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International Development Cooperation: China's Practice

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Women's Empowerment and Development



China International Development Cooperation Agency

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CHAPTER 4

Conclusion and Outlook

Women are creators of human civilization and drivers of social progress. The cause of women's development has a direct impact on the shared future of humanity. At the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW), held in China in 1995, delegates from 189 countries and regions adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPfA), laying down strategic goals and policy frameworks for promoting gender equality and ensuring women's rights. These documents have catalyzed positive changes worldwide and remain to represent the most comprehensive and authoritative global agenda for women. Furthermore, gender equality and women's empowerment are recognized as one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations (UN) in 2015.

Building a world in which women are free from discrimination, as well as a society of inclusive development, is not only vital for women's development, but also essential for sustainable socio-economic development on a global scale. Over the three decades since the FWCW, the Chinese government, guided by the BDPfA, has actively advanced the cause of women's development in China, leading it to the fast track of comprehensive development, manifested in the enhanced status, capacity and wellbeing of women. At the same time, China has endeavored within its capacity to provide assistance in women's development to other developing countries. In September 2015, Chinese President Xi Jinping attended and presided over the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. He called for upholding and advancing the spirit of the FWCW to strive for women's development



The open ceremony of FWCW in Beijing on September 4, 1995

in line with social and economic progress, protect women's rights and interests, build harmonious and inclusive societies, and foster a global environment favorable for women's development. In 2020, at the High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the 25th Anniversary of the FWCW, President Xi Jinping profoundly elaborated on the important role of women in promoting human civilization and social progress, and put forward a four-point proposal, including minimizing the impact of pandemic on women, striving for genuine gender equality, ensuring that women advance at the forefront of the times, and enhancing global cooperation in advancing

women's development. He pledged more support for the global cause of women's development, and proposed the convening in 2025 of another Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

This report provides a synthesis of the underlying concepts, overall advancements and practical results of China's international cooperation on women's empowerment and development over the three decades since the FWCW, particularly the period after 2018. The purpose is to enhance mutual learning and appreciation for advancing the global cause of women's development.

01

Core Principles

In the international cooperation on women's empowerment and development, China prioritizes safeguarding and protecting women's basic rights and interests, and underscoring the importance of fully harnessing women's initiative and

creativity in socio-economic development. China's assistance is tailored in both approaches and sectors to the actual needs of recipients, supporting the comprehensive development of women in recipient countries.

(i) Protecting women's basic rights and interests

Realizing equal basic rights for women is a prerequisite for their comprehensive development, as well as an indicator of the

progress of human civilization. The Beijing Declaration explicitly states that "women's rights are human rights", formally

recognizing the rights of women and girls as an inalienable, indispensable and indivisible part of universal human rights. It lays down strategic goals and policy frameworks for promoting gender equality and ensuring women's rights.

China firmly upholds and defends the basic rights of women as articulated in the BDPfA, and opposes domestic violence and victimization of women

and girls. In its foreign assistance and international development cooperation, China endeavors to protect the rights of local women to education, medical and health services, and other basic services, with a particular emphasis on safeguarding the rights to survival and development of vulnerable groups, including rural women, women with disabilities, elderly women, and women of ethnic minorities.

(ii) Respecting women's creative spirit

Women are creators of both material and spiritual civilization, and they have made extraordinary achievements across all fields of endeavor. Respecting women's subjectivity and unleashing their creative potential align with their aspirations for self-realization, offer an effective way to elevate their status, and further inject strong impetus into socio-economic development.

In its cooperation with other developing countries on women's empowerment and development, China adheres to the principle of "teaching a man to fish", highlighting the importance of enhancing women's development capacity and facilitating their participation in economic and social activities. Support is extended in areas such as education, training and entrepreneurship to empower women to pursue their ambitions and dreams.

(iii) Responding to the actual needs of recipients

Aligning with the needs of beneficiaries is a fundamental requirement for foreign assistance and international development cooperation. Programs driven by the needs of recipients are more likely to be successfully implemented and sustained and to yield tangible and measurable outcomes.

China's foreign assistance projects are

designed and implemented in a demand-oriented approach, with full respect for local cultures, customs and religious beliefs to ensure equality and inclusiveness. The applicability and acceptance of these projects are further enhanced through collaboration with local women's organizations, as well as through community engagement and field investigation.

02

Overall Advancements

Over the past three decades, China has progressively intensified its focus on and investment in international cooperation for women's empowerment and development. Particularly since 2018, notable progress has been made in China's foreign assistance and international development cooperation

concerning women's development, manifested in the wide range and extensive coverage of assistance and effective pooling of resources. These efforts have given a sustained impetus to the cause of women's development around the globe, especially in the Global South.

(i) Wide range of foreign assistance to promote women's comprehensive and sustainable development

Encompassing all facets of women's economic and social life. General and comprehensive assistance projects have placed emphasis on protecting the interests of vulnerable groups and ensuring equitable benefits for women. Moreover, a series of assistance projects targeting women have been launched, fostering a multifaceted support pattern. At present, China's foreign assistance and international development cooperation not only encompass the protection of basic rights and interests, such as combating domestic violence and discrimination, but also extend to social welfare and livelihood areas such as poverty alleviation, health care, education and training, and humanitarian assistance, as well as areas crucial to the long-term

development of women, such as women's participation in political governance, economic empowerment, and cultural and sports activities.

Promoting women's sustainable development. China has always attached importance to capacity building and training programs aimed at enhancing the self-development capacity of recipients. China has fully leveraged the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund (GDSSCF) to implement nearly \$30 million women-related projects across more than 20 countries and train over 2,200 top-level female talents for various developing countries. As time progresses, the scope of the capacity building and training

programs has expanded from traditional sectors such as agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and fisheries to include

handicrafts, manufacturing and emerging digital economy, with women as key beneficiaries.



Cooperation, Exchange and Training Base for Global Women's Cause Development Established

In April 2024, the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) and the All-China Women's Federation (ACWF) jointly established the Cooperation, Exchange and Training Base for Global Women's Cause Development, which is designed to offer programs on women's capacity building, advanced study visits, and foreign assistance training for developing countries. As of January 2025, the program trained more than 180 individuals from nearly 40 countries.

In July 2024, the China-South Asia Female Political Leaders Program, the first all-female training program after the establishment of the base, was launched. The delegation consisted of more than 20 female political leaders from the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Pakistan. These participants attended



Participants of the China-South Asia Female Political Leaders Program visit Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, China

the opening ceremony of the Second High-level Conference of the Forum on Global Action for Shared Development. The delegation also visited China Women's University (CWU), the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Nanjing Women and Children's Healthcare Hospital, and Suzhou Industrial Park, and carried out exchanges on women's

participation in socio-economic development, innovation and entrepreneurship, and women's and children's health care. Taking this opportunity, China shared its experience in advancing the cause of women's development with participants from South Asia, which supports developing countries in enhancing women's capacities to engage in economic and social governance.

(ii) Extensive coverage of foreign assistance to reach various developing countries

Broadened coverage and modalities of foreign assistance. As China's foreign assistance and international development cooperation progress steadily, the coverage and variety of projects under international cooperation on women's empowerment and development has been expanded. These projects include project packages, material and technical assistance, emergency humanitarian assistance, and human resources development cooperation. China's foreign assistance has further extended its reach to various regions, including Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Oceania, and Eastern Europe.

Emphasis on promoting shared development within the Global South. In recent years, countries in the Global South have made achievements in gender equality and women's development, but there still exist problems and challenges. As a member of the Global South, China always stands with other developing countries, and actively advances the endeavor to build a Global South community with a shared future. Through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and South-South Cooperation, China has provided material assistance, cash, and technology to developing countries, in order to promote the common development of women worldwide.

(iii) Enhanced tripartite cooperation to leverage strengths and advantages of various sectors

Closer collaboration with multilateral international organizations. UN agencies and other international organizations possess well-established regional networks and strong professional competence and implementation capacity. Their advantage in "last-mile" delivery channels often enable them to provide the most urgently needed resources to women at the grass-roots level, which helps these groups overcome challenges and lead healthy lives. The Chinese government has consistently enhanced cooperation with multilateral international organizations to improve the

efficiency and effectiveness of its foreign assistance. Within the GDSSCF framework, China has launched over 20 women-related projects, focusing on poverty alleviation, health care and food aid. These projects have been implemented in collaboration with international organizations, including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

Chinese Social Organizations and UN Agencies Jointly Implement the “Water Cellar for Mothers” Project



Rainwater harvesting tanks from the “Water Cellar for Mothers” project

“Water Cellar for Mothers” is a charitable project launched by China Women’s Development Foundation (CWDF) in 2001. This centralized water supply project was initially designed to help people in western China, especially rural women, to alleviate poverty and under-development caused by severe water shortage. In 2016, CWDF donated \$49,000 to UN-Habitat for the implementation of the “Water Cellar for Mothers” project in Kiambu County, Kenya.

The project has consistently emphasized the involvement and benefit of women while adapting to the times. At present, the

project supports rural women and their families in enhancing drinking water quality, developing green agriculture and improving living conditions through measures on drinking water safety, water-saving agriculture and renovation of sanitation facilities. These efforts all contribute to broader countryside development.

As part of the project, 12 water cellars, each with a capacity of 5,000 liters, have been constructed in Kiambu County. These cellars, installed outside residences in accordance with local living practices, collect rainwater to supply potable water to villagers, addressing the

drinking water needs for nearly 1,000 people of 120 households in the county.

This project has brought significant changes to the lives of local residents. The built rainwater harvesting tanks have basically solved the drinking water problem for the family of Jane Gakabi, an 83-year-old resident in Thika Town, Kiambu County, which previously relied on a well 24 kilometers away from her home. In addition to reducing the time spent on water collection, her daughter has established the village’s first retail store, thereby significantly improving the quality of life.

Active participation of non-governmental entities, including universities, enterprises and social organizations. Universities can contribute theoretical expertise and facilitate practical application through translation from theory to practice. Enterprises demonstrate significant advantages in terms of practical technology and capital investment. Social organizations, with strong flexibility and public welfare orientation, can effectively identify the actual needs of recipients, conduct resource alignment,

integration and configuration, and address the service gap through the establishment of convenient and efficient communication and coordination mechanisms. In recent years, under governmental encouragement and guidance, an increasing number of non-governmental entities in China have engaged in international cooperation efforts for women's empowerment and development, creating a sound integrated pattern of multi-shareholder coordination and advancement.

03

Progress and Effects

China has proactively assumed international responsibilities and obligations by engaging in multilateral exchange and cooperation mechanisms and organizing international seminars and symposiums to foster international consensus on promoting women's development. Meanwhile, China has provided material, financial and technical

assistance to partner countries, facilitating substantive progress in women-related areas such as education, poverty alleviation, health and environment. China has thereby made positive contributions to advancing the global agenda for gender equality and supporting women's participation in and benefits from development.

(i) Participating in global multilateral governance and fostering international consensus on women's development

Reaffirming, advocating and pushing forward the spirit of the FWCW. China has consistently advocated for and carried forward the spirit of the FWCW, calling on all countries to translate their

commitments into actions and expedite the implementation of the BDPfA. In 2005 and 2010, China convened a conference on the 10th anniversary commemoration of the FWCW and an international forum

1995



At the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW), held in China in 1995, delegates from 189 countries and regions adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPfA)

2005

In 2005, China convened a conference on the 10th anniversary commemoration of the FWCW

2020

In 2020, President Xi Jinping attended and addressed the High-Level Meeting on the 25th Anniversary of the FWCW

Reaffirming, advocating and pushing forward the spirit of the FWCW

2024



In late September, 2024, UN Women co-hosted, with China, Mexico, Denmark, Kenya, and France, a side event on Beijing+30 as an important component of the High-level Week of the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly

on women in urban development and commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the FWCW, respectively. In 2015, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the FWCW, China and UN Women co-hosted the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, which was attended and chaired by President Xi Jinping. Moreover, China organized a side event on "Leading up to Beijing+20: Promoting Gender Equality" during the 29th Session of the UN Human

Rights Council. In 2020, President Xi Jinping attended and addressed the High-Level Meeting on the 25th Anniversary of the FWCW. In late September, 2024, UN Women co-hosted, with China, Mexico, Denmark, Kenya, and France, a side event on Beijing+30 as an important component of the High-level Week of the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly. Recently on March 7, 2025, the Special Commemoration of International Women's Day and the International Dialogue on

2010

In 2010, China convened an international forum on women in urban development and commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the FWCW

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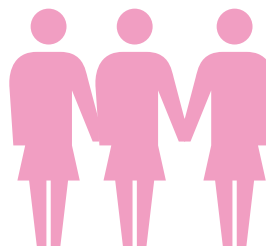
2015

China organized a side event on "Leading up to Beijing+20: Promoting Gender Equality" during the 29th Session of the UN Human Rights Council



2025

On March 7, 2025, the Special Commemoration of International Women's Day and the International Dialogue on Beijing+30 was held in Geneva, calling for solidarity and cooperation to advance the cause of women's development globally



Beijing+30 was held in Geneva, calling for solidarity and cooperation to advance the cause of women's development globally.

Providing strong support for the work of UN agencies. As a member of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the host country of the FWCW, China has actively implemented the BDPfA, the 2030 Agenda and other international agreements. Furthermore, China champions the UN priority of work



2020 High-Level Meeting on the 25th Anniversary of the FWCW

on women's issues, maintains sound relationship and practical cooperation with UN agencies, including UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP, and supports their enhanced roles in promoting global women's issues. President Xi Jinping pledged a \$10 million donation to UN Women at the 2015 Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, and another \$10 million donation at the 2020 High-Level Meeting on the 25th Anniversary of the FWCW.

Actively participating in and organizing multilateral and bilateral exchanges. China has established comprehensive exchange platforms. In June 2023, China hosted the first China-Africa Women's Forum, launching a joint initiative on gender equality and women's comprehensive development in these regions. In September 2024, the

Shanghai Cooperation Organization Forum on Women was convened successfully, offering a new platform for empowering women and deepening dialogue and cooperation. China has also organized exchanges across various domains related to women's development, such as poverty alleviation, education, financing, and protection of rights and interests, to share best practices and jointly explore solutions. In addition, close exchanges and partnerships are sustained with foreign women's organizations and institutions, which enhances understanding, broadens consensus, and enables mutual support and collective action to promote women's development. Chinese women's organizations have maintained friendly relations with 429 counterparts across 145 countries and the relevant UN organizations and specialized agencies.

(ii) Bolstering women's capacity building and girls' education to facilitate female talent development

Talent is the pillar of development. Given that developing countries have a significant demographic advantage, the effective transformation of this advantage into a talent dividend through education and training is crucial to their future. According to UN data from 2020, more than 770 million people, two-thirds of whom are women, still lack basic literacy skills. Consequently, empowering women through education and training is not only integral to their own development, but also

vital for the sustainable development of human society. China has extended support to other developing countries in women's capacity development and vocational education and girls' education. Over the past 30 years, China has trained more than 200,000 female talents from over 180 countries and regions, which substantially enhances women's capability to engage in political and economic spheres and enables their equitable access to education to pursue a beautiful life.

China Actively Organizes Knowledge-sharing Activities on Women's Development

China has exchanged its practical experience with different partners on various topics, including women's education, financing for gender equality, protection of women's rights and interests, and poverty alleviation for women. These efforts aim to promote mutual learning and appreciation in the international community.

In the domain of education, in September 2024, China convened a thematic meeting on women's education on the sidelines of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). Prof. Peng Liyuan, spouse of Chinese President, attended the event and delivered a speech, calling for joint efforts to advance the global development of girls' and women's education towards greater equity and inclusiveness and quality. With regard to financing for gender equality, on March 8, 2024, a Symposium on "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress" was jointly held by Global Development Promotion Center of CIDCA, UN Women China, and the Center



Thematic Meeting on Women's Education of the FOCAC Summit in September 2024

for China & Globalization (CCG) to discuss the issue of investing in gender equality. Regarding the protection of rights and interests, ACWF and UNFPA co-hosted the Workshop on Strengthening Multi-Sector Cooperation to Promote the Protection of Women's Rights in December 2023, which shared practices

and experiences in multi-sector cooperation for the protection of women's rights and interests and the elimination of violence against women. In terms of poverty alleviation, in 2020, ACWF and UN Women jointly organized a symposium on poverty eradication and women's role in the 21st century.

Emphasizing women's capacity building, particularly leadership development in developing countries. ACWF has established training and exchange centers in 15 countries to provide capacity-building training for local women. Since 2018, the

Chinese government has specially arranged 70 short- and medium-term training programs under its foreign assistance for women in developing countries. These programs include the Seminar on Women's Capacity Building for BRI Countries, the

China-Germany Collaboration to Advance Global Women Development

In June 2025, two training workshops under a joint training program organized by CIDCA and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) was successfully conducted at CWU.

The training workshops represent practical efforts of China to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in relation to gender equality and women's development. They are also tripartite training projects specially designed and implemented in alignment with the upcoming 2025 Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Therefore, the workshops hold great significance in boosting women's development around the globe. More than 50 female officials, scholars,



Workshop participants visit an enterprise in Shandong, China

teachers and entrepreneurs from 12 developing countries across Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Pacific Islands participated in the workshops held in China.

Throughout the training, participants learnt about China's innovative practices and achievements in socio-economic spheres and

women's development, and expressed strong appreciation for China's innovative practices in addressing women's issues and protecting women's rights and interests. They indicated the intention to promote women's development in their respective countries by drawing on China's successful experiences.

China-South Asia Female Political Leaders Program, the Workshop on Leadership Capacity Building for Women Officials from Developing Countries, and the Workshop on Social Management Capacity Building for Women Officials from Developing Countries. In addition, the International Program of Master of Social Work in “Women’s Leadership and Social Development” for women officials from

developing countries has enrolled over 130 students from more than 30 countries.

Fostering cooperation on women’s vocational education and offering support in technical experts and instructors. Relying on China’s well-established vocational training system, Luban Workshops share China’s experiences with BRI and African countries. Up to now, totally 34 Luban



Prize for Girls’ and Women’s Education Facilitates the Achievement of the 2030 SDGs on Education

The Award Ceremony of the UNESCO Prize for Girls’ and Women’s Education was held on October 16, 2024, to which Prof. Peng Liyuan, wife of Chinese President Xi Jinping and UNESCO Special Envoy for the Advancement of Girls’ and Women’s Education, sent a congratulatory message.

Two organizations from Uganda and Zambia were awarded the prize this year. Promoting Equality in African Schools (PEAS) from Uganda was honored for its project “Empowering schools for adolescent girls”, which empowers marginalized adolescent girls in rural Uganda. PEAS has successfully adapted



Award Ceremony of the 2024 UNESCO Prize for Girls’ and Women’s Education

and scaled this project, now benefiting almost 300,000 students annually in Ghana, Uganda and Zambia. Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED) from Zambia received recognition for its project “Holistic support for girls to complete and succeed

in secondary school in Zambia”, which provides comprehensive support to girls for addressing barriers to education. Since 2001, CAMFED Zambia has helped 617,875 girls and young women in rural areas to enroll and complete secondary school.

Workshops have been put into operation and trained approximately 4,000 female participants from developing countries. The training covers diverse sectors, including finance and trade, equipment manufacturing, tourism, medical and health care, electronics and information technology, agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery. In addition, the Confucius Institute in Rwanda has offered specialized training programs for women, including Chinese learning plus bamboo weaving technology training, medical care training, and agricultural technology training.

Championing girls' and women's formal education and promoting the realization of the 2030 SDGs on education. In collaboration with China, UNESCO established the Prize for Girls' and Women's Education in 2015. This prize, the only of its kind created by the organization, aims to promote the concept and outstanding practices of gender equality in education, encouraging the education of girls and women around the world. To date, the prize has been conferred to laureates from diverse regions, including Costa Rica, Spain, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Brazil and Mozambique.

(iii) Promoting women's economic empowerment and contributing to women's poverty reduction and income growth

Over the past three decades, there has been a marked increase in women's labor force participation rate across many countries, reflecting progress in gender equality and human civilization. Nevertheless, according to a recent report of the International Labor Organization (ILO), titled "Women and the Economy: 30 Years after the Beijing Declaration", the employment gap between women and men has only narrowed from 27.1 to 23.1 percentage points since 1991. Women's employment rate remains far lower than that of men, recorded at 46.4% and 69.5% in 2024, respectively. At the current rate of change, achieving general equality in employment rates would take almost two centuries. In many developing countries, women often find it difficult to

engage in economic and social activities due to the traditional gender division of labor and lack of skill development and policy support. Through targeted assistance, China has facilitated women's participation in economic activities in recipient countries, thereby contributing to poverty reduction and income growth.

Facilitating women's participation in agricultural production activities. Agriculture represents the primary economic pillar of developing countries, as well as an important area of China's foreign assistance. Studies by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) show that providing women with equal access to resources as

men and enabling women's involvement in agricultural production activities would substantially increase yields, thereby helping reduce hunger and malnutrition. China has transferred advanced agricultural technologies to developing countries, including Juncao and hybrid rice, and launched projects specifically aimed at enhancing women's agricultural productivity, such as "Novel Farming for African Mothers". These efforts have not only injected impetus into agricultural development in developing countries, but also created opportunities for women's participation in agricultural production activities.

Creating enabling conditions for women's participation in non-farming economic activities. In recent years, some developing

countries have become increasingly integrated into global value chains, generating more employment opportunities for women with the rise of export-oriented industries. China provides knowledge and skills training, as well as microfinance and credit support for women's engagement in non-farming economic activities, such as handicraft and manufacturing, and assists women in accessing international markets and identifying entrepreneurial opportunities, which fosters conditions conducive to women's income growth. Chinese social organizations have also begun to address women's workplace issues, and implemented exploratory projects in support of women's legitimate rights and interests in the labor market, creating a safe and secure working environment for women.

China's Agricultural Technical Assistance to Developing Countries Promotes Poverty Reduction and Income Growth among Local Women

China has provided agricultural technical assistance to Burkina Faso, Chad and other African countries, as an important part of the poverty reduction and agricultural development program among the "nine programs" outlined at the 8th FOCAC Ministerial Conference. These efforts have significantly raised the incomes and skillsets of local women, and strengthened their rights and interests, including



Experts of China's assistance project in Burkina Faso provide training on high-yield millet cultivation techniques to local women

their participation in women's development and community influence.

The eighth phase of China's agricultural technical assistance project in Chad has given priority to women in job creation, particularly their employment at key time nodes of production demonstration. More than 300 seasonal jobs have been offered for women in activities such as rice transplanting and vegetable seedling production. This has contributed to a general increase of 30%-50% in women's income, and a marked improvement in women's economic influence and decision-making power in their households.

The second phase of China's Millet Cultivation Demonstration Technical Assistance Project in



Thematic Meeting on Women's Education of the FOCAC Summit in September 2024

Burkina Faso has engaged more than 1,800 local women in technical training since July 2024. Through active participation in the entire cultivation process and in-depth management of planting activities, these women have not only acquired high-yield farming techniques, but also applied knowledge learned to their own grain production, which has directly contributed to the substantial increase in grain yields of local farmers. The average grain yield of the participants rose from 0.8 to 3.2 tons per hectare, with the

corresponding income increase of about 1.2 million West Africa CFA francs per hectare. Moreover, the project team has delivered detailed instruction on the complete spectrum of millet processing techniques, including hulling, milling, pastry preparation and packaging. Under careful expert guidance, local women have rapidly mastered the techniques of making millet cakes and crisps through repeated practice, and become able to produce high value-added millet goods at home.

China's Juncao Technology Helps Reduce Poverty and Increase Income of Women in Papua New Guinea



Freda and a Chinese technical expert at Juncao planting base

Since China's Juncao technology was introduced to the world in the 1980s, it has benefited 106 countries and regions, effectively solving local problems such as poverty, soil erosion and desertification. Moreover, through technical training, industrial demonstration and industrial chain development, China's technical assistance project has empowered women to acquire skills in Juncao and mushroom cultivation and ecological agriculture, thereby

achieving economic self-sufficiency and elevating social status.

In 2012, Freda Korarome, a woman from Papua New Guinea's Eastern Highlands, participated in a two-month international training program on Juncao technology sponsored by the Chinese government. In 2020, supported by China's Juncao and Upland Rice Technology Assistance Project, she began to apply the technology to grow Juncao and established a large-scale mushroom farm,

which produces 200 kilograms of fresh mushrooms weekly. The farm serves as a project demonstration site, providing employment opportunities for 25 farmers, predominantly women. Freda Korarome has also founded two Juncao-based mushroom cooperatives and four Juncao-based mushroom associations, and held ten training sessions to disseminate Juncao-based mushroom cultivation techniques to 1,500 local farmers, especially women, youth and people with

disabilities.

On May 3, 2023, as a female representative of the beneficiaries of the Juncao technology in Papua New Guinea, Freda Korarome participated in the 8th United Nations Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development Goals, where she received a warm response for her sharing of experiences and outcomes.

“Novel Farming for African Mothers” to Enhance Agricultural Productivity among African Women

In June 2023, the First China-Africa Women's Forum was held in Changsha, with a video address by Prof. Peng Liyuan, wife of Chinese President Xi Jinping and UNESCO Special Envoy for Girls' and Women's Education. In September 2024, President Xi Jinping proposed the Partnership Action for Agriculture and Livelihoods during the FOCAC Beijing Summit. In June 2025, the Hunan Women's Federation launched the “Novel Farming for African Mothers” program at the Fourth China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo based on field investigations to six African countries.



Promotion of “Novel Farming for African Mothers”

The three-year program, implemented by the Hunan Women's Federation in collaboration with government departments, research institutes, enterprises and social organizations, aims

to enhance the capacity of African women and improve the welfare of their families. The program encompasses carefully designed three projects and eight actions. The three projects are

Poverty Reduction for African Mothers, Female Leadership and Empowerment, and Family-based Care. The eight actions include multiplying cassava yields, adopting superior seed varieties, expanding the natural rubber value chain, promoting hybrid rice cultivation, enhancing capacity building for mothers, promoting small-scale agricultural machinery, improving women's overall quality, and conducting cultural exchanges.

A "six-good" approach underscoring good fields, good seeds, good machines, good households, good methods and good systems, is employed to augment the

production capacity of cassava, rice, Chinese herbal medicines, and natural rubber in the host countries, with the objective of multiplying agricultural yields. Chinese domestic research institutes and agricultural enterprises, including the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences, Hunan Hybrid Rice Research Center, and LongPing Hi-Tech Agriculture Co., Ltd. provide services including planting demonstration, agricultural technology training, and entrepreneurship and employment support, which enhances the agricultural skills of a part of African women. Hunan University of Finance and Economics and

Hunan Women and Children's Development Foundation leverage their talent and project advantages to empower African women through public welfare assistance and health care services, promoting the comprehensive development of local women.

The "Novel Farming for African Mothers" program will be implemented on a pilot basis in Malawi, Republic of the Congo and Madagascar. Following a phased approach of pilot implementation, demonstration and extension, projects under this pattern will be designed, implemented and scaled up progressively.

(iv) Emphasizing digital empowerment and facilitating women's access to digital development opportunities

Women's engagement is indispensable in the digital era, and women's development is contingent on digital empowerment. The extent to which women can access to development opportunities brought by digitization partly determines their living standards and social status, and impacts gender equality and future women's development. According to the report "Progress on Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2024" published by UN Women and the United

Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESS), the digital gender gap, if left unaddressed, could cost low- and middle-income countries \$500 billion over the next five years. China has incorporated women's digital empowerment as a new priority in its foreign assistance. Notably, several leading Chinese tech companies are actively fulfilling their social responsibilities to facilitate women's access to digital development opportunities in recipient countries by enhancing their digital literacy

and skills through education and training and providing technology and funding support and market opportunities for their engagement in the digital economy.

Promoting women's participation in the digital economy. At present, the digital economy has become an important engine of global economic growth, with women representing an indispensable force in its development. According to the reports of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

(UNCTD), increased women's participation in the digital economy could contribute an estimated additional \$300 billion to the African and Southeast Asian e-commerce markets between 2025 and 2030. With the development trends of the digital economy, China has rendered support to women in developing countries in terms of capacity training, market access and financial support. These efforts aim to promote women's integration into the digital economy and realize their employment and entrepreneurship.

China Helps Enhance E-Commerce and Digital Economy Competencies of Women in Developing Countries

In November 2024, the Seminar on Enhancing the E-Commerce and Digital Economy Competencies of Women Entrepreneurs in Developing Countries was held in Beijing and Shanghai. This program was initiated by CIDCA and implemented by the Academy of International Business Officials (AIBO) of the Ministry of Commerce, with technical support provided by UNCTAD. A total of 31 women entrepreneurs from 12 countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia participated in the seminar.

This training program aims to bolster the capacity of women entrepreneurs in developing



Lecture during the seminar

countries to engage in digital business, and leverage the digital economy, including e-commerce, to support the productive activities of women-led micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, as a way to effectively advance the implementation of the SDGs. The

training program focused on digital entrepreneurship, and through lectures, exchanges and field visits, equipped women entrepreneurs from developing countries with knowledge and skills necessary to expand their business in the highly competitive digital economy.

(v) Delivering anti-epidemic and medical assistance to protect the lives and health of women and children

Maternal and child health is a cornerstone of public health that is essential for sustainable human development. By prioritizing maternal and child health in economic and social development, China has accomplished remarkable achievements and accumulated rich experiences in advancing this domain. Since 2015, China has supported the implementation of 100 Maternal and Child Health Projects in developing countries such as Cambodia, Sierra Leone and Malawi. China actively extended assistance to other developing countries during the COVID-19 pandemic. These efforts help women and children overcome the crisis, strengthen local maternal and child medical service

capacities, and ensure maternal and child nutrition and health, thereby providing robust protection for local maternal and child health.

Helping women and children navigate the COVID-19 crisis. During the pandemic, developing countries faced severe shortages of medical supplies, particularly limiting their accessibility for women and children. ACWF donated multiple batches of anti-epidemic and production supplies to seriously impacted countries, including Egypt, Liberia and Zimbabwe. In 2020, via the Organization of African First Ladies for Development (OAFLD), the Chinese government donated anti-



Embassy of China in Ghana hands over China-aided anti-epidemic supplies to Ghana's First Lady

epidemic medical supplies to women, children and adolescents across 53 African countries, with deliveries completed within four months. Furthermore, to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on access to basic medical and health services for women and children, China collaborated with UNICEF from 2020 to 2022 to provide basic medical

and health services for women and children in Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia and Senegal.

Enhancing local maternal and child medical service capacities. China has offered both “soft and hard” medical assistance to enhance the accessibility of medical services for women and children

China-aided Cervical Disease Screening Center Project in South Sudan

Cervical disease is among the leading causes of mortality for women in South Sudan. On August 25, 2020, the China-aided cervical disease screening center in South Sudan was officially transferred to the Juba Teaching and Referral Hospital. As the sole cervical disease screening facility in South Sudan, this center marks an important step forward in the fight against cervical cancer.

The project was implemented by the First Affiliated Hospital of Anhui Medical University and the Juba Teaching and Referral Hospital in accordance with the paired-assistance cooperation agreement between the National Health Commission of China and the Ministry of Health of South Sudan. The center is well equipped,



Project staff conduct field investigation in South Sudan Cervical Disease Screening Center

including the LEEP system, the cervical multi-functional microwave treatment system, liquid-based thin-layer cell preparation machines, HPV quantitative gene hybridization signal amplifiers, HPV typing chemiluminescence immunoassay analyzers, cryogenic refrigerators, and cryogenic freezing centrifuges.

To date, the center has provided services to nearly 4,000 patients, offering strong support for cervical disease screening, early diagnosis and treatment in South Sudan. Its establishment has played a significant role in cervical disease detection and treatment among women in South Sudan.

in recipient countries. China has assisted in building women's and children's hospitals and health centers, along with donations of medical equipment, to

strengthen local health care facilities. For example, in March 2020, the Chinese government completed a new three-story obstetrics and gynecology complex at

China-aided Health Kit Project in Pakistan Enhances Health and Hygiene of Local Women



A Pakistani schoolgirl receives the health kit

Since 2024, China has donated 20,000 and 50,000 health kits to school-age female students in Balochistan Province of Pakistan in two phases, as a part of the efforts to implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries.

Each health kit contains sanitary pads, soap, hand sanitizer, shampoo, and disinfectant. The phased implementation of the health kit project in Balochistan helps improve women's health and hygiene, which demonstrates the deep friendship between

China and Pakistan. The project has garnered great attention from Pakistani media, with extensive coverage across media outlets. Local residents and students in Balochistan have also expressed their sincere gratitude for China's assistance in various forms.

the Senegalese Women's and Children's Hospital, equipped with patient beds, operating rooms, ancillary rooms, and medical equipment. In addition, China has promoted appropriate medical experiences and technologies to improve local diagnosis and treatment capacities. According to statistics, Chinese medical assistance teams have carried out maternal and child health protection activities and promoted appropriate technologies in 44 countries and regions, including Morocco, Ethiopia, Timor-Leste, and Guyana.

Ensuring maternal and newborn nutrition and health. Close to 300,000 women die during pregnancy or childbirth each year, and more than 2 million newborns die in their first month of life, according to

the World Health Organization (WHO). Therefore, China has prioritized maternal and newborn health its medical assistance. Currently, there are 117 obstetricians and pediatricians in Chinese medical assistance teams, who provide routine medical services for pregnant women, infants and children in recipient countries, help train local medical workers, and engage in community health education. In 2024, these teams delivered 63,800 newborns abroad. Furthermore, in early 2020, China launched the "Improving Maternal, Newborn and Child Health in Eight African Countries" program in partnership with UNICEF, which has contributed significantly to reducing maternal and newborn mortality rates in these regions.



China Aid Delivers Essential Nutrition to Pregnant and Lactating Women in Timor-Leste

Due to persistent poverty, only 15% to 37% of households in Timor-Leste can afford nutritious meals, resulting in one of the highest malnutrition rates in the world. As pregnant and lactating women require special nutrition, including proteins, vitamins and minerals, malnutrition has particularly severe adverse effects on their own health and the health of their

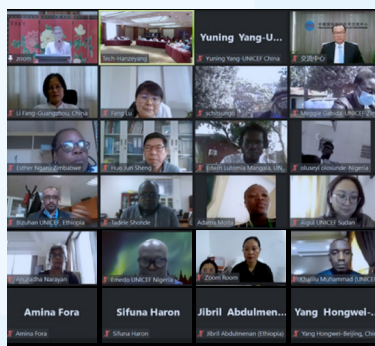
children. Around 30% of women of reproductive age in Timor-Leste suffer from anemic. Moreover, child malnutrition, such as stunting, affects nearly 50% children under the age of five in the country. These deficiencies undermine not only family wellbeing, but also national development as a whole. The "Super Cereal: A Wheat-Soy Blend" project, initiated

by GDSSCF in 2022, provides pregnant and lactating women with a nutritional supplementary food rich in proteins, vitamins and minerals. By distributing 575 metric tons of Super Cereal monthly to 14,172 pregnant and lactating women, the project effectively supports the Ministry of Health of Timor-Leste in addressing malnutrition.

“Improving Maternal, Newborn and Child Health in Eight African Countries” Program

Over the past three decades, enormous progress has been made in child survival, with the global under-five mortality rate reduced by more than half. However, progress in improving newborn survival and related services has been slow. In 2018, newborn deaths, occurring within the first month of life, accounted for 47% of under-five mortality. Sub-Saharan Africa remains the region with the highest under-five mortality rate.

In early 2020, South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund (SSCAF) partnered with UNICEF to implement the “Improving Maternal, Newborn and Child Health in Eight African Countries” program in eight African countries (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and Zimbabwe). The program aims to improve maternal, newborn and child health by expanding access to high-impact health services and essential medicines for newborns and mothers. In addition to training on skills, this program shares China’s relevant policies and best practices, thereby enhancing the capacities of local health workers



Closing ceremony of the online training session for the “Improving Maternal, Newborn and Child Health in Eight African Countries” program

and communities. It has yielded significant results, accelerating the achievement of the SDGs on women and children in these countries.

In particular, the Zimbabwe project reached 1.74 million people. First, in the priority provinces of Mashonaland Central and Matabeleland South, the proportion of rural households with access to high-impact rural health services increased from 76% to 83%, while the proportion of rural births attended by skilled health workers rose from 78% to 90.2%. Second, the project delivered services to 57,000 pregnant women, mitigating maternal risk; conducted growth monitoring for 447,000 children under the age of five; and gave treatment to

over 5,200 children with diarrhea. Through grassroots service centers, maternity, health and nutrition services were provided to 216,000 women and children, and COVID-19 prevention information was disseminated to 1.02 million households. Third, the project offered maternity training for 328 health workers from 80 health facilities in Zimbabwe, and comprehensive obstetric and newborn care training for 24 health care teams. In addition, 3,500 community health workers received training in community-based care through the project.

The Kenya project benefited approximately 3 million people. It provided medical supplies and technical training to 159 health facilities across eight counties in Kenya. Through capacity building of medical staff, provision of medical equipment and establishment of information and statistical systems, this project improves both the quality and coverage of maternal, newborn and child health interventions, optimizes health care delivery in the project sites, and reduces maternal and newborn mortality rates.

(vi) Prioritizing women and children in emergency disaster assistance to ensure prompt relief

Amid the increasingly grim situation of climate change, extreme weather events and associated natural disasters are becoming more frequent, causing huge losses to human life and economic and social development. The World Economic Forum projected that by 2030, the number of extreme weather events may exceed 560 every year. Recognizing the higher vulnerability of women and children during natural disasters, China prioritizes these groups in foreign assistance to guarantee prompt relief. This approach reflects the commitment to building a more inclusive humanitarian response system.

Regarding emergency response, China

advocates the establishment of a disaster relief mechanism that prioritizes women and children, ensuring equitable and preferential treatment in evacuation process, supplies distribution, health care and epidemic prevention. In practice, effective response to the actual needs of women and children is achieved through the distribution of specialized “women’s emergency kits”, which contain sanitary pads, maternity care products, and food for infants and young children, among other special items. In addition, when setting up temporary shelters and medical facilities, emphasis has been placed on the creation of safe and private spaces to prevent gender-based violence and infringement of privacy.

China Provides Hygiene Assistance to Affected Women

In December 2024, China donated hygiene kits to Rohingya refugee women and girls in Bangladesh, as part of the tripartite cooperation between the Chinese government and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Bangladesh within the GDSSCF framework. This initiative aims to provide more than 120,000 female hygiene kits to Rohingya refugee women and girls in Bangladesh to effectively improve their hygiene and health conditions.



Donation ceremony of this initiative

Regarding post-disaster recovery, China promotes the development of targeted resettlement programs for women within aided reconstruction projects. Moreover, it provides multifaceted support, including psychological counseling, nutritional supplementation and regular health checkup, for special groups such as elderly individuals of no family and pregnant and lactating mothers. In certain cooperation projects, “women’s support centers” or “women’s psychological rehab centers” have been established, which provide integrated services for affected women, including emotional release, legal counseling and skills training, to facilitate their psychological and livelihood recovery.

In addition, China attaches great importance to enhancing local women’s awareness of their roles in disaster management and their organizational capacities. It supports the training and involvement of local female volunteers in rescue and reconstruction efforts. These volunteers often play an irreplaceable role in the post-disaster context, including the distribution of community resources, care for vulnerable groups, and implementation of health education. Some reconstruction projects also encourage women to participate in infrastructure repair, environmental remediation and small-scale income-generating activities, so that women are poised not only as “recipients” but also as “rebuilders”.



China’s Disaster Relief Assistance Helps Restore Women’s Capacity for Self-Development

China, in partnership with UNDP, has implemented a number of women’s empowerment projects through GDSSCF, emphasizing livelihood restoration as an entry point to enhance women’s productive capacity and economic self-sufficiency in disaster-stricken areas. The flood recovery project in Balochistan of Pakistan, under

the theme “Empowering women: Resilience in every stitch”, provides sewing machines and basic training to local women, and encourages them to engage in small-scale handicraft production. This facilitates a gradual transition from traditional agricultural labor to a lighter, more flexible household economy.

The project enables women to quickly restore their livelihoods in the aftermath of the disaster, which not only achieves their self-development, but also supports household income and child rearing. It effectively elevates women’s social status in their communities while enhancing family resilience to risks.

04

Conclusion and Outlook

Over the past 30 years, under the auspices of the BDPfA, the concept of gender equality has become deeply rooted in people's hearts; the status of women across many countries has been markedly elevated; and the cause of women's development has made substantial progress. Nonetheless, there is still a long way to go in the pursuit of gender equality and women's development. Around 85% of the gender equality targets in SDG 5 are off track or see slow progress. Women and children in many countries and regions bear the brunt of violent crises, including recurrent localized conflicts, escalating geopolitical tensions, increasingly frequent and intense climate disasters, and acute food insecurity. According to the UN reports, more than 600 million women and girls are affected by conflicts and wars; 2 billion lack access to social security; and nearly 10% live in extreme poverty. The recent drastic reduction of international development assistance by certain developed countries further exacerbates resource gaps for women's development in developing countries, particularly in areas such as poverty alleviation, education and health. This situation poses new challenges to the global cause of gender equality and women's development. It is imperative for all countries and all sectors to collaborate to promote women's empowerment and development, particularly to enhance support for the cause of women's development in developing countries.

China will remain committed to advancing the implementation of the BDPfA and continue to improve the environment for the development of women and children. In response to the needs of global women's development based on its own strengths, China will identify priority areas aligned with contemporary features, and continue to expand the scope, relevance and effectiveness of its foreign assistance, so as to make greater contributions to the global progress of gender equality and women's empowerment.

Firstly, firmly upholding the critical role of relevant UN agencies. The UN's coordinating function is indispensable to advancing the cause of women's development. China calls on all countries to actively implement the BDPfA alongside the 2030 Agenda to expedite the cause of women's empowerment and development.

China advocates for increased representation of women within the UN system, and supports reform aimed at improving quality and effectiveness of UN Women and other UN agencies, so as to better promote gender equality and women's development worldwide, especially in the Global South. Developed countries are expected to augment financial support for UN Women and other relevant agencies.

Secondly, striving to safeguard the basic rights and interests of women and children. Safeguarding the right to survival for women and children is a basic expression of the international humanitarian spirit. The Chinese government will step up collaboration with UN Women, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA and other relevant agencies to provide assistance within its capacity to women and children in humanitarian crises, including armed conflicts, poverty, hunger, and public health emergencies. Enterprises and social organizations are encouraged to participate actively, pooling resources to foster synergy and complementarity.

Thirdly, intensifying cooperation in building women's capacities and developing human resources. Enhancing women's capabilities is fundamental to the long-term sustainable and comprehensive advancement of women's development. China will fully leverage the Exchange and Training Base of Global Women's Development Cooperation among various important platforms to step up experience sharing with other developing countries. The government will also strengthen cooperation with universities, enterprises, social organizations and international organizations to mobilize and channel additional resources to training programs for women in developing countries, focusing on the most pressing areas, such as poverty alleviation, education, health, management and leadership, so as to improve women's self-development capacity.

Fourthly, enhancing global cooperation for women's digital empowerment. China will continue to advance the implementation of the AI Capacity Building Action Plan for Good and for All, with a particular emphasis on building the "Digital South" brand. It will scale up technical and financial support and carry out training programs for women's digital empowerment in developing countries to enhance their digital literacy and skills. These efforts seek to fully unlock women's innovative potential and enable them to benefit from the development dividends brought by digital transition. The Chinese government will cooperate with UNESCO and other organizations by organizing international seminars and forums that bring together experts and scholars at home and abroad, to discuss issues related to digital empowerment of women's development.

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