

CHINA

Improving nutrition and food safety for China's most vulnerable women and children (MDGF- 1991)

Children, Food Security and Nutrition



Total Budget:	USD 6,000,000		
Budget by Agency:	WFP: 209,720 WHO: 1,735,540 UNICEF: 957,650 UNESCO: 418,880	FAO: 1,048,600 UNDP: 567,100 UNIDO: 581,010	
Participating Gov. Entities:	Ministry of Health, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Ministry of Education and education system, Ministry of Agriculture, as well as local media		
Start Date:	8 December 2009		
Est. End Date:	8 December 2012		
Disbursements:	First Disbursement:	8 December 2009	USD 2,183,210
	Second Disbursement:	17 January 2011	USD 2,181,810
	Third Disbursement:		
In Brief:	China's impressive progress on reducing hunger has relied mainly on increasing incomes and food production. As rural/urban disparities in income and nutrition widen to globally unprecedented levels, it will require a more targeted approach to reach the 123 million people still undernourished, including 7 million stunted children. Inadequate feeding practices and poor food safety compromise the gains made to date in child health and nutrition. The programme will: improve evidence on under nutrition in China for targeting and policy making; promote safe and healthy feeding practices, including exclusive breastfeeding and locally-appropriate complementary food; and improve food safety. It will target 1.2 million children and women in 6 of the poorest counties with demonstration projects as a basis for scaling-up to national policy. It will use the UN's partnerships in poverty alleviation, agriculture, health, nutrition and education to bring international expertise to the fore.		

Outcomes:

- Policy decisions and targeting are informed by reliable and up-to-date evidence on the magnitude, distribution, types and causes of under nutrition in China;
- Under nutrition and micronutrient deficiencies reduced among poor women and children in selected demonstration counties;
- Food-related illnesses reduced through safer food production and preparation for children;
- National child nutrition and food safety policies, guidelines, regulations and standards are revised according to results of the pilots, and lessons are scaled up nationwide.

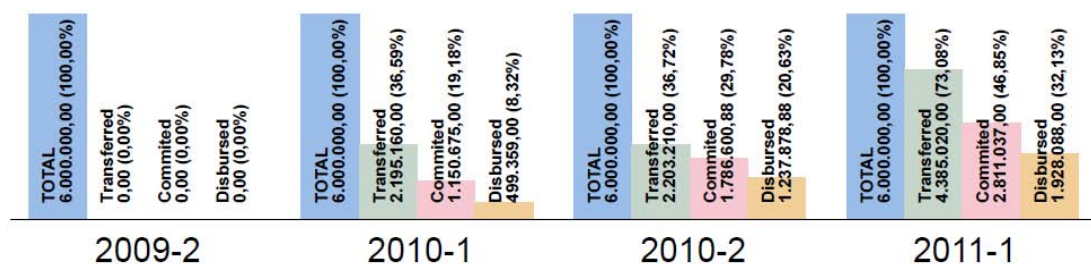


Regions of Intervention:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pan Xian and Zheng'an Xian (Guizhou Province); Huize Xian and Wuding Xian (Yunnan Province); Luonan Xian and Zhen'an Xian (Sha'anxi Province) 	
MDGs	MDG1 T1.C; MDG4 T4.A; MDG5 T5.A	
Beneficiaries to date	Direct	Indirect
• No. Institutions	46	
• No. Women and girls	388 and 50	
• No. Men and boys	390 and 50	
• No. ethnic groups	68,030	

Status

The Joint Programme is advancing in its different components. Due to the change of situation now from the time the project proposal is developed, all the partners took great effort to work jointly to make necessary revisions to the original work plan making sure the intervention is feasible and in line with key priorities.

Estimated financial execution status as of the June 30, 2011 biannual report:



Main Achievements:

- Chinese government at all levels have been provided with the updated information on the current situation of under-nutrition and food insecurity of women and children living in the 6 selected country level poverty counties through a series of baseline survey. This will support the relevant government agencies in the development of policy and action plan to correct the situation.
- The majority of the young children under age 2 in the rural area of six counties have been supplied with Ying Yang Bao (Micronutrients package) to quickly improve their nutritional status and reduce the local mortality rate of children under 5. Breast feeding practice is being promoted. National food fortification action plan developed.
- The government agencies in charge of child food quality and safety have also accumulated useful experiences by applying new practices in the child food manufacture enterprises in the pilot sites. Knowledge of food safety among women and child is enriched.
- Social awareness of maternal and child under-nutrition and food insecurity issues was raised through establishment of special website on Food Safety Law and training of the journalist in the local counties.

Does the JP incorporate gender considerations in the **activities/outputs/outcomes**?

Training materials and other services initiated by the project to identify the special needs of women and children in poor rural area to ensure that the JP responds to their needs.

Observations

Paris Declaration

Leadership of national and local governmental institutions:

The Ministry of Health is the leading JP coordinating and implementing ministry, which has shown strong ownership, initiative and commitment. PMC meetings show active participation on national side.

PMO based in leading government office building and regular PMO staff meetings allow communication and information sharing at any time.

The leading government Ministry has internal joint programme group meetings which allows mobilizing expertise of different functional departments to support the joint programme implementation.

Coordination within government institutions has been challenging, since these have different reporting lines and do not have mechanisms for cross ministerial communication in place. MOH, as the lead national coordinating agency has no formal authority to coordinate other government agencies. As a result, coordination is based on willingness and commitment of the programme partners, rather than on institutional mechanisms.

Some measures have been taken to overcome this difficulties, including:

- Information of local points of all the programme activities has been collected and shared and Ministry of Health will encourage local health authority to play a leading role of coordination.
- MoH's Department International Cooperation (DIC) has informed the provincial health authorities to coordinate the programme activities in the area of health and the local implementing agencies were encouraged to actively communicate with partners in other working areas.

Involvement of CSOs and citizens:

JP activities include involvement of CSOs and citizens, some examples include:

- Involvement of school students to increase awareness/educate their family members;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews with target population to understand their needs and to guide the future interventions; Media and journalists from the pilot provinces have been trained in the area of women and children health and nutrition and food safety and were involved in the local programme activities; The local women federation and labour union were actively involved in the programme implementation; <p>Alignment and Harmonization:</p> <p>The MDGF Joint Programme on Children, Food Security and Nutrition was found to be fully aligned with the 11th and the 12th Five Year plans. Although the 12th Five Year Plan was signed in 2011, the current Joint Programme is more closely aligned to the 12th Plan given the clear prioritization for reducing the gaps in social inequalities and increasing basic health care coverage in the rural areas. The Joint Programme is also fully aligned with the UNDAF for China 2011-2015.</p> <p>The joint programme was designed in close consultation with the Government of China; as a result all activities under the CFSN align with recent government policy and country priorities. In January 2010, the No. 1 Central Document jointly was issued by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council. This Policy still focuses on rural issues and outlines concrete measures to reduce the vulnerability and protect the rights of rural residents, such as accessibility to safe food, health service for children and women.</p> <p>Innovative elements in mutual accountability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At implementation level, work plans are usually formulated and implemented jointly by UN and national partners. The joint programme adopts participatory approach. The joint programme values the participatory approach. The involvement and participation of local working staff and women federation and schools are integrated into most activities, i.e. baseline research activities, policy dialogue and advocacy campaigns, developing, pilot testing and validation of interventions, training materials and other services initiated by the project to identify the special needs of women and children in poor rural area to ensure that the JP responds to their needs. NSC is co-chaired by the Ministry of Commerce and oversees all 4 MDG-F JPs in China. PMC is co-chaired by MoH and WHO. PMC meetings are held regularly for information sharing and collective decision making among partners. PMC Co-Chairs also meet for discussions on issues concerning joint programme coordination and implementation. Output working group meetings allow frequent communication and decision making across agencies related to each individual outcome. Chinese website for joint programme implementation is established and provides platform of information sharing
Delivering as One	<p>Innovative elements in harmonization of procedures and managerial practices:</p> <p>Regular UN inter-agencies meeting (UNRCO and PMC Co-Chair involved). Good opportunity to share information and seek synergies across agencies and outputs</p> <p>Role of the RCO and synergies with other MDG-F JPs:</p> <p>UNRCO provides continuous support to JPs so that good experiences and lessons can be shared among different JPs.</p> <p>Inter-agency coordination:</p> <p>UN Coordination has been challenging given the large number of participating agencies. High number of UN agencies involved in the programme requires a great effort in coordination and information exchange, increasing the transaction costs of the programme. The UN reform is not progressing quickly enough to support the concept of joint programme. The differing administrative procedures of UN Agencies occasionally impede joint implementation. Partners usually need to sign a contract with each Agency, each with different budgeting and reporting requirements. In addition, different budgeting systems and reporting requirements overburden staff..</p> <p>The JP will improve communications with other participating UN agencies and implementing partners to foster synergies toward specific outputs that require joint work. Similarly, the JP will also work closely with local government in the pilot sites to make references from the local practice and try to establish cross-sectoral food safety supervision mechanism in local levels.</p>
Sustainability (concrete actions and strategic partnerships)	<p>Sustainability Plan in place?</p> <p>The JP is taking important measures to strengthen the sustainability of its initiatives, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government agencies have fully involved in the development and implementation of the joint programme activities and the senior representatives from central government agencies and provincial health authorities and pilot counties government attended the launching ceremony of this joint programme to be convened on June 11 in Beijing; Multi-sector meetings at national, provincial and county level about the malnutrition of children in

	<p>poor rural areas and efficacy of YYB for children will be organized to advocate government priority child nutrition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is one of several pilots of YYB in China, and will inform massive expansion in poor rural areas if funded by MoF.• National Food fortification Guidelines in China is developed.• National Code of marketing of breast milk substitutes is being revised.• The development of supplementary teaching and learning materials on nutrition and food safety complements Minister of Education's ongoing effort of developing textbooks on health education for primary and secondary schools, and thus will be used by the Ministry and local education authorities beyond the project cycle and in more schools.• Special websites and journalists trained to promote the dissemination of child nutrition and food safety knowledge.	
Innovation and Scale-up	See sustainability section above.	
External Factors and mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rapid change of the government policies has significant impact on the environment of programme implementation, and the local implementing agencies may overwork to conduct the JP programme.• The economic inflation and the rise of the price of food have negative impact on the programme implementation as it decreases the family purchasing capacity and access to quality food.• Frequent occurrence of extreme climate. Due to the serious drought taking place in the pilot counties this spring, the season for growing of modified grains were missed and has to be postponed to next year.	
Communication and Advocacy	<p>C&A plan in place? Yes Coordinated with the other MDG-F JPs in China, the joint programme Communication Guidelines were developed for the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ensure the uniformity of documents and publications- Brand the joint programme with a uniform and distinctive image;- Facilitate the promotion of MDG-F and its programmes;- Facilitate the documentation of results achieved and managing publications under YEM <p>The target audience of this strategy covers the public, women and children in the poor rural area, mass media at national and local level, national and local government and other stakeholder, such as technical agencies, research institutions, academic bodies, etc.</p>	
M&E	M&E framework is clear and comprehensive. The JP has conducted important baselines, and will conduct end line surveys toward the end of the JP.	
Missions from MDG-F Secretariat:	<p>Date: April 2009</p> <p>Date: May 2011</p>	<p>Members: Sophie de Caen, Sara Ferrer and Paula Pelaez</p> <p>Members: Sophie de Caen and Paula Pelaez</p>
Mid Term Evaluation:	<p>Evaluator: Rema Nair Balasundaram</p> <p>Period: June-August , 2011</p> <p><i>[Link to final report and improvement plan]</i></p>	