The report sets out Plan International's progress in China towards our purpose and values between July 2019 and June 2020.

Safeguarding children and young people

Throughout all our activities, Plan International is committed to ensuring the protection, security, privacy and dignity of all the children and young people we work with. If you have any questions or concerns about keeping children and young people safe and protected at Plan International, please contact us: china.scyp@plan-international.org.
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MESSAGE FROM COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Looking back on 2020, so many moments served as vivid reminders of the important challenges we are up against, as well as the amazing power we have to address the new realities which COVID-19 presented to us. We realized that even in the most difficult times we can come together with our partners to support girls, boys and communities so that they can quickly adjust to the new normal.

The early start to use of digital technology made it easier for Plan International office in China to continue its programs when the outbreak of COVID-19 started, where conventional way of working was no more possible. Our China office was the first Plan International office to confront COVID-19, therefore we could provide guidance to other countries who were yet to face the full brunt of the pandemic. 2020 became an era of extended remote working therefore, protocols and tools for effective work were developed and shared with other countries around the world.

As you read this report, you’ll see there’s a lot worth celebrating. From witnessing long-running projects wind down to seeing new efforts just get underway in form of setting up of Youth Advisory Panel (YAP). 2020 has reinforced how important our work is, and how much we rely on our partners to make it a reality, by uniting for our cause, we’re able to create far more impact than we ever could separately.

All of our accomplishment would not have been possible without the endless efforts of Shaanxi Women’s Federation as our supervising unit, our China staff, the partners, the communities and the girls and boys with whom we worked.

Lastly my sincere gratitude to our donors and sponsors without whom this journey would not have been possible. I believe our work in China will continue to thrive as we work together for the brighter future of all children.

Haider W. Yaqub  
Country Director  
Plan International Inc. Shaanxi Representative Office
ABOUT US

Plan International is an independent development and humanitarian organisation that has been advancing the equal development of children and young people, especially girls and female youth since its establishment for over 80 years, and are now active in 77 countries and regions.

In 1995, Plan International started its operation in China, and in 2017, we registered as Plan International Inc. Shaanxi Representative Office to continue working for and with girls and boys in China.

During our work in the past 25 years in China, through working with children, young people, our supporters and partners, we have driven changes for the life, learning, working and development of children and young people.

By June 2020, Plan International has invested over RMB 785 million* in the mainland of China to transform changes for children and young people in need.

*Plan International’s exchange rate in June 2020: CNY 2.880=EUR 1
GLOBAL STRATEGY 2017-2022

OUR PURPOSE
ADVANCING CHILDREN’S RIGHTS AND EQUALITY FOR GIRLS

Everywhere we work

- LEARN
  - are educated and have the skills for work and life

- LEAD
  - take action on issues that matter to them

- THRIVE
  - grow up cared for and free from violence and fear

- DECIDE
  - have control over their lives and bodies

Vulnerable children, especially girls:

in development and humanitarian response

OUR AMBITION
Together, we take action so that 100 million girls learn, lead, decide and thrive
Our Goal to 2024:

*Children affected by migration in China, particularly girls, thrive, learn, and are free from all forms of violence and gender based stereotypes and discrimination.*

- We are aiming to achieve the goal through the following four programme areas:
  - Nurturing the future
  - Learning for life
  - Protection from violence
  - Ready for the future

We will develop gender-transformative and influential projects and strengthen the capacity of related social organizations through the application of digital technology.

In this process, we align with partners in different fields who share similar ambitions: government sectors, social organizations, private sectors, institutions, family caregivers, teachers, community members, schools, children and young people, especially girls and young women.

Based on our experiences in China during the past 24 years, we aspire to be the technical leader in the areas of child protection and development, and youth employment; front liner and influencer to advocate child rights and equality for girls; and promoter for addressing girls’ issues in China with multi-stakeholders, and strengthening China’s contribution in monitoring and achieving child-related SDGs.
PLAN INTERNATIONAL IN 2020

Active in 75 countries and regions
Supporters sponsored 1,322,000 children
Worked with children in 57,251 communities
50,905,094 children reached by our work, including 26,881,125 girls
Spent €910 million*

*Plan International’s exchange rate in June 2020: RMB7.880=Euro 1
PLAN INTERNATIONAL IN 2020

**NUMBERS IN CHINA**

- Partnered with **39** government departments, organizations, institutions and corporates
- Benefited **1,790,251** females and males (directly and indirectly), including **265,717** girls and **635,725** women
- Worked with **130** communities
- Spent ¥**38.93** million*
  Accumulatively invested ¥**785** million in China
- Supporters sponsored **24,837** children

*Plan International’s exchange rate in June 2020: CNY 7.880=EUR 1
OUR WORKING AREAS AND PROJECTS

Programme & sponsorship areas
Grant-supported areas
OUR WORKING AREAS AND PROJECTS

SHAANXI
- Child Protection Project
- Early Childhood Care and Development Project
- Project of Promoting Girls’ Meaningful Participation as Citizens
- Girls’ Empowerment through STEM Project
- Female Youth Employment Project
- Project of Girls’ Scholarship and Life Skills Training
- Project of Protective Equipment Provision for Community Women, Children and Their Families
- COVID-19 Response and Prevention Project
- Capacity Building Project for Social Organizations
- Project of Training for Little Journalist of Voice of Children Magazine
- Children’s Reading and Education Supportive Project
- Development and Supporting Project for Sponsored Children

SICHUAN
- Youth Employment Project

NINGXIA
- Early Childhood Care and Development Project
- Life and Financial Skills Improvement Project for Youth in Longde County
- Project of Protective Equipment Provision for Community Women, Children and Their Families
- Project of Training for Little Journalist of Voice of Children Magazine
- Girls’ Empowerment through STEM Project
- Children’s Reading and Education Supportive Project
- Development and Supporting Project for Sponsored Children

QINGHAI
- Improved Responsiveness of Social Protection of Migrant and Left-behind Children in Qinghai and Anhui Province

BEIJING
- Youth Employment Project

ANHUI
- Improved Responsiveness of Social Protection of Migrant and Left-behind Children in Qinghai and Anhui Province

YUNNAN
- Adolescents’ Life Skills and Financial Education Project
- Early Childhood Care and Development Project
- Project of Promoting Girls’ Meaningful Participation as Citizens
- School-bullying Prevention and Research Project in Primary and Middle Schools
- Youth Employment Solutions for You Project in Wenshan Prefecture
- School Environment Improvement Project in Guangnan County
- Project of Protective Equipment Provision for Community Women, Children and Their Families
- COVID-19 Response and Health Promotion Project in Program Schools
- Project of Training for Little Journalist of Voice of Children Magazine
- Children’s Reading and Education Supportive Project
- Development and Supporting Project for Sponsored Children
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Our Response to COVID-19

In early February 2019, in response to the COVID-19 outbreak in China, Plan International communicated with its supervising unit Shaanxi Women’s Federation and partners at various levels and launched timely the program for offering pandemic prevention supplies to program areas and non-program areas in Shaanxi, Ningxia and Yunnan. Specifically, RMB2.68 million worth of pandemic prevention supplies including disinfectant, no-wash hand sanitizer, surgical masks, medical gloves, medical alcohol, protective clothing, goggles, N95 masks, disposable masks, etc. were distributed to relevant medical institutions, communities and schools, directly benefiting 27,324 girls, 30,885 boys, 15,704 adult women and 8,498 adult men, and indirectly benefiting more than 1.49 million people.

We have also shown our special concern for the employment of women subject to the pandemic. In 2020, we gave a living allowance of RMB800 per capita to 1,010 young people in more than ten counties in Shaanxi who were jobless due to COVID-19 and 120 such young people in Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region (of which, 98% were young women), in addition to continuously supporting employment and entrepreneurship training for women.
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Youth Advisory Panel (YAP)

The Youth Advisory Panel of Plan International in China was established in January 2020, which consists of 12 young aged between 19 and 27 who are committed to the development of children and women. The Youth Advisory Panel has been organizing online or face-to-face meetings regularly since March 2020, which encourage YAP members to provide suggestions and comments on the design and implementation of the programs of Plan International from the perspective of young people.

In 2020, YAP held totally 8 online meetings and 2 face-to-face meetings. These meetings covered various themes, such as social gender, STEM, career planning and personal development, period shaming and poverty, economic empowerment etc.

In September, 2020, one YAP member participated in Plan International’s Virtual APAC Regional Congress, exchanging ideas with young people from other countries and providing suggestions on the update of Plan International’s global strategy.

From September to December 2020, 8 YAP members participated in 2020 National Mock CPPCC Proposal for Adolescents jointly held by the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League and All-China Students’ Federation in two groups and submitted the Policy Proposal of Addressing the Period Poverty of China’s Low-income Population and the Policy Proposal of Promoting the Balanced Development of STEM Education in China, in the hope of providing suggestions on China’s development.
FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS
Early Childhood Care and Development Program
– Promoting Gender Equality in Kindergarten Education

Objectives
The program aims to ensure that girls and boys aged between 3 and 6 have equal access to gender sensitive quality early childhood education. Its specific objectives are:

• To ensure girls and boys aged between 3 and 6 receive gender sensitive pre-primary education;

• To incorporate gender perspective into practices of pre-primary education.

Related policies
The program supports China’s practices and policies of promoting quality preschool education, such as the Guidelines for Kindergarten Education published by the Ministry of Education. It also responds to the 2011-2020 Programme for the Development of Chinese Women, which includes the strategy of "comprehensively implementing the principle of gender equality in education".

Key achievements and highlights
In FY2020, in collaboration with the education departments and women’s federations in Shaanxi, Yunnan and other places, we provided training on gender equality and practical methods for promoting gender equality in kindergarten for a total of 200 kindergarten heads and teachers (including 171 women) from 64 kindergartens. The training aimed to guide the teaching staff to integrate gender equality into the kindergarten curriculum and daily routine, including learning environment design, children’s daily life and selection of picture books.

It is worth mentioning that we cooperated with Jia County Education Bureau and launched the pilot program on promoting gender equality in kindergartens. Due to the program, the local education bureau has included "gender perspective" in its system for the annual evaluation of the quality of preschool education, to better track and accelerate the progress on promoting gender equality in kindergarten education.

We will continue to improve the pilot program and sum up experience and promote it in other rural kindergartens in Shaanxi and Yunnan, among others.
Girls Empowerment through STEM\textsuperscript{1} Education Program

Objectives
This program is designed to provide opportunities and pathways for children, especially girls (aged between 10 and 14) in rural schools to learn STEM, and stimulate their interest, confidence and potential in these areas, thereby helping girls and women learn and develop in multiple disciplines fully and equally.

Related policies at national or local levels
The program supports China’s practices and policies of promoting and exploring STEM education, particularly the Thirteenth Five Year Plan for Education and the 2029 Action Plan for China’s STEM Education.

Program achievements and highlights
In FY2020, we launched the program in 49 rural schools in Shaanxi, Ningxia and Yunnan. We worked together with the local education bureaus to establish child-friendly STEM learning centers in schools involved in the program; we provided training for school teachers on robot programming teaching and teaching methods featuring gender equality, with the children taking a leading role; and we supported 38 schools to carry out weekly STEM club course learning activities for students.

In addition to regular activities, the program also furnished various training and promotion opportunities for teachers and children, in a bid to better motivate girls and teachers to participate in technological innovation and boost their self-confidence.

- In June 2020, 19 students (including 13 girls) in Pucheng County, Shaanxi Province participated in the technological innovation competition organized by the county education bureau.
- Three female teachers from Chunhua County and Pucheng County, Shaanxi Province participated in the national youth robot maker instructor training held by Chinese Institute of Electronics and obtained the certificates for level 1-2 and level 3-4 youth robot maker instructors, respectively.
- In 2020, a total of 1,200 children (including 800 girls) and 99 teachers (including 53 female teachers) directly benefited from the program.

We also worked with Beijing Normal University to explore ways to develop a growth mindset in STEM learning activities, helping students, especially girls, overcome difficulties, increase confidence, set long-term goals, and further improve their future development. We will summarize experience from the gender-friendly program and promote the program in other rural schools in the future.

\*STEM is an interdisciplinary teaching method which groups together science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
Child Protection Program
– Applying Information Technology to Prevent School Bullying

Objectives
The program aims to improve peer relations and make the school a safer and more positive place for students to learn and grow. Its specific objectives are:

- To reduce existing bullying problems among students;
- To prevent new bullying problems;
- To achieve better peer relations at schools.

Related policies at national or local levels
The program supports the Comprehensive Program for Strengthening Anti-bullying of Primary and Secondary School Students co-issued by the Ministry of Education and other 10 departments.

Program achievements and highlights
The program covered 20 schools in 6 counties of Yunnan and Shaanxi, and benefited a total of 9,004 students (including 4,432 girls and 4,572 boys) and all school teachers.

The program has realized a systematic model of school-wide participation and changing the campus atmosphere at the individual, class, school and community levels. It has not only improved students’ ability to deal with bullying, but also increased the participation and involvement of all faculty, parents and the community in preventing and reducing bullying. With the efforts of all parties, the program aims to create a safer and healthier environment for learning and development.

The program has also used information technology modules to include teachers, parents and students in the technology service platform. The program has developed an online micro-lecture series for teachers. In the future, it will further roll out a platform for parent-student interaction, learning and consultation and an online manual consultation service platform.

In May 2020, at the invitation of Yunnan Provincial Department of Education, Plan International conducted an online training on preventing bullying for primary and secondary school heads in Yunnan Province, with participation of more than 200,000 people.
Youth Economic Empowerment Program

Objectives
The program aims to strengthen economic guarantee for vulnerable young people aged between 16 and 29, especially young women, and to improve their financial management, employment and entrepreneurial skills, thereby enhancing their self-confidence, helping them fit into society and get decent jobs.

Related policies at national or local levels

Program achievements and highlights
In FY2020, a total of 823 young people (79% of whom were women) benefited from the program and acquired the necessary skills for decent work, including market-driven vocational skills, life skills, work readiness skills, entrepreneurship skills, as well as integrated services on career counselling, job placement and post-placement mentoring.

The life skills and work readiness training is beneficial in two aspects. On the one hand, it has improved the competitiveness of vulnerable youth in employment, making them fully prepared and better adapt to workplace. On the other hand, it has filled the gap between young people’s abilities and the requirements of the society, which resulted from some vocational training institutions focusing only on vocational skills.

Through offline communication and online social media platforms, the program has built a sustainable network among enterprises, training institutions and NGOs to conduct regular exchanges and monitoring, thereby providing timely support for the young trainees and working together to create a gender-friendly working environment.
Adolescents' Life Skills and Financial Education Program

Objectives
The program aims to increase the life skills and financial management skills of adolescent girls and boys aged between 12 and 16, while enhancing their self-confidence and getting them better prepared for future career development.

Related policies at national or local levels
The program supports the Guidelines for Comprehensive Practical Activities Curriculum in Primary and Secondary Schools, which was issued by the Ministry of Education in September 2017.

Program achievements and highlights
Through close cooperation with government departments, schools and peer institutions, the program has incorporated financial management skills, life skills, career planning and gender equality training into the formal curriculum, in a child-friendly and participatory way.

Most of the girls and boys in these rural middle schools are left-behind children. By participating in the program, their interest in continuing their studies has increased, and they have better plans for future careers, which can prevent them from entering the society when they are adolescent or unprepared.

In 2020, 15,870 adolescents (including 7,583 girls) took the courses, and more than 190 teachers saw their teaching abilities and awareness improved through the training, so that they could better teach the students. Moreover, 3,433 adolescents (including 1,533 girls) participated in the online guidance and experience sharing activity of "Career Role Models"; 14,152 adolescents (including 6,660 girls) participated in the child-led school activities of the youth club, fully applying their knowledge and skills into practice.
SPONSORSHIP COMMUNICATIONS

Sponsorship establishes meaningful communications among communities, children and sponsors. It provides Plan International with the stable resources to deliver long term interventions in communities, so as to continuously improve the quality of lives, education and development of local children. Sponsorship is a solid foundation for Plan International, which enables people concerned about children’s development to get together and to participate in it.

Through the one to one communications - letters, visits - between sponsors from 22 countries and regions and tens of thousands of sponsored children (of whom more than 50% are girls) from Shaanxi, Ningxia and Yunnan, sponsored children’s vision is expanded, their extracurricular life is enriched and their self-confidence is enhanced. At the same time, it enables sponsors to better understand the needs of children in underdeveloped areas and continue to support the programs that Plan International is working on.

In FY2020, Plan International’s sponsorship work has:
- Sponsored 24,837 children, including 12,910 girls and 11,927 boys;
- Supported over 100 pupils to participate in cross-culture communication activities, which helped broaden their views and improve their self-confidence;
- Assisted 16 schools to set up the Little Journalist Club, recruited and trained nearly 300 students to become little journalists, and enabled them to express opinions and make decisions on issues affecting their lives.
OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES

On July 25, 2019, Shaanxi Women’s Federation, Plan International and Shaanxi Woman Friend Media Group held the Annual Review Meeting of Shaanxi Female Youth Employment Project. Ms. Shan Hong, the vice chairperson of Shaanxi Women’s Federation, said that the program constituted an important part of the Poverty Alleviation Action for Impoverished Women in Shaanxi, which not only improved the vocational and life skills of migrant and needy young women and promoted poverty reduction through employment, but also motivated more women to release their power while achieving self-development.

In July and August 2019, during the last summer vacation of the program for Improved Responsiveness of Social Protection of Migrant and Left-behind Children in Qinghai and Anhui Province supported by the European Union and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the program partners carried out summer vacation service activities for children in communities in the suburb of Golmud City, including safety education, parent-child activities, child protection and other participatory activities.

Meanwhile, in Lixin County, Anhui Province, a group of college student volunteers launched a 21-day children protection service for over 400 children (70% of whom are left-behind children), involving knowledge of safety, self-protection and sexual assault prevention.

In August 2019, Chengdu Youth Employment Project funded by Plan International Netherlands was successfully concluded. Over the past three years, the program has served nearly 1,000 trainees. A book entitled Employment Support for Migrant Youth – Action Research on the YES4U Project based on project tracking was released at the project summing-up meeting.

At the end of August 2019, the Beijing Migrant Youth Employment Project supported by CHANEL Foundation, Gide and Plan International and run by Beijing Cultural Development Center for Rural Women was successfully concluded. The project which lasted for three years and a half served a total of 900 migrant young people aged between 16 and 40 (80% of whom are women), of whom 813 trainees got employed in urban areas.
OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES

On the International Day of the Girl Child on October 11, 2019, Plan International posted articles themed “Rewrite Her Story” under “Girls Get Equal” on its official WeChat and Weiibo platforms and the short film “Women on Screen”. We analyzed gender equality and inequality in life through gender lens, discussed how women’s images are stereotyped and discrimination against them in well-known English scripts, and shared films and TV series that successfully create women’s image.

In October 2019, the “School Bullying Prevention and Girl Protection” training supported by Plan International and Shaanxi Women and Children Development Foundation was carried out in many primary schools in Xi’an City. Through knowledge explanation, participation and interaction, and scenario simulation, the training helped children to prevent bullying, protect themselves and maintain good peer relations.

In October 2019, the Capacity Building Project for Shaanxi Social Organizations supported by Plan International and Shaanxi Women and Children Development Foundation continued to provide trainings to local organizations in Shaanxi, in a bid to boost the sound development of welfare programs for women and children.

In December 2019, the “Reading Festival” activity in the Children’s Reading Project was launched in Shaanxi and Ningxia. Schools participating in the project let children manage the library on their own and become volunteers, thereby encouraging them to read actively and happily. In addition, the project also explored the application of social feelings in learning, aiming to help children develop a growth mindset, view problems with optimism and form a positive attitude towards life.
OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES

In December 2019, the Guangnan Children’s Health Development Project launched by Plan International, Guangnan Health Bureau, Guangnan Women’s Federation and Guangnan Maternal & Child Health Hospital was successfully concluded and a summing-up meeting was held. During the five-year project, Plan International collaborated with health systems and women’s federations at all levels to provide communities with professional medical services and parenting guidance, in a bid to improve the health conditions of children under 5 in Guangnan County, Yunnan Province.

In May 2020, the Beijing-Shaanxi Migrant Youth Employment Project officially kicked off. The project focuses on the development needs of young women in rural areas and will provide training on market-driven vocational skills, life skills and work readiness for at least 600 young people aged between 16 and 29 in Shaanxi, especially young women in poverty, so that they can get a decent job. In the meantime, the project will also offer follow-up support to trainees who have participated in the Beijing Youth Employment project under Plan International, so as to enhance their competitiveness in workplace and promote stable employment.
**FINANCES**

**PROGRAM EXPENDITURES BY AREAS**

- **Healthy Start in Life**: 21.05%
- **Education**: 20.53%
- **Child Protection**: 19.71%
- **Economic Security**: 18.48%
- **Sponsorship Communication**: 10.61%
- **Child and Youth Participation**: 8.42%
- **Emergencies**: 1.20%

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE**

¥35,963,046

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**SOURCE OF FUNDS**

- **31.31%** of the projects were funded by donors including Atlas Copco, AkzoNobel, ASML Foundation, CHANEL Foundation, Credit Suisse, Daiichi Sankyo, Gide, GSRD Foundation, Henkel, HKSAR public donation, KPMG, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Sida, the EU and Target (listed in alphabetical order).

- **68.69%** of the projects were covered through Plan International’s regular sponsorship funds.