambique on Food
- Learning from SSTC in Project Design for B

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- da (UNICEF)
- )
- ainability (IFAD)

- Contribution to WFP Country Programmes
- Peru**

- Contribution to WFP Country Programmes (WFP)



A new partnership was established with the signing of a tripartite Letter of Intent between ESCAP/**CSAM**, **WFP** and the Administrative Committee of Yangling Agricultural High-Tech Industry Demonstration Zone of China. The partnership aims to strengthen collaboration among the three organizations to enhance the exchange of innovative and proven sustainable agricultural mechanization technologies and practices. The new partnership is also expected to further mobilize resources and technical expertise for CSAM's engagement in Central Asia.

The **FAO**-China SSC Trust Fund, with an additional funding of USD 50 million announced by the GoC in September, continued to make remarkable concrete achievements in 2020, despite the operating challenges during a global pandemic. FAO developed several innovative SSC modalities, including the triangular partnerships with development partners and support to FAO's global action initiative, aiming to facilitate China's regional and international agriculture cooperation, information and experience sharing, and support the capacity development of Chinese institutions and the upgrading of Chinese expertise by investing in effective and durable multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaboration at all relevant levels.

In August 2020, the third round of call for proposals under the China-**IFAD** SSTC Facility was launched and the selection process will be completed in 2021. The approved projects will utilize awarded grants to improve food security and resilience for the poor rural people affected by COVID-19. The 15 SSTC projects awarded from the two first rounds, first initiated in 2018, are still ongoing.

The Rome-based agencies (RBAs), **FAO**, **IFAD** and **WFP** continued to support national knowledge management activities in partnership with International Poverty Reduction Centre in China (IPRCC) and other UN organizations to document and disseminate best practices in global poverty reduction. In 2020, RBAs, together with World Bank and Asian Development Bank, launched the second call for "Global Solicitation and Challenge Prize on Best Poverty Reduction Practices". As an annual effort, in cooperation with IPRCC and the China Development Gateway, the RBAs co-organized the 2020 International Seminar on Global Poverty Reduction Partnerships in Gansu, calling for global poverty reduction innovation and cooperation amid the pandemic.

**ILO** and two large Chinese state-owned enterprises reached a verbal agreement to integrate International Labour Standards, in particular Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No.111) and HIV and AIDS Recommendation, 2010 (No.200), into its training programme, promoting and providing training on international labour standards for managers of overseas Chinese companies.

**UNDP** conducted research and advocacy on how to improve the effectiveness of China's development aid and enhance the transparency of China aid modalities and financing flows, including the publication on Tripartite Cooperation: Voices from Chinese and International Development Actors. UNDP organized multi-stakeholder policy dialogues on China's engagement in global development with a focus on strengthening global partnerships, international cooperation and tripartite cooperation towards and aligning China's development cooperation with the principles of the SDGs and accelerating global progress on the 2030 Agenda. Targeting private companies, UNDP also conducted studies on environmental, social and governance (ESG) dimensions of sustainable investment. A low carbon report with recommendations for low-carbon development via technology, finance and capacity-building was developed in partnership with China Centre of International Economic Exchange.

**UNEP** continued its efforts to support national capacity building of experience and knowledge sharing, facilitate improved ecosystem management for sustainable livelihoods under the framework of Lancang-Mekong cooperation, and assist the implementation of sustainable water and air quality monitoring and assessment systems in Africa.

**UNESCO** UNEVOC Centre, with its partner in Shenzhen, launched the One Belt and One Road Conference and Capacity Development Initiative for Africa in TVET to facilitate the SSC of TVET institutions. In collaboration with the seven UNEVOC centres in China and other TVET stakeholders, UNESCO started preparing for a sub-regional consultation mechanism among UNEVOC centres to promote SSC dialogues.

**UNFPA** commissioned a few studies to prepare for consultations on future SSC activities, including two study papers on population dynamics analysis for Kenya and Pakistan, a policy paper to inform the development of an international cooperation

framework on ageing and a report on documenting China's experience on COVID-19 prevention and control among older persons. The projects supported by the SSCAF implemented in the Africa countries have achieved impacts in reducing maternal deaths and strengthening the capacity in prevention of cervical cancer.

**UNGC** initiated an Action Platform on "Sustainable Infrastructure for the BRI to Accelerate the SDGs", which was officially launched during the UNGC Virtual Leaders Summit. Following that, over 25 ministers from participating countries issued a Joint Statement on Belt and Road International Cooperation: Combating COVID-19 with Solidarity, calling on "all market players in the Belt and Road cooperation to respect CSR and follow the principles of the UN Global Compact". Flowing this, the BRI SDG Action Platform Inaugural High-Level Steering Committee Meeting was held in Beijing.

**UNICEF** implemented SSCAF projects on maternal, newborn and child health, Cyclone Idai response and recovery, and COVID-19 response and recovery. It enhanced its cooperation with policymakers and promoted child rights in key inter-governmental forums through concerted advocacy efforts. In 2020, UNICEF engaged in four jointly identified projects in WASH in South Asia, demonstrating the value-added in terms of sustainability and social impact that UNICEF could bring to Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)'s projects. UNICEF and AIIB are planning to discuss engagement strategies on seven additional WASH projects in East Asia and the Pacific.

Through policy dialogue, institutional support and field projects in partnering countries, **WFP** shared China's experiences and solutions with other developing countries on value chain development, post-harvest loss management, disaster risk reduction, climate change resilience, and nutrition and zero hunger to address food security issues. Besides, WFP organized the SSC Review and Strategy Analysis Meeting to review SSC endeavour in past years and analysed the evolving needs from developing countries to better leverage China's experience. Moreover, WFP supported the implementation SSTC pilot projects in Kenya, Sri Lanka Ecuador, and the Republic of Congo. In Kenya, the smallholder producers, processors, and traders have strengthened their capacity in adopting advanced technologies to reduce post-harvest food losses and

mitigate food waste. In Sri Lanka, climate resilient value chain initiatives have been piloted among farmer groups, processing units, and enterprises. In Ecuador, sustainable food production systems have been strengthened and resilient agricultural practices have been implemented. In the Republic of Congo, the capacity of smallholder famers to supply fortified cassava products to local markets was strengthened.

**WHO**, in addition to COVID-19 response, conducted a series of scoping activities to promote international collaboration between China and other developing countries, including working with the National Health Development Research Centre on health system strengthening in Lao PDR and Cambodia, and collaborating with the Centre for International Knowledge on Development and Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation on research related to global health and development assistance on health.

Besides regular international development cooperation projects and activities, a number of other projects and events were conducted to strengthen international collaborative efforts in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. This has been elaborated in Section 3 of the report.

### 4.3.2

## International Exchange and Learning Events

Contributing Organizations: CSAM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP

In the past year, the UN in China organized many international learning events and capacity building activities to promote mutual learning and knowledge and experience exchange between China and partner countries.

**CSAM**, under the framework of its Regional Council of Agricultural Machinery Associations (ReCAMA) Initiative, convened a handholding and consultation session wherein ReCAMA members from China, India and Sri Lanka provided guidance and shared their experiences to the representatives of a new association from Cambodia on how to initiate operations and manage an association, in order to strengthen capacities of private agricultural machinery enterprises. Besides, it organized a “Web Training on Introduction to Safety Testing” to promote the safety of agricultural machinery users, which strengthened the capacities of agricultural machinery testing engineers from different countries. **CSAM** and **WFP** also co-organized an “Online Training Workshop on Climate Smart Mechanization for Dryland Agriculture in Central Asian Countries” for around 110 participants from 17 Central Asian and other countries.

**WFP** continued its work to promote SSTC and organized 13 webinars, reaching more than 1,700 participants from over 40 developing countries, including webinars on E-commerce for Rural Value Chain Development, Post-Harvest Loss Management, Disaster Risk Reduction, Good Practices and Knowledge Exchange Initiatives in Enhancing the Fight against Hunger and Malnutrition, The Power of Rural E-commerce, and Exchanges and Learning on Processing and Improving Cassava Value Chain, etc.

**IFAD** partnered with **UNEP**, **UNDP**, **UN Women** and International Food Policy Research Institute in organizing the SSC Forum on Food Security and Agrobiodiversity in times of COVID-19 and Climate Change. More than 440 representatives from UN system, international organizations, research institutes and governments from 35 countries joined the forum and exchanged their insights on food security and agrobiodiversity.

**UNAIDS** supported the organization of two online sessions of the 4<sup>th</sup> South-South Collaboration Workshops on HIV for the South-East Asian and African countries, which greatly promoted experience exchange between China and eight Asian and African countries.

**UNESCO** continued its collaboration with Chinese national and municipal governments to promote mutual exchange among young people by organizing a series of International Youth Forum on Creativity along the Silk Roads since 2017. In the context of COVID-19, the forum convened over 120 youth alumni in sharing youth response and contribution during the pandemic. From 2017 to 2020, more than 300 young people from over 100 countries have benefitted from the forum and undertaken youth-led actions at various levels upon returning to their own countries for advancing SDGs through youth power. Within the framework of signed MoU between UNESCO and Nanjing Municipal Government, two parties co-organized the first edition of Nanjing Peace Forum in 2020 for promoting ideas and practice of exchange in the field of peacebuilding. Around 500 participants from government, civil societies, academia in China, Brazil, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Mali and France came together to share perceptions and recommendations on promoting peace.

**UNICEF** increased its horizontal cooperation through knowledge generation and information sharing. A total of 12 virtual knowledge exchange events between China and other developing countries were organized. Topics ranged from COVID-19 prevention and control to emergency management to WASH. Chinese businesses interested in working in developing countries were advocated to also support child rights and development.

## 4.4 CROSS-CUTTING AREAS

Under the three UNDAF priority areas, the UN in China put great efforts in mainstreaming the cross-cutting themes of gender equality, disability inclusion and leaving no one behind (LNOB) into the programmes so as to promote and protect the rights of the vulnerable populations and ensure that no one is left behind. The UN also worked in other cross-cutting areas such as data and SDG financing to better facilitate the implementation of 2030 Agenda.

### 4.4.1 Gender Equality

Contributing Organizations: FAO, ILO, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women

The UN in China attaches importance to gender equality and has well-mainstreamed gender in the intervention strategies and outcomes of the UNSDCF 2021-2025, guiding the UN's work in China towards improved GEWE. In the current implementation cycle of UNDAF 2016-2020, the UN organizations also proactively promoted GEWE and integrated it in different programmes and activities.

As the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, **UN Women's** work greatly contributed to the GEWE of China, which has been clearly elaborated previously. UN Women worked with diverse stakeholders to commence the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Beijing Platform for Action, with view of renewed actions through policy, advocacy and standards towards GEWE. UN Women joined hands with ACWF and organized the Commemoration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Global Leaders' Meeting on GEWE, Women and Poverty Reduction in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The events brought together high-level government partners, members of the diplomatic community and women's organizations to review progress made in China on GEWE and reaffirmed the unfinished agenda, which needs more concerted effort, particularly around ending discrimination and gender barriers women continue to face at workplaces and home.

**UN Women** and **UNFPA** organized the subsequent Beijing+25 “Generation Equality” Social Innovation

Competition to encourage young people in China to offer innovative solutions for gender equality related issues that are most relevant to the younger generation. The competition serves as a platform for offering fresh insights and perspective GEWE in China from a much younger and more creative angle. Besides, UN Women and the Europe Union in China jointly organized the 2020 International Conference on Gender Equality and CSR, with participation from government entities, academic institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs) and private sector companies. Knowledge about Beijing+25 and how private sector companies can play an active role were disseminated to 172 participants offline and 203,000 participants online.

**UN Women** and **ILO**, supported by **FAO**, **UNAIDS** and **UNICEF**, led the campaign #ShareTheCare#, which helped to raise the public awareness of the imbalanced increase of unpaid care work women took during the COVID-19 pandemic period, and contributed to the wider effort on further realizing women's rights. Consequently, the one-month social media campaign reached over 1.3 million views, 1,393 reposts and 1,453 discussions.

**UNESCO**, in partnership with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), helped to increase teachers' awareness and capacity on prevention of school bullying and GBV through on-line training that reached over 300 teachers. It also supported the conduction of a school-based research on gender-friendly school atmosphere that examined the gendered experience of



students on school campus. The drafted report is expected to serve as evidence for engaging teachers and schools in conducting gender education. Echoing this, key messages about using a whole-education approach to address GBV in schools were shared at the Seminar on GBV prevention and response jointly organized by **UNFPA, UN Women, ILO** and **UNESCO**.

**UNFPA** supported a number of documentations of China's experience on addressing gender-biased sex selection and imbalanced sex ratio at birth, progress in GBV prevention and response in China from the perspectives of NGOs, male involvement in GBV prevention and the response of White Ribbon Volunteers Network during the past decade. **UNFPA**, supported by **UN Women, ILO** and **UNESCO**, conducted a seminar on GBV prevention and response with participation of around 80 people mainly from CSOs, including GBV survivors. The Seminar provided a platform for CSOs to share information and experience in addressing GBV issues and dialogue with UN agencies and other key stakeholders, including ACWF, to discuss solutions and the way forward. UNFPA also supported the CSOs in conducting an offline and online exhibition on GBV titled "Her story" during the 2020 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. The exhibition displayed works of art created by artists based on the stories of GBV survivors, which made the voice heard by the public.

#### 4.4.2 Disability Inclusion

Contributing Organizations: ESCAP, ILO, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women

Disability inclusion is another critical theme which crosscuts the UN's work in China. In 2020, ILO provided continuous support to the Global Business and Disability Network (GBDN) China branch, which collaborated with 15 other organizations to launch a campaign on employment promotion for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the context of COVID-19. GBDN-China provided free on-line training course to 3,578 PWDs and developed 11 tailor-made training sessions for people with visual impairment to improve their vocational skills. 11,000 persons from nine provinces joined the training.

**UNESCO** provided technical support for the celebratory campaign "Love Leads to an Accessible World" on the occasion of the Global Accessibility Awareness Day to call for everyone's efforts to contribute towards building a barrier-free environment for all. The campaign garnered 25.55 million reads on Sina Weibo and was reported by over 100 media outlets across China, reaching over 130 million people all over the country. It also soft-launched the Handbook on Media Reporting for Promoting Disability Equality in China, which will be promoted and incorporated into the journalism teaching and training programmes at Chinese universities.

**UNFPA, UN Women** and **ESCAP** supported the China Disabled Persons' Federation (CDPF) to launch the Action Coalition of "Call to Action: Enabling Sisters with Disabilities to Join in Shaping the Future We Want", calling for action to realize the fulfillment of rights on all fronts for women and girl with disabilities. Besides, UNFPA, together with some organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), developed an inclusive video advocating SRH information and services accessible for PWDs in the Asia-Pacific region. A number of consultations with OPDs were also organized to feed into the development of a Checklist on Ensuring SRHR for PWDs during the COVID-19.

**UNICEF** and CDPF designed a comprehensive study to assess the use of digital technology among children with disabilities. The findings of this research will provide information on how digital use is affecting girls and boys differently or similarly, and children with and without disabilities differently or similarly, which can inform UNICEF's pilot projects and advocacy priorities. With the support of the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities project, UNICEF developed a course on disability equality and providing welfare and protection services for children with disabilities, aiming to raise awareness of disability equality in communities and benefit children with disabilities by enabling community-based social workers to provide high-quality welfare and protection services.



In 2020, the UNCT in China conducted an accountability scorecard exercise to assess the implementation progress of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) in China for the first time. Seven indicators were scored as "missing requirements", six as "approaching requirements", and no scores of "meeting or exceeding requirements" (see Annex 3). According to the assessment, the UNCT leadership championed disability inclusion, leading to the integration of disability inclusion into the strategic planning and UNSDCF 2021-2025 for China. Nevertheless, disability inclusion should be further mainstreamed in joint programming, programmes and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems of the UN in China through consultations with OPDs, improved creation and use of disability related data and capacity building of UN staff and partners. In terms of operation, further collective efforts should be taken to promote disability inclusive accessibility, procurement and employment of the UN's operations in China.

The assessment set the baseline for UNCT's performance on the implementation of UNDIS, highlighted challenges and opportunities for achieving disability inclusion, and placed a spotlight on key areas where actions and continued efforts are required for the UN in China to promote disability inclusion, both in terms of programmes and operations.

#### 4.4.3 Leaving No One Behind

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

Besides women and PWDs, the UN in China has worked towards the promotion and protection of the rights of other vulnerable groups including PLHIV, migrants, victims of trafficking, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI), children, the elderly and refugees.

**ILO** developed a video on HIV and employment rights, calling for equal opportunities and treatment for PLHIV at the workplace. The video will be shared with labour authorities, private sectors and other stakeholders to further promote equal rights of PLHIV.

**IOM** supported dialogues around options for safe, regular and orderly migration between China and concerned partner countries. It facilitated cross-border cooperation on combating human trafficking between China and Mongolia, and supported China's implementation of the Second National Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons by piloting Provincial Standard Operating Procedures for the Identification and Referral of Victims of Trafficking and Vulnerable Migrants. In addition, it provided assistance in piloting a framework for the assisted voluntary return and reintegration of vulnerable migrants back to their home countries.

**UNAIDS**, in collaboration with other UN organizations, successfully organized a variety of online advocacy campaigns on Zero Discrimination Day, Candle-light Memorial Day and International Day Against Homophobia to support PLHIV and LGBTI against stigma and to pull through COVID-19 crisis.

**UNAIDS, ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women** and **WHO** co-organized a series of online and offline activities and disseminated messages around the theme of "Global Solidarity, Shared Responsibility" on the World AIDS Day through different social media platforms and channels, receiving more than 69 million views and 45,000 comments on Weibo. Moreover, the UN in China, together with the CBOs, provided technical and financial support to foreigners living with HIV in China on HIV treatment, healthcare, study, work and residency.

**UNDP** worked closely with the Government and national partners to ensure the UNDP programming is focused on the underdeveloped areas to LNOB and programmes directly benefiting vulnerable populations. In the recently concluded Country Programme Document, UNDP has implemented approximately 46 projects benefiting more than 30 ethnic minority groups through initiatives on poverty alleviation, protecting biodiversity, climate change and environment, disaster risk reduction, women's empowerment, PLHIV, PWDs, etc. On anti-human trafficking, UNDP provided support to the Ministry of Public Security in its engagement in the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking (COMMIT) process on Transnational Referral Mechanism. This includes assistance to participate in 14th COMMIT Senior Officials Meeting.

**UNESCO** and **UNDP** successfully published the report on Gendered Impact of Ageing. Through examining the gender-ageing-disability nexus in East Asia, the report

conducted four country case studies (China, Japan, Republic of Korea, and Mongolia) and supported inclusive policy making to address the needs of elderly women including those with disabilities. It proposed two sets of recommendations, not only targeting a holistic approach to address multiple challenges faced by adults during their lifetime, but also with concrete guidelines for rolling out ageing-specific and gender inclusive programmes and policies. The report had also been shared with relevant government agencies, research institutions and development organizations.

UNESCO supported 10 selected Chinese CSOs in organizing 10 mini-campaigns that embraced the principles of inclusive journalism and gave voices to disadvantaged and marginalized groups in China, including LGBTI, women, PWDs, youths, among others. The CSOs produced 28 articles and nine videos on various social media platforms, reaching tens of millions of audiences. Moreover, UNESCO led the celebration of the first International Day against School Violence and Bullying, including cyber bullying in China, through social media platforms as well as by engaging partners and the media in spreading the positive messages about school bullying prevention, reaching tens of thousands of people. Additionally, UNESCO launched a student volunteer project on school bullying in celebration of the Day. Over 400 students conducted street interview with the public on their perception of school bullying.

UNFPA worked with multiple key government partners on ageing issues. In particular, it worked together with the NDRC on the development of national 14th FYP on ageing (2021-2025), which highlights the Government's commitments to addressing China's rapid ageing in the next five years, building on LNOB principle and UNFPA's evidence- and rights-based life cycle approach to ageing.

UNHCR advocated for the inclusion of refugees in national systems in China, specifically in relation to COVID-19 testing, treatment and vaccination. It also continued its advocacy for refugee access to education, subsidized healthcare and the labour market. These demarches were conducted through UN meetings with key government counterparts as well as bilateral discussions with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MoE and National Immigration Administration. As a result, the agency helped 12 refugee children get enrolled in public schools for primary education. Three refugees became able to receive financial assistance for HIV

medication and physical examination as part of subsidized healthcare. In addition, UNHCR's efforts to engage China on issues related to global forced displacement resulted in China reaffirming support for the Global Compact on Refugees and for projects to help refugees and displaced people, as outlined in China's Position Paper on the 75th Anniversary of the UN, and the White Paper on China's International Development Cooperation in the New Era.

UNICEF continued to support the Government to test community-based child protection models to generate more evidence for strengthening quality services and workforce capacity, to ensure the realization of child rights. The Barefoot Social Workers (BFSW) model, supported by UNICEF, continued to inspire the roll-out of similar community-based models across the country in 2020, with 663,000 Child Directors (mirroring BFSW) being appointed at the village level since the issuance of relevant national policies. The provincial Technical Support Hub (TSH) pilot has shown that a well-functioning TSH could play a critical role in providing quality technical assistance and coordination to support Child Friendly Spaces in delivering integrated community-based services. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Sichuan TSH shared information in ethnic minority languages, provided remote technical support to community-based workers, and followed up cases of children affected by the pandemic and those with other vulnerabilities. UNICEF also launched the integrated child protection model in four provinces this year, with consolidated experience generated from different pilots implemented in previous years, and further tested social work approaches to support vulnerable children and their families in poor rural areas, which is expected to inform policy and practice.

WHO promoted and supported the use of digital-based innovations and tools to get to the people unreached or under-reached. It supported counterparts and partners, including China CDC, to implement social media-based interventions among key populations for HIV, hepatitis, TB and sexuality transmitted infections in China.

4.4.4

Other Areas: Data, SDG Financing and Promotion

Contributing Organizations: UNDP, UNFPA, UNGC, UNICEF

UNICEF worked closely with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and UNFPA through the Joint Data Project to increase availability, analysis and use of data from both regular population census/surveys and administrative reporting systems for children and women. In 2020, the data project supported technical assistance in developing survey protocols and detailed instructions to guide China's 2020 National Population Census. Jointly, UNICEF and UNFPA also supported the compilation of NBS annual publication of Statistics on Women and Children in China, making disaggregated and quality data available to relevant government agencies and the public.

UNDP contributed to influencing and aligning investments towards the SDGs. An SDG financing Taxonomy covering over 100 industries to align investment practices with the SDGs was developed, which

has been used by the National Development Bank in partnership for SDG linked Bond for COVID-19 recovery. One successful example is the launch of an SDG debenture index incorporating the Taxonomy, which has offered confidence and incentives to the market on SDG investment, covering 563 bonds.

UNGC rolled out the SDG Pioneers Programme in China, which aims to seek and recognize business leaders within business organizations who are doing an excellent job to advance the global goals through the implementation of Global Compact Ten Principles on human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. The programme advocated that business leaders at all levels should leverage a principle-based approach to set ambitious, scalable and impactful SDG targets to help their business become more sustainable and innovative.



Young SDG Innovator Programme/UNGC





## 5. COLLECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY



The UN in China continued to work as ONE to deliver unified messages and delivered impactful communication and advocacy to government counterparts, partners from private sectors, all relevant stakeholders, as well as the general public. While each UN organization conducted numerous communication and advocacy initiatives and activities relevant to its mandate, this section is a summary focusing on collected communication and advocacy, particularly through the coordination of the UN Communication Group (UNCG).

In 2020, centred around two key interlinked topics of COVID-19 and UN75, several joint communication campaigns were conducted by the UN in China facilitated through UNCG. As noted in Section 3 and shown in the table below, a series of social media campaigns were conducted to facilitate the UNCT in China's response to COVID-19. In addition to these, UNCG also made joint efforts in commemorating key international days/commemorations such as International Youth Day, UN Day, 16 Days of Activism, 2020 International Women's Day against Gender-Based Violence, World Children's Day and World AIDS Day.

Table 1. Social Media Campaigns in Response to COVID-19

Campaign Themes	Participating Organizations	Communication Impacts
Keep Working with Social Distancing	WHO, UNRC, ILO, UNICEF, UN Women, FAO, WFP, UNHCR, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNIDO, UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shared key personal protection and health messages targeting employees working from home</li> <li>Ensured the health and safety of workforces during the COVID-19 pandemic</li> <li>Accumulated over 56 million views on Weibo, generating over 55,000 discussions on Weibo</li> </ul>
Spread the Word, Not the Virus	UNDP, WHO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensured people's access to crucial information regarding best health practices</li> <li>Shared in over 50 different languages and dialects</li> <li>Accumulated over 36 million views on Weibo</li> </ul>
A Message to Her	UN Women, UNHCR, WHO, UNDP, UNESCO, WFP, UNICEF, FAO, UNFPA, UNEP, UNIDO, UNAIDS and ILO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attracted over 56 million views, with over 37,000 discussion generated on Weibo</li> <li>Recognized and celebrated the important role and contribution of frontline female workers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic</li> </ul>
Lift Our Voice to End Xenophobia around COVID-19	UNESCO, WHO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNEP, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, ILO, UNV, UNIDO, UNDP, FAO, UN Women, IOM, IFAD, CSAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shared messages to fight disinformation spread about COVID-19 and opposed any form of discrimination, racism, and xenophobia resulting from the pandemic</li> <li>Garnered over 20 million views on various social media platforms in China</li> </ul>
Safe School	UNICEF, WHO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided practical information for all those involved helping children return to school</li> <li>Included key messages on anti-stigma and bullying as well as psychosocial support to address the concerns and stress children and youth face during school reopening</li> <li>Recorded over 130 million views across various social media channels</li> </ul>



The year 2020 marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN, so UN75 is a key communication theme running throughout 2020. With only ten years remaining to make the 2030 Agenda reality, the UN75 initiative was launched to build the world's biggest conversation on these global challenges and promote greater international cooperation. Listening to the voices of all youth audiences required greater engagement and was a key global priority for UN75. For its part, the UN in China has undertaken several efforts to involve the citizens of China in this global conversation, including the Youth Dialogue Series "Chinese Youth Dialogue on the Future" and the digital promotion of the UN 75 one-minute survey.

A series of innovative discussions with young people were cohosted by 12 UN entities in China to promote broader participation on the SDGs (see Table 2). The dialogues saw selected youth representatives showcase their creativity and design new solutions to address the world's challenges while interacting with UN representatives, national experts and key opinion leaders. These efforts culminated in the "2020 International Youth Day Dialogue", where invited youth advocates shared their experience in an open forum to discuss their vision for a sustainable future centred on the topics on gender equality and sex education, clean air and environment protection, disability and technology for good, decent work, and poverty reduction, rural development and innovation.

Table 2. List of Youth Dialogues on the SDGs

Topics	Participating Organizations	Modalities
Comprehensive Sexuality Education	UNFPA	Poetry Contest & Online Interactions
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	UN Women	Proposal Presentations
Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurships in Achieving SDGs	UNOSSC	Online Interactions
Food Sustainability	WFP	Proposal Presentations
Digital Youth	UNICEF	Proposal Presentations
Youth Participation in Agriculture	IFAD	Proposal Presentations
The Future of Work	ILO, UNDP	Online Debate
Climate Change and Biodiversity	UNEP	Proposal Presentations
Ending AIDS by 2030	UNAIDS	Proposal Presentations
Pandemic Outbreak Responses for the Future City	UN-Habitat	Proposal Presentations
Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship	UNDP, UNV, ILO	Online Debate

The series of Youth Dialogues was a very successful communication initiative which not only reached millions of audients (over 47 million views) with accurate target of the Chinese youth (94.2% were young people born in or after the 1980s), but also achieved a high-level of engagement with the direct and deep participation of youth representatives as well as stimulating heated discussions on SDG related issues among a wide range of young people in China, with nearly 700,000 individuals registering their interest to participate in the series. This greatly increased the awareness of SDGs and SDG related social issues among the people, particularly the youth group in China; successfully involved broader youth participation on the localization and achievement of the SDGs in China; and provided a great platform for the Chinese youth to freely express the ideas and

thoughts about sustainable development, which encouraged more people to take actions to promote peace, justice and sustainable development around the world.

Inspired by UN75 and the one-minute survey, the “PostYour2045” social media campaign sought to involve and foster the participation of China’s general public in the initiative. Individuals from UN organizations, project beneficiaries, goodwill ambassadors from 18 UN entities, government officials, other partners and the general public shared images that reflected their vision for what the world may look like in 25 years, the UN’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The campaign generated over nine million views on Weibo over the one-week launch period, prompting over 6,000 online public discussions.

# 6. LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD



The past year of 2020 was extremely difficult for China, the country first heavily hit by COVID-19. The UN in China stood steadily together with the Government and people of China in responding to the pandemic crisis. At the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, the UN system took immediate actions to support the government’s responses to the health crisis by providing emergency supplies and technical support and advice. Later, the UN in China provided medium-term programmatic assistance to further mitigate the pandemic impacts on vulnerable populations and supported the Government’s long-term efforts to build back better.

On another note, the UN in China continued implementing the UNDAF 2016-2020. The results achieved as noted above demonstrate that the UN’s work in China has contributed to reduced poverty, more equitable development, improved environment and enhanced international development cooperation of China. However, the work is still in progress. With improved operations and intervention strategies based on past experiences and lessons learned, the UN will be able to bring greater impacts and transformative changes for the lives and well-being of the people in China, particularly for the vulnerable groups.

## Recognizing the Advantages of Joint Programming and Programmes

The whole of integrated and joint UN support can be greater than the sum of its parts. With the embarking of UN reform and the conclusion of UNDAF 2016-2020, the UN organizations in China came together and worked closely in developing a joint strategy for the new country programme cycle, the UNSDCF 2021-2025, and formulating a consistent, integrated and cross-sectoral response to the complex development challenges of China and the world. Moreover, a UN system-wide governance structure with various inter-agency working groups

has been established and revigorated to ensure the effective implementation of the Cooperation Framework. The successful experience of joint programming and the well-established foundation of inter-agency collaboration mechanism are expected to trigger more joint planning and programmes, increased collective strategies and activities, and integrated approaches to technical support and advocacy among the UN organizations in China, which will bring larger impacts.



I Engaging Private Sector

The 2030 Agenda calls for a broad range of multi-stakeholder partnerships including both public and private sectors. The importance of private sector’s contribution to the success of SDGs achievement can never be overemphasized. As mentioned in previous sections of the report, the UN organizations in China have proactively engaged private sector in many areas including clean energy, circular economy, employment and labor rights, gender equality and SDG financing, and in various modalities such as resource mobilization, financing, technical support and Public-Private-Partnership model, etc. The UN China foresees a growing role of private sector in delivering the 2030 Agenda and will further increase the scope and levels of collaboration with them.

Harnessing Frontier Technologies

Rapid technological advances in areas of computer sciences, artificial intelligence and biotechnologies can provide solutions to many development problems. The UN organizations in China have utilized technologies to improve health (MCH-MIS) and education (online education) access, enhance agricultural product sales and marketing (e-commerce), increase the use of clean energy and mitigate environmental degradation of China. Harnessing technologies for sustainable development are the surest path to deliver on the 2030 Agenda. The UN will support utilizing technologies as catalysts to promote the sustainable development of China and the world, while paying attention to the gaps in technological capabilities between different populations, countries and regions.

Promoting International Development Cooperation

Under the UNDAF, the UN has been supporting China’s efforts in global engagement and increasing the effectiveness of its international development cooperation in alignment with the principles of 2030 Agenda. As shown in previous sections, the UN’s work on south-south and international cooperation has brought mutual benefits to China and partner countries. Building on these achievements and lessons learned from the past, the UN will work with China to further strengthen capacity in its international development cooperation to accelerate SDGs attainment across the world.

2020 was the last implementation year of the UNDAF 2016-2020, but the collaboration between the UN and China continues. The UNSDCF 2021-2025 has embarked on a new cycle of the UN-China cooperation. Informed by China’s development needs, capacities, opportunities and challenges presented by the country’s post-2020 development landscape, and the UN’s comparative advantage and expertise, programmes under the new Cooperation Framework will be strategically centred around three key priority areas: 1) People and Prosperity: Achieving innovation-driven, coordinated and shared development, 2) Planet: Achieving green development towards a more sustainable and resilient environment, and 3) Partnerships: Realizing the full potential of China’s international engagement to accelerate the achievement of SDGs. Looking forward, the UN system will continue its sustained efforts to support China to implement the 14<sup>th</sup> FYP and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to realize innovation-driven, coordinated, green, open and shared development for China and the world.

Annex 1. List of UN Entities in China

Categories	Entity Names
Funds and Programmes	UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
	UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme
	UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund
	UN-HABITAT: United Nations Human Settlements Programme
	UNICEF: United Nations Children’s Fund
	WFP: World Food Programme
Specialized Agencies	FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization
	ICAO: International Civil Aviation Organization
	IFAD: International Fund for Agricultural Development
	ILO: International Labour Organization
	IMF: International Monetary Fund
	UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
	UNIDO: United Nations Industrial Development Organization
	WHO: World Health Organization
	WIPO: World Intellectual Property Organization
	WBG: World Bank Group
Other Entities and Bodies	UNESCAP-CSAM: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific – Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization
	IOM: International Organization for Migration
	UNAIDS: United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
	UNHCR: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
	UNOOSA/SPIDER: United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs/UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response
	UNV: United Nations Volunteers Programme
	UNOPS: United Nations Office for Project Services
	UN Women: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
Secretariat	DPPA: Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
	DSS: Department of Safety and Security
	RCO: Resident Coordinator Office
Others	UNGC: United Nations Global Compact
	UNU in Macau: United Nations University Institute in Macau

Annex 2. List of International Development Cooperation Projects

UN Agencies	Project Names	Partner Countries	Funding Amount (USD) &Funding Organizations	Objectives
Humanitarian Assistance				
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance to Conflict-affected Population in North-East Nigeria	Nigeria	1,051,329 CIDCA	Support crisis-affected population in north-east Nigeria with emergency shelter, non-food items assistance, camp coordination and camp management support
UNDP	Post Disaster Restoration Project of the Impact of Cyclone Idai	Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi	5,000,000 GoC	Support post-disaster recovery after Cyclone Idai and assist to reconstruct infrastructure and houses to help women, men, and children build back better after the disaster
UNDP	Learning from China's Experience to Improve the Ability of Response to COVID-19	Philippines, Myanmar, Cambodia, Nepal, Laos	5,000,000 GoC	Improve the capacity of medical waste management and prevention and control of COVID-19 pandemic of Asia-Pacific countries
UNFPA	Providing Health Assistance to Botswana and Lesotho in East and South Africa Region for COVID-19 Pandemic Response	Botswana, Lesotho	1,000,000 CIDCA	Provide PPE and medical supply to health workers to ensure the continuity of sexual and reproductive health services and the supply of essential reproductive health commodities
UNFPA	Providing Health Assistance to Sao Tome and Principe and Gambia in West and Central Africa Region for COVID-19 Pandemic Response	Sao Tome, Principe, Gambia	1,000,000 CIDCA	Provide PPE and medical supply to health workers to ensure the continuity of sexual and reproductive health services and the supply of essential reproductive health commodities
UNFPA	Ensuring Protection of Medical Health Workers through PPEs	Sri Lanka	800,000 MOFCOM	Provide PPE and medical supply to health workers to ensure the continuity of sexual and reproductive health services and the supply of essential reproductive health commodities
UNICEF	Providing Assistance on Essential Health and Nutrition Services to Women and Children Affected by COVID-19	Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia, Senegal	4,000,000 CIDCA	Assist women and children affected by COVID-19 and reduce the health and nutritional impact of the pandemic on vulnerable groups
UNICEF	Mitigation of Nutritional Consequences of COVID-19 and Desert Locust	Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), South Sudan	2,000,000 CIDCA	Assist children affected by COVID-19 and desert locusts and reduce the nutritional impact of the pandemic and the disaster on children
UNICEF	Providing Humanitarian Assistance to Population Impacted by Cyclone Idai	Malawi	1,000,000 CIDCA	Help the affected populations in Malawi cope with the impact of the cyclone by providing health, WASH, education, nutrition and children protection assistance

UN Agencies	Project Names	Partner Countries	Funding Amount (USD) &Funding Organizations	Objectives
UNICEF	Providing Humanitarian Assistance to Population Impacted by Cyclone Idai	Mozambique	2,000,000 CIDCA	Help the affected populations in Mozambique cope with the impact of the cyclone by providing health, WASH, HIV, nutrition and children protection assistance
UNICEF	Providing Humanitarian Assistance to Population Impacted by Cyclone Idai	Zimbabwe	2,000,000 CIDCA	Help the affected populations in Zimbabwe cope with the impact of the cyclone by providing essential health and anti-malaria assistance
UNIDO	Emergency Response Assistance to the Outbreak of COVID-19	Islamic Republic of Iran	1,177,200 CIDCA	Improve medical waste disposal and management capabilities of staff in hospitals and government agencies
WFP	Contribution to WFP Ethiopia on Food Assistance Programme	Ethiopia	2,000,000 CIDCA	Provide food assistance to vulnerable populations
WFP	Contribution to WFP Guinea on Food Assistance Programme	Guinea	2,000,000 CIDCA	Provide food assistance to vulnerable populations
WFP	Contribution to WFP Republic of the Congo on Food Assistance Programme	Republic of the Congo	3,000,000 CIDCA	Provide food assistance to vulnerable populations
WFP	Contribution to WFP Dominican Republic on Food Assistance Programme	Dominican Republic	900,000 CIDCA	Provide food assistance to vulnerable populations
WFP	Contribution to WFP Lesotho on Food Assistance Programme	Lesotho	1,000,000 CIDCA	Provide food assistance to vulnerable populations
WFP	Contribution to WFP Mozambique on Food Assistance Programme	Mozambique	5,000,000 CIDCA	Provide food assistance to vulnerable populations
WFP	Contribution to WFP Namibia on Food Assistance Programme	Namibia	1,000,000 CIDCA	Provide food assistance to vulnerable populations
WFP	Contribution to WFP Yemen on Food Assistance Programme	Yemen	2,000,000 CIDCA	Provide food assistance to vulnerable populations
WFP	Contribution to WFP Zimbabwe on Food Assistance Programme	Zimbabwe	10,000,000 CIDCA	Provide food assistance to vulnerable populations
WFP	Contribution to WFP Country Programmes	Sri Lanka, Ecuador, Kenya, Republic of the Congo, Peru, Timor-Leste, Somalia	7,600,000 Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs	Support WFP programmes, including the support of COVID-19 Special Account



UN Agencies	Project Names	Partner Countries	Funding Amount (USD) &Funding Organizations	Objectives
WHO	Emergency Response to the Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak	DRC	2,000,000 CIDCA	Strengthen collaboration in response to the Ebola outbreak in DRC by providing PPEs and secondments of Chinese technical staff to WHO headquarter and country office
WHO		DRC, Burundi, South Sudan, Rwanda, Uganda	2,000,000 CIDCA	Support relevant countries on Ebola prevention and control by providing PPEs and training on preparedness
Other Development Cooperation Projects				
FAO	Capacity Development on Sustainable Soil Management	Uganda	500,000 CIDCA	Enhance sustainable soil management capacity
		Rwanda	500,000 CIDCA	
IFAD	Local Production of Fortified Cassava Flour in Bouenza Department	Republic of the Congo	492,437 MoF	Establish a framework and evidence-based business plan for the production of fortified cassava flour and sales of the products in national and regional markets
IFAD	Freshwater Aquaculture Improvement Project	India	490,200 MoF	Introduce a low-cost subset of freshwater aquaculture technologies, targeting a 20 percent average increase in productivity for an initial set of farmers as a proof of concept
IFAD	Small-scale Dryers for Post-harvest Management Enterprises	Ghana, Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania	500,000 MoF	Facilitate the adaptation and downstream availability of food dryer technology already available in China and to demonstrate its applicability in the African context
IFAD	Enhancing the National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC) Programme's Knowledge Base and Expertise to Promote Youth Employment/ Entrepreneurship in Rural Communities	South Africa	400,000 MoF	Strengthen the capacity, knowledge base and expertise of the NARYSEC in promoting youth employment and entrepreneurship, and upgrade it to a centre of excellence in the Southern Africa region
IFAD	Effective SSC in Agriculture to Unleash the Transformative Power of the Agriculture Sector for Inclusive Development	Pakistan	500,000 MoF	Establish and operate an effective knowledge generation and sharing platform to provide customized assistance for Pakistan to unleash the transformative power of the agriculture sector for the country's inclusive development

UN Agencies	Project Names	Partner Countries	Funding Amount (USD) &Funding Organizations	Objectives
IFAD	Promoting Sustainable Cage Aquaculture in West Africa	Ghana, Nigeria	500,000 MoF	Empower and transform the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in West Africa through enhanced Sino-African application of knowledge, sustainable technologies and expertise in cage aquaculture
IFAD	Learning from SSTC in Project Design for Better Results and Greater Sustainability	Cambodia, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal	250,000 MoF	Improve knowledge about how to better incorporate SSTC into project design across different countries and regions
ILO	SSC to Enhance the Institutional Capacities of Trade Unions	Cambodia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Vietnam	1,000,000 ACFTU	Build/enhance the core capacities of trade unions and workers' organizations to define and undertake strategies to build the future of work and influence policy agendas on social, economic and environmental issues
ILO	Strengthening Skills Development through SSTC	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar	2,999,980 MOHRSS	Provide long-term skills development and employment support to Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar.
ILO	Training of Trainers and Maritime Inspectors in the Application of the ILO MLC, 2006 for Asian countries	ASEAN countries, Japan, Republic of Korea	100,000 MoT and Shanghai Maritime University	Strengthen the capacity of competent authorities of Asian countries to implement the MLC, 2006, promote the sound application of the Convention at national and regional level, and enhance regional cooperation and networking
UNDP	Sustainable Investment Promotion Facility Project	Ethiopia	1,000,000 SSTC	Strengthen institutional frameworks and build capacity in Ethiopia towards the leveraging of sustainable investments, in order to improve the overall investment climate to attract and sustain foreign investments
UNDP	Towards Decent Work for Persons with Disabilities: Transforming Social Enterprises into Meaningful Training and Employment Opportunities	Turkmenistan	1,440,000 GoC	Increase employment and income generation opportunities among PWD in Turkmenistan through vocational training and job creation

UN Agencies	Project Names	Partner Countries	Funding Amount (USD) &Funding Organizations	Objectives
UNDP	Promoting Post COVID-19 Recovery and Poverty Reduction through Productive Sector Expansion for Women and Youth	Lebanon	1,031,804 GoC	Enhance the business development capacity of SMEs/cooperatives and independent traders and improve the capacity of business development service institutions to promote the economic and social recovery and development of Lebanon affected by COVID-19 and Beirut Port explosion
UNDP	China-Ethiopia-Sri Lanka Biogas, Biomass and Solar Trilateral Cooperation	Sri Lanka	2,000,000 GoC, Sri Lanka, UNDP	Support Sri Lanka GHG emission reduction national targets through trial and demonstration of the potential of biogas and solar in the agro-industry sector for Sri Lanka; Address sustainable development challenges related to international cooperation, access to energy for improved service delivery and sustainable integrated farming practices for Ethiopia
		Sri Lanka	2,042,390 GoC, Ethiopia, UNDP	
UNESCO	Demonstration Project on Promoting Web Accessibility	Mongolia	9,800,000 Internet Society of China	Promote barrier-free Internet information service environment in Mongolia through internet accessibility service support
UNESCO	Capacity Building and Technical Support in Distance Education	Mongolia	45,000 UNESCO, Open University of China	Promote barrier-free Internet information service environment in Mongolia through internet accessibility service support
UNFPA	Emergency assistance related to COVID-19	Nepal	535,000 MOFCOM	Procure PPEs and Reproductive Health emergency kits, and conduct training on midwifery skills and preparedness for disasters.
UNICEF	Improving Material, Newborn and Child Health in Eight African Countries	DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Zimbabwe	8,000,000 CIDCA	Improve maternal, newborn and child health by increasing access to quality health facilities and essential medicines for newborns and mothers, and capacity building for health workers and communities
UNICEF	Early Childhood Development in the Face of COVID-19	Myanmar	800,000 MOFCOM	Support children and health workers with children during COVID-19 response and recovery in Myanmar
UNICEF	COVID-19 Response and Recovery for Early Childhood Development	Cambodia	800,000 MOFCOM	Assist Cambodian preschool children's safe return to school for continued access to early childhood development during the COVID-19 pandemic

Annex 3. Results of Disability inclusion Scorecard Assessment

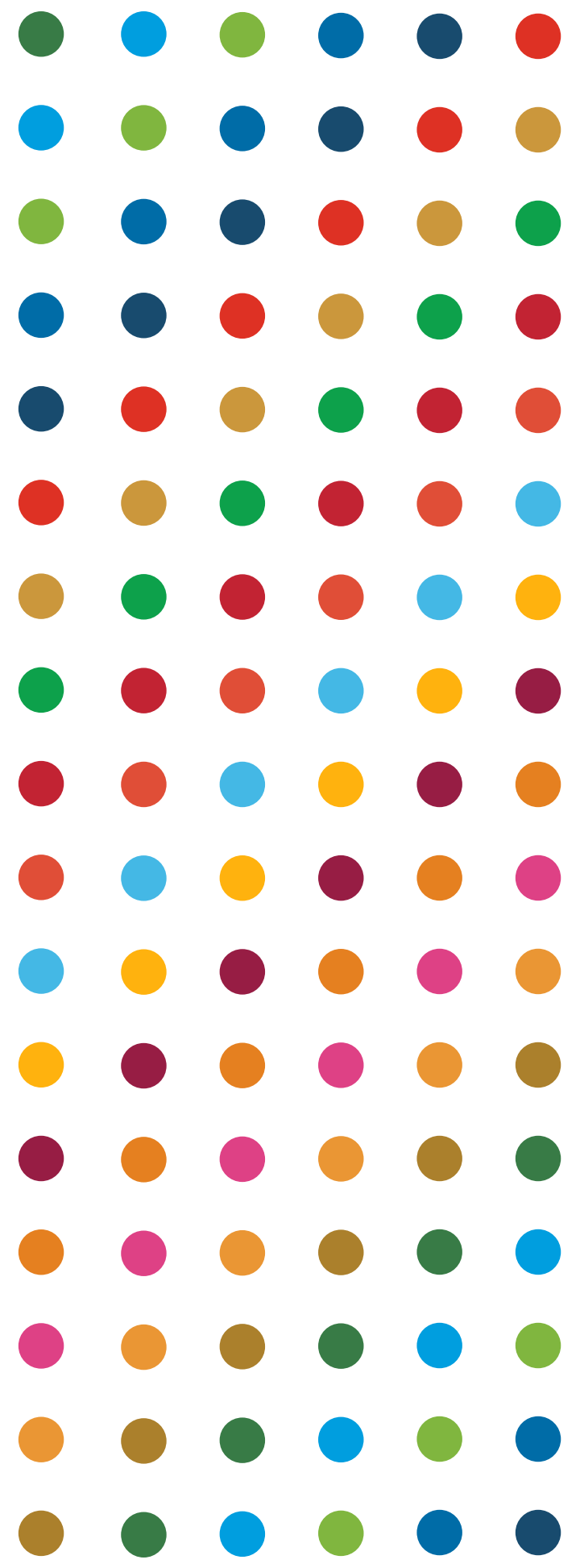
Indicator	Ratings Against Requirements			
	Missing	Approaching	Meeting	Exceeding
LEADERSHIP, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT				
Indicator 1 Leadership: UNCT leadership champions disability inclusion		√		
Indicator 2 Strategic Planning: The Common Country Analysis is disability-inclusive		√		
Indicator 3 Cooperation Framework: UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Disability inclusion is mainstreamed in Cooperation Framework outcomes/results areas		√		
Indicator 4 UN Setup and Coordination: Disability inclusion is promoted through the UNCT coordination mechanisms		√		
INCLUSIVENESS				
Indicator 5 Consultation with OPDs: UNCT consults OPDs		√		
Indicator 6 Accessibility: UN premises and services are accessible to all UN staff and constituents with disabilities	√			
Indicator 7 Inclusive procurement of goods and services: Accessibility of external venues and in procurement	√			
PROGRAMMING				
Indicator 8 Joint programmes: Joint programmes contribute to disability inclusion	√			
Indicator 9 Data: Strengthening data on PWDs	√			
Indicator 10 Monitoring and evaluation: Cooperation Framework M&E processes address disability inclusion	√			
Indicator 11 Humanitarian: Disability inclusion is mainstreamed in planning for humanitarian emergencies	NA			
ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE				
Indicator 12 Employment: UN human resource practices are disability-inclusive	√			
Indicator 13 Capacity development for UN Staff: UNCT invests in capacity development on disability inclusion	√			
Indicator 14 Communication: UNCT communication and advocacy address disability inclusion		√		



List of Abbreviations

ACFIC	All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce
ACFTU	All-China Federation of Trade Unions
ACWF	All-China Women’s Federation
AIIB	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
ARV	Antiretroviral
BFSW	Barefoot Social Workers
BPS	Basic Public Service
BRI	Belt and Road Initiative
CBOs	Community-based Organizations
CDC	Centre for Disease Control and Prevention
CDHT	Chengdu Hi-Tech Industrial Zone
CDPF	China Disabled Persons' Federation
CEC	China Enterprise Confederation
CIDCA	China International Development Cooperation Agency
COMMIT	Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking
COVAX	COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
ECC	Early Childhood Care
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EENC	Early Essential Newborn Care
eMTCT	Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission
FYP	Five-Year Plan
GBDN	Global Business and Disability Network
GBV	Gender-based violence
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEO-6	Global Environmental Outlook 6
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GoC	Government of China
HCFC	Hydrochlorofluorocarbons
ICH	Intangible Culture Heritage
IPRCC	International Poverty Reduction Centre in China
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, transgender and Intersex
LNOB	Leaving No One Behind
MCH-MIS	Maternal Child Health-Management Information System
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation

MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MLC	Maritime Labour Convention
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MOFCOM	Ministry of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China
MOHRSS	Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security
MoT	Ministry of Transport
MSMEs	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NDRC	National Development and Reform Commission
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NHC	National Health Commission
OPDs	Organizations of Persons with Disabilities
OSH	Occupational Safety and health
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
PMTCT	Prevention of mother-to-child transmission
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
RBAs	Rome-based Agencies
ReCAMA	Regional Council of Agricultural Machinery Associations
SCORE	Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEL	Social and Emotional Learning
SHPs	Small Hydropower Plants
SMEs	Small and medium-sized Enterprises
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
SSC	South-South Cooperation
SSCAF	South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund
SSTC	South-South and Triangular Cooperation
TB	Tuberculosis
TSH	Technical Support Hub
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNCG	UN Communication Group
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDIS	United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WEPs	Women’s Empowerment Principles



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