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World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

The World Food Programme in China A Partnership for Zero Hunger

WFP AT A GLANCE

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. Born in 1961, WFP saves lives in emergencies and uses food assistance to build a pathway to peace, stability and prosperity for people recovering from conflict, disasters, and the impact of climate change. WFP is the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, with the recognition “for its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict.” WFP has more than 23,500 staff worldwide, of whom 87 percent are based in the countries where we provide assistance.

WFP-CHINA PARTNERSHIP IN A NEW GENERATION

In March 2016, WFP and the Government of China entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen their partnership for ending global hunger on three interdependent approaches to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals 2 “Zero Hunger”:



Leverage the role of the WFP Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation in actively promoting South-South and Triangular Cooperation with a demand-driven approach, sharing China's experiences and knowledge in poverty alleviation and food security, and facilitating innovative development and technology transfer.



Leverage WFP's global expertise and technical assistance to implement innovative pilot projects in Anhui, Hunan, Guangxi, Gansu, Sichuan, Jilin and other regions of China to improve the nutrition of preschool children in rural areas, increase production and incomes of smallholder farmers, and strengthen agricultural resilience. These initiatives aim to continuously improve the food security and nutritional status of China's vulnerable populations, enhance their resilience and contribute to the country's rural revitalisation efforts.



Mobilise resources in China and strengthen cooperation with the government and private sector, actively explore innovative partnerships to help other developing countries achieve food security and improve nutrition, and support WFP's global emergency and development operations.



On 29 July 2021, David Beasley, former WFP Executive Director (left), met online with Luo Zhaohui, Chairman of China International Development Cooperation Agency (right), and signed an agreement on food assistance. The two sides agreed to continue the cooperation in food assistance. Photo ©WFP

WFP – PART OF CHINA'S PROGRESSION (1979-2005)

WFP was invited by the Chinese government to begin joint activities in 1979, when over one-third of the Chinese population was experiencing hungry. Between 1979 and 2005, WFP implemented more than US\$ 1 billion worth of projects on poverty alleviation and post-disaster recovery in China, assisting more than 30 million people, mostly in the remote central and western regions of the country. During this period,



On 14 November 1984, WFP officer Jane Brown planted a friendship tree in Quzhou, Hebei Province. Photo ©WFP

China invested an additional US\$1.2 billion to complement WFP assistance.

By the late 1980s, WFP's operations in China were the largest of all WFP programmes worldwide. In the 1990s, while providing food assistance in China, WFP carried out large-scale integrated agricultural development projects including road construction, reservoir and canal building, and orchard and tea garden plantation, to help rural residents improve livelihoods.

With China's development and progress in ending hunger, WFP's operations phased out in 2005.

CHINA – WFP'S GLOBAL PARTNER (SINCE 2005)



On 28 March 2023, Wan Lin, CEO and President of Cainiao (left), and Manoj Juneja, former WFP Deputy Executive Director and CFO (right), signed a strategic partnership agreement in Rome to enhance the global humanitarian supply chain. Photo ©WFP/Rein Skullerud

With increasing collaboration each year, WFP is working with the Chinese Government, leading Chinese companies, and the public to assist the hungry in other developing countries, as well as implementing innovative projects within China. China has become an increasingly significant partner in WFP's global activities.

WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE THE SDGs

The mission of the UN World Food Programme is to end global hunger. WFP provides frontline assistance in emergencies to address the root causes of hunger, to build self-reliance and enhance food security.

WFP is working towards a world with Zero Hunger, as outlined in Sustainable Development Goals (SDG2) - "end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture", which was adopted by all United Nations Member States in September 2015. And in line with SDG 17, which highlights the need to implement and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development, WFP works in close partnership with a wide range of national and international actors including governments, other UN agencies, NGOs, private sectors and academia.