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International Development Cooperation: China's Practice

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"Small and Beautiful" Projects



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Development is an eternal theme of human society and the common aspiration of all peoples. In the process of implementing the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China has assisted recipient countries in laying the cornerstone of development and tapping the potential of economic growth through major landmark projects. Meanwhile, China has carried out "small and beautiful" projects as a priority of foreign cooperation, which thinks for the local communities and responds to their needs, so as to effectively improve people's well-being in relevant countries. Building on past achievements, the practice of "small and beautiful" projects has made great headway in recent years, manifested in increasing numbers, clarified principles, and prominent features. A series of brand "small and beautiful" projects have rapidly enhanced the sense of gain in the local communities.

At the Third Symposium on the Development of the Belt and Road Initiative in 2021, Chinese President Xi Jinping said that, "'Small and beautiful' projects directly impact the people. In the future, we should prioritize 'small and beautiful' projects in international cooperation, and strengthen overall planning to leverage foreign aid

funds to foster more grounded and popular projects." At the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in October 2023, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced that, "China will promote both signature projects and 'small and beautiful' livelihood programs", "China will carry out 1,000 small-scale livelihood assistance projects, and enhance vocational education cooperation through Luban Workshops and other initiatives. We will also step up joint efforts to ensure the safety of BRI projects and personnel."

"Small and beautiful" projects are an important part of high-quality BRI development and a vivid practice of implementing the GDI and building a global community of shared future. They have come to the fore to highlight and characterize China's foreign aid and international development cooperation. This report gives an introduction to "small and beautiful" projects in terms of principles, features, progress, and effectiveness to facilitate a deeper understanding by the international community, with a view to exploring the directions and paths of cooperation to jointly improve people's well-being in developing countries.

01

Core Principles

"Small and beautiful" projects adhere to the core principles of people-centered philosophy, long-term vision, alignment with local needs, diversified participation, and green and low-

carbon development, and effectively reflect and meet the development needs of the vast developing countries.

(i) People-centered philosophy

Improving people's well-being is the common pursuit of all countries and the fundamental goal of economic and social development. A people-centered approach

for the benefit of the people is the primary criterion for measuring the effectiveness of projects in foreign aid and international development cooperation.



China's Foreign Aid Projects Highlight People's Well-being Benefits

Evaluation indicators point to the orientation of foreign aid projects. Improvement of people's well-being is highlighted in the evaluation of China's foreign aid projects. A series of specific indicators have been designed to measure project outcomes and effects according to the sectors, demonstrating a strong people-oriented philosophy.

For example, indicators for education projects focus on the scope and quality of education, and innovative research and

employment. Indicators for health projects cover the accessibility of local medical and health care services, prevention and control of infectious diseases, health of mothers and infants in the local communities, and the level of medical technologies. Indicators for transport projects examine the local capacities in road access, port operations, and air and rail transport. Indicators for energy projects concern energy accessibility, energy mix, and greenhouse gas emissions. Indicators for

communications projects focus on communication coverage and informationization, and access to broadcasting services. Indicators for agricultural projects measure the contribution to local agricultural production and the application of agricultural production technology. Indicators for humanitarian aid projects underline actively responding to humanitarian emergency needs, improving the disaster prevention and mitigation capacity, and supporting post-disaster reconstruction.

China carries out "small and beautiful" projects in a people-oriented manner with an aim of improving the living standards of local communities and enhancing their sense of gain, fulfillment and security. Priority is given to areas directly related to people's well-being, including poverty

reduction, agriculture, health care, education, and emergency humanitarian aid. Project design and evaluation focus on actual outcomes and effects, with particular emphasis on indicators such as project coverage, extent of benefits, and degree of satisfaction.

(ii) Long-term vision

Improving the conditions of development and upgrading the capacity of independent development is fundamental to sustaining the improvement of people's well-being in recipient countries. To this end, foreign aid and international development cooperation should settle down to "take root" and "sprout up".

China adopts a development perspective to help recipient countries enhance the endogenous driving force of independent development through "small and beautiful"

projects. On the one hand, China takes into account both immediate livelihood protection and long-term independent development, and harmonize small-scale supporting facilities projects and major landmark projects to remove obstacles to development. On the other hand, by sharing development experience and technology, China assists recipient countries in cultivating local talents and technical force to improve their endogenous capacity and development potential.



Construction of Resettlement Village of China-Laos Railway Boosts Regional Development

There was only a 3.5km long railroad in Laos before the construction of the China-Laos Railway. Since the construction of the Yuxi-Mohan railway began on April 19, 2016, China has combined large-scale construction projects, small-

scale facilities projects, and livelihood assistance projects to promote local integration and development. The China-Laos Railway has become a golden channel connecting China and Laos, providing more favorable conditions and opportunities for

population flow and economic and trade cooperation between the two countries, and laying a good foundation for regional economic development. The relocation and resettlement project in support of the China-Laos Railway construction



Painting and calligraphy competition and villagers' moving-in ceremony held in Buam Aor Resettlement Village

builds internal and external roads, power supply, water supply and drainage facilities in the villages, creating a better living environment with superior conditions for the people and driving regional development as a whole.

On this basis, "small and beautiful" projects have been carried out to improve the well-being of local people. For example, the China-aided Lao Railway Vocational Technical College trains railway instructors, which fills Laos' gap in railway professionals

and technicians to ensure sustainable railway operation and development. Railway companies provide free courses on driving, repair and maintenance, and scheduling to more than 1,000 Laotian trainees, with lectures given by Chinese railway professionals. A new school has been built in each of the four resettlement sites to improve local education conditions, and meanwhile, village offices, health centers, and public toilets are constructed to increase public service facilities and enhance public services.

Since its operation in December 2021, the China-Laos Railway has operated 56,000 passenger trains with more than 38 million trips, and attracted 252,000 passengers from 100 countries and regions for cross-border tourism. It has given a strong impetus to port economic prosperity, cross-border tourism, and people-to-people exchanges, and made great contribution to bolstering intra-regional connectivity and spurring economic and social development along the route.

(iii) Alignment with local needs

A demand-driven approach to recipient countries is a prerequisite for project sustainability and good results. Foreign aid and international development cooperation projects should respect local realities and meet local needs. In particular, they should be aligned with the development strategic planning of recipient countries and prioritize the urgent needs of economic and social development of recipient countries.

China applies a demand-driven approach to "small and beautiful" projects, while taking into full consideration the realities, resource endowments, and development basis of recipient countries. At "the request

of recipient countries", China proposes, organizes, and implements foreign aid and international development cooperation projects based on feasibility studies. Aiming at the needs of recipient countries, these projects are designed to fill the gap in livelihood development, enhance local development capacity, and improve people's well-being. In the process of project implementation, the implementing side fully communicates and cooperates with local governments, enterprises, and local communities, so as to optimize project design, organization and implementation in accordance with local perspectives and opinions in a timely manner.



China's Assistance Creates an "Oasis" in the Sahara Desert

Driving east from Nouakchott, the capital of Mauritania, it is getting farther and farther away from the sea and closer and closer to the Sahara Desert, the largest desert in the world. Traveling about 60 kilometers, at the edge of the desert appears an "oasis"—nearly 66.7 hectares of green crops thrive, and rows of sprinkler poles spray water. Here is the China-aided Mauritania Livestock Technology Demonstration Center.



Aerial photo of alfalfa field at Mauritania Livestock Technology Demonstration Center

Livestock is one of the pillar industries in Mauritania, where more than 80% of the territory is covered by desert. More often than not, livestock chews up grass in less than two months after the nine-month dry season arrives every year. As a result, grassland desertification gets increasingly serious, making it more difficult to meet the feeding needs of livestock. The success of cultivating and planting forage crops on a large scale in the desert is crucial for the sustainable development of Mauritania's livestock industry.

Since 2017, due to the long-



More than 200 calves bred by artificial insemination technology

term efforts of Chinese technical experts, the demonstration center has successively realized the large-scale production of forage crops and the first embryo transfer for breeding cows, and nurtured a large

number of livestock professionals for Mauritania. The once-barren land has been transformed into an oasis of greenery, which opens the door to poverty alleviation and enrichment for the Mauritanian people.

(iv) Diversified participation

Diversified participation gives full play to the comparative advantages of various participants to foster synergies, thus improving the efficiency and effectiveness of foreign aid. Extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits are important features of foreign aid and international development cooperation.

Upholding diversified participation, China has created a pattern of joint action for "small and beautiful" projects, which

involves ministries, local governments, enterprises, think tanks, universities, and international organizations. On the one hand, the government plays a dominant role by launching non-reimbursable assistance projects. It fully follows the law of the market, and encourages the participation of enterprises through market-based operations by putting in place platforms and policy guidance. On the other hand, China has been actively engaged in international cooperation projects together

with international development partners and in particular UN agencies through the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund (formerly South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund). In addition, based on their advantages of flexibility in project proposal

and expertise in relevant fields, local governments, think tanks, universities, and social organizations as fast-growing forces have actively explored the development of "small and beautiful" projects, which has been well received at local communities.

Diversified Participation Bolsters the "Small and beautiful" Program

Over the years, a variety of players have been increasingly involved in the "small and beautiful" program for livelihood assistance in various forms and fields, such as local governments, social organizations, think tanks, and universities, contributing to the improvement of people's well-being in developing countries.

Local social organizations actively carry out "small and beautiful" projects. The Yunnan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries has launched the "Heart-to-Heart Yunnan Tour" project in neighboring countries, which encompasses a series of "small and beautiful" public welfare and livelihood projects in South Asia, Southeast Asia, and



Opening of Nay Pyi Taw Rural Water Facilities Project

the Indian Ocean Rim. According to statistics, 92 such projects were implemented in 2022 and 2023, involving 48 communities and villages and 153 universities, middle schools, and elementary schools in 17 countries, and benefiting more than 2.6 million people directly or indirectly. In Myanmar, 24 such projects have

been implemented since 2022, covering a wide range of fields such as infrastructure, industrial development, agriculture technology, culture and education. Among them, the assistance project of rural water facilities in Nay Pyi Taw has greatly alleviated local people's difficulties in accessing water for daily use.

Universities have also joined the exploration of "small and beautiful" projects. In July 2021, a team from China Agricultural University (CAU) launched a pilot project of "small beans, great nutrition" in Tanzania. The practice of interplanting soybeans with corn not only improves soil fertility, but also contributes to local agricultural development and nutritional improvement. Soybean milk can be produced from soybeans, and bean dregs are edible for both people and livestock. The project has been well recognized and welcomed by the local community. Farmers in the pilot villages have begun to plant soybeans and learn under the guidance of technicians to make soybean milk and soybean ugali, which are rich in plant protein and minerals, to improve the nutritional level of the local community. This project has set a model of social power driven "small and beautiful" projects, attracting a lot of attention both at home and abroad.



A local government team provides training on soybean-corn interplanting techniques to farmers in the project village



Children in the project village show their love for soybean milk

(v) Emphasis on green and low-carbon development

At present, increasingly severe climate change has led to frequent natural disasters, seriously threatening human survival and safety, in particular in developing countries. Green and low-carbon development has risen into a global trend and consensus. Pursuing harmony between humanity and nature and promoting green and low-carbon transition have become important elements of international development cooperation.

China has been committed to green development, and advocates respecting, adapting to, and protecting nature in carrying out "small and beautiful" projects. On the one hand, environmental impact assessments are incorporated, in order to minimize the negative impacts of projects on the natural environment while placing

great emphasis on the environmental benefits. On the other hand, assistance projects in tree planting, sand control and pollution control are implemented to improve the ecological environment of recipient countries. Examples include Mongolia's One Billion Trees Campaign and China-Mongolia Desertification Prevention and Control Cooperation Center. In addition, by giving full play to its advantages in renewable energy, energy conservation, environmental protection, and cleaner production, China has actively carried out clean energy assistance and international cooperation, in particular on renewable energy development, as embodied in "small and beautiful" green and low-carbon projects that promote wind and solar power generation in recipient countries.



Green Energy Helps Africa Escape from Development Predicament

Africa has the lowest rate of electricity access in the world. Nearly 600 million people in the continent still lack access to electricity up to present. Even in large cities with power grids, daily life and work are plagued by frequent power outages. At the same time, Africa is rich in renewable energy resources such as solar and wind power.

The Sahara Desert with abundant sunlight is an ideal place for generating PV power, and Africa's long coastline provides unique conditions for developing offshore wind energy. Therefore, it is feasible to increase energy accessibility in Africa by popularizing green energy products and technologies.

China-sourced high-quality, low-cost green energy technologies and products affordable for Africa are expected to free the continent from development predicament. For example, Sakai Photovoltaic Power Plant, the first PV power plant in the Central African Republic built with Chinese assistance, turns abundant local solar energy



Sakai Photovoltaic Power Plant in the Central African Republic

into electricity, which is then transmitted to factories, schools and thousands of households in the capital, Bangui. The plant has not only created more than 700 jobs, but also trained local skilled workers and improved their living standards. The

stable power supply enables a much better life of local residents while bringing light to night like never before.

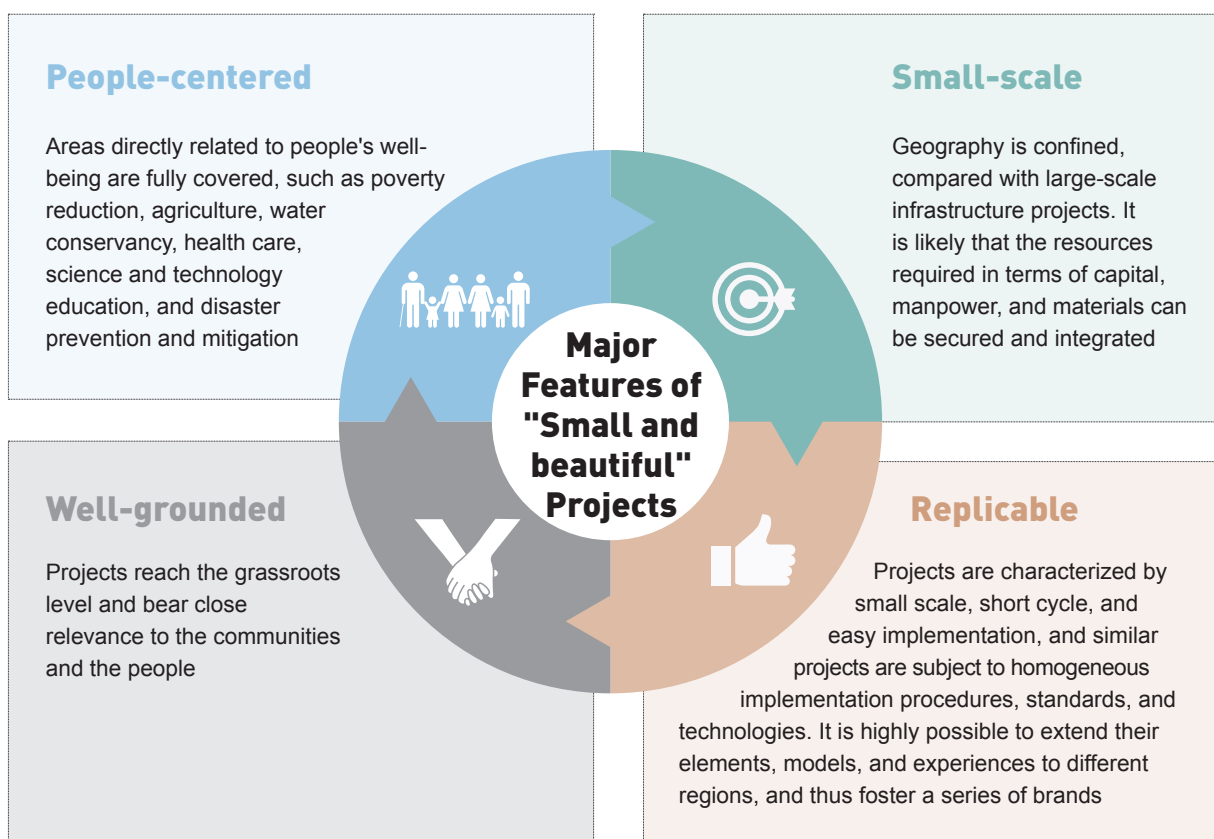
Many African countries vigorously promote green transition through cooperation with China, with

priority given to clean energy. China-Africa green energy cooperation helps African countries transform their huge resource potential into economic growth, which is crucial to global sustainable development.

02

II. Major Features

"Small and beautiful" projects are people-centered, small-scale, well-grounded, and replicable, and have the potential to "blossom everywhere" and "create synergies".



People-centered. "Small and beautiful" projects mainly involve areas directly related to people's well-being, such as poverty reduction, agriculture, water conservancy, health care, science and technology education, and disaster prevention and mitigation. People in recipient areas can directly experience the improvement in living standards, and obtain tangible benefits from these projects.

Small-scale. Individual "small and beautiful" projects are geographically

confined, compared with large-scale infrastructure projects. It is likely that the resources required in terms of capital, manpower, and materials can be secured and integrated. This underpins the strong feasibility and operability of the projects. Generally, "small and beautiful" projects can be completed within a relatively short period to yield quick results, thereby meeting the needs of recipients in a timely manner.

Well-grounded. "Small and beautiful" projects reach the grassroots level and bear

close relevance to the communities and the people. In the implementation process, implementers fully communicate with local people and learn about their attitudes, demands, customs, and habits, and facilitate the participation of all local stakeholders to ensure smooth project progress. Upon completion, these projects will directly benefit local communities and local people, and contribute to deeper friendship and bond between the peoples of China and recipient countries.

Replicable. "Small and beautiful" projects

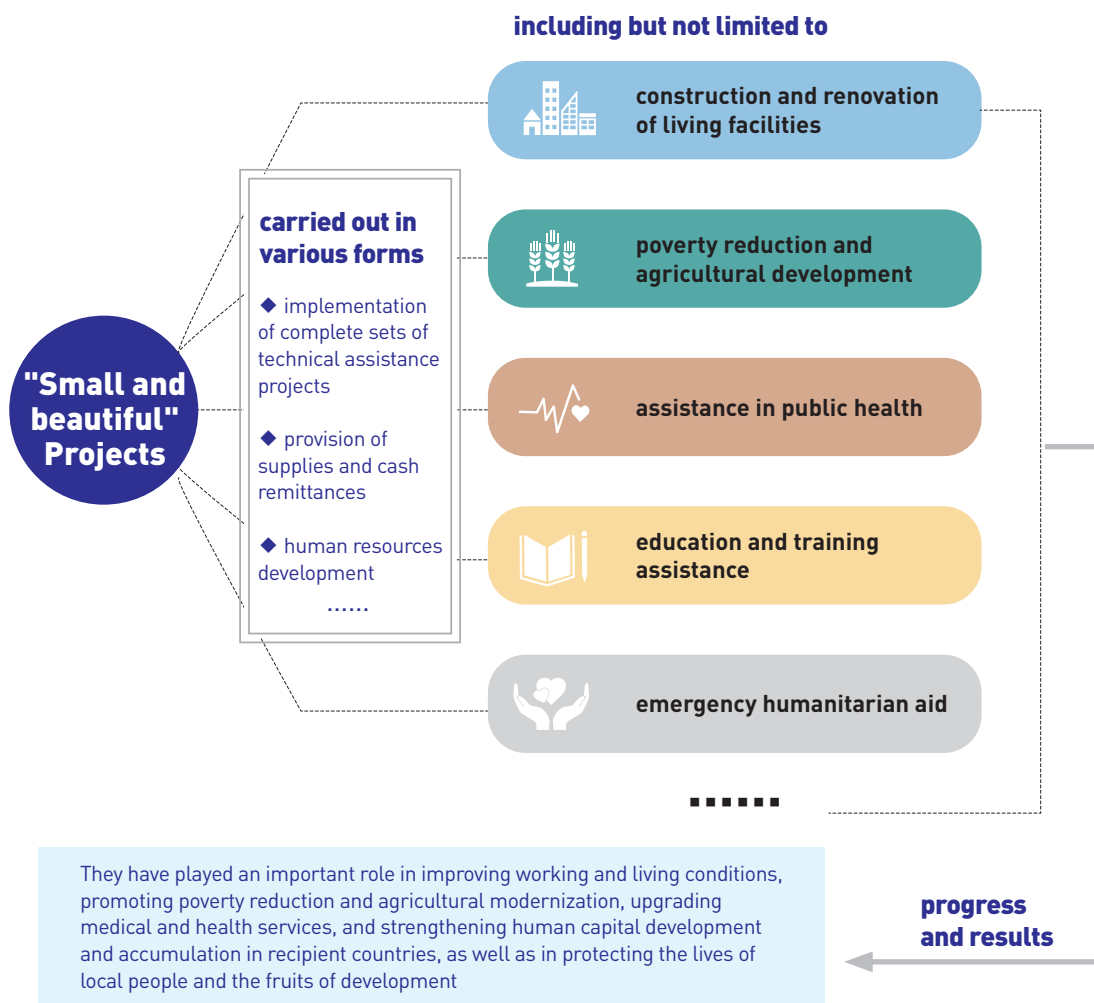
are characterized by small scale, short cycle, and easy implementation, and similar projects are subject to homogeneous implementation procedures, standards, and technologies. It is highly possible to extend their elements, models, and experiences to different regions, and thus foster a series of brands in "small and beautiful" projects. Examples include foreign aid medical team, artemisinin, Juncao, hybrid rice, and Luban Workshop, which have become the golden brands of "small and beautiful" projects.

03

Progress and Effects

"Small and beautiful" projects cover a wide range of areas, including but not limited to construction and renovation of living facilities, poverty reduction and agricultural development, assistance in public health, education and training assistance, and emergency humanitarian aid. They can be carried out in various forms, such as implementation of complete sets of technical assistance projects, provision of supplies and cash remittances, and human resources development. Over

the years, "small and beautiful" projects have made remarkable progress and yielded significant results. They have played an important role in improving working and living conditions, promoting poverty reduction and agricultural modernization, upgrading medical and health services, and strengthening human capital development and accumulation in recipient countries, as well as in protecting the lives of local people and the fruits of development.



(i) Implementing small-scale infrastructure construction and renovation projects to improve local working and living conditions

Infrastructure is a prerequisite and guarantee for work and life. "Small and beautiful" projects improve the working and living standards of local people by assisting recipient countries in the construction and renovation of small-scale infrastructures in such areas as housing, drinking water, electricity, transport, communications, conference, and recreation.

First, small-scale supporting facilities are constructed and renovated to optimize local living and development environment. Small-scale infrastructures, such as houses, wells, roads, and power, communications and drainage facilities, are not only important for a safe and convenient life of local people, but also affect local productivity and connectivity

The "Small and beautiful" Project Solves the Great Difficulty of Travel for Kiribati People



Road surface under construction at Tarawa bridge, Kiribati

Kiribati, an island nation located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, consists of more than 30 islands and atolls. Bridges are one of the most important modes of transport for local people. Kiribati's capital city, Tarawa, comprises the most populous atolls, home to about half of the country's population. The only bridge that connects North and South Tarawa was in disrepair and no longer functional. The people of the nearby Buota Village had long faced the difficulty of travel and relied only on manpower to transport goods.

China has sincerely assisted Kiribati in developing the economy and improving people's well-being and has helped reconstruct the bridge connecting North and South Tarawa. The project commenced in late December 2021, and successfully passed the acceptance test by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy of Kiribati in April 2022. With the completion of the project, vehicles can travel between Buota Village and South Tarawa, and fire trucks and other emergency vehicles can drive to Buota Village. Local people no longer need to carry their

supplies into the village by hand, but instead by car. Now, this bridge has stood as an important channel between North and South Tarawa.

Chinese enterprises completely used local labor force during project implementation, with more than 30 person-times hired from Buota Village working over 9,000 person-hours in total. This has been widely praised by villagers because not only job opportunities were created for local people, but also Chinese technologies and operation skills were taught in the construction process.

with the outside world. Through small-scale infrastructure construction, "small and beautiful" projects have greatly improved the living environment of recipient countries. For example, drinking water wells have been dug in arid areas of Africa to make clean drinking water more accessible to local people. Transport

networks have been revamped to facilitate the flow of goods and people and foreign trade, which is conducive to unleashing the potential for economic development in remote areas. The village connectivity project has effectively enhanced the digital and information connectivity between Africa and the rest of the world.

The 200-Borehole-Well Project Enables Access to Safe Water for Rwandan Villagers

Rwanda, known as the "Country of a Thousand Hills", is one of the least developed countries as declared by the United Nations. There is a serious shortage of municipal utilities in the country, with municipal water supply unavailable in most parts. The drinking water problem is very grim in areas outside of the capital city of Kigali and in more remote areas.

The China-aided 200-borehole-well project in Rwanda was completed in 2022. It drilled 200 boreholes in 181 villages across 11 districts of Rwanda, including 170 hand-well pumps, 10 solar-powered submersible pumps, and 20 monitoring wells, which solves the drinking water problem for nearly 110,000 local people, and greatly increases water access in



A Rwandan resident pumps water from a China-built well

Rwanda. The availability of clean drinking water has also eased disputes over drinking water during the dry season in the border area between Rwanda and Uganda, and resolved social conflicts caused by water scarcity.

Monitoring wells are used for long-term dynamic monitoring

of local water quality and water level. Solar-powered pumps as a demonstration application make full use of local clean energy while overcoming the lack of electricity supply. They have set forward-looking examples for exploring the application of clean energy in underdeveloped areas of Africa to improve people's well-being and alleviate poverty.

Second, clean energy facilities are actively developed to enhance energy accessibility. Energy is a driver of economic development, and clean and green energy provides guarantee for sustainable development. At present, some developing countries are facing the dual challenges of energy shortage and energy transition, and they need to make efforts to enhance energy

accessibility and adapt to the trends and requirements of addressing global climate change. With its first-mover advantages in clean energy development, China has helped recipient countries develop solar and wind power among clean energy sources through infrastructure construction and technical and material assistance based on local natural and geographical conditions.

China-aided Solar Power Demonstration Village Project in Mali Increases Local Clean Electricity Supply

As one of the world's least developed countries, Mali suffers a severe electricity shortage, with less than 20% of rural areas having access to electricity. Located in the southeast of Bamako, the capital of Mali, the Koniobla Village has backward infrastructure and almost no electricity supply, which leads to poor essential conditions for work and life, such as drinking water, irrigation and lighting. Yet, Mali, as a landlocked country in West Africa, has huge potential for solar energy development brought by abundant sunlight.

The China-aided Mali Solar Power Demonstration Village Project started construction in January



Ground-breaking Ceremony of China-aided Solar Power Demonstration Village Project in Mali

2022, and passed the acceptance test in June 2023. It has totally installed 1,195 sets of household off-grid solar systems, 200 sets of solar-powered street lighting systems, 17 sets of solar-powered water pumping systems, and 2 sets of centralized solar power supply systems, which directly

benefits tens of thousands of people in the local community. PV technology is crucial to Mali's efforts to combat climate change and improve rural livelihood. This project marks a useful practice of applying PV technology to improve people's well-being in remote and backward areas.

Third, public service facilities in shortage are augmented to enrich local culture and recreation. Culture and recreation is a higher level of pursuit and an important source of people's happiness. "Small and beautiful" projects help recipients build small-scale recreational facilities and venues, such as libraries, meeting rooms, theaters, stadiums, playgrounds, and gardens. They are exquisite, diverse,

and agile. While embellishing the local landscape, these projects have expanded the activity space for community residents, increased the accessibility of cultural and recreational facilities, and continuously enhanced the sense of fulfillment. Better public service facilities also support the development of local employment, consumption and services, and thereby spur economic growth.



China-aided Chinese Garden Project in Jamaica Enriches the Spiritual Life of Local People

The China-aided Chinese Garden Project is located in Hope Gardens, a famous botanical garden full of green grass and trees in Kingston, Jamaica. It consists of two finely designed distinct areas. Fangzeyuan, sitting in the southern part with moderate tree and grass cover, embodies the characteristics of Chinese imperial gardens. Baihetang, sitting in the northern part with thick trees and lucid waters, incorporates the style of Chinese private gardens. The architecture features harmony between humanity and landscape, ranging from the Shadow Wall and the Circular Mound to the Four-square Pavilion and the Hexagonal Pavilion. The project



China-aided Chinese garden in Jamaica--Harmonious Enjoy Garden

marks the first Chinese traditional garden in the Caribbean.

As economic and trade cooperation and humanistic exchanges deepen between the two countries, Jamaican people are more and more willing to learn about Chinese culture. The Chinese garden is dubbed the Harmonious Enjoy Garden,

which means the two peoples enjoy the garden and the two countries enjoy the cooperation. It is a cultural gift from the Chinese people to the Jamaican people. While adding unique scenery to Jamaica, this garden offers a window for the local people to know about China, further narrowing the distance between the two countries.

(ii) Providing assistance in agriculture and rural areas to support local poverty reduction and agricultural modernization

Agriculture is the foundation of a country. For the vast developing countries, agricultural modernization is crucial for economic foundation and social stability, and it is also a prerequisite for poverty reduction. Taking poverty reduction and agricultural development as an important area, "small and beautiful" projects contribute to poverty reduction and agricultural modernization of recipient countries by carrying out poverty reduction demonstration projects, providing technical training and personnel training, and improving agricultural production conditions.

First, comprehensive poverty reduction assistance projects are carried out for

eliminating poverty in recipient countries. China has accumulated abundant practical experience while accomplishing marvelous achievements in poverty reduction, which can be useful reference for other developing countries. China has unreservedly provided assistance in terms of supplies, funds, knowledge, and technology, to support and help developing countries in general, and the least developed countries in particular, to eliminate poverty. A fine example of China's efforts to promote the cause of global poverty reduction is the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project (hereinafter referred to as the East Asia Poverty Reduction Project) implemented in six villages of Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar.

The East Asia Poverty Reduction Project Yields Remarkable Tangible Results

In 2014, the Chinese government proposed poverty eradication as a priority area of cooperation among ASEAN plus China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (10+3), and raised the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Initiative. China committed to provide free assistance to strengthen poverty

reduction cooperation with less developed countries in East Asia, aiming to advance rural poverty reduction, establish pilot zones for poverty reduction cooperation, help address development bottlenecks, and provide examples for poverty reduction and development in East Asian countries.

The East Asia Poverty Reduction Project has been implemented in six villages in Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar since 2017, and was completed successively from 2020 to 2021. The project draws on China's practical experience in "promoting whole village development", "targeted

poverty alleviation”, and “the fight against poverty”, takes into account the different conditions of the project villages in the recipient countries as well as the actual needs of the local people, and has designed and implemented a series of comprehensive poverty reduction assistance measures, covering rural infrastructure, rural public services, and livelihood development and capacity building of rural households.

According to the comprehensive evaluation carried out by the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) in 2022, the project has effectively reduced the prevalence of poverty in project villages. Between 2017 and 2020, the prevalence of poverty in Cambodian project area decreased by 3.57 percentage points, and the annual per capita net income increased by 14.31% from 242.75 dollars to 277.48 dollars; the proportion of poor households in Laos project area declined from 52% to 25%; and the proportion of people living in poverty in the project villages in Myanmar also dropped from 48.2% to 24.8%.



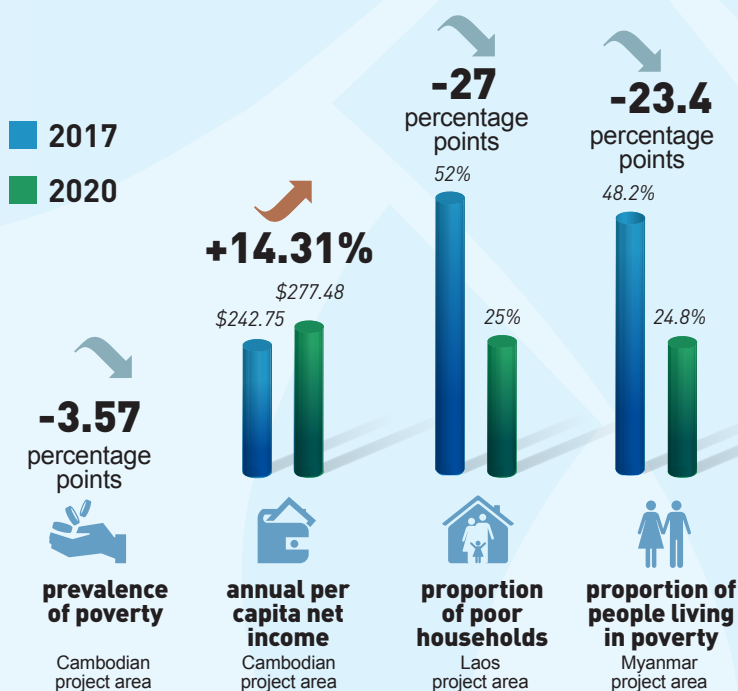
A detergent manufacturing plant built in Cambodian project village creates job opportunities for poor households nearby



A comparison between the old and new bridge in Laos project village



New classroom in Aye Chan Thar Village, Myanmar



Second, agricultural technology application and talent training are conducted to help recipients enhance the capacity of agricultural development and poverty

alleviation. Technologies and talents provide the fundamental support and lasting impetus for agricultural modernization. Taking into account local natural and social

Juncao Technology Empowers Agricultural Development in Developing Countries

In 1986, Professor Lin Zhanxi at Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University invented the Juncao technology, which uses herbaceous plants instead of trees for the cultivation of edible fungi. The technology not only saves a lot of wood, but also offers a new pathway to poverty reduction and sustainable development in developing countries. After nearly 40 years of development, the Juncao technology has extended the application from cultivation of edible and medicinal fungi to comprehensive utilization in the industrial system covering feed, fertilizers, biomass energy, materials, and ecological management.

Chinese President Xi Jinping promoted the Juncao assistance project in Papua New Guinea (PNG) during his work in Fujian in 2001. On September 2, 2021, the Forum on the 20th



Group photo with Professor Lin Zhanxi at the Advanced Training Course on China-aided Juncao and Upland Rice Technology Project to PNG

Anniversary of Juncao Assistance and Sustainable Development Cooperation was held. President Xi Jinping pointed out in his congratulatory letter that, "China will continue to contribute Chinese wisdom and approach to the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and stands ready to work with other countries to enable Juncao technology to benefit the people of the vast number of developing countries."

In PNG, for example, Juncao technology has spread to more than 8,600 farm households in 16 districts of 8 provinces, benefiting more than 30,000 people and also setting a world record yield of 853 tons per hectare of giant Juncao. Juncao technology has brought tangible benefits to local people in terms of farming innovation, poverty alleviation, and food security, said PNG Prime Minister Mr. Malape in his video message to the Forum on September 2, 2021.

conditions, China has helped recipients improve the yield and quality of major crops towards grain self-sufficiency by teaching them agricultural technologies and variety improvement methods. Over the past decade, a total of 24 agricultural technology demonstration centers have been built in Africa, and more than 300 advanced and applicable technologies such as high-density maize planting have

been introduced to the region. This has led to an average increase of 30%–60% in local crop yields, and benefited more than one million small farm households in Africa. In addition, China has supported developing countries to build industrial chains and value chains along with crop marketization, which expands agricultural income and facilitates poverty reduction.

China's Assistance Makes Possible Early Realization of Rice Self-sufficiency in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

The republic of Côte d'Ivoire has unique natural advantages in the necessary conditions for rice cultivation such as sunlight, temperature and rainfall. Nevertheless, rice yields per unit were low due to the lack of good varieties and advanced technology and equipment. In 1997, the first Chinese agricultural technical cooperation team arrived at the Guiguidou Reclamation Area to guide and assist local farmers in rice management, repair and maintain water conservancy facilities, and train talents in the rice industry.

Under the unremitting efforts of



A Chinese agricultural technology expert provided guidance on the operation of farm equipment in Côte d'Ivoire on May 31, 2024

11 groups of Chinese agricultural experts sent to the reclamation area, the rice varieties, quality and yield have been improved and the local farmers' income has increased. The Guiguidou

Reclamation Area has set a model for agricultural cooperation between China and Côte d'Ivoire, and become a renowned rice planting base in Côte d'Ivoire. By now, four



A local farmer operated farm machinery in a rice field in Guiguidou Reclamation Area, Divo Province, southern Cote d'Ivoire on May 31, 2024

high-yield and high-quality rice varieties have been officially certified by Côte d'Ivoire, with great improvement in yield, quality, and taste compared with local traditional varieties. Among them, C26 with a yield of seven tons per hectare has

spread across the country. Once certified, C10 will also be widely applied to bring benefits to the entire rice industry.

On May 31, 2024, China provided rice farmers in Côte d'Ivoire with advanced agricultural equipment

such as combine harvesters, rice selectors, small rice mills, and Dongfanhong tractors, as well as 10 tons of rice seeds, which will give a strong impetus to the realization of rice self-sufficiency in the country.

Third, material and technical assistance is provided to help improve basic agricultural production conditions. Soil and irrigation significantly affect the efficiency of agricultural production. By building small-

scale irrigation dams and providing soil management assistance, "small and beautiful" projects improve local agricultural production conditions, and thereby boost crop yields and agricultural development.



Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund Endorsed Project Supports Uganda to Enhance Capacity of Sustainable Soil Management

In Uganda, agriculture is one of pillar industries. About 80% of the country's population lives in rural areas and relies on agriculture for life. However, soil fertility is declining at an alarming rate due to poor management practices, which severely undermines crop yields. In recent years, the trend has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and fertilizer crisis.

With support from the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) implemented the "Capacity Building on Sustainable Soil Management" project in Uganda from July 2020 to April 2023, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries of Uganda. Uganda's Soil Laboratory was provided with instruments and equipment to improve the country's soil testing capacity. Soil and fertilizer samples were collected and analyzed, and a



Trainers and farmers interacting on sustainable soil fertility management

corresponding database was set up. Fertilizer recommendations were given based on soil test results, crop nutrient requirements, and crop yield targets. Nearly 400 farmers were trained via on-farm field trials of soil testing and fertilizer application techniques. In addition, online courses on soil management were organized to train over 600 researchers, agricultural technology promotion personnel, scholars, private business operators, and government officials, increasing their soil-related knowledge and

capability of sustainable soil management.

The project has effectively assisted Uganda in responding to the COVID-19 epidemic and fertilizer crisis. It has enhanced the capacity of sustainable soil management and improved agricultural productivity in Uganda through a combination of soil testing, fertilizer recommendation, pilot application, database development, and education and training.

(iii) Emphasizing assistance in medical and health care to improve local medical and health care services and prevention and control of infectious diseases

Medical and health care is directly related to people's health and life experience, and therefore identified as an important area of "small and beautiful" projects. China has assisted recipients in improving public health services and tackling infectious diseases and other public health crises by building medical and health care infrastructure, sending medical teams, sharing medical technologies, and providing medical supplies.

First, helping build medical and health care infrastructure. Medical and health care infrastructure is the foundation for medical and health care services, including centers for disease control (CDCs), hospitals, clinics, laboratories, pharmacies, and medical equipment. China has launched more than 50 medical infrastructure assistance projects in Congo (Brazzaville), Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Cambodia, and Kyrgyzstan.

China Assisted in Refurbishment of Zimbabwe's Maternity Waiting Homes in Collaboration with UNFPA

The cyclone Idai torrential rainfall cause damage to infrastructure, including roads in the affected districts mainly in Chimanimani and Chipinge. The local public transport has been severely obstructed, making health care access extremely difficult for pregnant women and women in labor and posing potential dangers to both mothers and newborns.

From 2020 to 2021, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) refurbished 3 maternity waiting



x3

From 2020 to 2021, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) refurbished 3 maternity waiting homes

298 health workers from health facilities in the districts were trained on emergency care

x298



x3+78



maternal health medicines, equipment, and materials have been procured and distributed to these three hospitals and 78 local clinics to support quality delivery care



x21957

a total of 21,957 deliveries were conducted in the supported hospitals and clinics. Of these deliveries, 2,588 were caesarean sections

homes situated at Mutambara mission hospital, Birchenough Bridge district hospital and Chipinge district hospital with the support of the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund.

Maternity waiting homes are equipped with essential obstetric and neonatal care facilities to accommodate high-risk pregnant women and those staying far from

hospitals. The refurbishment raises the level of protection by enabling effective access of pregnant women in the affected areas to quality antenatal and delivery care services. To ensure access to quality and skilled care, 298 health workers from health facilities in the districts were trained on emergency care. In addition, maternal health medicines, equipment, and materials have

been procured and distributed to these three hospitals and 78 local clinics to support quality delivery care, including management of complications in pregnancy and childbirth.

According to statistics, a total of 21,957 deliveries were conducted in the supported hospitals and clinics. Of these deliveries, 2,588 were caesarean sections.

China-aided Panama Medical Vehicle Project for Caring on Wheels Promotes Local Health Service Development

China donated medical vehicles to Panama. The mobile medical vehicles, which combine heavy truck chassis with expandable square cabin, can greatly improve the accessibility, mobility, and coverage of health screening services.

Two batches of medical equipment were supplied to Panama via China's non-reimbursable aid. The first batch includes anesthesia machines, cardiac monitors, and central monitoring systems, which have been installed and put into use in children's hospitals, St. Thomas Hospital, and other



Handover Ceremony of China-aided Panama Medical Vehicle Project

public hospitals under the Ministry of Health of Panama. The second batch features three mobile medical vehicles, which consists of the imaging area, internal medicine area, gynecological examination area, and testing area. They support

early detection and diagnosis of cervical cancer, breast cancer, and other women's illnesses for women of reproductive age throughout Panama.

China-donated medical vehicles can reach out to the remote mountainous areas of Panama, allowing more disadvantaged people and people in remote communities to access the relevant health services. They significantly expand the coverage of medical resources, and vigorously promote the equitable development of local communities, contributing to a better life of Panamanian people.



China Helps Myanmar Improve Medical Modernization and Independent Development Capacity of Public Health



China-aided Myanmar National Center for Disease Control and Medical Training Center

China and Myanmar reached a consensus on the China-aided Myanmar National Center for Disease Control and Medical Training Center project in 2018, and started to implement the project in 2021. On June 13, 2024, the Chinese side officially handed over the Center for Disease Control and Medical Training Center to the Myanmar side.

The China-aided Myanmar National Center for Disease Control and Medical Training

Center covers an area of 40,000 square meters with a construction area of 18,000 square meters, and includes the buildings of the Center of Disease Control, the Medical Training Center, and the Administrative Office, as well as Myanmar's only biosafety level 3 (BSL-3) laboratory. China also helped train relevant medical and technical personnel for Myanmar through two-year technical cooperation.

On the same day, the Chinese

Center for Disease Control and Prevention signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation with the Ministry of Health of Myanmar to jointly establish the National-level International Collaborating Research Center on Tropical Disease at the China-aided Myanmar National Center of Disease Control, which would strengthen the joint prevention and control of malaria, dengue fever, and other infectious diseases for China and Myanmar.

Second, helping strengthen the capacity of medical and health services. China has dispatched medical teams to make medical rounds. By the end of 2023, China's medical teams had traveled to 76 countries and regions in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, and delivered medical services to more than 300 million patients. The "Brightness Journey" initiative and the "Love Journey" initiative have been widely commended. At the same time, China has established dedicated cooperative relations with hospitals to help recipient countries improve medical service capacity through remote communication, remote

consultation, dispatching of experts, and donation of material supplies. By the end of 2023, China had established dedicated cooperative relations with 48 hospitals in 43 countries and regions.



On February 27, 2023, a local resident expressed gratitude to a doctor of China's medical team in a hospital in Ain Diffra, Algeria.

The "Brightness Journey" and "Love Journey" Medical Rounds Improve the Life and Health of People in Recipient Countries

The "small and beautiful" activities of medical rounds under the "Brightness Journey" and "Love Journey" framework are an innovative exploration on top of the traditional practice of dispatching long-term medical teams. Based on a full study of the needs of recipient countries, short-term medical assistance is offered in various forms, such as by conducting cataract and heart disease surgeries for free, training and teaching local medical personnel, donating relevant

medical equipment, exploring and advancing the construction of local ophthalmological and cardiovascular disease centers, and training specialists of recipient countries in China.

Since 2011, the "Brightness Journey" initiative has extended to more than 30 countries, including Botswana, Eritrea, Morocco, Ghana, Bahamas, and Maldives, and has brought light to more than 10,000 cataract patients. At present, there are three ophthalmological

cooperation centers in Africa.

The "Love Journey" initiative has been carried out in Ghana, Tanzania, and Niger. Medical experts from Shandong Province to Tanzania conducted the first electrophysiology procedure for arrhythmia, the first emergency coronary intervention via radial artery, and the first off-pump coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) in Tanzania's cardiology field, which fills the gaps in Tanzania and even in East Africa.

Third, providing support to bolster prevention and control of infectious diseases. By actively sharing innovative technologies and providing medical training, China has helped developing countries combat infectious diseases such as malaria and schistosomiasis.

Among them, artemisinin, as a "small and beautiful" medical brand, has benefited many regions and populations. In recent years, China has organized more than 1,000 medical training courses, providing strong support to Africa's response to malaria and schistosomiasis.



Artemisinin Contributes to Building a Global Community of Health for All

Artemisinin is a potent anti-malarial compound first discovered and successfully extracted by Chinese scientists in 1972 based on unremitting efforts. The China-pioneered new approach to malaria treatment has significantly reduced the mortality rate of malaria patients.

While succeeding in eliminating malaria at home, China has extended a helping hand to the world. It has launched large-scale artemisinin-based anti-malaria assistance internationally to help developing countries cope with malaria epidemics. To date, China has implemented more than 300 anti-malaria assistance projects of various kinds, provided artemisinin-based medicines for billions of people, built malaria prevention and control centers



On January 25, 2022, Chinese anti-malaria expert team and local volunteers carried out anti-malaria work in the suburbs of Sao Tome, capital of Sao Tome and Principe.

for 30 countries, and trained tens of thousands of anti-malaria technicians for developing countries. According to WHO, in Sub-Saharan Africa alone, about 240 million people have benefited from artemisinin-based combination therapies.

In 2022, Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the International Forum on the 50th Anniversary of the Discovery

of Artemisinin and on Building a Global Community of Health for All. President Xi Jinping pointed out, artemisinin is a specific anti-malaria drug first discovered and successfully extracted by China. Since its discovery 50 years ago, it has enabled China to eradicate malaria. At the same time, China has actively championed the application of artemisinin across the world in multiple ways such as providing drugs and technical

assistance, building anti-malaria centers and training professionals. Millions of lives around the world, especially in developing countries, have thus been saved. This is an important contribution to the global prevention and treatment

of malaria and to the protection of human health. President Xi Jinping stressed, China stands ready to work with the rest of the international community to engage in closer exchanges and cooperation in the public health

sector, jointly tackle global threats and challenges, build a global community of health for all, and make greater contributions to the health of people all over the world.

China-Zanzibar Technical Cooperation Project on Schistosomiasis Control Produces Remarkable Results

Schistosomiasis is a global public health problem. It is highly endemic in Zanzibar and poses a serious threat to the health of African people. In June 2015, Zanzibar made a request for China's expert team assistance to advance schistosomiasis prevention and control in Zanzibar and safeguard the health of African people based on China's experience and expertise.

The first phase of the assistance project spanned from February 2017 to February 2020. With the efforts of both sides, the morbidity rate of schistosomiasis in the demonstration area was reduced from 8.92% to 0.64%, reaching the expected target. More than 90% of the population in the infected area became



Experts of the technical expert group of China-aided Zanzibar Schistosomiasis control technical assistance project phase II disinfect ponds in Kilindi Village

aware of schistosomiasis. In addition to the training of technical team, the first African schistosomiasis information management platform was set up, which contributes to an initial local public health system. The third-party expert group led by WHO spoke highly of the project achievements in the May 2019 project evaluation.

At present, the second phase is underway, which will send three batches of Chinese experts to Zanzibar to provide three-year technical assistance in schistosomiasis prevention and control. The first batch was dispatched to Zanzibar in August 2023 for technical cooperation on combating schistosomiasis.

(iv) Rendering education and training assistance to support local human resources development and development capacity building

Education and training are important pillars for upgrading national human capital and promoting economic and social development. In multilateral and bilateral approaches, "small and beautiful" projects provide education assistance in both "hardware" and "software", to help recipient countries improve teaching conditions, enhance education digitalization, and develop vocational education, thereby strongly supporting economic and social

development with human resources.

First, helping build educational infrastructure and improve teaching conditions. China has helped recipient countries build or renovate school buildings, kitchens, bathhouses, library corners, and soccer fields among small-scale infrastructures, creating a sound environment for students to study, eat and grow, and improving their nutritional level and physical quality.

"The Chinese School" Lights the Way for Palestinian Youths

A safe and stable path to school is the earnest hope of children in Palestine, a place long ridden with war and conflict. Nearly a quarter of 15-year-old children in Palestine are out of school, according to a report prepared by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education of the Palestinian Authority.

In order to bring good education to Palestinian teenagers, the Chinese government funded the



"The Chinese School" in Palestine

construction of a high school for male students in Ramallah at the end of 2021, which can accommodate 600 students with a construction area of nearly 3,000 square meters of teaching buildings. "The Chinese School",

officially named by the local government, has developed into one of the top secondary schools in Ramallah.

"The school is modern and superior as it is equipped with advanced

laboratories, art rooms, and gymnasiums. It not only enables access to education for hundreds of local students, but also improves substantially the learning environment," said a Palestinian official.

Second, providing support to build capacity of applying digital technology, and thereby inject digital vitality into local education systems. Digitization is an important direction for future education that will fundamentally change the way and content of education. Whether or not

a country can seize the opportunities of digitization will largely affect its level of education modernization and human capital development. China has helped recipient countries improve education system digitalization by providing comprehensive assistance in supplies and technologies.



China's Cambodia Education Technical Assistance Project Injects Digital Vitality into the Cambodian Education System

China's Cambodia Education Technical Assistance Project is the first China-aided comprehensive education assistance project in Cambodia. It involves a range of aspects, covering the construction of high-school information technology textbook system (including the compilation and printing of first-grade textbooks, the printing of curriculum standards, the development of supporting digital resources, and training in textbook use); the establishment of an education data center (including central platform construction, server room renovation, and training in data center use); and the development of digital resources for national exams (covering the five subjects of history, mathematics, physics, biology, and chemistry).



Digitized teaching in a Cambodian high school classroom

The project was launched in September 2021, and successfully completed in November 2023 after more than two years of careful implementation with the strong support of the Chinese and Cambodian governments and the joint efforts of the project teams from both sides. It has been widely praised for meeting the actual needs of Cambodian education.

"Through this technical assistance

project in education, Cambodia has been able to accelerate the process of education digitization, cultivate a host of teachers with advanced education concepts and skills, and significantly improve the level of information technology and information management in education. This project has undoubtedly given a strong impetus to education development in Cambodia," said a Cambodian official.

Third, conducting academic education and vocational training to support partner countries in cultivating high-quality talents. The Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development at Peking University serves as an important platform for China to help other developing countries enhance capacity building. More than 400 officials from over 70 countries have obtained master's or doctor's degrees from

this institute over the past eight years. Meanwhile, China has shared its experience in high-quality vocational education through the construction of vocational training schools and the establishment of Luban Workshops together with local institutions. A large number of applied talents have been trained this way to serve economic and social development in Asian, African, and European countries.

Establishment and Effectiveness of Luban Workshops

Luban Workshop is a well-known brand of China's international cooperation in vocational education. The Luban Workshop program provides academic education and technical training outside China, and shares China's vocational technology and vocational culture with the world, with the core objective of training high-quality technical and skilled talents who are in urgent need for local economic and social development.

From 2016 onwards, a total of 34 Luban Workshops have been established in 30 countries and received recognition worldwide for outstanding achievements. The Luban Workshop projects



Executive director of Luban Workshop at Ain Shams University, Egypt, gives an introduction on the workshop to the participants

across Asia, Africa, and Europe offer academic education and vocational training on a large scale, which ranges from secondary and primary vocational degrees to applied undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. Beneficiaries include more than 8,000 local students in academic cooperative majors, more than 2,000 local students in academic

elective courses, and more than 20,000 people from the business sector and the society.

Luban Workshop has become a national brand

of China's vocational education "going abroad". It is useful for promoting international production capacity cooperation, humanistic exchanges, and people-to-people bond in the Belt and Road, and plays an important role in training internationalized local skilled talents and strengthening people-to-people bond among different countries.

(v) Carrying out emergency humanitarian aid to protect the lives of local people and the development achievements

In recent years, humanitarian emergencies have occurred frequently due to climate change, natural disasters, and geopolitical conflicts. China has provided various forms of emergency humanitarian aid according to the needs of affected countries. For combating COVID-19 pandemic, in particular, China has carried out the longest and largest humanitarian assistance since the founding of the People's Republic of China. Besides, China has implemented about 900 emergency humanitarian aid projects in more than 40 countries and provided emergency food aid to more than 30 countries from 2018 onwards. All such

humanitarian aid has effectively protected the lives, health, and property of people in affected countries.

In responding to natural disasters, China has acted on a humanitarian basis to mobilize resources and forces from various sectors, including local governments, enterprises, and social organizations, and provided disaster-stricken countries with a full range of assistance from disaster prevention to disaster relief and post-disaster reconstruction, with the forms of dispatching rescue teams, providing supplies and cash remittances etc..



China's Emergency Humanitarian Aid to Nepal for Earthquake Relief

A 6.4-magnitude earthquake struck the districts of Jajarkot and Rukum (West) in western Nepal on November 3, 2023. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs of Nepal, it caused hundreds of casualties, with more than 35,000 houses damaged or collapsed as of November 7 local time.

China immediately announced that it would provide an additional batch of emergency humanitarian



On November 8, 2023, two transport planes carrying Chinese emergency humanitarian supplies to Nepal landed at Pokhara International Airport in Nepal.

aid worth 15 million yuan to Nepal. On November 8, Chinese emergency humanitarian supplies for the earthquake-stricken areas in Nepal arrived at Pokhara

International Airport and were handed over to the Nepalese side, including 600 cotton tents and 4,600 blankets.

In responding to public health crises, China has helped recipient countries contain the spread of major infectious diseases and build more resilient health care systems by providing emergency medical supplies and dispatching medical experts. During the COVID-19 pandemic, China offered large quantities of anti-epidemic supplies to more than 160 countries and

international organizations, supplied more than 2.3 billion doses of vaccines to more than 120 countries and international organizations, and sent medical experts to 34 countries. China has also strengthened the coordination of worldwide anti-pandemic actions through communication and cooperation with relevant international agencies.

China's Emergency Humanitarian Aid Amid the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has so far resulted in tens of thousands of Palestinian deaths and nearly 100,000 injuries, most of which are women and children. Besides, the lives of humanitarian aid workers are also under serious threat, with hundreds of workers and volunteers having lost their lives. The Gaza Strip is facing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis.

China has delivered four batches of emergency humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza. In October 2023, shortly after the outbreak of the conflict, China provided emergency humanitarian cash assistance to the Palestinian National Authority and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency



On April 18 and 19, 2024, local time, Chinese aid supplies for Gaza arrived in Egypt and would be transported to the Gaza Strip through the Rafah crossing.

for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) respectively, as well as the first batch of emergency humanitarian supplies to Gaza, including 66 trucks of food and 14 trucks of medicine.

In the first half of 2024, the third and fourth batches of Chinese

emergency humanitarian supplies worth about 70 million yuan to Gaza arrived in Egypt one after another, including blankets, clothing, tents, ultrasound machines, monitors, ventilators, mobile toilets, and orthopedic implants, as well as 450 tons each of rice and wheat flour.

China has adhered to the principle of depoliticization in the face of the worsening migrant and refugee crises caused by geopolitical conflicts. It has rendered assistance in food, medical supplies, and daily necessities to the affected regions and people, and remained

highly concerned about the interests of vulnerable groups such as women and children. China has been committed to facilitating dialogue for peace, and supported the parties concerned to resolve disputes through dialogue and bridge differences through consultation.

04

Conclusion and Outlook

As Chinese President Xi Jinping pointed out, "the aspiration of all peoples for a better life is our goal." Development is about the delivery of a stable and happy life for the people, though the path to development may vary. In this regard, people of all countries can always share the greatest consensus and deep empathy. China-proposed BRI, GDI, Global Security Initiative (GSI), and Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) are aimed at promoting common development of all countries for the benefit of all peoples, and stand as vivid examples of building a global community of shared future.

Over the past ten years, the "hard connectivity" of infrastructure has taken shape, laying a solid foundation for stimulating economic growth; and the "soft connectivity" of policies and rules has been established extensively, providing a vital guarantee for promoting strategic alignment, policy coordination, and pragmatic cooperation among countries. As an important direction and priority of the BRI development, "small and beautiful" projects aim to improve people's well-being and boost people-to-people bond in relevant countries. They demonstrate the humanistic care and kindness of China's foreign aid and international development cooperation. In the next step, China will scale up "small and beautiful" projects, and magnify the comprehensive benefits of such projects based on efforts in top-level design, communication and coordination, diversified participation, and management efficiency.

First, remaining committed to improving people's well-being through development and making appropriate project planning. Large-scale infrastructure projects, small-scale facilities projects, and livelihood improvement projects will be harmonized to help recipient countries consolidate the foundation of development while effectively solving livelihood problems. Project planning

will be heightened to enhance the continuity and predictability of projects.

Second, strengthening communication and coordination with recipient countries to better meet local needs. China will deepen strategic alignment with recipient countries and international organizations. Field investigation and bilateral and multilateral institutionalized consultation are helpful for better understanding the actual needs of developing countries and designing more targeted and acceptable projects. China will put emphasis on addressing the urgent desire of developing countries for green and low-carbon development.

Third, reinforcing the sound pattern of diversified participation to significantly enhance the synergies in assistance. On top of strengthening intergovernmental cooperation, China will expand cooperation via other channels by encouraging and guiding the joint efforts of local governments, enterprises, think tanks, universities, and social organizations. China will make good use of platforms such as the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund, Global Development Project Pool, and Global Development Capital Pool to provide comprehensive and professional assistance to recipient countries in active cooperation with relevant international organizations.

Fourth, improving the relevant institutional mechanisms to optimize project implementation and management. China will refine the systems for examining, selecting, establishing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating projects, and improve the efficiency of project decision-making, implementation and management, so as to ensure that the projects yield substantial results to truly benefit local people.

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