



# 2024 Annual Country Results Report UN in China





# TABLE OF CONTENT



FOREWORD	01
CHAPTER ONE: PILOTING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS	02
CHAPTER TWO: SCALING SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVES	11
CHAPTER THREE: SHAPING POLICY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	20
CHAPTER FOUR: ADVOCACY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	31
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	40
CONCLUSION	43







# FOREWORD

In 2024, China stood at a crossroads of notable achievements and continued challenges.

Economically, China continued its recovery through green transitions and technological innovation, deepened regional ties via initiatives like the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation held in September whilst navigating the profound and rapid changes of global economic landscape.

China emphasised multilateralism, supporting inclusive global governance, and strengthened its leadership in South-South Cooperation, particularly in energy and infrastructure and to continue tackling pressing global issues like climate change and public health, reaffirming its commitment to shaping a stable, sustainable global order.

China's classification as an upper-middle-income country highlights its duality: while urban areas flourish with high-tech advancements and contribute to the GDP of \$17.86 trillion, remote areas face persistent disparities for more opportunities to reach higher income, better education, and other resources. With a Gini coefficient of 0.467, the need for equitable growth remains pressing. Furthermore, despite impressive progress in health and education, China's Environmental Performance Index (EPI) score of 35.4 underscores challenges in sustainability, calling for more robust environmental management.

Under these complexities, the United Nations in China continues to support the nation's sustainable development journey, guided by the vision of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021 - 2025 (UNSDCF). Through multilateral partnerships and innovative programmes, we remain steadfast in bridging inequalities and advancing our common goals. This annual report unfolds the tangible results in empowering rural communities through inclusive growth strategies, accelerating green transitions with pilot initiatives like low-carbon energy projects, and amplifying South-South Cooperation.

Our work builds on existing successes while exploring new ways to drive innovative solutions forward. Such efforts, anchored by the UNSDCF's pillars of People, Planet, and Partnerships, reflect our commitment to aligning China's dynamism with the 2030 Agenda. Looking ahead, China's potential to contribute to global development remains unparalleled. The commitment to innovation, sustainability, inclusion, and equitable prosperity will shape its path towards becoming a high-income nation. The UN in China will support the unwavering partnership with the government and people of China to navigate these challenges, fostering shared success in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

  
Siddharth Chatterjee  
UN Resident Coordinator in China



A large black and white drone with a yellow tank is flying in the air. Below it, a group of people are standing on a grassy area, many holding up their phones to take pictures. The background is filled with lush green trees.

# CHAPTER ONE

## PILOTING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

In 2024, the UN's mission in China was characterised, among other initiatives, by a commitment to development, pioneering sustainable solutions and experimental design in diverse sectors. These initiatives aimed to address critical challenges such as biodiversity conservation, renewable energy promotion, and inclusive health services, while fostering sustainable livelihoods and gender equality. By testing scalable models at the community level, these projects laid the groundwork for broader replication, ensuring that innovative approaches could be integrated into national and global strategies for sustainable development.



A white egret stands in a pond, its long neck curved and its long black beak pointed. The water is calm, reflecting the bird and the surrounding lily pads. The background is a soft-focus view of the pond with more lily pads and water.

# CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY, PROMOTING RENEWABLE ENERGY AND SUPPORTING LIVELIHOODS IN QINGHAI AND OTHER PROVINCES

The UNDP-led China Protected Area Reform Programme (C-PAR) achieved significant progress in Sanjiangyuan National Park, Qinghai Province, one of its seven pilot areas. The project focused on conserving biodiversity in the fragile ecosystems of the Tibetan Plateau, despite threats to multiple Ramsar sites from human activities and climate change. Through sustainable practices such as hospitality services, hand-knitting, dairy processing, nature education, and human-wildlife conflict awareness, the initiative benefited 5,348 local herders, with women comprising 45% of participants. Additionally, 1,137 individuals obtained protected area competency qualifications, and 4,211 local beneficiaries engaged in community co-management development, enhancing biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods. Pilot projects in Sichuan, Zhejiang, Gansu, Guangxi and Fujian also contributed to China's Protected Area Reform agenda, particularly in establishing the national park system. The UNDP-GEF[1] Programme supported the formulation and review of the National Park Law and Protected Area Law by the Chinese People's Congress.

With support from UN Women, 3,000 households in Qinghai (including over 2,000 women) from seven women-led agricultural cooperatives and one Tibetan herder community gained improved access to renewable energy for greener and more efficient agricultural production. Three pilot sites were equipped with solar power, reducing CO2 emissions by an estimated 3 tons, generating 100,000 CNY in economic benefits, and decreasing women's unpaid care work by over 3,600 hours annually.

[1] Global Environment Facility





# ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE FINANCING FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN CHINA

This year, UN Women China streamlined its efforts into a cohesive portfolio focused on driving actions through research, partnerships, and strategic engagement with financial institutions, regulators, and government agencies. The office launched the “Bridging the Financing Gap” programme to expand gender-responsive financing and investments among development banks and investment institutions. Through stronger collaboration with the International Institute of Green Finance (IIGF), advising industry-led working groups and shaping policy discussions within the China Green Finance Committee (GFC), a joint study with IIGF examined how 31 major Chinese banks incorporate gender in their ESG<sup>[2]</sup> frameworks, providing key insights to inform policy and private sector practices.

[2] Environmental, Social, & Governance

To expand impact, UN Women convened over 100 executives from 90 financial institutions and government agencies, equipping them with tools to advance gender-responsive finance. A “Ring the Bell for Gender Equality” event with the Shenzhen Stock Exchange engaged 50 private sector leaders, reinforcing commitments to gender-sensitive investments and business practices. These efforts are promoting gender equality as a core component of sustainable finance in China.





© CSAM

## TACKLING STRAW BURNING THROUGH INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT IN SHANDONG

Under the leadership of CSAM, the UN in China implemented a Pilot Project on Integrated Straw Management which promotes mechanization solutions for reducing the burning of straw in Laixi, Qingdao, Shandong Province. This initiative demonstrated the potential of straw recycling into fertilisers, fodder, substrate for growing mushrooms, and biogas, resulting in extensive economic, ecological, and social benefits. The success of this project in China has been expanded as a regional initiative through pilots in Cambodia, Indonesia, and Nepal, with stakeholders from the Asia-Pacific region visiting Laixi in 2024 to learn from its practices.



© CSAM





© UNFPA



© UNFPA

## CAPACITY BUILDING FOR COMMUNITY WORKERS ON SRH AND GBV IN EMERGENCIES IN BEICHUAN COUNTY OF SICHUAN PROVINCE

Beichuan County, situated between the Sichuan Basin and the Eastern Tibetan Plateau, is prone to natural disasters, including the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake. In April 2024, UNFPA and the National Disaster Reduction Center of China (NDRCC) organised a two-day Training of Trainers (TOT) program to strengthen responses to disasters, training 50 participants from all 19 townships, including emergency responders, health workers, and women's federation representatives. The training enhanced awareness of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV) in emergencies, strengthening community capacity to protect vulnerable groups, especially women and girls, in all phases of disaster management. This innovative pilot is expected to be expanded in 2025.



# STRENGTHENING PUBLIC SERVICES AND SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Through programmes focused on capacity building and institutional reform, more women gained access to improved public services and social protection systems addressing violence against women.

In partnership with the Changsha Women's Federation (CSWF) and civil society partners, UN Women worked with hundreds of lawyers, judges, social workers, healthcare providers, police, and women's federation staff to strengthen their capacity to deliver survivor-centered, multi-sectoral support for domestic violence response, including for women with disabilities and women living with HIV. With technical and financial support from UN Women, a one-stop centre for survivors of violence was established at the Yuelu District Court (YDC) in Changsha. The centre offers legal aid, shelter, and case management in one location, improving safety and accessibility for survivors during legal processes.

Looking ahead, UN Women will work with CSWF and YDC to pilot a survivor-centered, multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism in Yuelu District, with the goal of scaling it to seven additional districts in Changsha.



**长沙市妇联驻  
岳麓区人民法院**

**“一站式”  
反家暴服务中心**



# PROMOTING INCLUSIVE EMPLOYMENT IN HANGZHOU



A partnership between the ILO and the Hangzhou Disabled Persons' Federation (Hangzhou DPF) launched a pioneering project aimed at creating inclusive employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The initiative was formalised with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on 16th January, 2024, marking the beginning of a two-year collaboration. This initiative focuses on fostering an enabling environment to ensure people with disabilities can access sustainable livelihoods, underscoring the UN's commitment to leaving no one behind. As part of the collaboration, an inclusive employment index has been developed and trialed within local enterprises.

This innovative tool assists employers and HR managers in evaluating their inclusive employment practices, identifying areas for improvement, and crafting strategies to build more inclusive workplaces. In addition, a company alliance consisting of 38 member companies has been established to promote the exchange of knowledge and best practices related to inclusive employment. The index has been seamlessly integrated into the local DPF's e-governance system, and ongoing efforts are focused on documenting and disseminating successful practices for fostering inclusive employment. This pioneering partnership model is now being expanded to other cities, including Wenzhou in Zhejiang Province, further advancing the mission of inclusive employment across the region.



# ESTABLISHING THE DEMONSTRATION ZONE TO PROMOTE CLEAN ENERGY IN INNER MONGOLIA

UNIDO International Hydrogen Energy Center (IHEC), in collaboration with global leading enterprises, is constructing the Baotou International Hydrogen Energy Metallurgical and Chemical Industry Demonstration Zone in Inner Mongolia, which is one of the world's largest demonstrations of renewable energy-based hydrogen production and hydrogen metallurgy and chemical applications. The project has received China's first "Certificate from TÜV Rheinland for Compliance with the EU Renewable Energy Directive III (REDIII) on Green Ammonia Design (Renewable Fuels of Non-Biological Origin, RFNBO)."





# ADDRESSING DIGITAL EXCLUSION: A NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR WOMEN AND COLLEGE STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

UNESCO partnered with the Beijing Youren Development Center for Social Work (a local Organisation of Persons with Disabilities), successfully conducted a comprehensive needs assessment to address digital exclusion among women and college students with disabilities. The initiative engaged 465 participants, including 32 visually impaired and 17 hearing-impaired students, alongside 416 women with diverse disabilities (physical, visual, and hearing) from urban and rural communities, through interviews and surveys.

This data-driven approach revealed critical gaps in digital access and skills, particularly among marginalised subgroups. Key outcomes include the development of targeted recommendations to tailor digital literacy programs, ensuring they address the specific needs of women and college students with disabilities and bridge digital literacy gaps.





# CHAPTER TWO

## SCALING SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVES

Building on the success of pilot projects, the UN in China expanded several initiatives to achieve greater impact. These efforts focused on scaling up wetland conservation, green technology deployment, and digital urban governance, while also enhancing youth engagement and inclusive education. By replicating proven models across regions and sectors, the UN demonstrated how innovative solutions could be adapted to address larger-scale challenges.





## SCALING UP WETLAND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN JIANGXI

The FAO-GEF project entitled Piloting Provincial-level Wetland Protected Area (PA) System in Jiangxi Province was initially launched in 2017, and through almost 8 years of implementation, it has achieved remarkable results in conserving wetland biodiversity and promoting sustainable livelihoods in Jiangxi Province. As the first FAO-managed GEF project in China to receive a “Highly Satisfactory” rating, it became a global benchmark. Key outcomes include the issuance of Jiangxi’s first Wetland Protection Strategy and the construction of a migratory bird education centre, hosting over 60,000 visitors.

Community co-management initiatives engaged 934 participants, including women (45%), low-income individuals, and former fishermen, boosting eco-tourism and sustainable livelihoods like organic blueberry farming. The project also enhanced global environmental benefits by increasing the effective wetland protection area by 283,000 hectares and improving ecosystem health indices across major nature reserves.

## INTEGRATING COMMUNITY WELL-BEING WITH ECOLOGICAL CONSERVATION IN HUBEI

With funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNEP has been supporting partners in Hubei province to expand and better integrate the protection of Shennongjia National Park into local and national development plans. The project launched initiatives that not only protected Shennongjia’s ecosystems but also improved the livelihoods of the residents.

Since its launch in 2015, the project has achieved: the establishment of 120,600 hectares of new protected areas, including the Jiudao Ecological Corridor, which has enhanced forest connectivity and habitat integrity. The project also supported the development of conservation action plans for key species such as the snub-nosed monkey and black bear, with population monitoring indicating stable or increasing numbers. Additionally, 67 vegetation transect sites were established, generating valuable ecological data.

The project marks the success of integrating biodiversity considerations into local development planning, with nine institutions adopting best practices for mainstreaming biodiversity. Shennongjia National Park’s approach to conservation has garnered international recognition, highlighting the park’s role as a global model for integrating community well-being with ecological restoration. The focus on awareness raising, providing alternative livelihoods, and strengthening law enforcement has helped to curb activities like hunting and deforestation, which once threatened the park’s delicate ecosystems.



# EMPOWERING RURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION IN SICHUAN



IFAD started the Innovative Poverty Reduction Programme: Specialised Agribusiness Development in Sichuan and Ningxia in the year 2018 and supports increasing poor smallholder farmers' incomes by helping them access finance and new markets, develop agribusinesses, and participate in value chains. This programme completed in 2024, benefited over 60,000 rural households in Cangxi, Guang'an, Xuzhou, and Yilong located in the mountainous areas in Sichuan Province.

In this context, the empowerment of young entrepreneurs was undertaken, including Tang Wenwen, who returned to her hometown after obtaining her master's degree to establish ChuShan Agricultural Valley. Wenwen's cooperative leveraged an IFAD-funded grant of 1.5 million yuan to provide jobs for small-scale farmers, improve agricultural practices, and promote rural tourism. The cooperative also established a digital supermarket to connect directly with consumers, enhancing market access for local produce and driving rural economic growth.





# EXPANDING GREEN TECHNOLOGY DEPLOYMENT IN URBAN AREAS

WIPO GREEN City Acceleration Project plays a pivotal role in facilitating the adoption of green technologies by connecting global suppliers with local demand. Following its success of Beijing pilot project, the project was extended to Shanghai and Chongqing. In 2024, a partnership facilitated by the Beijing pilot project resulted in a nearly RMB 12 million contract for a Chinese SME, which also contributed to the launch of a biological treatment project in Jilin Province. The project showcased the potential of green technologies as an impetus for transforming urban development. Knowledge sharing was further amplified through the launch of the "Green Technology Book" at COP29, which highlighted practical energy solutions, including 15 Chinese technologies.

UNDP in 2024 established the HUAHUB in Longhua District of Shenzhen to leverage technology and partnerships to address complex urban challenges. The Lab integrates global expertise with local resources to co-develop and pilot solutions advancing carbon neutrality, social inclusivity, and SDGs, in support of Shenzhen's role as a model for urban innovation and sustainable transformation. This is part of an effort to deepen SDG localisation to systematically engage with China's 11 National SDG Demonstration Zones, which have been tasked to develop SDG-aligned development models and local solutions for replication at national level.

# SCALING DIGITAL URBAN GOVERNANCE

UN-Habitat's China Future Cities Council convened three expert group meetings in preparation for the "Future Cities Advisory Outlook 2024: Digital Urban Governance" (FCAO 2024). These meetings were held across China in Shaoxing (Zhejiang Province), Guilin (Guangxi Region), and Ordos (Inner Mongolia). The FCAO 2024 report, which was launched at the 12th World Urban Forum and broadcast on Phoenix New Media, delivered comprehensive insights into the evolving landscape of digital urban governance. It presents a pioneering technical panorama and implementation roadmap for digital urban governance and calls for a Global Initiative on Digital Urban Governance Action. Drawing from innovative practices implemented by Chinese cities and enterprises, the report offers practical strategic guidance to support cities worldwide in their digital transformation journey.







## ENHANCING AI UPSKILLING FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINERS AND YOUTH IN CHINA

© ILO



© ILO

ILO partnered with Microsoft and national partners initiated the 'AI-VIBES' Series (AI for Vocational Instructors Boosting Education and Skills). It aims to improve over 200 TVET teachers' and in-company apprenticeship trainers' understanding of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and core competencies in applying AI into vocational training. Responding to the labour market trends and demands of skills development, the 'AI-VIBES' Series adopts a step-by-step approach, from knowledge sharing webinars to localised AI Skilling Toolkit development to hands-on training workshops for upskilling.

ILO also worked with the All-China Youth Federation to deepen over 200 youth's knowledge of the transformative power of digital development, with special attention to skilling and industrial development in the era of Artificial Intelligence (AI) through Youth Digital Leaders Campus within Youth Digital Leadership Programme and Thematic Forum on Digital Development of the 2024 World Youth Development Forum.





## © UNICEF

# ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES IN CHINA

Under the leadership of UNICEF, the UN China Country Team continues to address adolescent mental health challenges in China. In collaboration with the National Health Commission and the China Youth League, UNICEF has rolled out a comprehensive adolescent mental health programme. The mental health service package was introduced to 329 junior secondary schools across 10 provinces, covering 164,500 students. Following successful pretesting, the peer-support toolkit was rolled out in 36 schools of 9 provinces, and 500 trained adolescent peer supporters are delivering peer-support on mental health in pilot schools.

# PROMOTING WIDER YOUTH ENGAGEMENTS FOR SDGs THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE

The Youth Co:Lab, co-lead by UNDP and Citi Foundation, continued to nurture youth entrepreneurship, and developed 12 Social Entrepreneurship online courses, and empowered 60 youth entrepreneurs with tailored mentorship and 20,000 Euros Youth Innovation Grants to scale up youth-led solutions.

UNDP also worked with UNV to support youth engagement in SDGs through volunteer service. More than 600 Chinese volunteers were engaged through "Her Digital Future" facilitated digital camps and provided online courses teaching Digital Skills and SDGs to girls from rural areas, on expanding teenage girls' knowledge of technology and innovation, particularly focusing on the potential of applying tech for good and positive social impact, benefiting a total of 1,134 students, of which 748 were girls from rural background.

Through Movers Programme, UNDP mainstream SDG education in China, 11 SDG toolkits were developed and over 70,000 young people directly trained with increased SDG knowledge and 21st century skills. Among which, 4,376 Movers volunteers from over 400 universities national wide from 30 provinces conducted Green Class at among 500 rural schools, with 51,253 rural young people directly trained with increased climate knowledge and skills.





# EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR ACCELERATING CARBON NEUTRALITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



The project “Accelerating Carbon Neutrality: Innovative Actions for Sustainable Development” Project jointly launched by UNESCO Beijing and China Youth Development Foundation Mercedes-Benz Star Fund since 2022 aims to facilitate sustainability science, ESD and capacity building for stakeholders including youth to be equipped with knowledge, skills, values and attitudes matching climate change response. In 2024, the project conducted various educational and youth-led activities including voluntary teaching, lectures, forums, workshops and trainings, science popularisation knowledge competitions, youth forest nature education activities and monitoring research of animals and plants in national parks. These activities enhanced capacity and public awareness, provided exchange platforms for youth to demonstrate their solutions and efforts addressing climate change issues, and facilitated youth advocacy for sustainable development, directly benefiting more than 5200 participants.



# PROMOTING INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN CHINA

UNICEF continued to work with the Ministry of Education in 2024 and provincial education departments to accelerate the shift from a segregated special education system to an inclusive education model.

Work included exploring contextualised inclusive kindergarten/school models, supporting the development of teacher training courses, capacity building initiatives, and research in selected schools. 12,974 education administrators, trainers, principals, and teachers now have enhanced skills in creating an inclusive school environment, providing personalised learning support through national and local-level training, benefiting over 1.1 million students across 1,682 kindergartens and focused schools in 9 provinces. Leveraging success, focus is shifting from project to province-wide approach to introduce inclusive education in all schools, beginning in Jiangsu in 2025.



# BROADENING PRESCHOOL NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT ACROSS CHINA

WFP continued to scale up the success of its Preschool Nutrition Improvement Programme in Gansu Province. Since its launch in 2018, the initiative has expanded to four provinces across China, reaching a total of over 20,000 children by the end of 2024.

The programme has made significant strides in improving child malnutrition, raising community awareness about the importance of early childhood nutrition, and equipping target populations with the knowledge to foster healthier and nutritional environments at school and at home. Building on WFP’s global home-grown school feeding approach, the programme has also established local supply chains that involve low-income farmers, ethnic minorities, and rural women, generating employment opportunities and promoting local agricultural development, paving the way for more sustainable and inclusive community growth.







# HUMANITARIAN AID SUPPORTS DISPLACED AFGHANS

In 2024, facilitated by UNHCR in China, with the funding support of China's Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund, UNHCR in Afghanistan launched a humanitarian initiative to assist over 195,000 conflict-affected internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Afghanistan. Essential relief items such as kitchen sets, blankets, buckets, and plastic tarpaulins were distributed to more than 27,500 families, addressing their urgent needs in the face of one of the world's most severe humanitarian crises. This effort highlights China's active role in supporting international humanitarian relief and reinforcing global partnerships aimed at advancing sustainable development.





# CHAPTER THREE

## SHAPING POLICY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The UN in China continued to contribute its expertise in 2024 through evidence-based research, strategic partnerships, and multi-stakeholder dialogues. The country team supported the development of policies in areas such as agricultural insurance, renewable energy, and climate action.

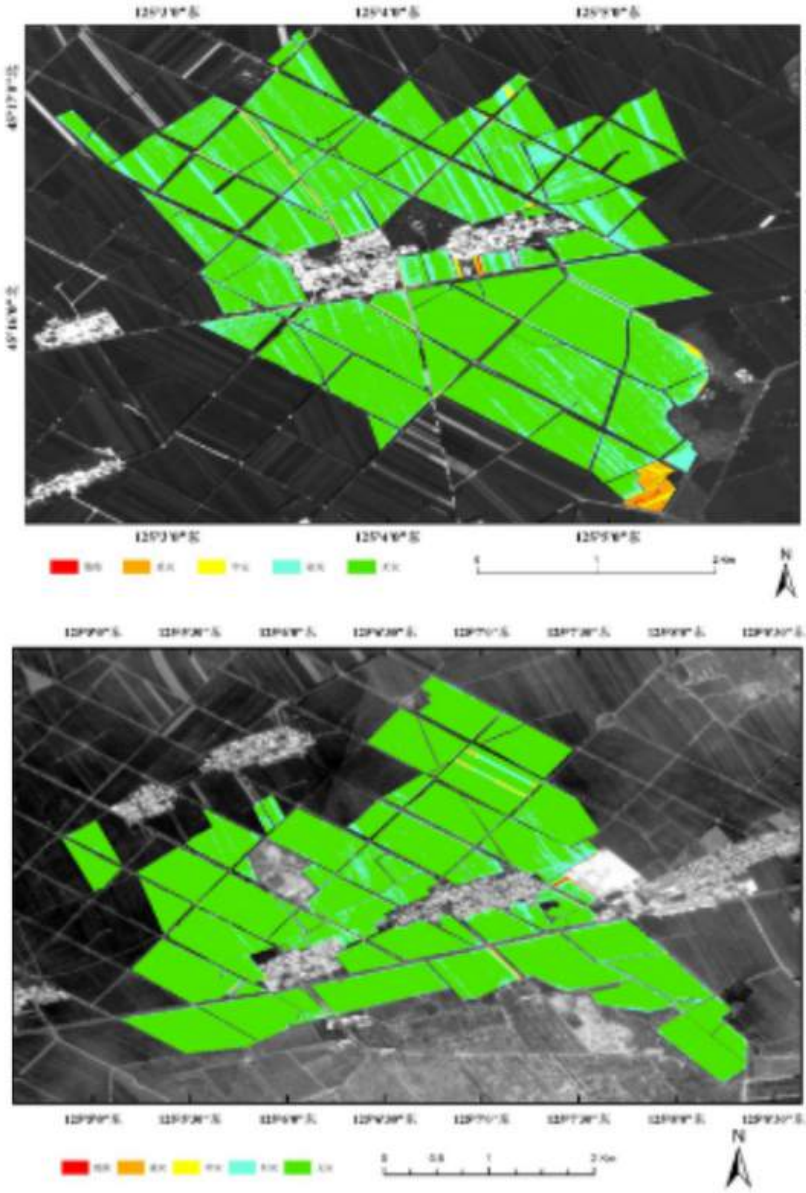


# POLICY ADVOCACY OF AGRICULTURAL INSURANCE FOR RESILIENCE BUILDING

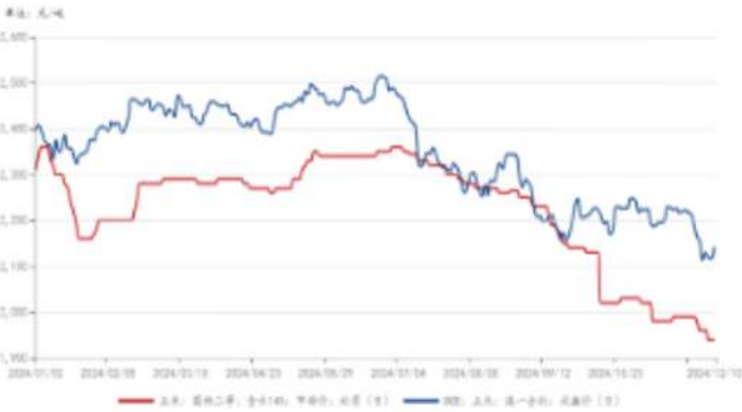
The WFP pilot project on a Holistic Approach to Agricultural Risk Management in Jilin Province enhances farmers' resilience to natural and market risks through integrating an innovative income protection insurance model bundled with futures to safeguard farmer' income against market volatility and the adopting fertigation technology to enhance resource efficiency. This initiative equipped farmers with practical and effective tools for agricultural risk management. It also aligns with national efforts to promote the agricultural "insurance + futures" modality and supports the goal of scaling up income insurance coverage across the country.

Last year marked the final year of project implementation. The adoption of fertigation technology has significantly reduced fertilizer and water usage while boosting crop yields, with a 10.8% yield increase in 2023 and a 7.96% increase in 2024, alongside a water-saving rate of up to 30.7% and a reduction in fertilizer use exceeding 20%. Over three years, the average payouts per household under this scheme were 5.5 times higher than material cost insurance and 3.9 times higher than full-cost insurance covering both material and labor. In 2024, when corn prices dropped significantly, the product provided critical financial support, with an average payout of \$509 per household, demonstrating its effectiveness in safeguarding farmers' livelihoods and food security.

The project has not only benefited smallholder farmers but also provided valuable insights for shaping national revenue insurance policies in China. A policy advocacy workshop was convened involving government representatives, private sector stakeholders, and experts. The workshop reviewed key lessons learned from the pilot and formulated actionable recommendations to advance the development of the "insurance + futures" policy. A comprehensive policy recommendation document, informed by the workshop, outlines potential improvements in areas such as fiscal support, mechanism optimization, diversified project design, and enhanced policy advocacy, which will be disseminated to upstream policymakers, aiming to inform and influence national policy decisions to strengthen agricultural risk management and support sustainable rural development.



Dynamic map displaying the waterlogging that occurred in Sanjun Township, Fuyu City, Jilin Province.



Comparison of Corn Contract Trends with Spot Prices and Options Returns



# **JOINT PROJECT: EFFECTIVE MULTILATERALISM IN CHINA TOWARDS ADVANCING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)**

This is a project jointly initiated by UNDP, FAO, UN Women, and WHO in collaboration with the Delegation of the European Union to China (EUD). It aims to inform China's international development cooperation (IDC) engagements for greater SDGs impact in areas such as financing for development, global health, international food security, and gender equality.

The project includes research, capacity-building workshops, and multi-stakeholder dialogues to promote two-way exchanges, and enhance understandings between Chinese and international IDC stakeholders. Joining hands with the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation under the Ministry of Commerce (CAITEC), UN agencies facilitated multiple dialogues including on international standards and best practices, as well as gender consideration in IDC. Insights of the exchanges are intended to inform policy design and decision making on the back of the Third Plenum's call to deepen reform and expand cooperation.





# SUPPORT CHINA TO BUILD A HIGH-QUALITY, VALUE-BASED AND INTEGRATED HEALTH SERVICES DELIVERY SYSTEM TOWARDS UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

WHO continued to support China's health system transformation in 2024 toward a quality- and value-based model through a series of strategic initiatives. These included promoting local innovations for people-centered integrated care (PCIC) by launching Phase II of a flagship program with the National Health Commission, which piloted PCIC models in nine cities, benefiting 59 million people. WHO also facilitated global knowledge sharing and policy advocacy through a China-South Africa-UAE co-hosted side event at the 77th World Health Assembly, where China showcased its achievements

in health system reform and primary health care (PHC) strengthening. Additionally, WHO fostered cross-country learning by organising a high-level, multisectoral exchange visit from China to Kazakhstan to discuss PHC model transformation and strategies for improving access to high-quality PHC services. These efforts, encompassing pilot programs, policy dialogues, and global experience sharing, provided catalytic support to China's ongoing health system strengthening and its commitment to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC).







UNAIDS

国家疾病局

© UNAIDS

## ADVANCING POLICIES TO END AIDS BY 2030 AND EXPANDING HIV PREVENTION

As AIDS became an immediate public health hazard, China adopted national priorities under the UN's recommendation in 2024 to end AIDS by 2030. The initiative made its way clear by setting uncomplicated and actionable recommendations to help eliminate AIDS as an immediate public health hazard. Collaboration between government agencies, service providers, and community organisations ensured that the policies taken on board were inclusive and well-targeted.

Building on its successful community-based HIV prevention model, the UN in China applied this model at a national level in its campaign against HIV and AIDS. This included better access to higher-quality drugs against HIV, more community-driven testing, and an intensified effort at eliminating mother-to-child transmission. In scaling up this model, the UN helped reduce new HIV infections among at-risk populations and AIDS-related deaths for people living with HIV.



# EU-CHINA KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE CATALYSES SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR PLATFORM WORKERS



In June 2024, ILO organised a study visit to Europe to facilitate technical exchanges with EU Member States and the European Commission regarding the extension of social protection for platform workers - a key challenge and policy reform priority for both the EU and China. The Chinese delegation, led by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MOHRSS), comprised representatives from the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU), the Chinese Enterprise Confederation (CEC), and senior researchers from the Chinese Academy of Labour and Social Security (CALSS). These ILO-supported exchanges yielded valuable insights from EU practices, which directly informed CALSS's research. This research informed policy reforms to improve social protection for platform workers in China, aiming for universal coverage.

In March 2025, MOHRSS announced plans to expand social security coverage to include more flexible employees, migrant workers and workers in new forms of employment, ensuring they receive enhanced protection. Additionally, the occupational injury insurance pilot programme for workers in new employment forms, initially implemented in several provinces since 2022, will be expanded from 7 to 17 provinces.



# INFORMING INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The UN in China provided important inputs into China's international development cooperation strategies for greater alignment with the SDGs and global agendas. A key example are the contributions provided to inform the formulation of outcome documents for the 2024 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) that have a strong emphasis on the SDGs and global agendas. Specifically, the UN in China, upon request, worked with the African Ambassadors Group and the Mission of the African Union in Beijing to provide technical inputs for 2024 FOCAC negotiations covering broad thematic areas including health, education, gender equality, agriculture, energy, climate change, and financing for development.

A key initiative reflecting UN's support to international development is the tripartite flagship programme between UNIDO, China, and Ethiopia's Centre of Excellence—the first of its kind between Ethiopia, CIDCA, and a UN agency. Included in the FOCAC Beijing Action Plan (2025-2027) under item 2.2.5, this pioneering initiative promotes sustainable industrialisation, agricultural modernisation, and skills development across Africa. For instance, the early bird project, Upgrading the Livestock Value Chains in Ethiopia, will enable Ethiopia to benefit from one of the 10 FOCAC Action Plans, particularly through zero-tariff access to China's market.





# SUPPORTING CHINA-EU EXCHANGES ON MIGRATION POLICIES

Within the framework of the EU-China Dialogue on Migration and Mobility Support Project (MMSP) funded by the European Union, IOM conducted various activities to facilitate exchanges between China and EU on migration policy issues, including a briefing on Chinese immigration administration policies, a workshop on returns and readmissions of irregular migrants, a field visit to the EU by a high-level Chinese delegation on the topic of counter-trafficking.

These activities provide important platforms for building and exchanging knowledge, involving the exchange of best practices on leveraging migration for development and improving practical cooperation between China and the EU on a range of topics related to migration and mobility. The involvement of key national and international partners - including the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Immigration Administration, the EU Delegation in China, and embassies of the EU Member States and Schengen Associated States in China - facilitates collaboration and knowledge-sharing, helping to align migration governance with sustainable development goals.







# DIGITAL EDUCATION AND LEARNING SOCIETY CONSTRUCTION

UNESCO co-organised with the Ministry of Education of China the 2024 World Digital Education Conference in Shanghai that collected governments, academia, schools, enterprises and other stakeholders to jointly explore and shape innovations in digital education with a vision of promoting inclusive, equitable and quality education, thereby advancing the realisation of the UN SDGs.

The World Digital Education Alliance was inaugurated during the Conference with 104 universities, international organisations and enterprises from 41 countries and regions participating in the alliance. The international edition (available in all six UN official languages) of the online education platform Smart Education of China was launched during the conference, which was created with assistance from the Ministry of Education, aiming to benefit global learners through digital education and provide them with personalised learning services. At the closing of the conference, it was released the outcome document “Shanghai Call for Cooperation on Digital Education”.





# OPENING DISCUSSIONS ON AI POLICY AND ETHICAL GOVERNANCE

The UNU Macau AI Conference brought together policymakers, industry leaders, and scholars to discuss the topic "AI for All: Bridging Divides, Building a Sustainable Future." The 2024 conference opened the floor for a comprehensive dialogue on ethical AI practices that include equitable access and sustainable innovations.



# SUPPORTING POLICY DEVELOPMENT ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

UNIDO, through its 2024 approved Global Environment Facility (GEF) project "China Green Hydrogen: from Production to Hard-to-Abate End Uses", supports the decarbonisation and energy transition in hard-to-debate sectors in China, aiming to achieve 11.4 million tons in direct emission reductions.





# INFORMING POLICIES ON CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY, AND POLLUTION

UNEP and UNDP have served as special advisors to the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED), with the UNEP Executive Director and UNDP Administrator holding roles as International Vice Chairs. This unique platform brings together experts around the world to share policy recommendations critical to China's sustainable development efforts. UNDP provided technical inputs to a selection of special policy studies that fed into the 2024 policy recommendations presented to the State Council. These focused on issues at the heart of tackling the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and waste. The recommendations reflected the "dual carbon" goals throughout, including the mentioning of the importance of an ambitious update to China's Nationally Determined Contributions. The recommendations also highlighted the role of the Kunming Biodiversity Fund as well as UNDP BIOFIN initiative in expanding financial support for biodiversity conservation, and innovative approaches to transit to a circular economy.



A photograph of two young women standing at night. The woman on the left is wearing a red traditional Chinese robe with white sleeves and a white sash, holding a large, glowing orange lantern on a gold pole. She has a small red mark on her forehead and is wearing a floral headpiece. The woman on the right is wearing a white hijab and a blue and green patterned traditional garment. They are both smiling. The background is dark with blue and yellow bokeh lights.

# CHAPTER FOUR

## ADVOCACY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The UN carries a critical function through advocacy efforts to insert the concept of fostering collective action toward our common agenda. The UN in China Country Team aims to mobilise diverse audiences and empowering through campaigns, storytelling, and collaboration with various stakeholders.



# ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH JOINT ADVOCACY AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment is a cross-cutting principle across all work of the UN system in China. As a coordination mechanism co-chaired by UN Women and UNFPA, the UN Gender Thematic Group (UNGTG) focuses on strengthening the UN system in China's accountability for promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, including through joint advocacy that engages key partners and the general public while aligning with national and international norms and priorities.

For example, each year, aligning with global theme of International Women's Day (IWD) and coordinated by UN Communication Group (UNCG) and UNGTG, UN Women leads annual campaigns to amplify women's voices and provide a platform to highlight their achievements and challenges faced across various contexts. In 2024, under UN Women's leadership, 17 United Nations entities joined the 2024 International Women's Day campaign to "Invest in Women", urging actionable financial commitments to accelerate gender equality.

The campaign reached over 9 million views online, sparking important discussions on gender equality and women's empowerment. A partnership with the China National Academy of Paintings integrated IWD messages with traditional Chinese cultural elements, creating a unique and culturally resonant platform. By engaging digital platforms and diverse audiences, these advocacy efforts fostered a ripple effect, reducing gender blindness and enhancing gender responsiveness within the UNSDCF.

Beyond UNGTG coordinated efforts, UN Women with the Resident Coordinator's Office, organised "Gender Responsive Communications" for 30 communications professionals from 13 United Nations entities to strengthen their ability to integrate gender equality in all forms of communication eliminate gender stereotypes, and feature people in all their diversity.





# JOINT ADVOCACY ON INNOVATIVE DIGITAL SOLUTIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY



© UNFPA

To commemorate International Youth Day in August 2024, the UN in China hosted a series of youth engagement events in the presence of the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, Dr. Felipe Paullier. The commemoration included a national youth dialogue on the theme of "Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development" which highlighted the significant digital contributions that young people in China have made to advance sustainable development.

Approximately 80 participants from the UN, youth groups, and institutions attended the dialogue. In addition, a visit to the UNICEF-CAST STEM4Girls Science Camp allowed the ASG to interact with 60 girls from rural areas of six western provinces, and a visit to UPower initiative youth sites supported by UNFPA provided an opportunity for the ASG to engage with university students and discuss how youth leaders could contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



© UNFPA



© UNFPA



# LOBBYING FOR ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION

UNEP and UNDP continued to lead on advocating for climate restoration. On World Environment Day 2024 (WED), UNEP brought together UN agencies and government officials, private sectors, NGOs and youth leaders for an event in Beijing to showcase progress to combat desertification, restore degraded land and ecosystems. The World Environment Day global campaign video was aired on Beijing Subway throughout June to amplify the WED messages to the 12 million passengers riding on the capital's metro per day.

UNEP has also been mobilising support from youth and raising their awareness of the triple planetary crisis. The 2024 UN China Youth Environment Forum in Shanghai brought together youth, teachers and policy makers to discuss how to better engage youth in climate action. In line with UN's efforts for Leaving No One Behind, UNEP and co-organisers made special efforts to reach out to and invite students and teachers from less developed regions in China to share and exchange.



# **CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF THE CHICAGO CONVENTION: REFLECTING ON THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL AVIATION DEVELOPMENT**

7th December 2024 marked the 80th anniversary of the signing of the Convention on International Civil Aviation in Chicago, United States. For eight decades, this defining international agreement has served as the foundation for the development of the global civil aviation system to the benefit of all nations.

In celebration of the 80th anniversary of the signing of the Convention on International Civil Aviation in Chicago, United States, the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Asia Pacific Regional Sub-Office in China has organised a unique event on 6 December 2024 at the UN Compound with representatives of the Government of China, Asia Pacific States and Industry. It also served as an opportunity to reflect collectively on how aviation development will evolve, the global challenges and opportunities it faces, as well as on the fundamental role of ICAO as a bridge builder for the further safe, secure, social, economic and sustainable development of air transport.





# LEVERAGING HUMAN MOBILITY TO FACILITATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## 专题研讨及互动 人才引进——从政策到实践 Talent Attraction - From Policy to Practice



徐晓红  
XU Xiaohong

国家移民管理局外国人管理司  
National Immigration Administration



黄阳  
HUANG Yang

世界银行  
World Bank



张一名  
ZHANG Yiming

中国劳动和社会保障科学研究院  
China Academy of Labor and Social Security



Ian CHEUNG

玉网公司  
Greenie We



赵占  
John Zeng



孙  
Sunny

伯纳  
Bernard Co

Geertrui  
LANNEAU

民组织  
M



On the 2024 International Migrants Day (17th December), the International Organisation for Migration, in partnership with the Center for China and Globalisation and the Alliance of Global Talent Organisations organised the Workshop on Talent Attraction and Integration, which brought together over 60 representatives from government agencies, academic institutions, NGOs, and the private sector. The workshop highlighted the crucial role of migration in driving economic and social progress, and discussed key policy issues concerning talent attraction and integration, particularly on how to create talent mobility policies that support long-term development of migrants, emphasising the need for inclusive service provisions and international cooperation regarding talent mobility.





## PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE WORKPLACE

UN Women partnered with ILO, China Enterprise Confederation (CEC) and the EU Delegation to China to co-organise the "Women In Motion Seminar on Building a Gender-Inclusive Workplace for Women Workers' Employment and Career Development" in November 2024, bringing together 34 key stakeholders from government, academia, civil society organisations, and private sector companies, including representatives from Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, Women's Research Institute of the All-China Women's Federation, National Health Commission, and the All-China Federation of Trade Unions. Dialogue emphasised that new population policies must consider the impact on women's employment and address the challenges and barriers women face in accessing equal employment opportunities and treatment. Actionable recommendations were presented for creating family-friendly policies and eliminating gender stereotypes and discrimination in the workplace.



# DRIVING INNOVATION IN MUSEUM ACCESSIBILITY: UNESCO-CMA SYMPOSIUM CATALYSES ACTION AND PARTNERSHIPS



At the 10th Museum Expo in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, UNESCO and the Chinese Museums Association (CMA) co-hosted a landmark Symposium on Museum Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities on 24th August 2024, convening 60 stakeholders from museums, academia, accessibility engineering, and advocacy groups. 12 global and domestic experts led discussions on actionable frameworks to advance inclusive museum practices in China, culminating in the launch of a national call for accessibility innovations. Key achievements include:

- 14 museums pledged to implement UNESCO's Accessible Museums for Persons with Disabilities project (2024–2025), signaling institutional buy-in for systemic change.
- A subsequent open call, supported by Rare and Roll (a local OPD), generated 75 universal accessibility case studies from 60 museums nationwide.
- The 16 finalists selected by a 17-member expert panel (including representatives from the Chinese Disabled Persons' Federation, CMA, and OPDs) after a multi-perspective evaluation, will soon be published as a sector-wide benchmark toolkit to encourage other museums in the country to take actions to increase access for persons with disabilities.





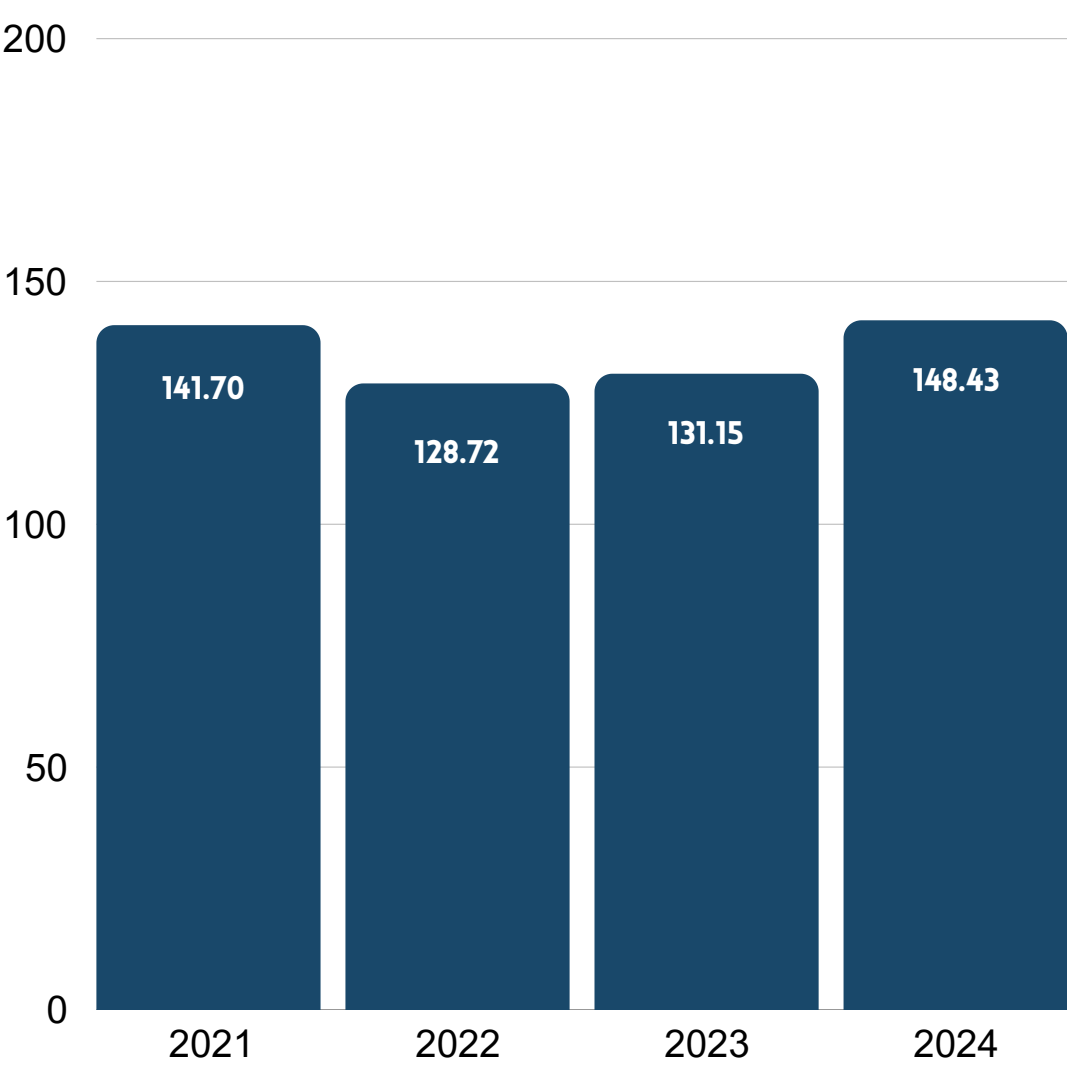


# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

As 2024 marks the penultimate year of the current UNSDCF 2021 - 2025, the cumulative total programmatic expenditure has reached 550 million USD, with a funding availability ratio exceeding 90 per cent. The UN in China’s financial trends reflect varying programmatic budgets from 2021 to 2024, with 2023 marking the highest level. However, there is a relatively stable trend in the expenditure data. The UN in China recorded a total of 148.43 million USD in programmatic expenditures[3] in 2024, reflecting an increase of 18.28 million USD compared to the previous year.

[3] The financial report in this section does not include the total expenditure of the UN but counts only the programmatic expenditure for UNSDCF implementation.

FIGURE 1. TOTAL PROGRAMMATIC EXPENDITURE 2021-2024 (USD MILLION)



IFAD, UNDP, UNICEF, and UNIDO remain the top four agencies in programme expenditure for the current cycle. As illustrated in Figure 2, IFAD led spending in 2024 at 46.03 million USD, followed by UNDP at 35.53 million USD, UNICEF at 27.46 million USD, and UNIDO at USD 14.46 million.

Expenditure allocation across UNSDCF priorities remained consistent with previous years: Priority 1 (People and Prosperity) accounted for over half of total spending (54.07 per cent), followed by Priority 2 (Planet) at 39.35 per cent, and Priority 3 (Partnerships) at 6.85 per cent (Figure 3).

FIGURE 2. PROGRAMMATIC EXPENDITURE OF THE UN ENTITIES IN CHINA IN 2024 (USD MILLION)

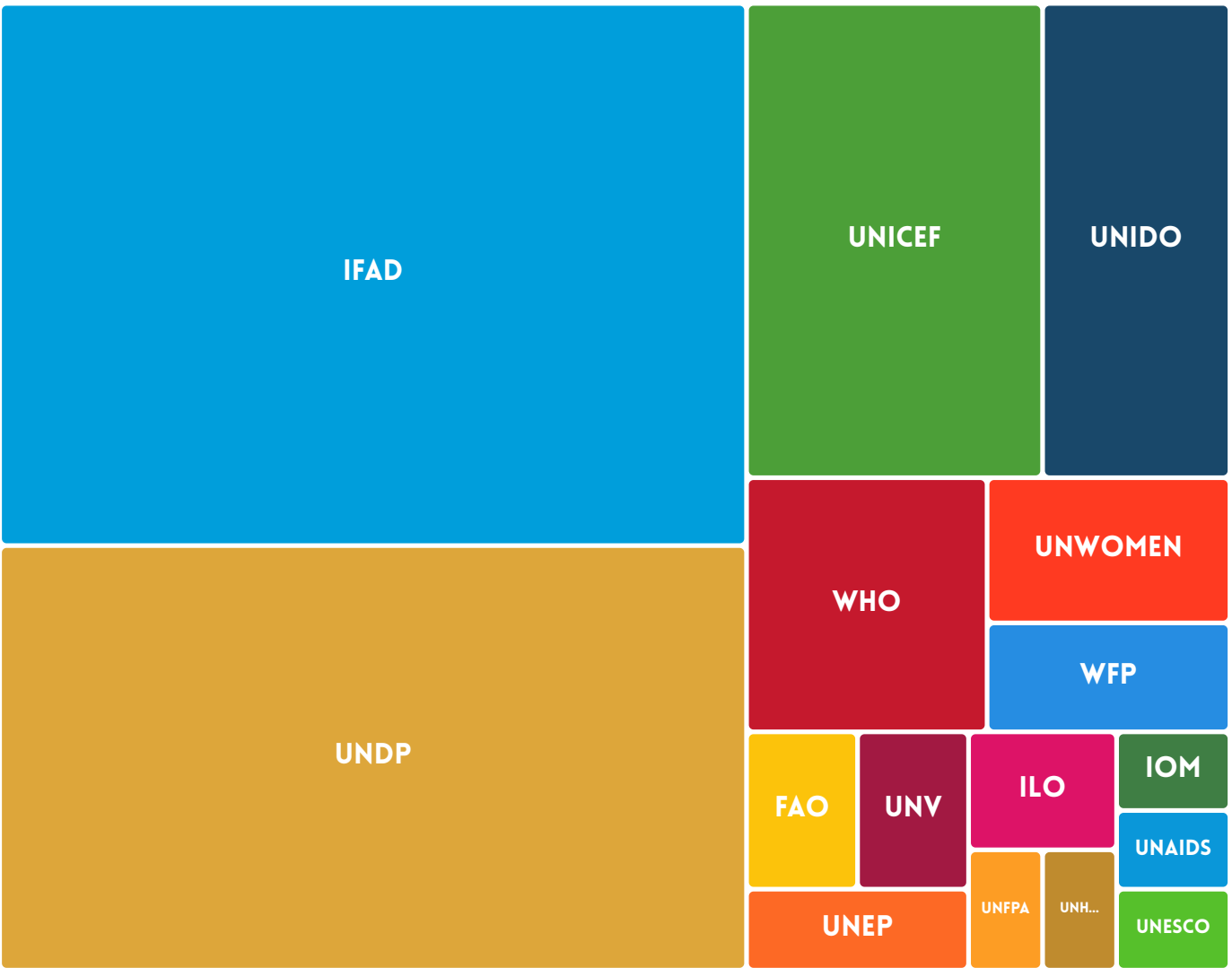
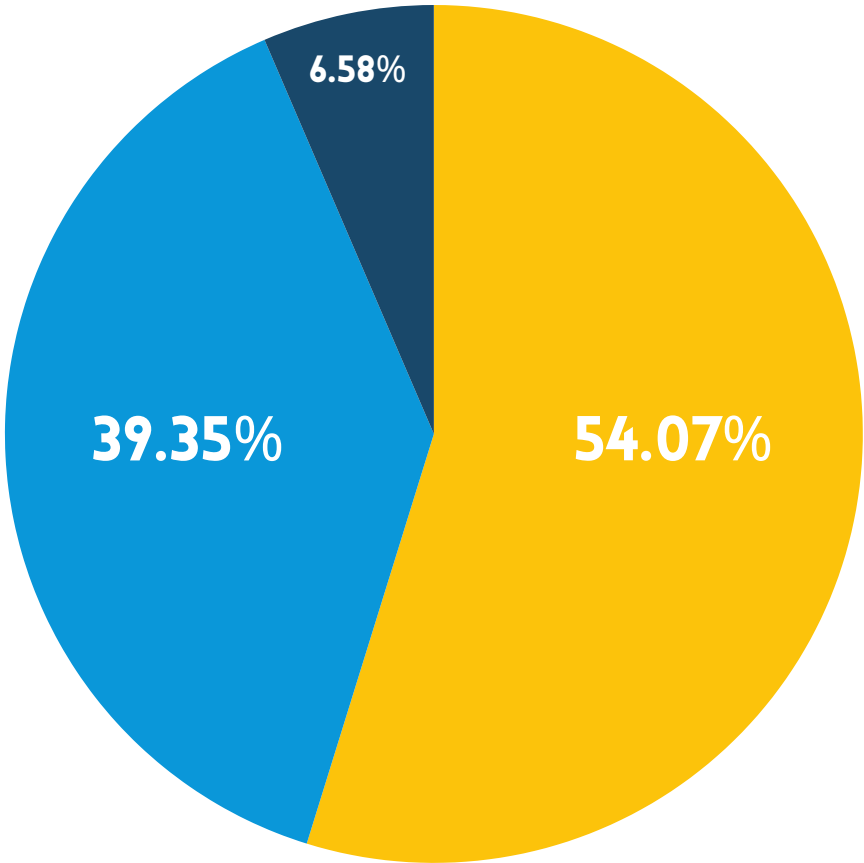




FIGURE 3. PROGRAMMATIC EXPENDITURE OF THE UN IN CHINA IN 2024 PER UNSDCF PRIORITY AREAS

(Note: Percentages may be subject to minor fluctuations.)



Funding sources 2024 comprised 39.65 per cent from UN entities, 22.31 per cent from the private sector, and 8.24 per cent from the Government of China, with the remaining 29.80 per centsourced from other partners (Figure 4).

Among these, contributions from foundations and multilateral funds—including the Global Environment Facility and the Multilateral Fund for the Montreal Protocol were the largest funding partners, accounting for 25.11 per cent of the total expenditure , alongside foreign development aid agencies and embassies (2.46 per cent), others (2.23 per cent)

FIGURE 4. PROGRAMMATIC EXPENDITURE OF THE UN IN CHINA IN 2024 PER SOURCE OF FUNDING

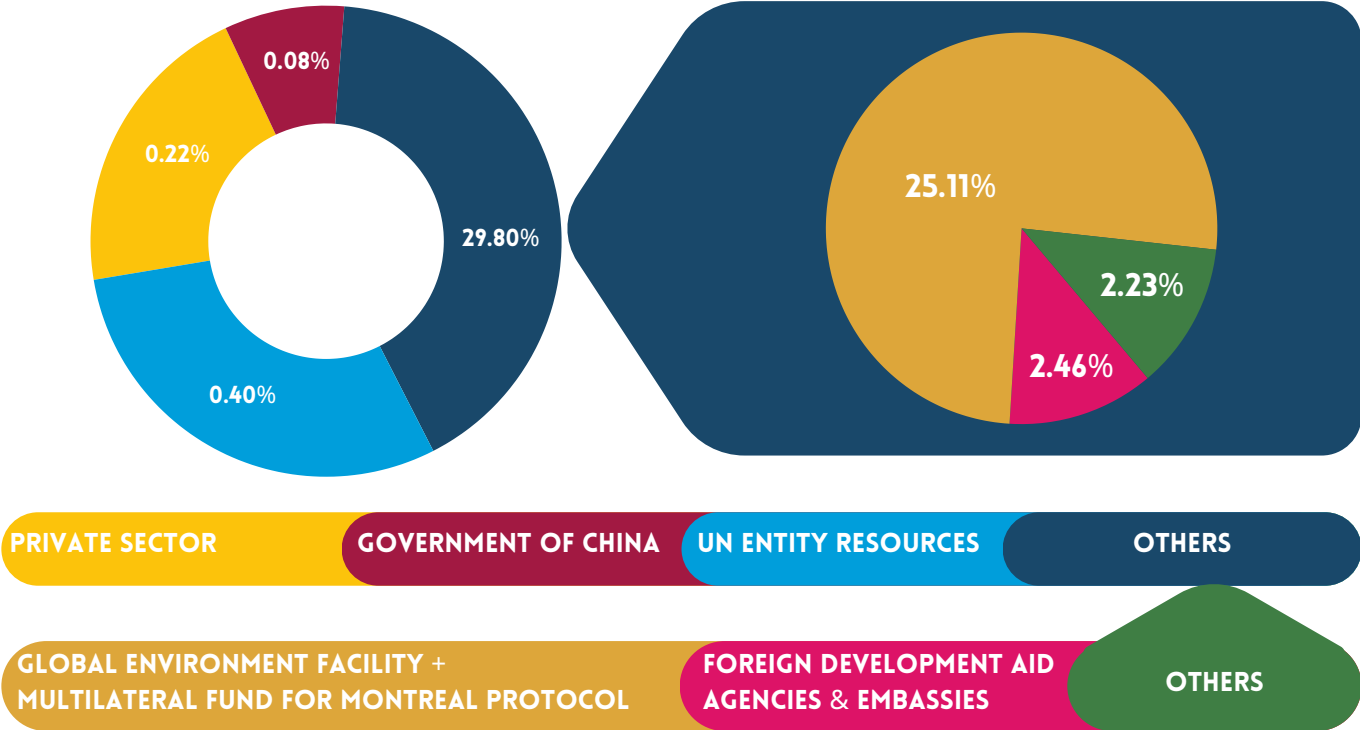
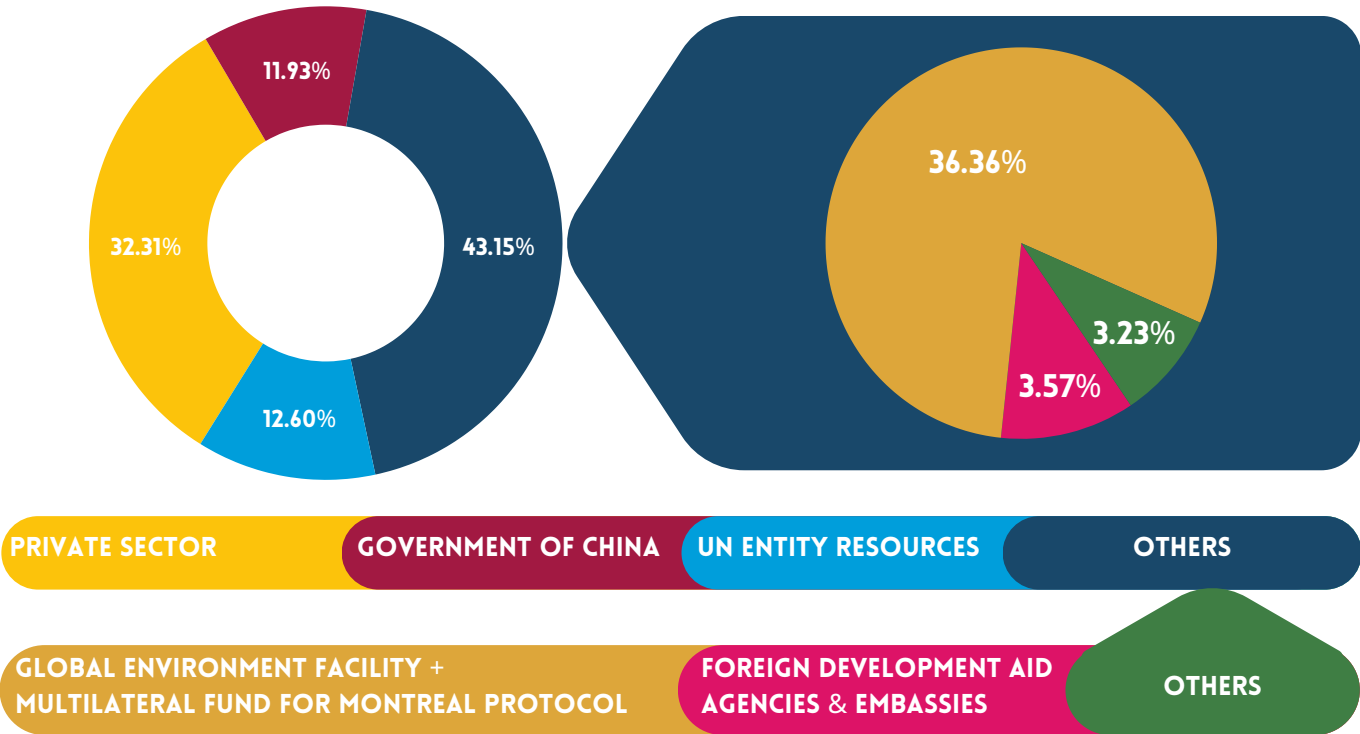


Figure 5 presents a separate analysis excluding IFAD, highlighting shifts in funding dynamics with IFAD excluded, the private sector emerged as the largest contributor, maintaining a share of 32.31 percent. Funding from foundations, including the Global Environment Facility and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, emerged as the largest contributor, accounting for 36.36 per cent of the total funding, while the UN became the third-largest funding source (12.60 per cent) after the Private Sector (32.31 per cent).

FIGURE 5. PROGRAMMATIC EXPENDITURE OF THE UN IN CHINA IN 2024 PER SOURCE OF FUNDING (EXCLUDING IFAD)





# THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESS ON 2025 PRIORITIES

“ Through thick and thin,  
the world has come together through  
the United Nations to tackle some of  
the most intractable problems.  
Easing tensions.  
Forging and keeping peace.  
Setting bold goals to fight  
poverty, hunger, inequality and climate change.

...  
We don't need to reinvent the wheel.  
We need to get the wheel moving.  
Through acceleration and transformation —  
oriented around the Pact for the Future,  
the implementation of which will be a central priority in 2025.”



# CONCLUSION

The year 2024 has been a testament to the dedication, innovation, and teamwork of the United Nations in China. Across all pillars of work—piloting, scaling, advocacy, and policy—the UN team has progressed in solidarity to advance Sustainable Development Goals and address critical challenges facing communities across the country and globally.

Rooted in community engagement, the UN China Country Team pioneered in programmes across sectors to support capacity building. The success of these initiatives marked its ripple impact in enhancing livelihoods and resilience, yielding scalable models aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework’s objectives.

The pilot projects also paved the way for expanded initiatives. Through strengthened partnerships and refined replicable models, these expanded programmes reached a wider range of marginalised communities.

The fruit of the work generated critical, data-driven insights that supported policy development in key areas such as AIDS prevention, maternal health systems, and disability inclusion. The Country Team has worked together through joint advocacy campaigns reaching millions and catalysing dialogue on gender equality, cultural preservation, climate action, and youth leadership. Ultimately, efforts to mainstream cross-cutting themes such as gender equality, youth empowerment, and disability inclusion were reinforced across programmes and advocacy, aiming to eventually blend into daily life.

The outcomes showcased under four chapters in the annual report represent only a small fraction of the United Nations Country Team's achievements over the past year. Every member of staff across the agencies has made invaluable contributions towards advancing development throughout the year.

Looking ahead to 2025, which also marks the final year of the current UNSDCF, the priorities are clear: the UN Country Team will continue to build on the momentum fueled by the UNSDCF, by continuing to scale up successful initiatives so that their benefits apply to an even greater number of communities. The focus will be on fostering innovation to address the new challenges of climate resilience, digital inclusion, and urban sustainability. Gender equality, youth empowerment, and the preservation of culture remain key advocacy areas, while partnerships with the Chinese government, civil society, and other players will grow deeper to enable policy shaping that ensures no one is left behind.

The achievements of 2024 are not only milestones but also stepping stones toward creating a more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient future. By reflecting on our activities and aligning with the goals for 2025, the UN in China will reaffirm its commitment to advancing the SDGs and contributing to the well-being of all Chinese citizens. Together, we can continue to deliver these results in a way that ensures no one is left behind as we strive toward sustainable development.







United Nations in China  
No.2 LiangMaHe NanLu, 100600, Beijing, China  
[rco-chinaregistry@un.org](mailto:rco-chinaregistry@un.org)  
<https://china.un.org/>  
Weibo: @联合国驻华协调员办公室  
Twitter: @UNinChina  
Facebook: @UnitedNationsinChina  
Tencent Video: 联合国驻华系统  
YouTube: @UnitedNationsinChina