

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

AND

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Gender Umbrella Programme

The primary purpose of this programme is to serve as an umbrella in prioritized areas of gender equity and equality in China. The main objective is to reduce women's vulnerability and marginalization in the political, economic and social sectors by ensuring a rights-based approach to equitable and sustainable development for women. The programme is designed to respond in a quick and flexible way to the emerging needs of women in a rapidly transitioning environment and to further streamline gender equity into the national development strategy.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACWF	All China Women Federation
CADVN	China Against Domestic Violence Network
CASS	China Academy of Social Science
CICETE	China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchanges
CLAF	Chinese Legal Aid Foundation
COP	Community of Practice
CWRS	China Women Research Network
DFID	UK Department for International Development
DV	Domestic Violence
GOC	Government of China
MOCA	Ministry of Civil Affairs
MOFCOM	Ministry of Commerce
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOH	Ministry of Health
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NPFPC	National Population and Family Planning Commission
NWCCW	National Working Committee for Children and Women
PSC	Project Steering Committee
SRB	Sex Ratio at Birth
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

Part 1 Situation Analysis

China has undergone unprecedented economic growth and reforms in recent years, which have contributed greatly to the social enhancement and financial stability of women. Despite these improvements, cultural, structural and transient factors have prevented women from benefiting equally from the country's advancements. In 2009, the Human Development Report ranked China 92 out of 182 countries based on the gender-related development index (GDI).¹ Gender equality continues to be a major challenge in the country, particularly in the areas of political participation, employment, domestic violence and etc. This inequality constitutes a major obstacle to progress and intrinsically hinders development. While the country has made improvements to the legal foundation for women's rights, the system remains plagued with challenges to the implementation and enforcement of these policies. In order to ensure a more equitable human development in China, gender equality must comprise a cornerstone of the country's overall progress and modernization strategy.

In recent years, the government has made tremendous progress in streamlining gender issues into the national development plan, taking steps to ensure that women are given equal rights in political, economic and social life. At the same time, the economic reforms and opening up of China's market has led to rapid changes that often exacerbate the pressures for and constraints of women's participation in emerging opportunities. For instance, since the restructuring of State Owned Enterprises in the country, these institutions no longer guarantee basic social services such as education and childcare, family planning and reproductive health care, and skills training. The lack of these services disrupt the stability of the household, and the impacts are especially acute for women, who often bear the hidden costs of poverty and tend to be among the most vulnerable populations in the country. Despite steps taken to ensure legal protections for women, these underlying structural constraints continue to hinder women's full participation and contribution to sustainable human development.

The most recent progress report on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in China highlights some of the gender gaps that remain in the country. While the political participation of women has increased at the mid-level range, they continue to be under-represented at the national level. In terms of employment, women's participation in the labor force is on the rise. At the same time, there continues to be legal and social constraints that hinder women's employment, such as unequal retirement policies for women and men, sexual harassment and imbalanced representation in particular labor sectors. Tremendous improvements have been made in reducing the gender gap in primary and secondary education for girls, and the rate of enrolment is on the rise in tertiary and graduate education. However, women comprise 70 percent of illiterate adults in the country. The imbalance between the need for educational services and the reduction in educational facilities has resulted in increased and disordered competition among schools and childcare centers, lowering the quality of these facilities but

¹ As reported in the 2009 UNDP Human Development Report "Overcoming Barriers: Human Mobility and Development." In 2007, China was ranked 75 out of 155 countries on the GDI.

² As reported in the 2010 progress report on the MDGs in China, jointly published by the UN system and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Increasing women's political rights and representation is critical towards building a legal infrastructure that mainstreams gender equality. Part of this effort includes the streamlining of gender-specific information, disaggregated data and indicators, and standardized policies that are important to ensuring the visibility of women. In addition, ensuring women's participation requires strengthening the legal framework and infrastructure in order to create an enabling environment. Such measures include training for legal authorities and workers, and eliminating gender gaps and discrimination in the

the political process. governance, but creates an imbalanced representation of women and men's interests in participation. The marginalization of women's participation impedes not only good women's rights, a more enabling legal and policy environment is needed to enhance at the national level. Although improvements have been made to the legal foundation for women. Access to political processes continues to be a challenge for women, especially level, the participation is even lower, as only 2.7% of village committee are headed by Congress, and only 16.1 percent were members of the Standing Committee. At the village China. In 2008, women constituted 21.3 percent of positions in the National People's The political participation of women in electoral processes remains significantly low in

Programme Component One

2. The programme

In order to ensure a more comprehensive and equitable development for gender equality in China, this programme strives to respond to a number of structural constraints that prevent women from achieving their full potential and autonomy. Building on UNDP's core mission and focus on sustainable human development, this programme adopts a rights-based approach to implement those prioritized interventions. The components of this programme focus on strengthening the political, economic and social infrastructure in order to enhance women's participation in these sectors. By increasing women's access to these opportunities and providing them with the skills to participate in political, economic and social life, this programme will help to ensure a more equal and equitable distribution of resources for gender equality.

1. Overall Programme Objective

Part 2 Strategy

increasing the costs for their services. The implications of this decreased access affect women and children the most, and threaten to destabilize the achievement of equitable social and economic development.² The Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) in China has risen steadily from 1980s to present, 119.5 male births for 100 female births in 2009. China is the country with the highest SRB and longest abnormal period in the world. China has the second highest female suicide rate in the world and is the only nation in which female suicides outnumber male suicides.

practice of laws and policies. As a complement to these strategies, continued policy advocacy is necessary to raise awareness among policymakers and lawmakers to the gender disparities in the political process.

Programme Component Two

Gender equity and equality should not only be represented in the political process, but also in **economic resources** as well. Although women's participation in the labor force is on the rise, their employment tends to be concentrated in informal and/or low-wage sectors such as farming, service and small business. Moreover, the retirement age for women is earlier than for men, demonstrating that discrimination based on age and gender still exists in the labor force. The income gap between women and men is significant, with women earning on average 70 percent of men's earnings. Equal pay for equal work is important to cultivate new capabilities and develop a greater sense of autonomy for women. The distribution of economic resources should not only be for paid work, but extends to property and ownership rights for women as well, and their right to claim equitable assets.

These obstacles to women's participation in the economy need to be overcome in order to benefit China's overall development. Ensuring equal and equitable opportunities for women is an important step towards eliminating structural inequalities that push women into vulnerability and poverty. These opportunities include not only access to income generation and economic advancement, but also extend to the necessary skills training and capacity building that allows women to contribute to the burgeoning economy. Furthermore, paid work for women helps to build their autonomy and is recognition of their vital role in the sustainability of human development. Economic rights for women include property and ownership rights that enable women to keep their earnings and assets, demand equal pay for equal work, and protect themselves against discrimination and bias in the labor force. Ultimately, these rights should be reflected in policies that provide the legal infrastructure for women to participate in economic activities.

Programme Component Three

Both the political and economic challenges to women's participation in these processes have significant impacts and consequences to the **social development** of China. There are several trends reflecting potential implications for women's human security for the future. For instance, in the absence of these public services, such as early childhood education, day care or kindergarten, women are sometimes forced to resign from their jobs in order to care for the household. When this happens, the family loses not only a critical source of household income, but risks disempowering women. China's sex ratio at birth was estimated to be 119 male live births for every 100 females, one of the highest in the world. The female suicide rate in China is the highest in the world, and is the only country where more women commit suicide than men by a margin as wide as 25 percent. Gender based violence remains relatively prevalent, and some studies find that domestic violence occurs in roughly 30 percent of all marriages in China. Such data indicate the need for stronger access to and quality of social services for women to address these social problems.

UNDP is committed to promoting change and creating a network of knowledge, experience, and resources to empower people to build a better life. The most recent Asia and the Pacific Human Development Report focuses on gender equality and the consequences of these inequalities for sustainable human development. In the context of ongoing rapid changes in China, UNDP strives to support China to achieve equitable and equal gender development through increasing political participation and representation of women, safeguarding economic opportunities and rights for women, and enhancing the social development of women through gender equality.

Part 3 Justification for UNDP Response

A "Community of Practice on Gender" (CoP) will serve as a platform to promote dedicated knowledge building and sharing on gender, enhance the gender focus of line ministries, and facilitate interactions among government, academia and women's organizations and groups. The mechanism will bring government partners, representatives from academia, CSOs, the donor communities, together to a neutral knowledge-sharing platform. UNDP help a gender mainstreaming approach through analyzing and discussing forward-looking gender-related development issues, and create opportunities for influencing the mindset of policy makers as well as practitioners, thus leverage core competencies for change. CoP will also serve as an incentive to participation and a means of turning new ideas into practice.

National statistics systems should be capable of collecting, reporting and analyzing gender-disaggregated data, especially in areas lack of solid evidence and common consensus to inform policy makers, such as tracking the prevalence of gender based violence, male/female gaps in asset ownership, employment discrimination against women and etc. A policy dialogue platform is also essential to share information and to stimulate discussions among stakeholders. However, there is a lack of strong partners and champions in advancing this agenda. The All China Women's Federation (ACWF) is a committed partner, but only functions as mass organization. It does not make or implement policy on gender, and there is no explicit gender focus in any of the line ministries.

Programme Component Four

Enhancing gender equality is an integral part of China's overall social development. Access to social services, especially for women, remains a serious challenge in the country. To effectively respond to the social concerns of women, it is important to ensure accessibility to services such as childcare and childhood education, reproductive health and family planning, and skills training and capacity development. These services should also extend to addressing and eliminating gender-based violence, such as sexual harassment, that affect women on a daily basis. There needs to be a more streamlined and coordinated approach for delivering these services at all levels, integrating the efforts of government, private, and community institutions. Moreover, policies are needed to better address the social problems that women face, creating an enabling legal environment and infrastructure for the provision of social services. The long-term sustainability of a social service infrastructure will help to maintain a more equitable development in the country.

UNDP will work closely with the government to provide recommendations for enhancing the political, economic and social rights for women in China, creating an enabling legal environment and infrastructure for the implementation of these rights, and ensuring the participation and protection of women in exercising these rights. Although women are the primary beneficiaries of this programme, it is with the understanding that improving gender equality contributes to the development of strong and healthy families, societies and economies. The realization of gender equality is not only integral to respect for human diversity, but for long-term social stability and human development.

Part 4 Key Areas of Work and Result Framework:

Outcome 1: To increase the political participation of women in order to ensure the equal representation of their interests and protection of their rights.

- 1) To strengthen the legal infrastructure to eliminate gender discrimination and ensure the increased participation of women.

Outcome 2: To ensure the equal participation of women in the economic sector and the equitable distribution of economic resources.

- 2) To ensure the equal participation of women in all economic sectors through increasing economic opportunities and capacity development for women.

Outcome 3: To strengthen women's social development through the mainstreaming of gender equity and equality.

- 3) To ensure access to and improve the quality of social services for women in order to reduce their vulnerability.

Outcome 4: To create a knowledge-sharing network to better mainstream gender equality and equity into policy and practice.

- 4) To lead communities of practice to enhance dialogue and strengthen gender mainstreaming into policies and implementation including establishment of China-Africa dialogue platform.
- 5) To create a resource network and shared platform of best practices and lessons learned in gender.

Proposed Results Framework: Outcomes, Outputs and Indicators

UNDAF Outcome 2.3: The rights of women to live their lives free of discrimination and violence and to greater political participation are realized.						
Goal: This project focuses on mainstreaming gender equity and equality for sustainable development in China. It aims to increase the political, economic and social development of women in order to reduce their vulnerability and marginalization in society.						
Focus Area	Baseline in 2010	Key Issue to Address	Expected Output	Key milestone 2011-2015	Target and Indicator	Role of Partner
<p>Outcome 1: To increase the political participation of women in order to ensure the equal representation of their interests and protection of their legal rights.</p>	<p>A legal system has been established to protect women's rights and interests, and promote gender equality based on the Constitution.</p> <p>From 2001 to 2006, the government promulgated and/or modified the following statutes to improve the legal protection of women's rights: the Population and Family Planning Law, the Marriage Law, the Law of Land Contracts in Rural Areas of the People's Republic of</p>	<p>Legal rights and protection</p>	<p>Output 1: To strengthen the legal infrastructure to protect women from gender discrimination.</p>	<p>Increase the ability of legal representatives, judges and other decision-makers in the legal sector to understand and advocate for women's legal rights in key issues such as land reform, divorce, et al, through trainings and workshops on gender sensitivity in the law.</p>	<p>Target 1: To ensure a solid legal foundation for the practice and implementation of laws and policies to eliminate gender discrimination against women in the political process.</p> <p>Indicator 1: Number of trainings and workshops held on gender discrimination in the legal system; Number of judges, lawyers and legal</p>	<p>NWCCW, ACWF, China Law Society, CICETE, UNDP</p>

	<p>China, the Law of Guarantee of the Rights and Interests of Women of the People's Republic of China and etc.</p> <p>However, awareness among policy makers and legal practitioners are generally low on concept of gender equality and its legal implications. CSOs rarely enjoy the chance to speak to government face to face on regarding issues.</p>			<p>Strengthen legislative institutions, procedures and processes in support of gender equity and equality in the practice of the law through trainings, workshops, and roundtables.</p> <p>Enhance awareness among women on legal knowledge of their rights, and improve access for legal aid and representation for women in order to protect and promote their rights through cooperation with CSOs, government and legal institutions.</p>	<p>members participating in trainings.</p>	
<p>Outcome 2: To ensure the equal participation of women in the economic sector and the equitable distribution of</p>	<p>The adoption of a policy to provide women with small discount loans to create self-employment, thereby breaking the fund bottleneck that has restricted women from such opportunities.</p>	<p>Employment equity</p>	<p>Output 2: To ensure the equal participation of women in all sectors of the economy, especially in</p>	<p>Conduct a baseline assessment on women's participation in the labor force, including patterns and trends of gender inequities in employment, paying special attention to migrant women.</p>	<p>Target 2: To strengthen women's capacity to participate in economic activities, especially in non-conventional sectors.</p>	<p>ACWF, MoHRSS, CICETE, UNDP</p>

resources.	Use of sex disaggregated statistical data and surveys by the State Statistics Bureau. Increase in number of women employed in urban and rural areas, up to 337 million (44.8% of employed population) at the end of 2004; in urban areas, 44.27 million employed were women (38.1% of total employed urban population).		non-conventional fields.	<p>Launch pilot programs to foster entrepreneurialism among women, particular in non-conventional sectors.</p> <p>Implement vocational and skills training for women in order to increase their employability in different sectors of the economy.</p> <p>Facilitate dialogue between stakeholders from government, donors, CSOs, women's organizations and UN agencies in order to promote policy recommendations.</p>	<p><u>Indicator 2:</u> Number of workshops and trainings for women; Number of women entering the labor force, especially in non-conventional sectors; Percentage increase of household income due to women's employment.</p>	
<p>Outcome 3: To strengthen women's social development through the mainstreaming of gender equity and equality.</p>	<p>Ratio of net enrolment for girls to boys in primary schools increased from 98% in 1991 to 100% in 2009. Net enrolment ratios for girls and boys were 99.44% and 99.36%</p>	<p>Access to Social Services</p>	<p>Output 3: Increase access to and improve the quality of social services for women.</p>	<p>Increase the capacity of urban communities to better deliver social services at the local level, and improve the capacity of service providers and professionals to respond to the needs of women through trainings and workshops.</p>	<p><u>Target 3:</u> To streamline the provision of social services at all levels to ensure access for women, especially vulnerable and marginalized groups, to better support</p>	<p>UN Agencies, ACWF, Ministry of Education (potential), NPPPC, UNDP, CICETE</p>

	<p>respectively, thereby eliminating any gender disparity.</p> <p>Number of employed women on the rise; AWWF and Ministry of Social Security carried out a series of activities in 200 municipalities providing employment-related assistance to women.</p> <p>Formulation of the National Action Plan of Education for All and</p>			<p>Carry out study tours, workshops and seminars to introduce international concepts and best practices of social service delivery and enhancing equal access.</p> <p>Conduct livelihood and skills training for urban families, especially vulnerable populations such as women, migrant workers and low-income families, to ensure equal rights and opportunities to social services and equitable development.</p>	<p>their development and address social challenges.</p> <p>Indicator34: Number of women using social services; Number of services established and available at the community and/or neighborhood level; Number of workshops and trainings held.</p>	
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	<p>National Program of Action for Child Development to provide legal and policy guidance to guarantee equal educational opportunities.</p> <p>Implementation of educational campaigns such as Spring Bud Plan to help girl dropouts from poor families to return to school. To date, this program has assisted over 1.8 million girls, conducted technical training among 400,000 girls.</p> <p>Free pregnancy-related guidance at least five times and two postnatal visits for pregnant</p>			<p>Strengthen the capacity of urban households through improved child rearing skills and services for women, access to education for women and children, and better social services for responsible family planning.</p> <p>Improving the professionalization and skills of education providers, including child care health officials, early childhood development instructors, and kindergarten teachers to strengthen the quality of social services for children.</p>		
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	<p>women; subsidies for hospital delivery for rural women; free intake of prenatal folic acid. Increased contraceptive use among married women, up to 89%.</p>		<p>Community of Practice and Resource Network</p>	<p>Outcome 4: To create a knowledge-sharing resource network for different stakeholders to better mainstream gender equality and equity into policy and practice.</p>	<p>Raise awareness of and information to social services in the communities, including building an e-platform to increase the availability of social services, information and resources and enhancing e-learning for members.</p>		
	<p>Output 4: Lead communities of practice to enhance dialogue and strengthen gender mainstreaming into policies and implementation.</p>	<p>Organize regular meetings that bring together government partners, representatives from academia, CSOs, donors, and other stakeholders for informal dialogue on developing gender sensitive policies and practices.</p> <p>Organize at least one high-level meeting with relevant stakeholders to disseminate findings and lessons learned for policy implications.</p>	<p>Target 4: To establish communities of practice to enhance dialogue and strengthen gender mainstreaming into policies and implementation</p> <p>Indicator 4: Number of dialogues and advocacy events held; Number of</p>	<p>UNDP UN Agencies CICETE Government Institutions CSOs Donors</p>			

		<p>Organize senior level dialogue and communication forums between China and Africa to exchange experience in gender mainstreaming</p> <p>Develop pilot programs across thematic sectors that demonstrate best practices in gender mainstreaming.</p>	<p>policy makers and researchers participating, number of publications produced;</p>	
	<p>Output 5: To create a resource network and shared platform of best practices and lessons learned in gender.</p>	<p>Create an online forum to foster a global exchange and disseminate shared knowledge for partners on gender equality, including best practices and lessons learned.</p> <p>Produce periodic publications and reports (at least one per year) related to gender and development through UNDP's programs and activities.</p>	<p><u>Target 5:</u> To create a resource network and shared platform of best practices and lessons learned in gender.</p> <p><u>Indicator 5:</u> Number of visits to and discussion on the online forum; number of publications/papers disseminated among stakeholders; number of request from policy makers and researchers on relevant knowledge.</p>	<p>UNDP UN Agencies CICETE Government Institutions CSOs Donors</p>

Part 5 Partnership Strategy

All China Women Federation (ACWF) is the primary women's machinery of China, and the only women's organization in China with the size, years of experience in programme management and policy advocacy, and capacity of reaching from national to grass root level based on its strong networks. The ACWF is the largest national women's NGO in China. Its mission is "to represent and to protect women's rights and interests, and to promote equality between men and women" through integrating women into economic and social development, educating women, representing women and children in the formulation of relevant laws, regulations and policies, and promoting the networking of women of different ethnicities within China and of Chinese women around the world.

National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC) has a well developed and extensive network extending from national down to village and community levels which will be utilized to enhance aims. At grassroots levels, family planning workers have established long-term relations with locals. NPFPC has a number of subordinate institutions i.e. research, policy consulting, publicity and education, information collection and publication. It works closely with other central government departments such as the Ministry of Civil Affair, Ministry of Human Resource and Social Security, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and etc.

National Working Committee for Children and Women (NWCCW) is a government coordination and consultation organ in charge of women's and children's affairs, includes delegates from 33 government agencies and civil society organisations including ACWF. It will be the key entry point for reaching relevant departments. NWCCW is the primary mechanism that coordinates government and civil society efforts to promote women's rights, and includes the most important stakeholders in enhancing women's political participation in China.

Founded in 1997, China Legal Aid Foundation (CLAF) is a non-governmental and non-profit organization, which aims to bestow equal judicial protection upon all citizens and maintain their basic rights prescribed by the law. In recent years, CLAF had established 11 special funds migrant worker, the disable, women and other vulnerable groups. In 1999, Ministry of Justice, Chinese Youth League and CLAF jointly launched "1+1" China National Legal Aid Volunteer Programme. Given the fact that 213 counties do not have any lawyer out of the 2000 counties in the country, the programme is committed to mobilize lawyers and graduates as volunteers to counties without lawyer or places with limited lawyer resources in western region.

Part 6 UN on-going Joint Programmes

The UN-China joint programme on Prevention and Responding to Domestic Violence in China through a Multi-sectoral Approach was formally launched in 2010 with three year implementation duration. The joint programme is expected to implement effective prevention and response to DV through implementing a multi-sectoral model and improving relevant policies and laws. Multi UN agencies, government departments and

mass organizations align with each other in the programme including UNIFEM (UN Women), UNFPA, UNESCO, UNDP, ACWF, MoCA, MoJ, MoH, CASS, CADVN and etc.

In 2011, another UN-China joint programme is expected to be launched aiming to enhance Chinese women's political participation at multi levels through advocacy, promoting of male involvement, leadership capacity building. The programme will invest 2.4 million USD in a 4 year period. Main implementing agencies include: NWCCW, ACW, Chinese Women Research Society (CWRS), UNIFEM (UN Women), UNDP, UNESCO.

Under the framework of the two important joint programmes, UNDP works closely with ACWF and other line ministries/partners contributing to the overall objective of the joint programmes. The proposed Gender Umbrella Programme will extend UNDP's operation towards fulfillment of MDG goal on gender equality under the guidance of UNDAF and UNDP Country Programme Action Plan.

Part 7 Management Arrangement

The Ministry of Commerce is the government focal point responsible for management of international development from foreign governments and UN agencies, inter alia.

China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE) affiliated with the Ministry is the designated focal point for coordination, formulation and implementation of country cooperation programmes of UNDP. As the executing agency, CICETE will, in consultation with other relevant institutions and the UNDP country office, identify, approve, implement the proposed activities, provide support to ensure the results, and to ensure the successful completion of the programme.

CICETE and UNDP will be responsible for the overall management and results of the Gender Umbrella programme and the daily implementation of the project according to the rules and regulations, Results Based Management (RMB) principles of UNDP and the NEX manual.

Due to nature of the project, each component of the programme will be assigned to a separate project manager/team. The project manager is responsible for the day-to-day management of the project. The prime responsibility of the project manager is to ensure that the project produces the results specified in the project document, and to the required quality within the time frame and cost.

UNDP will take the role of project assurance by carrying out the objectives and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. The project assurance role will ensure appropriate project management milestones are managed and completed.

Part 8 Monitoring and Evaluation

The project will be subject to periodic review in accordance with the policies and procedures established by UNDP for monitoring project and programme implementation. Working level review can be carried out as agreed by the two parties when necessary.

Progress and Annual reports will be prepared by the Implementing Partner before the completion of each initiative, in accordance with UNDP policies and procedures. A final programme report will be prepared by CICETE and UNDP Programme Manager.

The communication and advocacy will be carried out in line with the nature of each activity and there will be no unified communication plan of the Programme.

Part 9 Funding

The total budget for the programme is USD 5,650,000 over four years (tentative). (USD 500,000 is TRAC and USD 5,150,000 is cost sharing and third party contribution.)

Part 10 Financial Management

Annex: Draft Concept Notes for Different Programme Components

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Project Workplan

Programme number:

Programme title: Gender Umbrella Programme
 —To strengthen a gender responsive voluntary legal aid system

Estimated start date: 2011

Estimated end date: 2014

Country: China

Management arrangement: NEX

Designated institution: China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE)

Implementing Partner: China Legal Aid Foundation

UNDAF outcome(s)/Indicators:

Outcome 2.3 The rights of women to live their lives free of discrimination and violence and to greater political participation are realized

Country Program Expected Outcome(s)/Indicators

UNDP CP Outcome 3. The right of women to greater social and political participation and to live lives free from discrimination and violence, and is advanced.

Agreed by

Signature

Date

UNDP

CICETE

Government Matching Input:
 Total:

Summary of UNDP and
 Cost-sharing inputs
 UNDP TRAC1&2: \$100,000
 Third Party Cost-sharing: \$400,000
 Total: \$500,000

1. Background/situational analysis

China has undergone remarkable social and economic achievements in the past 30 years since launch of the reform and opening-up process, which have contributed greatly to the social and financial enhancement of women. According to the joint progress report released in 2010 by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNs, China is very likely to reach the MDG goal on gender equality by eliminating gender disparity in all levels of education by 2015. Up to date, 27 provinces have issued regulations on domestic violence response and prevention. The number of women in employment is constantly on the rise. By 2008, 30 percent of the cadres national wide were women.

China had issued or amended a number of laws to strengthen the legal protection system for rights of women. A national multi-sectoral coordination mechanism has been established aiming at safeguarding rights of women and girls. Released in 2003, the Regulation of Legal Aid System provides practical support to women in poverty to seek legal justice and protection. Despite these improvements, persistent gaps are evident across areas of rights protection for women. According to data from All China Women Federation (ACWF), domestic violence occurred in over 30% of Chinese families, among which 90% of victims are women. There is widespread employment discrimination against women and girls, 33% of migrant women workers are in lower-paying jobs or the informal sector. Women take up 60% of the labour force in rural China. However, 70% of landless farmers are women for marriage, divorce or other reasons. China has the second highest female suicide rate in the world and is the only nation in which female suicides outnumber male suicides. Over 80% of women in China have experienced sexual harassment.

Founded in 1997, China Legal Aid Foundation (CLAF) is a non-governmental and non-profit organization, which aims to bestow equal judicial protection upon all citizens and maintain their basic rights prescribed by the law. In recent years, CLAF had established 11 special funds migrant worker, the disable, women and other vulnerable groups. In 1999, Ministry of Justice, Chinese Youth League and CLAF jointly launched “1+1” China National Legal Aid Volunteer Programme. Given the fact that 213 counties do not have any lawyer out of the 2000 counties in the country, the programme is committed to mobilize lawyers and graduates as volunteers to counties without lawyer or places with limited lawyer resources in western region. Till now, over 400 lawyers have been designated to 70 counties of western provinces providing free legal services down to community, including legal counseling, handling legal aid case, performing public campaign and field investigation. Currently, there has been no comprehensive capacity building programme and technical support mechanism for the recruited lawyers before and during their practice, though gender related cases have been encountered frequently.

Based on the platform of CLAF and the “1+1” programme, this project is proposed to incorporate a gender responsive approach across the programme implementation.

2. Justification

The APHDR report identifies advancing legal rights as one of the three key arenas in action. The report also explicitly states for women to have equal access to opportunities for human development, including those that come through political and economic power and voice, they must enjoy equal rights and protection under the law. Laws and legal practices, need to be designed and implemented in ways that tear down gender barriers. The operational guidance note identifies addressing legal discrimination and close gap between laws and legal practice as one of the priority intervention areas. Legal literacy campaigns, judicial training, community outreach, free legal aid and etc are all examples of reform to allow people especially women to seek justice.

3. Activities

- a. To design and implement a comprehensive capacity building programme targeting lawyers to mainstream gender perspective in the legal practice.
- b. To produce a toolkit/guideline on advancement of women's legal rights and practice for legal practitioners
- c. To establish a technical supporting mechanisms/body to provide in-field or off-field guidance and assistance to recruited lawyers in their daily practice on gender related issues
- d. To provide free legal aid to women and girls to eliminate discrimination and unfair treatment towards women in the less developed regions
- e. To implement a study to understand the baseline and gap of gendered legal assistance and key challenges with recommendations on law and policy harmonization

4. Implementation strategy

CLAF will be responsible for project implementation involving Ministry of Justice, ACWF, China Youth League and other key stakeholders throughout the project cycle. UNDP will provide necessary technical support, both domestic and international to CLAF based on needs, ie. the design of gender capacity building programme, design of the study framework and etc. CICTE is responsible for project delivery, ensures that project outputs are produced according to project objectives and related work plans. and also responsible for overall project management, financial management, coordination and evaluation.

5. Expected outcomes

- a. Raised awareness of lawyers involved in the project on gender inequality issues and gender related legal aid practice
- b. Number of cases receiving legal aid services concerning rights protection for women and girls

c. Knowledge products:

- The toolkit/guideline on advancement of women’s legal rights and practice for legal practitioners
- The report of study on the baseline and gap of gendered legal assistance and key challenges with recommendations on law and policy harmonization

6. Budget Estimation

UNDP	USD\$ 100,000
Third Party	USD\$ 400,000
Total Budget	USD\$ 500,000

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Project Workplan

Programme number:

Programme title: Gender Umbrella Programme
—Equal Rights and Access to Social Services for Urban
Families in the Urbanization Process

Estimated start date: 2011

Estimated end date: 2014

Country: China

Management arrangement: NEX

Designated institution: China International Center

for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE)

Implementing Partner: All China Women's

Federation (ACWF)

UNDAF outcome(s)/Indicators:

Outcome 2.3 The rights of women to live their lives
free of discrimination and violence and to greater
political participation are realized
UNDP CP Outcome 3. The right of women to greater
social and political participation and to live lives free
from discrimination and violence, and is advanced.

Agreed by

CICETE

UNDP

Signature

Date

Government Matching Input:
Total:

Summary of UNDP and
Cost-sharing inputs
UNDP TRAC1&2: \$350,000
Government Cost-sharing: \$3,850,000
Third Party: \$650,000
Total: \$4,850,000

1. Background

Since the 1990s, China has been undergoing a rapid urbanization process as part of its ongoing social and economic reforms. By the end of 2009, an estimated 46.6 percent of China's population, or 622 million people, live in urban areas, up from 45.7 percent in 2008. Between 2011 and 2015, the urban population is expected to exceed 50 percent of the total population. As the number of urban residents continues to increase, there is a need to strengthen the provision of and access to social services for this population in order to ensure that China remains on the path to sustainable human development. The distribution of social services in urban areas, however, remains a challenge for many residents, particularly women and children. Some studies indicate that at least one in every four urban residents lack access to adequate social welfare services. This lack of access presents a significant challenge to the ongoing urbanization and modernization plans for the country, and risks derailing the path to equitable development.

In recent years, the demand for urban social services has been further compounded by the growth in urban migration as a result of urbanization. This migration has created a new population of migrant families that has been encompassed into the urban fabric, increasing the demand for these services. The majority of the migrant population is low-income families that do not have a *hukou*, a local residency permit, and are denied access to basic services such as education, housing or health care. A recent survey revealed that an estimated 167 million migrant workers tend to live and work in an urban city for more than six months. The influx of these migrant families into city centers contributes to the rise in the overall urban population, and reinforces the need for strengthened social services to prevent them from falling further into poverty.

Before the economic reforms, social services were traditionally provided by State Owned Enterprises (SOE) and government institutions for their employees; these benefits included housing, pension, health care services, and nursing and childcare support. After the reforms, as a result of the opening-up of the market, these services are no longer guaranteed by the SOE, in part because of the restructuring of these institutions to meet the demands of the market economy. Consequently, many of these social services, such as education and childcare, family planning and reproductive services, and skills training and capacity building, have shifted responsibility from the government to individual households. These changes have placed an undue burden on urban families to meet the increasing need for social services. Such pressures are especially acute for women and children, who often bear the hidden costs of poverty and tend to be among the most vulnerable populations in the country.

One of the consequences of the deterioration of social services is access to quality education for urban children. A large number of kindergartens run by SOEs and government institutions have been shut down in recent years. In Beijing alone, the number of kindergartens has been reduced from more than 4,000 to 1,000. At the same time, there is a high demand for day care and early childhood education in these urban

Second, the **quality** of social services needs to be improved in order to ensure the equitable distribution of resources. This system continues to be hampered by the implementation of similar policies by different government bodies (for example, early childhood education strategies implemented by the All China Women's Federation, the Ministry of education, and the National Population and Family Planning Commission). Instead, there needs to be a more streamlined process for the implementation of these policies in order to improve the efficacy of access to and delivery of social services in urban areas. This reform requires the cooperation not only of government bodies, but also of various stakeholders, such as enterprises. Moreover, urban communities have a significant role to play in terms of local governance and ensuring the equitable distribution and availability of these resources.

First, **access** to social services, especially for women and children, remains a serious challenge in urban areas. The inadequate and uneven distribution of social services makes it difficult for many urban families to afford certain services such as childcare. This difficulty is even more apparent for migrant families that do not have a residence certificate, families with disabled children and low-income families. Many families rely on a stable household income to sustain and support everyday expenditures, such as childcare, for example. In the absence of these public services, such as early childhood education, day care or kindergarten, women are sometimes forced to resign from their jobs in order to care for the household. When this happens, the family loses not only a critical source of household income, but risks disempowering women. Thus, public access to resources must be more equitably distributed across the country, especially for vulnerable urban populations.

In order to ensure the continued equitable and sustainable development of China and its urbanization process, it is critical to increase access to and strengthen the services of social welfare benefits for urban families, especially women and children as the most vulnerable populations. Access to these services includes improving (1) educational quality and access for all urban children, including early childhood education, kindergarten and primary school; (2) reproductive health and family planning services, especially nursing and child care, and responsible family planning to ensure an equitable sex-ratio; and (3) skills training and capacity building for women to support income generation and livelihood development. However, there remains many challenges to meeting these needs.

2. Challenges and Objectives

The imbalance between the need for educational services and the reduction in educational facilities has resulted in increased and disordered competition among childcare centers, lowering the quality of these facilities but increasing the costs for their services. This competition has posed challenges for the equal rights and access to social services for urban populations. The implications of this decreased access affect women and children the most, and threaten to destabilize the achievement of equitable social and economic development.

Third, the **capacity** of both social service providers as well as urban families to better sustain themselves is important for the overall sustainability and development of an efficient social welfare system. The enhanced capacity of educational professionals, for example, or family planning experts to meet the needs of the public is critical to ensure that urban families, especially women and children, have access to high-quality information and services. Therefore, the professionalization of service providers is important to improving the system. In addition, further skills training and livelihood development are also crucial for the empowerment of urban families, especially for women. By improving the capacity of service providers to support families, and by equipping individuals with the skills needed to sustain themselves, these skills will ensure a more equitable development in the process of urbanization.

Fourth, it is important to ensure the long-term **sustainability** of these social services for urban communities. Given that the urban population continues to increase at a rapid rate because of urbanization, establishing a solid infrastructure and foundation for the provision of social welfare benefits provides a more sustainable and efficient system. Part of this process involves improving existing services to be more accessible, and expanding this coverage to meet the public needs of all urban households. The long-term sustainability of the social services network will not only improve the overall efficacy of the social welfare system, but will help to maintain a more equitable development in the country between the rich and the poor by ensuring access for the most vulnerable populations.

3. UNDP Response

UNDP is committed to promoting change and creating a network of knowledge, experience, and resources to empower people to build a better life. One of the key indicators for the Human Development Report is to ensure equal access to social welfare services, such as education, which is essential to urban development. As part of this objective, UNDP works to achieve equitable rights and access to inclusive and sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable populations through supporting democratic governance, rule of law and gender equality. By ensuring the participation of vulnerable populations, such as women and children, into these processes, UNDP aims to build a solid foundation for sustainable human development in China.

In the context of massive urbanization and transition to a market economy, UNDP strives to support China in achieving equitable development through building good governance in communities, supporting migrant and low-income urban families, and ensuring equal access and rights for women, children, and other vulnerable groups to social services. By focusing on the improvement of family planning and reproductive health services, educational quality, and livelihood development for urban families, UNDP aims to increase access to these services for urban communities in 5-8 project sites. As part of the key objectives of this proposed project, UNDP will target the improvement of the overall social welfare system to better meet the social service needs of urban families, especially for vulnerable populations of women and children.

UNDP will work closely with the government to provide recommendations for enhancing the existing social welfare system, such as introducing best practices through study tours and workshops, developing community-based programs to improve educational services, increasing the participation of women and children in these services, and strengthening advocacy efforts for equal access at the policy level. Although women and children will be the primary beneficiaries of this project, the overall objective is to extend access to these public services to all vulnerable groups in urban areas.

4. Key outputs of this project include:

- a) Building an e-platform to increase the availability of social services, information and resources for urban communities, as well as enhancing e-learning for members.
- b) Developing pilot programs to improve the distribution of social services in selected provinces (project sites in 5-8 provinces) to promote equal access to educational services as well as skills training and capacity development of service professionals.
- c) Carrying out study tours, workshops and seminars to introduce international concepts and best practices of social service delivery and enhancing equal access.
- d) Supporting livelihood and skills training for urban families, especially vulnerable populations such as women, migrant workers and low-income families, to ensure equal rights and opportunities to social services and equitable development.
- e) Enhancing the capacity of urban households through improved child rearing skills and services for women, access to education for women and children, and better social services for responsible family planning.
- f) Improving the professionalization and skills of education providers, including child care health officials, early childhood development instructors, and kindergarten teachers to strengthen the quality of social services for children.
- g) Conducting relevant baseline surveys and policy research of existing social service delivery in urban China, with a focus on educational benefits for children (such as early childhood education, for example), and providing recommendations for streamlining and strengthening the coordination among responsible government institutions and ministries in social service provision.
- h) Building the capacity of urban communities to better deliver social services at the community level and increase access for vulnerable populations and enhance awareness of and information to these services.
- i) Improved governance at the community level through strengthening planning, building and development to ensure the efficacy of urban communities to deliver adequate, accessible and inexpensive social services to residents.
- j) Advocating for better policy initiatives to ensure the equal access and rights to social services for vulnerable populations through enhanced partnerships with relevant government institutions for the protection of these groups.

5. Role of Partners

UN Partner Agencies

Through the UN Theme Group on Gender, this project seeks to build partnerships across the UN system, and rely on the expertise of UNICEF, UNIFEM and UNFPA for technical support in order to build synergy with existing and ongoing projects that focus on vulnerable populations, including women and children. Technical support will be requested from UNICEF for education (early childhood education, professionalization and curriculum development), UNIFEM for gender equity and equality for women, and UNFPA for family planning and reproductive health services.

All China Women's Federation

This institution will be responsible for the formulation of laws, decrees and regulations concerning women and children to promote their legitimate rights and interests.

6. Implementation strategy

ACWF will be responsible for project implementation involving Ministry of Education , NPFPC, and other key stakeholders throughout the project cycle. UNDP will provide necessary technical support, both domestic and international to ACWF based on needs, CICETE is responsible for project delivery, ensures that project outputs are produced according to project objectives and related work plans. and also responsible for overall project management, financial management, coordination and evaluation. The Project Management Office(PMO) will be established in Beijing. One or Two full-time staff will be recruited by PMO to support day-to-day project implementation, synthesizing project findings, preparing quarterly project updates, organizing annual project review meeting .

7. Budget Estimation

UNDP	USD\$ 350,000
Government C/S	USD\$ 3,850,000
Third Party	USD\$ 650,000
Total Budget	USD\$ 4,850,000

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Project Workplan

Programme number:

Programme title: Gender Umbrella Programme
—Community of Practice to Enhance Dialogue and
Knowledge based Gender Mainstreaming

PEstimated start date: 2011

Estimated end date: 2014

Country: China

Management arrangement: NBX

Designated institution: China International Center

for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE)

Implementing Partner:

UNDAF outcome(s)/Indicators:
Outcome 2.3 The rights of women to live their lives
free of discrimination and violence and to greater
political participation are realized
Country Program Expected Outcome(s)/Indicators
UNDP CP Outcome 3. The right of women to greater
social and political participation and to live free
from discrimination and violence, and is advanced.

Agreed by

CICETE

UNDP

Signature

Date

Government Matching Input:
Total:

**Summary of UNDP and
Cost-sharing Inputs**
UNDP TRAC1&2: \$50,000
Government Cost-sharing: (To be
mobilized)
Third Party: (to be
mobilized)
Total:

1. Background

China has undergone unprecedented economic growth and reforms in recent years, which have contributed greatly to the social enhancement and financial stability of women. Despite these improvements, cultural, structural and transient factors have prevented women from benefiting equally from the country's advancements. In 2009, the Human Development Report ranked China 92 out of 182 countries based on the gender-related development index (GDI), indicating that gender equality continues to be a major challenge in the country. The most recent progress report on the achievement of the MDG in China highlights some of the gender gaps that remain in the country. While the political participation of women has increased at the mid-level range, they continue to be under-represented at the national level. In terms of employment, women's participation in the labor force is on the rise. At the same time, there continues to be legal and social constraints that hinder women's employment.

However, gender equity is yet to be a national priority, partners do not see lack of gender equity as a threat to social stability or a contributor to economic growth. And there is a lack of strong partners and champions. The All China Women's Federation (ACWF) is a committed partner, but only has an advocacy role. It does not make or implement policy on gender. And there is no explicit gender focus in any of the line ministries.

2. Action to be taken

In the context of rapid social-economic transition in China, UNDP strives to contribute to changes towards a more equitable and equal gender development in China through developing a "community of practice on gender", which serves as a platform to promote dedicated knowledge building and sharing on gender, enhance the gender focus of line ministries, and facilitate interactions among government, academia and women's organizations and groups.

Bring government partners, representatives from academia, CSOs, the donor communities, etc, together to a neutral knowledge-sharing platform, UNDP help to promote participatory approach in analyzing and discussing forward-looking gender-related development issues, and create opportunities for influencing the mindset of policy makers as well as practitioners, thus leverage core competencies for change. CoP will also serve as an incentive to participation and a means of turning new ideas into practice. Pilot projects will be identified and funded under an umbrella gender programme to facilitate initiatives that respond to many of the constraints that prevent women from achieving their full potential and autonomy in their political, economic and social lives. Furthermore, the CoP will enable UNDP China to make more systematic efforts to analyze and widely share the good practices and lessons learned among stakeholders in China and with other countries.

The CoP will also serve as a platform for South-south cooperation especially between China and Africa regarding gender equality agenda.

3. Budget Estimation

UNDP	?
Government C/S	?
Third Party	?
Total Budget	USDS