Operational Context

China attained all of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) ahead of the 2015 target, including reducing the number of hungry people by more than half. Since the initiation of reforms in 1978, China has lifted more than 800 million people out of poverty. Nonetheless, China faces challenges in reducing residual poverty, inequality and malnutrition. There are still 30.45 million people in China living below the national poverty line. The Chinese Government has set the ambitious goals of eliminating absolute poverty and substantially reducing relative poverty in China by 2020 and reducing stunting levels in children under 5 to 7 percent.

WFP has been present in China since 1979. Following the phase out of operations in 2005, WFP maintained a liaison office in Beijing until 2016. Recognising China's expertise in ending hunger and poverty, WFP and China entered a new era of partnership in 2016, including the establishment of the WFP China Centre of Excellence. In March 2017, the WFP China Country Strategic Plan 2017-2021 was launched; it focuses on sharing China's expertise through South-South and Triangular Cooperation; innovative small-scale demonstration projects inside China; and resource mobilization.

Highlights

From 6 to 7 November, WFP China held a retreat in Yangzou, Jiangsu Province.

The retreat reviewed WFP China's deliverables in 2020 and discussed the design and planning progress towards the WFP Country Strategic Plan for 2022-2025. Around 60 participants attended the retreat from WFP China, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and other government entities, and United Nations partners based on China.

Updates

From 3 to 4 November, a South-South Cooperation Review and Strategy Analysis Meeting was held in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province. The objective of this meeting was to review the WFP China Centre of Excellence’s work and assess the evolving needs from developing countries that are strongly interested in South-South Cooperation with China. During the meeting, the South South Cooperation team reviewed the work in the past few years and presented new working modalities, prioritized areas and solutions. The group discussion was also convened among representatives from WFP China COE’s main partners on different prioritized areas. Valuable comments were collected for the optimization of the solutions and next step strategy. Additionally, a virtual meeting involving colleagues from HQ, RBs and COs were also held to discuss SSC Country needs and engagement with China COE and partnership.

From 12 to 14 November, global Agro-industry Ecology Conference was held in Jiaxing, Zhejiang Province. Dr. Sixi Qu, WFP China Representative and Dr. Yan Jia, WFP China Programme Policy Officer participated in the Conference and Dr. Sixi Qu, WFP China Representative addressed a keynote speech at the Conference.

From 14 to 15 November, high-level Opening-up China and the World Forum was held in Haikou, Hainan Province. Dr. Sixi Qu, WFP China Representative and Dr. Yan Jia, WFP China Programme Policy Officer participated in the event. Dr. Sixi Qu, WFP China Representative addressed a speech at the Forum.

On 24 November, International Seminar on Global Poverty Reduction Partnerships was held through Zoom and in Longnan, Gansu Province. Dr. Sixi Qu, WFP China Representative and Dr. Yan Jia, WFP China Programme Policy Officer participated in the seminar and the field visit.

From 24 to 26 November, South-South Cooperation Network Annual Meeting was held in Chongqing. Dr. Sixi Qu, WFP China Representative and Dr. Yan Jia, WFP China Programme Policy Officer participated in the meeting.
Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
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<td>13.47 m</td>
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**Strategic Result 2:** No one suffers from malnutrition.

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Malnutrition rates among children in targeted “poverty counties” reduced in line with national norms by 2020.

**Focus area:** Root causes.

**Activities:**
- Activity 1: Provide advice and technical assistance for extending nutrition programmes to hard-to-reach areas.

**Strategic Result 3:** Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition.

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Year-round livelihoods among smallholder farmers in frequent need of food assistance in areas such as Anhui, Gansu, Guangxi, Hainan and Hunan provinces are enhanced.

**Focus area:** Root causes.

**Activities:**
- Activity 2: Advice on and assistance in integrating into national food supply chains.

**Strategic Result 4:** Food systems are sustainable.

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Populations regularly affected by natural disasters in Anhui, Gansu and Guangxi provinces and other poor disaster-prone areas better withstand and respond to shocks all year round.

**Focus area:** Resilience-building.

**Activities:**
- Activity 3: Advice on and assistance in strengthening response mechanisms for shocks—supply chain interventions asset creation in drought-affected areas and insurance systems.

**Strategic Result 5:** Countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs.

**Strategic Outcome 4:** Selected developing countries assisted in enhancing food security and nutrition in line with their prioritized SDG2 targets by 2030.

**Focus area:** Root causes.

**Activities:**
- Activity 4: Provide government with expert advice and policy support on food security and nutrition issues.
- Activity 5: Knowledge-sharing through study-tours training technology transfer and online exchange platforms
- Activity 6: Foster leadership among a new generation of smallholder farmers.

**Strategic Result 6:** Developing countries access a range of financial resources for development investment.

**Strategic Outcome 5:** Work to enhance food security and nutrition in targeted “poverty counties” and selected developing countries supported year-round by increased private-sector resources and public-private partnerships

**Focus area:** Root Causes.

**Activities:**
- Activity 7: Development and formalization of partnerships.
- Activity 8: Facilitation of enhanced support from the Chinese Government.

From 19-21 November, in accordance with the M&E plan of the Xiangxi Preschool Nutrition Improvement Project, WFP China conducted a field mission headed by Dr. Sixi Qu, WFP China Representative. Dr. Sixi Qu, WFP China Representative first met with the Xiangxi Prefecture Government and exchanged ideas on innovative poverty reduction measures and best practices which provided insight to WFP for its next generation CSP planning. The monitoring mission checked the implementation progress of the Xiangxi project through site visits and farmer household interview who participated in the home-grown school meal programme. Through the mission, several remaining issues and areas for improvement have been identified, including strengthening cross-department coordination and information sharing, and enhancing capacity building of PMOs. The project will come to its end in July 2021 after three years implementation and an impact evaluation will be conducted by IFPRI.

From 19 to 22 November, in response to donor- General Mills’ request, WFP China staff accompanied the camera team employed by GM to shoot video for the Preschool Nutrition Improvement Pilot Project in Xiangxi, Hunan. The team interviewed project beneficiaries and relevant stakeholders including project managers and supervisors, kindergarten teachers and beneficiary children.

From 22 to 27 November, the baseline survey for the new Gansu Preschool Nutrition Improvement Project was completed in Linxia County. The survey was conducted with technical assistance from the School of Public Health of Lanzhou University and supported by the local government counterpart. The baseline survey aimed to gauge the target beneficiaries’ physical and nutrition status through dietary surveys, physical checks, and micronutrient blood test in both target and control group kindergarten children in total of more than 600 preschool children. Recommendations for food menu and nutrition interventions will be provided by the nutritionists during the later project implementation.

From 23 to 28 November, in response to WFP donor Meituan’s request, a camera team went to Xiangxi to shoot a video for its new fundraising function dedicated to the Preschool Nutrition Improvement Pilot Project on Dianping platform. Celebrity supporters such as Ms. Lusi Zhao, Mr. Tianyu Ma, and Ms. Mengchen Shen etc. were also invited by Meituan to advocate through video messages. Following the next week, a campaign featuring the new function was added in Dianping Application.

On 27 November, WFP organised a briefing on the UNHRD to participants from FAO, WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNDP, UNOPS, UNFPA, as well as officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).

**Donors**