

CHINA

WASH

Country Specific Thematic Report

January - December 2018



Pupils at Yina Primary School in Zhijin County washing their hands with soap at their newly constructed hand washing stations @UNICEF China/2018/Stewart Nyamuranga

SC189906

**Prepared by:
UNICEF China
March 2019**

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Acronyms

CATS	Community Approaches to Total Sanitation
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
FYP	Five Year Plan
HCFs	Health Care Facilities
JMP-WASH	Joint Monitoring Programme for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
RMB	Renminbi (currency)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Strategic Context as of 2018

Since its participation in the first International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981–1990), China has demonstrated long-term commitment to work with the international community to improve water supply and sanitation in the country, especially in rural areas. Through institutional improvement, technological innovation, internal and external exchanges, and capacity building strengthening, the Government laid the foundation for the rapid development of urban and rural water supply and environmental sanitation. These efforts have led to significant achievements in improving drinking water sources¹ and sanitation facilities,² and supported China to accomplish the water and sanitation targets set out in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes a goal focused on sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (SDG 6) that sets ambitious targets for “universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all” (SDG 6.1), and “adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all” (SDG 6.2). The indicators selected for tracking progress towards these global targets are: 1) the population using safely managed drinking water services,³ 2) the population using safely managed sanitation services,⁴ and 3) the population using handwashing facilities with soap and water. The 2030 Agenda emphasises the integrated nature of development and the interlinkages between progress on Goal 6 and progress towards related targets under other Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Rural drinking water safety

The central government has allocated funds for rural water supply since 2000. As the *Eleventh Five-Year Plan* (FYP 2006–2010) put forward the requirement of accelerating the implementation of the Rural Drinking Water Safety Project,⁵ the central government's expenditure on rural water supply has increased significantly over time. During the Eleventh FYP period, the central government invested a total of RMB 59 billion, and local governments and the general public raised an additional RMB 46.3 billion, which collectively provided access to safe drinking water for 210 million rural residents.⁶ During the Twelfth FYP period (2011–2015), the central government invested a total of RMB 121.5 billion, and local governments raised RMB 55.3 billion,⁷ which essentially resolved the rural drinking water safety problem with 304 million rural residents and 41.3 million rural school teachers and students accessing safe drinking water.⁸ During the Thirteenth FYP period (2016–2020), the Government committed to implement the Rural Water Safety Consolidation and Upgrading Project to further improve the centralized water supply rate, the water supply guarantee rate, and the water quality compliance rate

¹ Improved water sources – Improved water sources include piped water, boreholes or tubewells, protected dug wells, protected springs, rainwater, and packaged or delivered water (WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, 2017).

² Improved sanitation facilities – Improved sanitation facilities include flush/pour flush to piped sewer systems, septic tanks or pit latrines; ventilated improved pit latrines, composting toilets or pit latrines with slabs (WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, 2017).

³ Safely managed drinking water service – Drinking water from an improved water source that is located on premises, available when needed and free from faecal and priority chemical contamination (WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, 2017).

⁴ Safely managed sanitation service – Use of improved facilities that are not shared with other households and where excreta are safely disposed of in situ or transported and treated offsite (WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, 2017).

⁵ The rural drinking water safety is divided into two levels, safe and basically safe, as measured by four indicators: water quality, water quantity, ease of access and water supply guarantee rate. If one of the four indicators fall below the safe or basically safe minimum standards, it cannot be defined as safe or basically safe drinking water (Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, 'Notice on Issuing the Evaluation Indicator System for Rural Drinking Water Safety', 2004).

⁶ Ministry of Water Resources, 'Guangming Daily: Hoping for Clean Water in Rural Areas – Centralized Water Supply for China's 557 Million Farmers', 30 August 2011, http://www.mwr.gov.cn/ztpd/2011ztbd/2011qzhy/Mtgzz/201108/t20110830_1003911.html, accessed June 2018.

⁷ China Economic Net, 'Documentation of China Resolving the Rural Drinking Water Safety Problem during the Twelfth Five-Year Plan Period', 11 January 2016, http://www.ce.cn/xwzx/gnsz/gdxw/201601/11/t20160111_8177831.shtml, accessed July 2018.

⁸ Ministry of Water Resources, 'Implementing New Ideas and Planning New Development to Comprehensively Improve Water Security – Deputy Minister Zhou Xuwen's Interpretation of the *Thirteenth Five-Year Plan for Water Resources Reform and Development*', 27 December 2016, http://www.mwr.gov.cn/ztpd/2016ztbd/qgslsswgh/bzft/201612/t20161227_782949.html, accessed June 2018.

in rural areas, and promote the equalization of urban and rural public services.⁹ In addition, the Government incorporated the Rural Drinking Water Safety Project under the key support areas of the new 'San Qu San Zhou' poverty alleviation funds,¹⁰ with increased focus on the establishment of water infrastructure and improvement of water supply in poverty-stricken areas. These efforts are in support of providing access to centralized water supply for over 85 per cent of rural residents and ensuring over 80 per cent of rural residents can access piped water by 2020.¹¹

Rural sanitation

Faecal management and sanitation reform have been key components of the patriotic health campaigns of China. In the 1990s, the Government incorporated the sanitation reform work into the *National Programme of Action for Children in China in the 1990s* and the *Decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council on Health Reform and Development*, which promulgated the 'toilet revolution' in rural areas. In 2004, the central government set up the cash transfer programme for sanitation reform in rural areas to promote the construction of harmless sanitary latrines.¹² In 2009, sanitation reform in rural areas was further supported through its inclusion in major public health service projects for deepening the medical and health system reform. From 2004 to 2014, the central government accumulatively invested RMB 8.4 billion, which established and improved 21.3 million rural household latrines.¹³

The decades of continued rural sanitation reform increased the percentage of rural households with access to sanitary latrines from 7.5 per cent in 1993 to 81.8 per cent in 2017.¹⁴ The Government of China aims to achieve 85 per cent coverage by 2020.¹⁵ Moreover, considering that the current harmless faecal management rate in rural areas is only 62.7 per cent,¹⁶ it is necessary to further advance the sanitation reform work. The *Health China 2030 Plan* proposes that most rural residents should be able to access harmless sanitary latrines by 2030.¹⁷

As important components of rural sanitation and ecological construction, the rural sanitation reform is also key to creating liveable, beautiful, and sanitary villages and towns, and promoting the healthy development of the new socialist countryside. In recent years, Chinese President Xi Jinping has repeatedly emphasized the importance of the 'toilet revolution' as a key component of the urban-rural civilization construction and rural revitalization strategy.¹⁸

Hygiene

According to data from the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP-WASH), only 70 countries had comparable data available on handwashing with soap and water in 2015. The available data indicate that in the Least Developed Countries, 27 per cent of

⁹ Ministry of Water Resources, 'Implementing New Ideas, Planning New Development and Comprehensively Improve Water Security – Deputy Minister Zhou Xuewen's Interpretation of the *Thirteenth Five-Year Plan for Water Resources Reform and Development*', 27 December 2016, http://www.mwr.gov.cn/ztpd/2016ztbd/qgslsswgh/bzft/201612/t20161227_782949.html, accessed June 2018.

¹⁰ Ministry of Water Resources, 'Ministry of Water Resources' Notice on Conducting Solid Work to Improve Rural Drinking Water Safety in Deep-Poverty Areas', 21 December 2017, http://www.mwr.gov.cn/zwgk/zfxqkml/201802/t20180209_1029592.html, accessed June 2018.

¹¹ Ministry of Water Resources, *The Thirteenth Five-Year Plan for Water Resources Reform and Development*, December 2016, <http://www.mwr.gov.cn/ztpd/2016ztbd/qgslsswgh/qhqw/201612/P020161227521013284744.pdf>, accessed June 2018.

¹² Harmless sanitary latrines – refers to sanitary latrines that are effective in reducing the infectious agents of biological virulence factors in feces. This includes three-compartment septic tank latrine, double-urn funnel-shaped latrine, three-in-one biogas septic tank latrine, urine-diversion latrine, twin-vault alternating pit latrine, and flush toilets to piped sewer system (Office of the National Patriotic Health Campaign Committee, *Standards of Rural Household Latrine Construction*, 2018).

¹³ National Health Commission (formerly the National Health and Family Planning Commission), 'China's Active Promotion of the 'Toilet Revolution' has Achieved Remarkable Results in Rural Sanitation Reform', 28 November 2017, <http://www.nhfpc.gov.cn/kj/s5899/201711/fd1aef3edea64420ba88e495d5deec3b.shtml>, accessed June 2018.

¹⁴ National Health Commission, *China Health Statistical Yearbook*, 2018

¹⁵ National Health Commission (formerly the National Health and Family Planning Commission), 'China's Active Promotion of the 'Toilet Revolution' has Achieved Remarkable Results in Rural Sanitation Reform', 28 November 2017, <http://www.nhfpc.gov.cn/kj/s5899/201711/fd1aef3edea64420ba88e495d5deec3b.shtml>, accessed June 2018.

¹⁶ National Health Commission, *China Health Statistical Yearbook*, 2018

¹⁷ Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council, *Health China 2030 Plan*, 25 October 2016, http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2016-10/25/content_5124174.htm, accessed June 2018.

¹⁸ Xinhua News Agency, 'Promoting the 'Toilet Revolution' to Advance Social Civilization', 27 November 2017, http://www.xinhuanet.com/politics/2017-11/27/c_1122019428.htm, accessed June 2018.

the population had basic handwashing facilities with soap and water, while 26 per cent had handwashing facilities lacking soap or water. The remaining 47 per cent had no facilities. At present, China lacks the relevant statistics to estimate the coverage of handwashing facilities.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in schools and health facilities

The SDG targets aim for “universal access” to water, sanitation and hygiene which not only includes households but also WASH in schools, health care facilities (HCFs) and other institutions.

In recent years, the water supply and sanitation conditions in primary and secondary schools have greatly improved. Between 2011 and 2017, the proportion of basic education schools (including pre-primary schools, primary schools, junior secondary schools, and senior secondary schools) with centralized water supply increased from 54.2 per cent to 75.8 per cent, and the proportion of schools with sanitary latrines increased from 56.5 per cent to 80.1 per cent while most of schools with non-sanitary latrines are concentrated in the central and western regions of the country.¹⁹ School toilets in China are generally separated by sex, but often the number of stalls for girls are equal to or less than the number of stalls for boys, making it more common for girls to wait in line. In addition, some school toilets do not allow for privacy, and accessible designs for children with disabilities are not in place.

Statistics on the status of WASH in health facilities are not currently available in China.

Challenges

- According to estimates by WHO and UNICEF in 2015,²⁰ China still had approximately 57 million people without basic access to drinking water services,²¹ 340 million people without access to basic sanitation services,²² including around 20 million people still practicing open defecation. China needs to continue its efforts to achieve the targets of “universal access to basic services” (including basic drinking water, sanitation and hygiene) for all and to “end open defecation”, as well as progressively increasing coverage of safely managed drinking water and safely managed sanitation services as set out in the SDGs.
- There are regional differences in drinking water and sanitation services in China, with the central and western provinces lag far behind the eastern coastal provinces. This is one of the bottlenecks for poverty reduction in the central and western regions, posing huge constraints on health, cultural and economic development. The constraints also affect the overall progress of a healthy China. Studies on multidimensional poverty have shown that the contribution of drinking water and sanitation on poverty is usually high but shows significant room for improvement. Advancing water and sanitation services can play a positive role in reducing multidimensional poverty, and can be included as a focus of the future poverty reduction work of the central and western regions.²³ Therefore, during the Thirteenth FYP period, special attention should be paid to poverty-stricken areas, and effective community-led and government-assisted models should be adopted to provide basic drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services to the most vulnerable groups in order to eliminate the gap as soon as possible.
- To push forward the ‘toilet revolution’, it is necessary to consider how to encourage behavioural change and promote the development of healthy habits. This can include creating demand through institutionalizing community approaches to total sanitation, addressing behavioural barriers, creating a sustained social norm of not practicing open defecation, and promoting the proper use and safe management of toilet facilities.²⁴ Specifically, the general public can be advocated to leave a clean public toilet for others.
- Although there is currently no nationally representative data, some surveys in selected

¹⁹ Ministry of Education, *Essential Statistical Analysis of Education Development in China*, 2012–2018.

²⁰ WHO/UNICEF, Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, 2017.

²¹ Basic drinking water services – Drinking water from an improved source, provided collection time is not more than 30 minutes for a round trip, including queuing (WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, 2017).

²² Basic sanitation services – refers to the use of improved facilities that are not shared with other households (WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, 2017).

²³ FENG Yilin, et al., ‘Measurement of China’s Multidimensional Poverty – Preliminary Estimation Based on the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index Method’, *The World of Survey and Research*, no. 12, 2017, pp. 3–7.

²⁴ UNICEF, ‘UNICEF’s Game Plan to End Open Defecation’, 2017.

provinces²⁵ have found the rate of proper handwashing is low among residents. Handwashing and disease prevention knowledge should be widely disseminated to cultivate proper hand washing habits and strengthen interventions for targeted populations in key areas.

- Water, sanitation and hygiene services in schools and health facilities should be further improved to ensure that all schools and health facilities have universal access to basic water, sanitation and hygiene services by 2030 as set out in the SDGs. Existing evidence shows that WASH in school programme could reduce the prevalence of hygiene-related infectious disease²⁶ and reduce absenteeism.²⁷
- It is necessary to identify the bottlenecks for development and advance the improvement of sanitation and hygiene services according to the needs of individuals, households and local conditions. Supply-side innovation should be advanced through changing the method of project promotion, such as establishing social norms, encouraging the public to actively use safely managed sanitation facilities, providing multiple types of funding subsidies to adapt to different situations, and strengthening the development and delivery of innovative technologies.
- Monitoring of water supply, sanitation and hygiene facilities and services should be strengthened, and monitoring methods and indicators should be designed to align with the WHO/UNICEF JMP-WASH, focusing on service accessibility and use. There is an urgent need to incorporate monitoring of water supply, sanitation and hygiene into the Government's relevant surveys and administrative data information systems, and to publish them regularly through public channels such as statistical yearbooks.

In China, new and old problems such as frequent floods and droughts, water shortages, serious water pollution, and ecological water damage pose serious challenges to ensuring water security.²⁸ As a country prone to natural disasters, it is apparent that disasters frequently deteriorate environmental conditions, often resulting in higher costs for safe water supply and sanitation solutions. There is a need to consider the influences of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters during the planning and design phase.

Results Achieved in the Sector

The specific results achieved with the contribution from Les Mills and the New Zealand National Committee for UNICEF have been reported on in August 2018. The funding contributed to UNICEF's overall work towards the Strategic Plan's goal on 'every child lives in a safe and clean environment' in China. This section describes the overall progress achieved by UNICEF in this sector in 2018.

In 2018, to promote a safe and clean environment, UNICEF used its 15 demonstration counties across 11 provinces to test innovative latrine designs and handwashing stations, use new approaches (e.g. menstrual hygiene management) and advance the scale-up of successful approaches such as Community Approaches to Total Sanitation (CATS) and WASH in Schools.

UNICEF promoted WASH in 308 schools across 13 counties, benefiting 153,309 students. Hygiene promotion and construction of sex-disaggregated and safe sanitation facilities in 18 schools in six counties increased access to improved WASH facilities, hygiene practices and enhanced skills of education authorities to manage these facilities, benefiting 14,489 students (6,762 girls, 7,727 boys).

²⁵ According to the first survey on the situation of handwashing in five provinces in 2011, the proper handwashing rate of the surveyed residents was only 4 per cent.

²⁶ Matthew Freeman, et al., 'Assessing the Impact of a School-based Water Treatment, Hygiene and Sanitation Programme on Pupil Absence in Nyanza Province, Kenya: A cluster-randomized trial', *Tropical Medicine and International Health*, vol. 17, no. 3, 2012, pp. 380–391.

²⁷ Anna Bowen, et al. 'A Cluster-Randomized Controlled Trial Evaluating the Effect of a Handwashing-promotion Program in Chinese Primary Schools', *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, vol. 76, no. 6, 2007, pp. 1166–1173.

²⁸ Ministry of Water Resources, 'Implementing New Ideas, Planning New Development and Comprehensively Improve Water Security – Deputy Minister Zhou Xuwen's Interpretation of the *Thirteenth Five-Year Plan for Water Resources Reform and Development*', 27 December 2016, http://www.mwr.gov.cn/ztpd/2016ztbd/qgslsswgh/bzft/201612/t20161227_782949.html, accessed June 2018.

Government ownership and scale-up gained momentum. Two project provinces (Guizhou and Guangxi) incorporated the WASH in Schools model into their provincial 'school toilet revolution' strategies and three-year action plans (2018–2020). This includes interventions on behaviour change, school latrine design and construction, and WASH management and maintenance, and targets schoolchildren, their parents and education authorities. The US\$ 190,000 invested in Zhijin County, Guizhou, demonstrated safe school latrine designs and construction in 10 schools and directly benefited 11,180 children (5,974 boys, 5,206 girls). This resulted in local government scaling up the models to an additional 196 primary schools, benefiting over 150,000 schoolchildren with US\$ 1.5 million additional government funding. The three-star 'Beautiful School' model, successfully piloted in Sanjiang in Guangxi, has now been scaled up to 111 more counties.

UNICEF's advocacy and technical assistance contributed to several policy guidelines and standards being adopted by the Government, which will help increase access to improved WASH services. These include the Standards on the Service Capacity of Primary Healthcare Facilities, the Healthy Village Standards and Healthy Township Standards. These will provide WASH benchmarks and indicators that will facilitate the standardization of monitoring, verification and reporting.

To improve the quality of services, UNICEF and partners strengthened the skills and capacities of community, health and education officials. Government officials benefited from training on waste management, disaster risk reduction, environmental management, WASH facilities design, construction and maintenance, canteen management and hygiene promotion. For example, 260 local healthcare centre directors, including 130 directors from health departments in the 'San Qu San Zhou' poverty regions, were trained on WASH and its linkages with child and maternal mortality, faecal-oral diseases, child nutrition and poverty. At separate training events, 183 housing and urban–rural development sector officials from all 137 counties of Shandong gained a greater understanding of national WASH policy, standards, guidelines, sanitation technologies, SDGs and CATS. Each county was then requested to prepare its own strategies, actions and implementation plan as part of the 'toilet revolution' initiative, and three counties have finalized their plans. In Guangxi and Guizhou, 130 officials from 23 prefectures and 84 county-level authorities were trained on WASH management in schools through national trainings that were cascaded down to more than 200 counties reaching more than 10,000 local education officials, school headmasters and teachers.

The generation and use of data was strengthened through a UNICEF-supported national survey on WASH conducted in 3,628 HCFs from all 31 provinces. Through UNICEF's advocacy, the survey incorporated core SDG WASH indicators, which provided national data on the WASH status of HCFs in China that can be used for SDG and Joint Monitoring Programme monitoring. The survey has informed the development of Standards on the Service Capacity of Primary Healthcare Facilities, which incorporate WASH components, and National Guidelines for WASH in Primary Healthcare Facilities.

Learning and knowledge exchange was promoted through participation in and support to international events on sanitation technologies and WASH products. For example, UNICEF supported an international expo which brought together 15 private sector companies that exhibited their WASH products and technologies to the Government, NGOs, and the media, and helped foster information exchange on new and emerging WASH innovations and products.

To strengthen disaster risk reduction (DRR), a standardized training package for county- and provincial-level health officials to respond to and manage WASH in disaster situations was developed. The package consists of 22 modules and covers components on disaster management, child-centred DRR, risk assessment for disasters, WASH and health in disasters, health emergency management, and emergency preparedness and response.

UNICEF supported various initiatives to raise awareness on latrine construction and use, handwashing with soap, and other key hygiene practices in homes, schools, HCFs and other public places. Campaigns held in schools reached more than 250,000 schoolchildren in six project counties.

Financial Analysis

1. 2018 Planned budget by outcome areas

RESULT AREA	AMOUNT
Other Resources - Emergency	119,647
24-02 Sanitation	119,647
Other Resources - Regular	2,461,163
24-01 Water	113,597
24-02 Sanitation	1,671,957
24-03 Disaster Risk Reduction	611,733
24-05 Environmental Sustainability	63,875
Regular Resources	114,805
24-01 Water	29,750
24-02 Sanitation	46,712
24-03 Disaster Risk Reduction	14,192
24-05 Environmental Sustainability	24,152
Grand Total	2,695,615

2. Expenditure by thematic area

THEMATIC EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT
Other Resources - Emergency	119,647
24-02 Sanitation	119,647
Other Resources - Regular	720,257
24-01 Water	106,385
24-02 Sanitation	549,598
24-03 Disaster Risk Reduction	834
24-05 Environmental Sustainability	63,440
Grand Total	839,905

3. Expenditure by SIC

EXPENDITURE BY SIC	AMOUNT
24-01-01 WASH - Enabling environment (policies/strategies, coordination, regulation, financing, planning-monitoring-review, sector capacity development and professionalization)	129,071
24-02-01 Hygiene - handwashing with soap in communities	2,334
24-02-03 Hygiene promotion activities in communities	25,438
24-02-04 Sanitation and hygiene - eliminating open defecation in rural communities	112,087
24-02-07 Sanitation - improving services in rural communities (except household water treatment and storage; moving up the ladder and strengthening sustainability)	24,787
24-02-08 Sanitation and hygiene - institutions (schools, HCFs, ECD centres) including menstrual hygiene management	1,062,703
24-02-99 Technical assistance - Sanitation	468,294
24-03-01 Risk informed Programming for resilience (including policy and strategy development)	316,817
24-03-02 Disaster risk reduction (including linkage to climate change)	112,632
24-03-04 Risk management and resilience/research/evaluation evidence generation, synthesis, and use	86,139
24-03-99 Technical assistance - Disaster risk reduction	56,253
24-05-02 Climate change adaptation	1,795
24-05-03 Climate change/environmental education, awareness and advocacy	1,381
24-05-05 Institutional strengthening/policy support/advocacy/education on integration of climate change concerns	29,788
24-05-07 Environmental sustainability multi-thematic data/research/evaluation evidence generation, synthesis, and use	46,216
26-01-01 Country programme process (including UNDAF planning and CCA)	108,172
26-02-01 Situation Analysis or Update on women and children	75
26-02-04 Stimulating demand for and capacity to use data	11
26-02-05 Administrative data, registers and non-MICS household surveys and censuses	90
26-03-01 Advocacy and partnership-building for social behaviour change	2,905
26-03-99 Technical assistance - Cross - sectoral communication for development	8,940

26-04-01 CO/RO Supply - technical assistance and collaboration in supply chain, procurement of goods and services, and logistics	8,132
26-05-10 Research innovation learning, uptake and partnerships for research	229
26-06-02 Innovation activities	109
26-06-04 Leading advocate	1,339
26-06-05 Leading voice	1,194
26-06-06 Supporter engagement	50,053
26-06-07 Leading brand	3,078
26-06-08 Emergency preparedness (cross-sectoral)	64
26-07-01 Operations support to programme delivery	19,978
27-01-06 HQ and RO technical support to multiple Goal Areas	53
28-07-04 Management and Operations support at CO	1,442
30-01-02 Pledge campaign house list	-
30-01-04 Cash campaign acquisition	86
30-01-13 CO/RSC other non-staff indirect	1
30-02-08 Pledge - Staff	-
Unknown	13,924
Grand Total	2,695,615

Expression of Thanks

UNICEF China would like to express its sincere gratitude to the New Zealand Committee for UNICEF and Les Mills for their generous support towards ensuring that children in China live in a safe and clean environment.

Annex 1. Human Interest Stories

The story below illustrates the impact of UNICEF's work on WASH in Schools. Please note that the results described are also attributable to other funding sources.

Transforming Heping Primary School into a Beautiful School

Author: Zhiming Hao, WASH Officer, UNICEF China



Heping primary school in 2013 (left) and 2018 (right) ©UNICEF/China/2013; ©UNICEF/China/2018

Before 2013, though Heping Primary School in Sanjiang, Guangxi, was the only primary school in the township, with 386 students and 30 teachers, it was in a terrible state of repair. With no walls to keep animals out, and no proper water or sanitation facilities, livestock and human waste, as well as rubbish littered the school grounds. According to teachers, many children suffered from diarrhoea, which affected their physical and mental health. This had gone on for so long that local villagers, successive school principals, teachers and students had become accustomed to the situation.

However, in June 2013, things began to change, when the FRESH project was officially launched in Sanjiang County, and Heping Primary School was selected as one of the 50 project schools. The project began with training for education officials, as well as advocacy on WASH, health education for the children and experience exchange with other project schools. This all helped to change the way the school's administrators, teachers and students – and local villagers – thought about their school and how they looked after it. The school now proactively fundraises to support its own plans to improve the school environment, such as new infrastructure to help provide a clean, safe and healthy school, as well as fostering a culture of good hygiene among students and teachers. After three years, the school had made significant changes, especially regarding a safe drinking water supply, sanitary toilets, handwashing facilities, rubbish disposal, health education, and canteen and dorm management.

In 2016, based on FRESH project experiences, Sanjiang County education bureau proposed the Beautiful School initiative, made up of 19 components²⁹ and aimed at improving all aspects of a school's environment. Heping Primary School welcomed the opportunity to be part of it, and in 2017 was certified as a 4-star Beautiful School, the only rural primary school in the county to achieve that status. At the end of 2018, Guangxi Education Department held a provincial FRESH project experience exchange workshop in Sanjiang County, where Heping Primary School shared its own experiences of transforming into a 'beautiful school'. It was attended by more than 250 representatives from all 111 counties in Guangxi, who also visited a remote rural primary school that had taken part in the FRESH project.

The children are very happy to study and live in such a beautiful school. **Qin Lianhuan**, a Grade 5 pupil, even painted a picture – 'My Beautiful Village and School' – which won first prize in a county competition.

²⁹ The 19 components include: compound layout; greening; pavements; cleanliness; school culture; playground; classroom; water supply; toilets; dormitory; canteen; handwashing facilities; multi-function room; office; corridor; entrance; gatehouse; school surrounding areas; and health education.

"I love my hometown, even though it is far from the city", she says. "It's quiet, green and very peaceful. Our school now has a pavilion and a garbage disposal site." From the pavilion, Lianhuan enjoys looking at the beautiful scenery, or reading one of the many books. "Once in the pavilion, I'm always reluctant to go back to my classroom, as it's very peaceful."

Zhang Yan, a Grade 4 pupil at Heping Primary School, wrote a composition during the World Toilet Day campaign in 2018. She said: "Our new school toilet block was built with help from UNICEF. We should take good care of it. Now, the toilet is much better than before, there was no door in the toilet before, so it wasn't private. But now that doors have been installed, we don't have to worry about privacy. The old toilet stalls were very smelly. There are now squat toilets, and behind is a small water tank, which is used for flushing. There is also a small brush, tap and soap in each cubicle. I can now use soap to wash my hands. What makes me feel proud is that our toilet has a stool, which I only used to see only on TV. The new toilet is also decorated with green plants. Potted plants have been placed everywhere to make the toilet more beautiful and comfortable. We should be grateful and make an effort to take good care of the toilets that provide us with such convenience."



Left: "My Beautiful Village and School", painted by Qin Lianhuan
Right: Zhang Yan (second on the right), as handwashing advocate to teach the six steps of handwashing with soap
©UNICEF/China/2018



Old pit toilet in 2013 (left), new sanitary toilet block in 2018 (right), Heping Primary School, Sanjiang, Guangxi
©UNICEF/China/2018

Annex 2. Donor Report Feedback Form

UNICEF is working to improve the quality of our reports and would highly appreciate your feedback via this online form ([link](#)). Thank you!