

**CHINA'S PROGRESS
TOWARDS THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
2013 REPORT**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China
United Nations System in China





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FOREWORD

The Millennium Development Goals were adopted by the world leaders at the turn of this century 13 years ago. Carrying the hope of human society for good life and prosperity, the MDGs have already won the support of people from various walks of life and become the guiding framework for building international political consensus, promoting international development cooperation and domestic development of all nations.

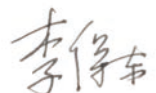
The past 13 years have witnessed significant progress in the implementation of the MDGs. The goals of halving the number of impoverished people across the world and gaining access to clean drinking water have been attained ahead of schedule. Progress has also been made in the fields of education and health. However, the full realization of the MDGs is not optimistic and the international community should spare no effort in that regard. Looking forward to the year 2015, the international development cooperation is now at a critical threshold. The United Nations will hold a special event on the implementation of the MDGs this September. It is our hope that this event will accelerate the implementation of the MDGs and at the same time outline the vision for the Development Agenda beyond 2015.

The Chinese Government and its people have always placed development as its top priority and been fully devoted to the implementation of the MDGs. Since its release of the last report in 2010, China has striven to achieve a steady and robust economic development, promote the industrial restructure, strengthen infrastructure construction, enhance the level of urbanization, continue to expand urban and rural employment, speed up the development of education and improve the social security system. Thus, the living standards of its people have been greatly enhanced. Yet, with a big population living in poverty and the problems of imbalance, uncoordination and unsustainability in its development, China remains to be a developing country, and has a long way to go for the full implementation of the MDGs.

While achieving self-development, China has spared no effort to shoulder the responsibility of development in consistence with its national conditions and development stage. China has actively advocated and participated in international development cooperation, through promoting South-South Cooperation, helping other developing countries within its own capacity in their efforts to build roads, bridges, hospitals, schools, agricultural irrigation systems and other infrastructure, reducing and cancelling debts of highly-indebted and poor countries, thus to improve local people's livelihood and facilitate the local economic and social progress.

This report is a review and summary of China's implementation of the MDGs. It will do its best to fully introduce China's policies, measures, achievements and challenges on the realization of the MDGs. I hereby would like to express my gratitude to the UN System in China, government authorities, social groups and academic institutions that have taken part in the drafting and compilation of this report.

The Chinese Government has already formulated the grand goal of completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, proposing the construction on ecological civilization and the concept of "Beautiful China," and striving to make the "Chinese Dream" come true. China's development is inseparable from the world's and an opportunity for all. China will continue to push forward the implementation of the MDGs and devote itself to the development agenda beyond 2015, which focuses on poverty eradication and development advancement, for mutual cooperation and common development for all.



Li Baodong
Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs
The People's Republic of China
September 2013

FOREWORD

Since September 2000, the Government of China has remained steadfast in its pledge to support the Millennium Development Goals. Over the course of the last 13 years, China has demonstrated that the right policies and actions, backed by financial resources and strong political commitment, can yield impressive results. Now, with only two years remaining in the countdown, China has achieved nearly half of the MDGs targets.

The MDGs are integrated into China's development planning, and since the last progress report in 2010, China has met three additional targets. These include targets under the goals to Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases and to Ensure Environmental Sustainability. In addition, China's growing contribution to developing countries through South-South Cooperation is helping them reach the MDGs, as well as adding to the global partnership for development highlighted by the eighth MDGs.

Once again this year, world leaders are gathering at the UN Headquarters in New York to take stock of progress toward the MDGs. They are also adopting strategies to accelerate results and looking ahead to setting a Development Agenda beyond 2015 that will consolidate and build upon the successes and the lessons learned from the MDGs.

In China – as in many other countries – challenges remain despite of sustained efforts. China still faces challenges in areas such as promoting equal employment, reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS and stopping the loss of environmental resources and biodiversity.

The UN system in China remains committed to its strong partnership with the Government of China in realizing its vision of a harmonious society and achieving all of the MDGs. The UN system will continue to support efforts to promote equitable and sustainable development and provide policy advice and support as China endeavors to implement its development policy.

This fifth MDGs progress report for China is, once again, a product of collaboration between the UN system in China and the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who coordinated inputs from around 30 government agencies. On behalf of the UN system in China, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our colleagues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and commend the Government of China for their strong commitment to the MDGs and congratulate them on their MDGs success, which are an inspiration to many countries around the world. I also wish to thank the Government of China for the significant South-South support to other developing countries which is helping them on their MDGs journeys.



Renata Lok-Dessallien
UN Resident Coordinator in China
September 2013

Introduction to the Millennium Development Goals

In September 2000, 189 UN member states adopted the *UN Millennium Declaration*, based on which a series of specific goals for human development was adopted and regarded as the Millennium Development Goals. These goals cover economic, social, and environmental domains. Most goals set 1990 as the baseline year and 2015 as the target year. The MDGs are now the most comprehensive, authoritative and clear-cut set of goals for development.

Broadly recognized and supported by the international community, the MDGs have become an important standard for measuring the progress of global development and organizing international development assistance. Having set detailed targets and indicators for all the goals in the eight different areas, the UN regularly issues global progress reports that track achievements. In addition, the UN system works with member states to draft national MDGs progress reports in order to raise awareness, stimulate discussion and promote further action towards implementing all goals. The Chinese

Government and the UN Country Team previously drafted national reports on China's Progress towards the MDGs in 2003, 2005, 2008 and 2010.

This year marks the 13th anniversary of the implementation of the MDGs, only two years before the deadline of 2015. Over the past three years, China has effectively addressed the negative impact of the international financial crisis, further expanded domestic demand, adjusted the focus of macroeconomic regulations, maintained stable and comparatively rapid economic development, and constantly increased investments in affordable housing projects, rural livelihood projects, infrastructure, social undertakings, environmental protection and innovation capacity as well as post-disaster reconstruction. It has not only maintained the existing achievements made towards the MDGs but has also made substantive progress. This report summarizes how China has taken measures to strive for the fulfillment of the MDGs amid multiple challenges at home and abroad in the past three years.

China's Development Strategy and the MDGs

The Chinese government has hewed to a development path with Chinese characteristics based on its distinctive national conditions. China has been closely following the Scientific Outlook on development that features comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable development and people-centered approaches. In 2011, the 12th Five-year Plan for Economic and Social Development was released, which highlighted resource conservation, environmental protection, and balanced development among regions. In 2012, China put forward new goal for completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects. Ecological development, along with economic construction, political development, cultural progress and social construction are incorporated into the overall task of building socialism with Chinese characteristics, and proposing to build a “beautiful China” for the first time. The efforts towards achieving the MDGs were also incorporated into the development process, along with setting higher and clearer targets for development. To achieve these targets, China will continue to adhere to the following strategies:

1. Continuing to promote strategic adjustments of the economic structure and the transformation of the growth model

Economic growth is fundamental to achieving MDGs. China's developing experience over recent years shows that only by constantly pushing forward strategic adjustments of the economic structure can China accomplish the rapid transformation of the economy and achieve sustained and sound economic development. China continues to emphasize the following aspects in its economic restructuring. First, improving the demand and the industrial structure, promoting balanced development between regions, and advancing the urbanization, in order to address institutional impediments for sustained economic development. Second, continually boosting domestic demand and establishing a long-term mechanism for increasing consumer demand, increasing investment at a proper pace and expanding the domestic market. Third, facilitating the development of real economy, promoting the healthy development of strategic emerging industries and advancing manufacturing, and accelerating the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries.

Fourth, persistently promoting the growth of the service industry, especially the modern service sector.

2. Adhering to the strategy of developing the country through science and education and promoting innovation-driven development

Science and technology innovation is vital to promoting the transformation of economic development model, improving people's livelihood and advancing sustainable development. China has initiated an independent innovation path with Chinese characteristics and has promoted innovation-driven development based on prioritizing the development of education. China will continue to deepen the reform of the science and technology system, focus on building an enterprise-centered and market-oriented technology innovation system that incorporates various industries, universities and research institutes. China will improve the knowledge-based innovation system, strengthen basic research and the study of cutting-edge technologies and public-benefit-oriented research and development, and enhance the level of science research and the capacity for applying achievements of research into production. China will also address the major technology bottlenecks, accelerate research, development and application of new technologies and new products and production process, strengthen innovation in integration of technologies and develop new business models. China will continue to improve standards for evaluating science and technology innovations and mechanisms for rewarding such innovations and applying them to production. China will continue to implement the strategy concerning intellectual property rights and strengthen their protection, further promote the efficient allocation and comprehensive integration of innovative resources.

3. Making great effort to promote ecological progress

Maintaining environmental sustainability is a key part of the MDGs. China remains committed to the basic state policy of conserving resource and protecting environment as well as giving high priority to conserving resources, protecting the environment and promoting its natural restoration, and striving for green development, the circular use of resources and the reduction of pollution sources. China

continues its efforts to preserve its geographical space and improve its industrial structure, way of production and lifestyle conducive to conserving resource and protecting environment, aiming at creating a sound working and living environment for the people, and contributing its share to global ecological security. Specific measures taken to achieve this are to improve development policy, aiming for a pattern featuring coordinated development of population, economy and environment, and enhancing the capacity of exploring marine resources; to strengthen conservation efforts through improving the efficiency and effectiveness of resource use and supporting the energy efficient and low-carbon industries; to strive harder to build the system of ecological civilization, incorporating environmental indicators into the economic and social development evaluation systems, to establish and improve the resource exploitation and environmental protection systems and optimize the relevant pricing mechanism and fiscal policies; as well as to enhance people's awareness of conservation and organize activities themed with green and new life.

4. Following balanced and coordinated regional development of urban and rural areas

Achieving coordinated development across different regions and areas is critical for MDGs. In recent years, China has taken measures to balance urban and rural development, boost rural development, narrow the gap between urban and rural areas and promote their common prosperity. The main measures include: first, encouraging industry to support agriculture in return for agriculture's earlier contribution to its development, encouraging cities to support rural areas and giving more to farmers, taking less from them and lifting restrictions over their economic activities. China also increased the policy support to boost agriculture, benefit farmers and increase rural prosperity. Second, accelerating the development of modern agriculture and ensuring food security and the effective supply of major agricultural products. Third, continuing to give priority to infrastructure and social undertakings in rural areas, and building new types of rural areas, carrying out programs of poverty alleviation and improving rural working and living conditions. Fourth, accelerating the construction of the system integrating urban and rural development, promoting integrated development in urban-rural planning, infrastructure and public services, and facilitating the equal factor exchange in urban and rural areas and the balanced allocation of public resources to form new relations between industries and agriculture

as well as between urban and rural areas. In the past decade the Chinese Government has concentrated on implementing its overall regional development strategy, vigorously promoting the development of the western regions, revitalizing the traditional industrial bases in Northeast China, speeding up the rise of the central regions and encouraging the eastern regions to take the lead in development. The regional development has shown good momentum featuring improved coordination, distribution and cooperation.

5. Strengthening social construction and improving the public service system and people's wellbeing

Eradicating poverty, improving people's wellbeing and promoting equality are the fundamental objectives of the MDGs. China will continue to focus on ensuring and improving people's wellbeing in its social construction, constantly improve the public service system, and accelerate social reform. Major measures are to fully implement quality education program, promote after-school education, make rational allocations of education resources and promote equity in education; implement the policy of self-reliant employment, market-regulated employment, government-backed employment and entrepreneurship, give top priority to employment and promote better employment; deepen the reform of the income distribution system and increase people's income; coordinate the development of urban and rural social security systems; improve people's health; carry out the family planning work, encourage full development of women, give top priority to children's development, take active measures to address the aging of the population, protect the right of the disabled, promote urbanization in a proactive and steady manner, give guidance to population flow to cities and gradually change the dual-structure of urban and rural areas; and continuously strengthen and innovate in social management and maintain a harmonious and stable society.

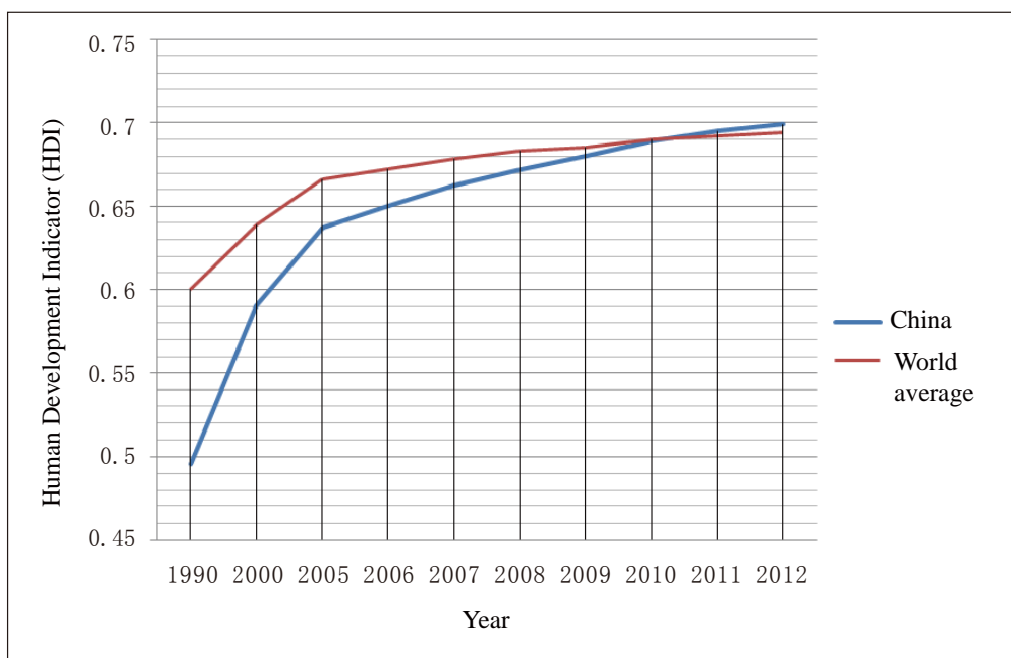
Assessment of China's MDGs Progress

Generally speaking, China has made great progress in economic and social development and other areas in the past 20 years. China has already met seven targets under the MDGs ahead of schedule. China's HDI saw a rapid growth from 0.495 in 1990 to 0.699 in 2012, higher than the world average of 0.694. China's HDI ranks only 101 among 187 countries and China remains at the medium

human development level country category and still lags far behind those countries ranked in the advanced human development category.

This report presents in detail China's progress on all eight MDGs.

Chart A: HDI of China and the World, 1990-2012



Source: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Human Development Indicators, <http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/CHN.html>

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Since the reform and opening up in the late 1970s, the Chinese Government has implemented extensive poverty alleviation with an aim to secure the subsistence, i.e., food and clothing, of poor rural residents. By the end of the 20th century, it had managed to reduce the poor rural population without food and clothing from 250 million to 32 million, lowered its proportion in the total rural population from 30.7 percent to 3.5 percent, basically fulfilling the goal of ensuring the subsistence of poor rural populations. Entering the 21st century, the government formulated a new poverty alleviation strategy. In 2011, the Chinese Government promulgated the *Outline for Development-oriented Poverty Reduction for China's Rural Areas (2011-2020)* and set new political goals to consolidate the achievements made in ensuring the subsistence of the rural population, to help people shake off poverty and get well-off more quickly, to improve the ecological environment, to enhance development capacity and narrow development gaps, marking a new stage of China's poverty alleviation and development cause. Based on the latest national poverty line of RMB 2,300 (2010 constant price) in terms of the per capita annual net income of peasants, China's poor population declined from 165.67 million in 2010 to 98.99 million in 2012, which is a remarkable achievement.

The significant results that China achieved in poverty reduction have made outstanding contributions to the global poverty alleviation effort. According to statistics of the World Bank, from 1990 to 2005, the world's poor population declined from 1.908 billion to 1.289 billion (with USD1.25/day as the poverty line, constant 2005 PPP). During this period, China's poor population declined from

683 million to 212 million, a decrease of 471 million. A comparison of these statistics shows that between 1990 and 2005, China had achieved the target of halving the poor population ahead of schedule and the decrease of poor population achieved in China accounted for 76.09 percent of the world's total over the same period.

The Chinese Government has always attached great importance to grain production and made food security its primary goal of agriculture development. It has not only



ensured the subsistence of more than a billion people but also increased the income and improved the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of rural residents. Since its reform and opening up, China has made great progress in grain production. The grain output grew from 305 million tons in 1978 to 590 million tons in 2012, and the unit area grain yield increased from 2,527.3kg/ha to 5,301.8kg/ha. Over the same period, the per capita grain possession grew from 319kg/year to 437kg/year, far above the "nutrition line" of 248.56kg/year. (See Table 1-2)

Table 1-1 China's Progress Towards the Targets of Goal 1 by the End of 2012

GOALS AND TARGETS	Current Situation	Government support	Challenges
Target 1A: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$ 1.25 a day	Already met	Strong	None
Target 1B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people	Potentially	Strong	Conflict between labor supply and demand
Target 1C: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	Already met	Strong	None

Table 1-2 China's Grain Output and Per Capita Grain Possession 1978-2012

Year	Grain output (10,000 tons)	Grain planting area (1,000 ha.)	Per capita grain yield (kg)
1978	30,477	120,587	319
1980	32,056	117,234	323
1985	37,911	108,845	361
1990	44,624	113,466	393
1995	46,662	110,060	387
2000	46,218	108,463	366
2005	48,402	104,278	371
2010	54,648	109,876	409
2011	57,121	110,573	425
2012	58,958	111,205	437

Source: China Statistical Abstract of 2013

Target 1A: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$ 1.25 a day

1. Current situation

China is the first developing country to achieve the poverty reduction target ahead of schedule. Since 2009, China has achieved remarkable progress by addressing the financial crisis with proactive fiscal policies and a moderately easy monetary policy, as well as a comprehensive plan that has focused on the expansion of domestic demand. Employment situation, the price of agricultural products, and the operation and management of enterprises, are all basically stable. What deserves most attention is the fact that, following the introduction of the minimum subsistence guarantee system for urban and rural residents, the basic needs of poor groups in both urban and rural areas are largely met and the poor population is decreasing. From 2007 to 2012, the Government put in a total of RMB 554.3 billion for the minimum subsistence guarantee of nearly 75 million poor urban and rural residents. By the end of 2012, the poor residents covered by the minimum subsistence

guarantee system accounted for 5.6 percent of the total population. The national average minimum subsistence allowance is RMB 330 per person per month for urban residents and RMB 2,068 per year for rural residents.



Table 1-3 People's Living Standards 1978-2011

Year	Per capita disposable income of urban households	Per capita net income of rural households	Consumption price index (1978=100)	Engel's coefficient (%)	
				Urban households	Rural households
1978	343.4	133.6	100.0	57.5	67.7
1990	1510.2	686.3	216.4	54.2	58.8
1995	4283.0	1577.7	396.9	50.1	58.6
2000	6280.0	2253.4	434.0	39.4	49.1
2005	10493.0	3254.9	464.0	36.7	45.5
2010	19109.4	5919.0	536.1	35.7	41.1
2011	21809.8	6977.3	565.0	36.3	40.4

Source: China Statistical Yearbook 2012.

China has also actively participated in global poverty reduction cooperation, through providing assistance within its own capacity, sharing experience, and promoting international cooperation, to assist other developing countries and regions in poverty reduction. Since 2007, the Chinese Government and the UN system in China co-hosted the Poverty Reduction and Development Forum on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty each year on October 17th. In addition, it has actively participated in global, regional and bilateral poverty reduction efforts. It has signed poverty reduction cooperation agreements or built poverty reduction cooperation centers with more than ten developing countries like Brazil and Tanzania to share experience, to help people shake off poverty more quickly, and to pursue common development and progress.

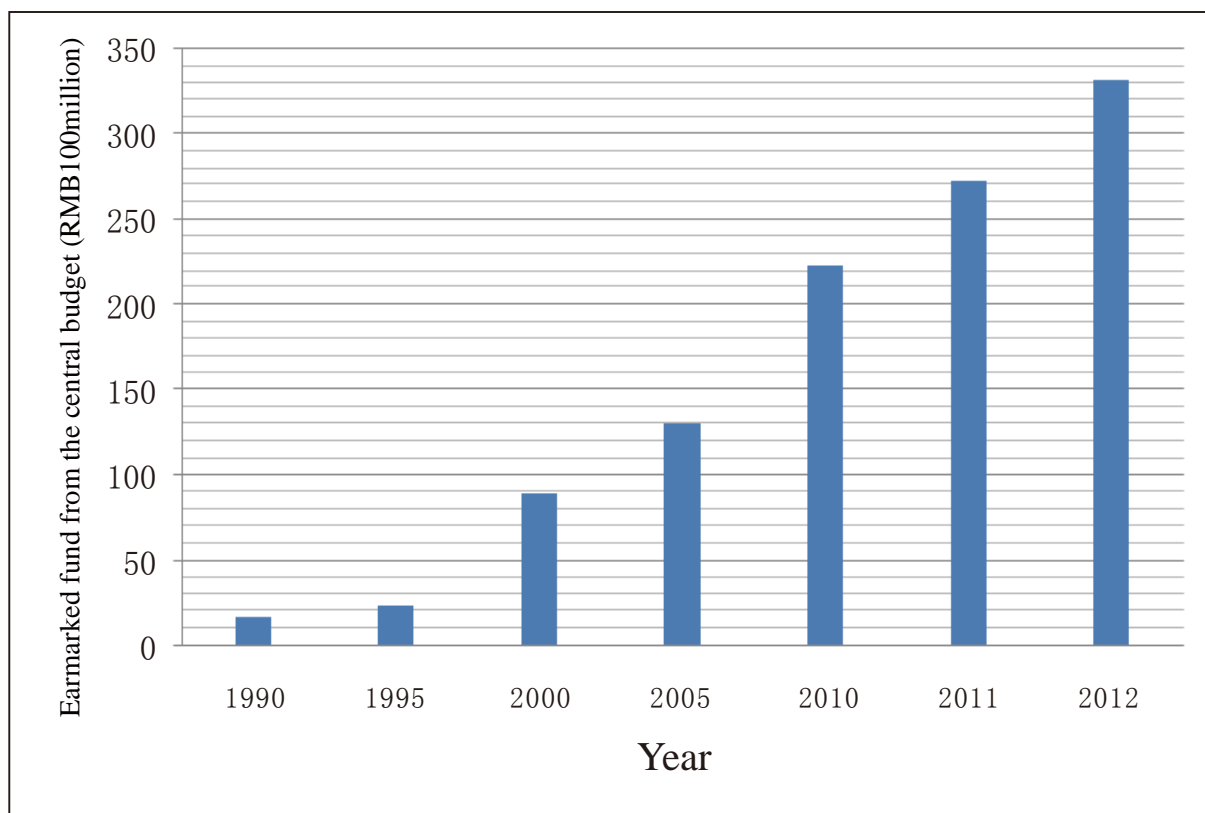
2. Government support

China's sustained high economic growth is a major reason for its progress in reducing poverty. From 1979 to 2012, China maintained an average annual GDP growth rate of 9.8 percent, with the GDP per capita rising from RMB 381 in 1978 to RMB 38,449 in 2012. In addition, the rapidly developing social assistance systems such as

urban and rural minimum subsistence, urban and rural medical assistance, the Five-Guarantees Subsistence Program in the Rural Areas and the temporary assistance system have provided the necessary environment and material conditions for poverty reduction in China. Policies implemented in the new century, including the rural tax reform, the policy for rural compulsory education, the new rural cooperative medical care and medical assistance policy, and the new insurance policy for rural old people, have all played their roles in rural poverty reduction and provided policy support for China's achievements in poverty reduction.

The Government has always prioritized rural poverty reduction when planning for the medium and long-term national economic and social development. Leading Groups for Poverty Reduction with broad multi-sectoral participation are well in place at different levels of governments, responsible for mobilizing and coordinating poverty reduction resources and implementation of poverty reduction programs. National poverty reduction standards have been adjusted according to the levels of economic development and the national financial situation, while the key areas targeted for support have been determined according to the distribution of the poor.

Chart 1-1 Earmarked Fund from the Central Budget for Poverty Alleviation, 1990-2012



Source: The State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development, Central Funding Statistics 1990 – 2012.

The Chinese Government has been continuously increasing its funding. Between 1980 and 2013 it earmarked over RMB 320.1 billion for poverty alleviation, with an average annual increase of 16.8 percent. In 2013, the fund reached a new record of RMB 39.4 billion, up by 18.7 percent from 2012. It also arranged discount funding for poverty reduction loans and actively guided financial capital to support the cause of poverty alleviation and development. Funding from local governments has continually expanded. In 2012, 28 provincial governments in central and western China invested RMB 17.18 billion in poverty reduction.

The Chinese Government promulgated the *12th Five-Year Plan on the National Basic Public Services System*, defining 80 basic public service programs in 44 categories including the corresponding national basic standards for compulsory education, minimum subsistence guarantee, vagrant minors rescue and protection, and infectious disease prevention and treatment. Meanwhile, as the plan prescribed, a batch of supporting projects would be carried out to improve the basic public service network covering rural and urban areas, ensure Chinese people's basic survival and development rights in education,

medical services and old-age care, help poor people shake off poverty by themselves, and effectively reduce the occurrence of such phenomena as poverty caused by diseases and sliding back to poverty due to disasters.

Broad social participation and active international cooperation have also been important factors. Nowadays, a total of 310 governmental organs, enterprises and public institutions have assisted 592 key targeted counties to shake off poverty. The 18 better-developed provinces and cities in eastern China have helped 11 poorer western provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities in this regard. Private sector enterprises and social organizations have also been active in poverty reduction. Many relevant international organizations such as the World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have also organized various poverty reduction programs or activities in China.

China has actively pursued a participatory approach to poverty reduction. This approach engages the poor in poverty reduction programs and decisions relating to the allocation of funds, and increases their own capacities.

Effective measures have also been adopted to help poor groups with particular needs, such as women, children and the disabled.

China has made clear its goal of a comprehensive completion of building a moderately prosperous society by 2020, which means its GDP and annual per capita income of urban and rural residents will be doubled compared to 2010, while the balance, coordination and sustainability of development will be improved. Also, higher requirements have been put forward to significantly improve people's living standard, to achieve overall equality in basic public services, to narrow the income gap and significantly decrease the number of poor people. For the near future, the guiding principles for poverty reduction are as follows:

(1) Make sure that by 2020, the basic needs in food and clothing of targeted poor people are met and they have access to compulsory education and basic medical services and housing; that per capita income growth rate of rural residents in poor areas is higher than the national average, that the main indicators for equal access to public services is close to the national average and that the development gap is narrowed.

(2) Reinforce and improve the overall poverty-reduction framework that includes specific, industrial and social efforts.

(3) Concentrate poverty alleviation efforts on contiguous areas with special difficulties.

(4) Ensure the poor groups fully involved and benefit from the poverty alleviation efforts.

(5) Endeavor to make poverty alleviation and development according to laws, and actively pursue new ideas and explore new ways for poverty alleviation and development amid concerted progress of the new industrialization, informationization, urbanization and agricultural modernization with Chinese characteristics.

3. Challenges

As the largest developing country in the world, the general level of China's economic and social development is still not high. There remain deep-rooted contradictions that restrict the development of poor people and poor areas. The main challenges and problems are as follows:

(1) China still has a large poor population. The degree of poverty remains high. Nearly 100 million people are still in poverty and need support to shake it off according to the new poverty line (RMB 2,300 per year for each resident) set by the Chinese Government.

(2) Imbalanced development among different regions is increasingly exerting impacts on poverty reduction. The problems for poor groups with particular needs remain striking. The contiguous areas with special difficulties are plagued with such problems as fragile ecological environment, special social formation, insufficient public services, and serious endemic diseases, which make poverty reduction more difficult and costly. In addition, minority people, the disabled, the old, women, children and other disadvantaged groups still need special support and assistance.

(3) Factors causing poverty are complicated, and the pressure to prevent people from sliding back into poverty is growing. The international financial crisis, as well as more frequent natural disasters, highlights the vulnerability of the poor and may drag some of them back into poverty. The poor areas are four times more likely to be hit by natural disasters than the national average level, which can very easily drag their lives into exhaustion.

(4) The public service system is far from perfection. The public service capacity in poor areas is inadequate and the service quality is not high. What's more, residents in urban and rural areas across regions cannot have equal access to basic public services. More investments should be made to continuously improve the basic public service network in urban and rural areas, effectively enhance the quality and level of the services, highlight the principle of giving more public resources to rural areas, poor areas and disadvantaged groups, gradually reduce the gap of urban and rural areas, different regions, and groups in basic public services, and promote social harmony, justice and equity.

(5) The structure of the poor population is highly unstable, and a large number of people rise above or fall below the poverty line every year. Disaggregated data collection and analysis should be strengthened to better monitor the poverty situation, to inform more responsive policy development with better targeting mechanisms and to make more efficient use of poverty alleviation funds.

Target 1B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people

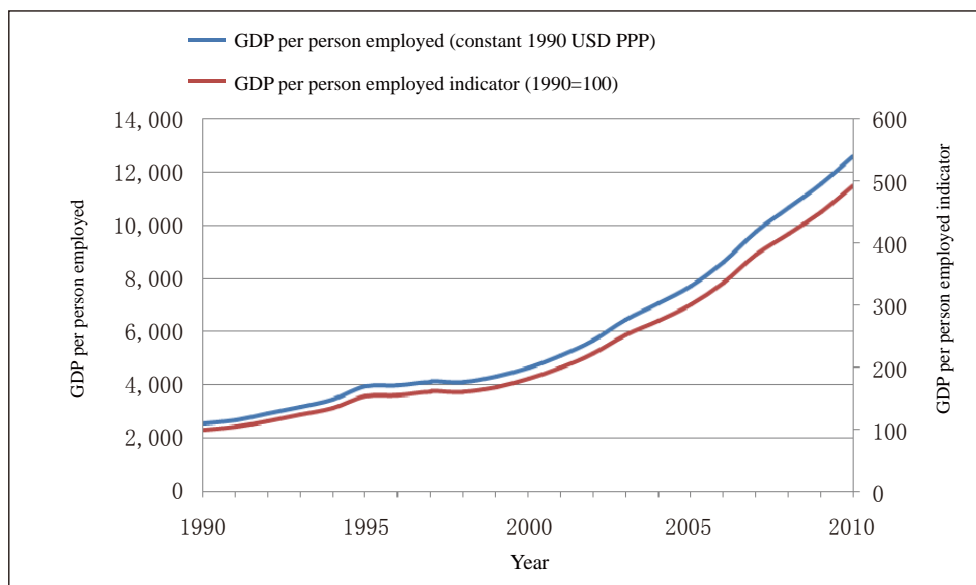
1. Current situation

Employment is a right, as much as it is an obligation of every worker. It is an important approach through which workers can obtain income, pursue the value of life, and blend in society. Promoting decent employment has been a broad consensus in the international labor community in recent years. China advocates decent employment and makes concrete efforts in this regard. In recent years, the Chinese Government has attached great importance to employment and livelihood issues and has taken the promotion of employment as an important approach

to promote economic development, improve people's livelihood and address problems and issues related to agriculture, the rural areas and farmers, as well as a key link to relieve the conflict between labor supply and demand.

The Chinese Government has always been giving top priority to the promotion of employment and the improvement of people's livelihood, earnestly implementing the employment-first strategy, and adopting an active employment policy with Chinese characteristics. In the past decade, over 100 million new jobs were created in urban areas. In recent years, an average of more than 11 million new jobs created annually, and the registered unemployment rate in urban areas remained below 4.3 percent.

Chart 1-2 GDP Growth Per Person Employed



Source: International Labor Organization (ILO), *Key Indicators of the Labor Market (KILM)*, 7th edition, 2011; <http://kilm.ilo.org/kilmnet/>

China's labor productivity growth is mainly attributable to the improved labor quality, economic growth, technological progress, and the integration into the world economy. The development of China's education significantly raises the educational attainment of the population aged 15 and above, and thus improves the quality of the labor force. The high household savings rate and the enormous influx of foreign direct investment (FDI) have boosted economic growth and provided more non-agricultural employment opportunities allowing for the transfer of rural labor force; the employment structure in the primary, secondary and tertiary industries is turning more optimized, thereby increasing the labor efficiency. The integration into the

world economy enables China to benefit from the spread of advanced technologies and the increased efficiency of resource allocation, and facilitates the improvement of its social welfare system.

2. Government support

The Chinese Government also makes efforts to maintain inclusive, sustained and efficient development and create more employment opportunities to achieve the policy objective of full employment. Over the past decade, the Chinese economy has maintained sustained rapid growth; the poor population has been decreased and people's

livelihood improved substantially through creating job opportunities for rural surplus labor. In addition, a series of policies aimed at promoting employment for different groups are also formulated.



(1) High importance is attached to the employment of young people and a series of policies and measures to promote the employment of college graduates have been formulated and implemented. The Chinese Government has actively expanded the employment realm of college graduates based on the development of strategic emerging industries, the transformation of economic development mode and the adjustment of the economic structure; implemented the “business guidance program for college graduates” and encourages college graduates to start their own businesses; launched the “one million college graduates three-year trainee program” and organized vocational training to improve the employability of graduates; and strengthened career guidance and employment services for college graduates.

(2) The Chinese Government has created suitable jobs through multiple channels to promote the employment of women. Since 2002, the Chinese Government has implemented the financial discount policy for small loans granted to women. As of the first quarter of 2013, a total of RMB 137.461 billion had been granted to a total of 2,797,700 women in this program. Between the end of 2009 and the end of October 2012, the women’s federations at all levels set up 8,100 bases of all kinds and at all levels to promote the entrepreneurship, employment and internship of female college graduates; they have established 100 national domestic worker training demonstration bases, which have trained 600,000 domestic workers annually and employed more than 700,000 women. The National Women’s Hand Knitting Association was established in April 2011. As of late September 2012, China had established women’s hand knitting associations in ten provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities.

(3) Active efforts have been made to build harmonious labor relations and protect the rights and interests of labors. The Chinese Government has promulgated and implemented a series of laws and regulations such as *the Labor Law*, *the Law on Employment Contracts*, and *the Special Regulation on Labor Protection for Female Employees*, and made clear provisions on the protection of labors’ rights; it also improved the labor inspection system, vigorously strengthened the three-party cooperation mechanism among the government, trade unions and employers, and endeavored to promote the collective negotiation system. By now, collective contracts have covered 65 percent of the country’s enterprises that have trade unions.

3. Challenges

(1) Informal employment will be a tremendous challenge to achieving decent employment and healthy development in China. Currently, it is estimated that there are about 263 million rural migrant workers in China, most of whom are employed in private small and medium-sized enterprises without adequate social security. Therefore, the formal safeguard of legitimate rights and interests of rural migrant workers should be the focus of policies and measures in the next step.

(2) The emergence of urban poverty will constitute a challenge to the fulfillment of the MDGs. China has now established the unemployment insurance system and the minimum subsistence system to provide support for poor urban residents. In the future, China will further improve relevant systems and inter-system connections so as to help the poor in urban areas.



(3) The challenges of aging population to employment should be faced and actively coped with, and appropriate measures should be taken to explore the economic opportunities resting with the rapidly growing of older

population. In 2012, the total working age population decreased for the first time in decades. Such trends are likely to continue as fewer young people join in and larger numbers of elderly people exit from the labor force.

(4) The mode of talent cultivation should be transformed so as to ease the conspicuous structural contradiction between talent cultivation, supply and demand. On one hand, a large number of industrial enterprises are finding it hard to recruit qualified technical workers; while on the other hand, many college graduates cannot find satisfactory jobs. In the face of such situation, relevant authorities should consider determining a reasonable structure of talent cultivation and intensifying their efforts in vocational education and training.

(5) While reducing employment pressure by increasing job opportunities, more endeavors should be made to improve the working conditions and environment, vocational training, law enforcement and employment quality. Legislative and policy measures should be taken to narrow the income gap among different groups and create favorable environment for all labors to have equal access to employment.

Target 1C: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

1. Current situation

Since its reform and opening up, China has made great progress in grain production. In 2012, the per capita grain possession reached 436 kg/year, far above the "nutrition line" of 248.56 kg/year. The proportion of people with food consumption below the minimum energy requirement dropped from 17 percent in 1990 to 7 percent in 2002, indicating that China has met the target ahead of schedule. Along with the increase in food energy, Chinese people's dietary structure is also changing. The consumption of grain and root crops is decreasing while the intake of food from animal sources (especially meat from domesticated animals, dairy products and eggs) shows an upward trend.

Since the reform and opening up, Chinese children's nutrition, living quality and health have improved significantly.

First, body growth is improving. In recent 20 years, both height and weight of urban and rural children have increased in all age groups. The gap between urban and

rural children in terms of body growth is narrowing.

Second, malnutrition continues to decline. In 2010, China's underweight children accounted for 3.6 percent of all children under five, a decrease of 74 percent compared with 1990, which means the achievement of MDGs ahead of schedule. The growth retardation rate was 9.9 percent, a decrease of 70 percent compared with 1990. The emaciation ratio remained at a low level of 2.3 percent for a long time. The condition of micronutrient deficiencies during childhood is also improving. The prevalence of anemia among children under 5 declined from 19.3 percent in 2005 to 12.6 percent in 2010. The target of eliminating iodine deficiency was realized at the national level in 2011, and rickets caused by vitamin D deficiency has become rare in hospital records.

China's ranking in "Child Development Index" moved from 42nd during the 1995-1999 period to 29th during the 2005-2010 period, boasting the fastest improvement in Asia.



Table 1-4 Per capita Consumption of Major Foods by Chinese Rural Residents (kg)

Indicator	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2011
Grain (Unhusked)	262.08	256.07	250.23	208.85	181.44	170.74
Wheat	80.03	81.49	80.27	68.44	57.52	54.75
Rice	134.99	129.25	126.82	113.36	101.91	97.09
Soybeans		2.28	2.53	1.91	1.61	1.38
Vegetables	134.00	104.62	106.74	102.28	93.28	89.36
Edible oil	5.17	5.80	7.06	6.01	6.31	7.48
Edible vegetable oil	3.54	4.25	5.45	4.90	5.52	6.60
Poultry and related products	12.59	13.56	18.30	22.42	22.15	23.30
Pork	10.54	10.58	13.28	15.62	14.40	14.42
Beef	0.40	0.36	0.52	0.64	0.63	0.98
Mutton	0.40	0.35	0.61	0.83	0.80	0.92
Poultry	1.25	1.83	2.81	3.67	4.17	4.54
Eggs & related products	2.41	3.22	4.77	4.71	5.12	5.40
Dairy products	1.10	0.60	1.06	2.86	3.55	5.16
Aquatic products	2.13	3.36	3.92	4.94	5.15	5.36
Sugar	1.50	1.28	1.28	1.13	1.03	1.04
Alcohol	6.14	6.53	7.02	9.59	9.74	10.15
Fruits and related products	5.89	13.01	18.31	17.18	19.64	21.30
Nuts and related products		0.13	0.74	0.61	0.96	1.21

Source: China Statistical Yearbook 2012.

2. Government support

The Chinese Government gives top priority to food security, and views the grain production as the most important task of its agricultural modernization. The Government is sparing no effort in strengthening its support and protection of grain production. The Chinese Government promulgated the *Production Capability Planning (2009-2020) for Another 100 Billion Kilograms of Grain Nationwide*, which specifies that by 2020 the grain output should reach 545 billion kilograms in order to maintain a 95 percent food self-sufficiency rate. The Government is pledging the most strict protection systems for arable land. The goal is to ensure no less than 120 million hectares of arable land nationwide by 2020.

China is also strengthening its funding for agriculture and the development of rural areas in order to ensure that government expenditure preferably supports the development of agriculture and the rural areas. China is also strengthening innovation capacities in agricultural science and technology. It is committed to increasing its technological input in agriculture from around 0.5 percent in 2006 to the world average of 1 percent as soon as possible. Agricultural infrastructure will also be strengthened. Emphasis will be placed on the construction and maintenance of water conservation facilities, the construction of high-standard farmland, water collection and water-saving irrigation in north-western China, the

development of terraced fields in mountainous areas and the construction of raised fields in saline-alkali low land in coast regions, etc.

Since the reform and opening up, especially in recent years, the Chinese Government has paid more attention to improving people's livelihood and the social security system. The Chinese Government signed the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*, established the children-first principle, and passed the Outline for the Development of Chinese Women and Children for the periods of 1990-2000, 2001-2010 and 2011-2020. Vigorous efforts have been made to implement the poverty alleviation and development strategy. As a result, it has substantially decreased the poor population in rural areas, and steadily improved growth in incomes, providing a solid foundation for the improvement of the nutritional status and health of children.

(1) Strengthening institutional support. China introduced the Act on Maternal and Child Health Care and its implementation measures and issued a series of sectorial regulations and technical guides including the China Infant Feeding Strategy, the Management Measures for the Sales of Breast Milk Substitutes, the Health Care Management Approach for Nurseries and Kindergartens and its working rules, the Technical Specifications for Child Feeding and Nutrition Guidance and the Technical Specifications for the Management of Nutritional Disease of Children, as a means to standardize and strengthen child nutrition from the legal and institutional perspectives.

(2) Child nutrition intervention efforts are made extensively. The Baby-Friendly Hospital program was launched to advocate and promote breastfeeding. Household-oriented multi-nutrients supplement intervention was conducted on a pilot basis. In 2011, the Chinese Government started a campaign to eliminate anemia in infants and children in poor western regions. It has also implemented an action plan for iodine deficiency prevention and strengthened relevant publicity efforts to prevent and reduce iodine deficiency in children. International exchanges and cooperation were conducted to explore effective approach for child nutrition interventions.

(3) Child nutrition monitoring sees continuous progress. As early as in 1959, China conducted its National Nutrition and Health Survey, in which children from 0 to 6 years old are the key target group. It has also conducted some nutrition and health surveys and monitoring tailored for children, including the physical development survey for

children under the age of seven, the national diet nutrition monitoring and the national child nutrition and health monitoring. To strengthen child nutrition monitoring, China keeps abreast of the status and changes of child nutrition, thus providing a basis for the formulation of relevant health policies.

(4) Food safety measures are stepped up. In recent years, the Chinese Government has taken strong and effective measures to improve food safety, especially those concerning children. International cooperation also supported this endeavor. From December 2009 to April 2013, UN-Spain MDGs Fund on Improving Nutrition, Food Safety and Food Security for China's Most Vulnerable Women and Children was implemented in six of the poorest Chinese counties, providing assistance to 1.2 million children and women at childbearing age. Its suggestions on improving the legislation of food safety crime have been adopted by Amendment (VIII) to the Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China. The pilot children's food manufacturers have been granted the Safe Food Production Certificate. The publicity and education campaigns for women and children were carried out to disseminate the food safety laws and knowledge. The program suggested the system of hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) should be introduced to infant and children food producers.

3. Challenges

(1) Grain production in China is more and more subject to growing resource and ecological constraints; and there will be greater challenges in the future for us to achieve complete self-sufficiency of food.

(2) There are significant differences between urban and rural areas in terms of the nutritional status of children and it also differs among regions. In poor rural areas, in particular, child nutrition problems are more prominent and challenging. The prevalence of low weight and growth retardation among rural children is about 3 to 4 times higher than urban children, and the figure in poor rural areas is twice that in other rural areas. About 20 percent of children under five in poor areas still suffered growth retardation in 2010.

(3) The improvement of child nutrition status in rural areas is unstable and is vulnerable to the impact of economic conditions and unexpected events. The nutritional status of migrant and left-behind children needs to be improved.

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

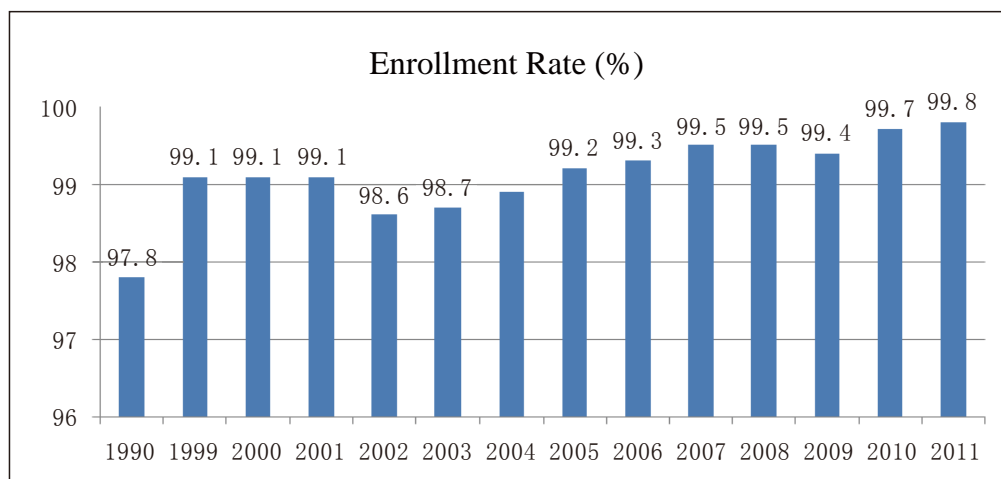
Education is a cornerstone of national development and equity in education is an essential part of social equity. The Chinese Government has attached great importance to education, endowed education a strategic position and a high priority, raised the strategy of developing the country through science and education and human resource development, promulgated and implemented *the Teachers Law, Education Law, Vocational Education Law* and *Compulsory Education Law*, and formed the legal framework for promoting the sustained development of education. By the end of 2000, the country had basically achieved the goals of popularizing nine-year compulsory education and eliminating illiteracy among young people. In 2006, China revised *the Compulsory Education Law* and made it clear to provide free compulsory education. In 2011, the net enrolment rate of primary-school-age children reached 99.8 percent, accomplishing universal access to primary education ahead of the 2015 deadline.



Table 2-1 China's Progress Towards the Target of Goal 2 by the End of 2012

GOALS AND TARGETS	Current Situation	Government support	Challenges
Target 2A: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	Already met	Strong	None

Chart 2-1 Enrollment Rate of Primary School-age Children in China



Source: *Education Statistics 2011*, available online at <http://www.moe.gov.cn> [2013-6-12]

Target 2A: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

1. Current situation

By the end of 2011, as the targets of universal nine-year compulsory education and basic elimination of illiteracy among the young and middle-aged were achieved in 42 remote and poor counties in Western China, these two targets had been achieved in all county-level administrative units. The gross enrolment rate of junior secondary education was 100 percent, while the coverage of nine-year compulsory education has reached 100 percent. The fulfillment of universal compulsory education improved the quality of education in China and boosted equity in education substantially. Some rural schools have undergone tremendous changes. Their schools improved significantly and the rights of school-age children to compulsory education were safeguarded. In 2012, the net enrolment rate among primary school-age children reached 99.85 percent; the figures for boys and girls were 99.84 percent and 99.86 percent respectively. China has fulfilled the target of universal primary education ahead of schedule.

2. Government support

(1) Comprehensive amendment to *the Compulsory Education Law*. The Compulsory Education Law amended and promulgated in 2006 upholds the principle of gender equality and further clarifies that all school-age children and adolescents, regardless of their gender and ethnic group, shall have the right to enjoy equal access to compulsory education. It has also established the compulsory education management system and funding system, instituted a compulsory education supervision mechanism and provided legal basis for the healthy development of compulsory education.

(2) Full implementation of free compulsory education. The Chinese Government has progressed towards free compulsory education in a phased and planned way. Tuition and incidental fees, textbook fees, as well as accommodation fees for boarding students are exempted for compulsory education in all rural areas and living subsidies are granted to poor boarding students. Since

2008, compulsory education tuition and incidental fees have also been exempted in urban areas. Thus, free compulsory education has been basically realized in both urban and rural areas.

(3) Deepening the reform of the funding mechanism for rural compulsory education, and establishing the funding mechanism for rural compulsory education featuring programs carried out and funded proportionally by central and local governments by the principle of “clarified responsibilities at all levels, costs shared by central and local governments, increasing financial input and implementation step by step”. By doing this, the funding for rural compulsory education has increased considerably.

(4) Boosting balanced development of compulsory education. After achieving universal access to compulsory education, the Chinese Government balanced development as its strategic mission for compulsory education, urged local governments to run every school well and focused on the healthy development of every child and made every effort to narrow the interschool, interregional and urban-rural gap in compulsory education.



(5) Launching the experiment on curriculum reform in basic education. China fully introduced the national new curriculum for compulsory education in 2006 and promulgated the curriculum standards for 19 subjects in compulsory education in 2011. The concept of “education for all students” was upheld and the basic requirements for capacity fostering were reinforced. The reform established a fundamental and comprehensive basic education curriculum system with Chinese characteristics, providing choices for students and keeping in line with

the requirements of the times. In designing the curricula, China put emphasis on “paying attention to each student” and “promoting the development of every child”. The curriculum reform greatly promoted the change of ideas among educators and brought about a wide-ranging teaching reforms and the transformation of talent training methods.

(6) Implementing a number of key compulsory education projects. The Chinese Government has organized and implemented a series of major projects such as the rural boarding school construction project, the e-learning project for rural primary and secondary schools, the renovation project of junior secondary school buildings in central and western rural regions, the primary and secondary school building safety project and the reconstruction project for disadvantaged rural primary and secondary schools. All these have greatly improved the teaching conditions of rural schools that provided compulsory education.

(7) Ensuring that disadvantaged groups with difficulties have equal access to compulsory education. The Chinese Government endeavored to ensure that disadvantaged groups with difficulties have equal right to education when formulating laws, regulations and policies. It urged local governments to increase funding for education and take practical measures to ensure that migrant children, left-behind children in rural areas, children with financial difficulties and disabled children have equal access to compulsory education.

(8) China has continuously stepped up its financial input in promoting education sector. In 2011, the earmarked budgets for education nationwide, including education surtax, totaled RMB 1.78 trillion, accounting for 16.31 percent of the total public expenditure (RMB 10.92 trillion), up by 0.55 percentage point from the previous year. According to statistics, China's GDP in 2011 was RMB 47.31 trillion, of which 3.93 percent was allocated to education, representing an increase of 0.28 percentage point from last year. Educational budgets of central and local governments (excluding education surtax)

amounted to RMB 1.68 trillion, up by 24.57 percent from last year. The national budget expenditure for education was RMB 4966.04 per student in primary schools, up by 23.76 percent from the previous year, whereas the same figure for rural students was RMB 4,764.65, indicating an increase of 25.29 percent from the previous year.

3. Challenges

(1) Interregional and urban-rural imbalance in terms of educational resources. The disparities between urban and rural areas are resulted from teaching quality and learning results, which can be attributed to the differences in teacher quality, teaching equipment and facilities, the effectiveness of teacher-student interaction. To promote equity in education and improve teaching quality, it is imperative to strengthen the basic education in rural areas. Establishing a set of national minimum standards, including standards of teacher qualifications, school facilities standards and the maximum number of students per class, will help guarantee the equal access to high-quality education.

(2) Special needs of left-behind children, migrant children and disabled children. Left-behind children generally live with their grandparents and students raised and educated in this way are more likely to be dependent, susceptible to neglect and have low self-esteem. With the number of left-behind children increasing, how to provide better and more comprehensive education for them becomes an issue in urgent need of attention. Efforts should be strengthened to build a registration and tracking system for migrant children and to tackle the education cost problem in the places they live.

(3) Education budgets. The Government needs to further increase the proportion of education budgets in GDP and the total fiscal expenditure, focus on solving problems in rural and remote areas, reduce the burden of education costs on individual families and improve the quality of educational services.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

China is the most populous country in the world, and women account for about half of the total population of 1.3 billion. Promoting gender equality and women's all-round development is not only vital to China's development but also significant for the progress of mankind. The Chinese Government attaches great importance to women's development, makes gender equality a basic national policy, and includes women's development into its plans for national economic and social development. Along with its sustained economic growth and overall social progress, China has been doing better in ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men. The Chinese Government considers justice and equity including gender equality as an important part of a harmonious society. It has formulated various economic, legal, administrative and publicity measures to guarantee that women enjoy equal political, economic, cultural and social rights, as well as rights in family life. It consistently promotes the all-round development of women.



Since 1995, China has formulated and implemented three rounds of the Program for the Development of Chinese Women. As the national action plan to promote the development of women, the program is designed to promote the full development and protect their rights in terms of health, education, economy, participation in decision-making and management, social security, environment, laws, etc.. It has further incorporated the gender awareness into the legal and policy system, and improved the level of women's social security. It has enhanced women's political participation and further raised their sense of social participation. It has steadily improved women's educational level and narrowed education gap between men and women. It has notably improved women's health and further lengthened their life expectancy. It has promoted the development of relevant legislation and their enforcement to further protect women's rights and interests. It has made the basic national policy of gender equality, further improved the social environment for women's development, and promoted the harmonious development of men and women.



Table 3-1 China's Progress Towards the Target of Goal 3 by the End of 2012

GOALS AND TARGETS	Current Situation	Government support	Challenges
Target 3A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015	Already met	Strong	None

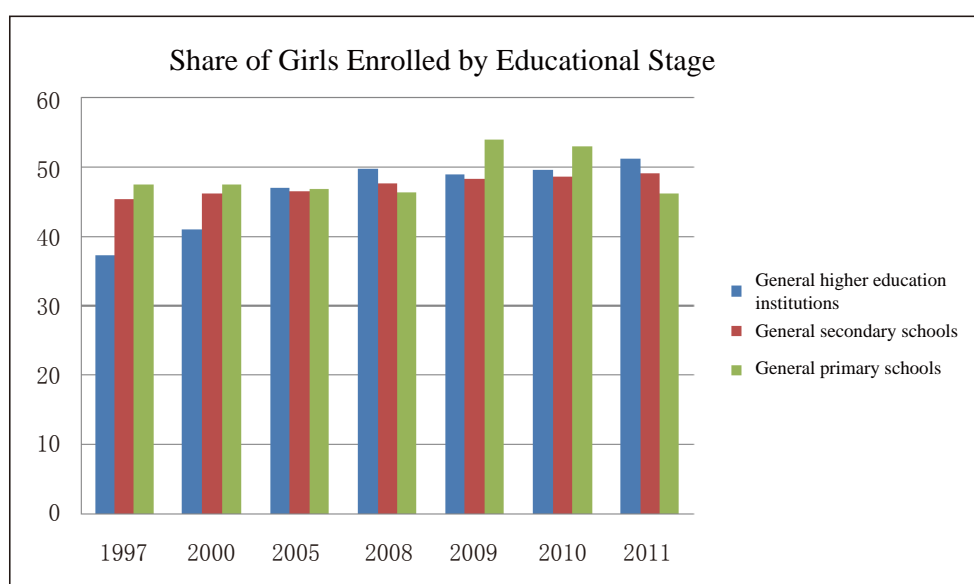
Target 3A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015

1. Current situation

The Chinese Government attaches great importance to education for girls and includes their access to compulsory education as an important part in its education supervision and evaluation efforts. It has improved the system of statistical reports on compulsory education and adopted a series of policies and measures to effectively protect the equal right of girls to education. By 2007, the net enrolment rate of primary schools had reached 99.52 percent and

99.46 percent for girls and boys respectively. Since then, the rates for boys and girls have both remained above 99 percent and gender disparity has been eliminated in terms of the national net primary school enrolment rate. In 2012, there were 21.9248 million girl students in senior secondary schools, accounting for 47.64 percent of the total, and there were 22.7263 million girl students in junior secondary schools, accounting for 47.09 percent of the total. The differences are mainly owing to the unbalanced sex ratio at birth in China. According to *China Statistical Yearbook 2005* released by the National Bureau of Statistics, the sex ratio in the 5-9 age group was as high as 119.10:100 at the end of 2004, significantly higher than the ratio of 103.45:100 among the whole population.

Chart 3-1 Proportion of Girls in Enrolled Students by Educational Stage



Source: *Education Statistics 1997, 2000, 2005, 2008, 2009, 2010 & 2011*, available on the website of the Ministry of Education at <http://www.moe.gov.cn> [6/13/2013]

2. Government support

(1) Spring Bud Plan. To help girls who had dropped out of school to continue with their education and to maximize the well-being of girls, the China Children and Teenagers' Fund (CCTF) under the All-China Women's Federation launched the Spring Bud Plan, and focused on promoting the Spring Bud Plan Practical Skills Training. The plan includes actions to support the schooling, development, cultural and vocational training, and employment and to help left-behind children. It aims to gather social forces and assist the government in solving the practical difficulties of girls from poor families in poor areas as well as left-

behind children in their life and education. As of the end of 2012, the Spring Bud Plan had raised a total of over RMB 1 billion, donated over 1,200 Spring Bud schools, helped more than 2.3 million poor girls to continue schooling, and provided practical and technical training for more than 400,000 girls.

(2) Family education for adolescent girls. To spread scientific knowledge and methods of family education and promote the health and all-round development of adolescent girls according to their characteristics, the All-

China Women's Federation has worked with a host of departments and drawn support from the society to launch a five-year Family Education for Adolescent Girls program in some major cities since 2008. Educational materials were distributed to families with adolescent girls through the network of women's federations and the education system. Mobile classes were organized to disseminate knowledge on scientific family education. And educational bases were established for family education and parenting events. The program has been launched in 20 major cities across the country. More than 7 million copies of educational materials and 60,000 computer discs were distributed for free, more than 50,000 sessions of mobile classes were organized, and 156 practical learning bases were established, directly benefiting 12 million households with girls.

(3) Women's political participation. The Chinese government makes vigorous efforts to promote women's political participation which it regards as an important part of the gender equality cause. The government actively selects and cultivates female cadres, encourages more women to be included into the decision-making group and leading organizations at all levels, pays great attention to women's suggestions on economic and social development plans, and inspires more women to join self-governing community organizations. Political participation of women continues to improve. Among state leaders of China, there are a female vice premier and two female vice-chairpersons of the National People's Congress (NPC). 699 women served as deputies of the 12th NPC, accounting for 23.4 percent of the total. 399 women were members of the 12th national committee of the CPPCC, accounting for 17.8 percent of the total. 22.95 percent of the delegates of the 18th National Congress of the CPC were women, 2.9 percentage points higher than that of the previous session.

(4) Making efforts to address gender imbalance. Since the 1980s, China's sex ratio at birth has been beyond the normal range of 103 to 107. In 2003, the National Population and Family Planning Commission and 21 related departments launched a campaign called "Care for Girls" in 32 pilot counties aimed at mobilizing social forces to comprehensively address the problem of the high sex ratio at birth. Through years of efforts, the upward trend of the ratio has been curbed.

(5) Improving laws and regulations. Relevant laws and regulations have been formulated or revised to provide solid legal foundations for the fulfillment of women's

legitimate rights. Since 2000, a series of laws have been approved or revised including *the Labor Contract Law of the People's Republic of China*, *Law of the People's Republic of China on the Mediation and Arbitration of Rural Land Contract Disputes*, *Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Women's Rights and Interests*, *Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Minors*, and *Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Disabled Persons*, so as to provide legal support for women's rights and interests in wider fields and improve China's legal system in protecting women's rights and interests.

3. Challenges

(1) Violence against women (VAW) is not only a very important gender-related socio-economic and health problem but also severe violation of women's rights. Greater attention and more effective actions are needed to eliminate it. At present, China is in the process of promulgating a national family violence law to protect women, children and the elderly. More efforts should be made to further prohibit sexual harassment in workplaces. Enterprises are required to take clear responsibilities and establish mechanisms to prevent sexual harassments. Trafficking of women still exists. In recent years, the public security organs of China have conducted a series of special campaigns to combat trafficking of women and children, established transit, training and rehabilitation centers for rescued women and children, and achieved remarkable results. Nonetheless, to fundamentally resolve this problem is still quite difficult.

(2) Discrimination based on gender, age and region remains in the labor market. Elderly laid-off women are unlikely to be re-employed; female college graduates and young women face more difficulties than their male peers in getting employed. Employment quality and structure for women also needs to be further improved. Attention should also be paid to the issue of women having an earlier retirement age than men.

(3) The bias of preferring boys to girls has not been fundamentally changed and the sex ratio at birth remains unbalanced. The causes for the high sex ratio at birth are complex, involving both cultural factors such as the stereotype of preferring males over females, and economic factors such as the low productivity and lack of social security services in remote rural areas. Effective advocacy and publicity are still required to overcome the traditional bias in favor of boys. This can be achieved by optimizing

the social and economic measures to help reduce the reliance on sons to support the elderly, and by improving the legal system in order to prevent selective abortions for non-medical purposes.

(4) More attention should be paid to left-behind women and girls. With the demographic transition and economic and social transformation, Chinese families are undergoing profound changes. The family size keeps shrinking, from 4.43 persons per household in 1982 to 3.10 persons in 2010. The divorce rate increased significantly from 0.96‰ in 2000 to 2.13‰ in 2011, resulting in a growing number of single-parent families. Members of many families live away from each other, leaving more than 47 million women and 61 million children behind in rural areas. A family's traditional functions in production, marriage, provision for

the aged and other aspects have weakened and the ability to resist risks has decreased. Rural women's participation in public affairs is still insufficient. More efforts should be made to further study their land ownership and address the damages to their land rights and interests.

(5) Considering the low representation of women in decision-making and management groups at all levels, more endeavors should be made to break the glass ceiling, which impedes women's professional development, to formulate family-friendly policies, to build and improve social service facilities, and to help male and female workers with family burdens to balance their work and family, hence effectively promoting the gender equity across the society.

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Since the beginning of 2000, China has implemented the program “Reducing Maternal Mortality and Eliminate Neonatal Tetanus”. By the end of 2011, the program had covered 2,297 counties, involving a total population of about 830 million and a total input from the central budget of RMB 2.13 billion. The Chinese Government has put in a large amount of earmarked funds to train medical personnel at local levels, install basic equipment, build Obstetric Emergency Centers and help poorer segments of the population, etc. At the same time, relevant departments have further strengthened legal assistance for women and children. Criminal activities against women and children have been effectively controlled. In 2010,

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao made commitments at the UN Summit on MDGs that the country will significantly expand its investment in the health care for women and children, strengthen the capacity building for maternal and child health (MCH) services, and enable more Chinese women and children to have better health care services. In 2012, Chen Zhu, Minister of Health, pointed out that in the next five to ten years, China will establish a basic medical and health care system covering urban and rural women and children, improve the MCH services system, ensure equal access of women and children to basic healthcare services, and constantly improve the health of women and children.

Table 4-1 China's Progress Towards the Target of Goal 4 by the End of 2012

GOALS AND TARGETS	Current Situation	Government support	Challenges
Target 4A: Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	Already met	Strong	None

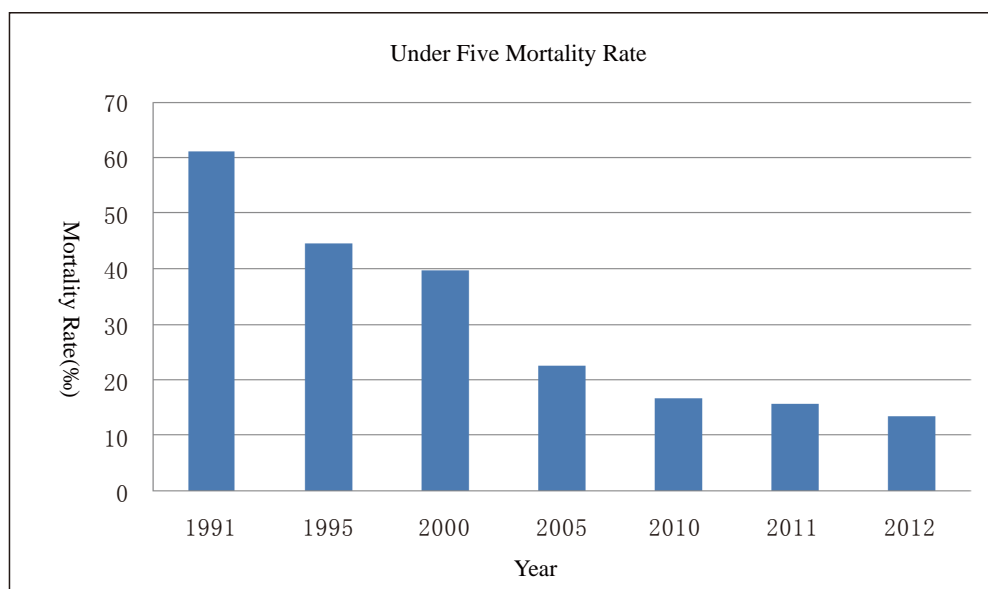
Target 4A: Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

1. Current situation

The Chinese Government has worked continuously to provide health care services for children and improve children's health by introducing legislations, strengthening management, cooperating with NGOs and conducting international cooperation and exchanges. More notably, since the 1990s, it has made vigorous efforts in implementing *the Law on Maternal and Infant Healthcare*, *the Program for the Development of Chinese Women (2011-2020)* and *the National Program of Action for Child Development in China (2011-2020)*. China established the maternal and child healthcare system, promoted scientific and effective healthcare service techniques, popularized scientific child-rearing knowledge and ideas, and introduced prompt and effective healthcare practices including the “green channel” system to ensure timely referral and first-aid. By doing so, child healthcare in China has made remarkable progress. Infant mortality rates have come down from 50.2‰ in 1991 to 10.3‰ in 2012. Similarly, the mortality rate of children under five has dropped from 61.0‰ in 1991 to 13.2‰ in 2012. This indicates that China has achieved this MDG ahead of schedule.



Chart 4-1 Under Five Mortality Rate



2. Government support

The Chinese Government attaches great importance to child healthcare and considers it a top priority to improve child health and reduce child mortality rate. Support is extended mainly in the following aspects.

(1) Strengthening the legislation and policy research concerning MCH. Based on the existing policies and regulations, it released eight technical regulations such as *Technical Specifications for Neonatal Visits*, *Child Health Check Services*, and *Technical Specifications for Child Feeding and Nutrition* in 2013. These have played a supporting role in protecting women and children's health.

(2) Efforts to improve the accessibility of MCH services. In recent years, the rural health service system has been further strengthened and the services and conditions of MCH institutions and township hospitals have improved. A relatively sound three-tier MCH network covering county, township and village levels has been formed to take on the relevant work across the country. In 2012, the hospitalized delivery rate in China reached 99.2 percent.

(3) Efforts to address difficult problems in MCH. Healthcare services and conditions, as well as children's nutrition in poverty-stricken areas of central and western China have been significantly improved through the program "Reducing Maternal Mortality and Eliminate Neonatal Tetanus" and to "Resuscitation of newborn". In 2011, the newborn, infant and under-five mortality rates were 4.4, 6.6 and 8.7 per 1000 children respectively in counties covered by

the program, and the MCH level was further improved. In October 2012, China was certified for neonatal tetanus elimination by the World Health Organization, which marks that China has made tremendous achievements in this regard.

(4) Establishment of a working mechanism to safeguard the health of women and children. Health care facilities at various levels have seen the introduction of prompt and effective healthcare practices including the "green channel" system, which helps to prevent maternal and infant death due to delayed referral or first-aid, ensuring the safety of mothers and infants.

(5) Free services provided to promote children's physical and mental development. Free services like health check are available to children in the 0-6 age group through the programs to provide equal access to basic public health services. Inputs are stepped up in children nutrition, health, education, etc., so as to promote early development of children, prevent intergenerational transmission of poverty, and eliminate poverty fundamentally. The National Health and Family Planning Commission established over 50 early development centers in 17 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities and made use of existing service network and facilities such as population education schools to provide free or low-cost antenatal counseling and care services, education, and services promoting children's physical, emotional, social and cognitive development.

3. Challenges

(1) Big gaps of child mortality rate exist across regions and between urban and rural areas. The main problems affecting children's health are also different between urban and rural areas. In developed areas with low mortality rate, the major problems plaguing children's health are birth defects, accidental injury and other non-infectious diseases. While in poor rural areas the main causes of child mortality are premature delivery, low birth weight, asphyxia and infections such as neonatal tetanus and pneumonia.

(2) The health insurance system for children remains to be improved. The costs of medical services are often unaffordable to the poor. Health problem is one of the major causes that drag a family into poverty. Insufficient funding in public health has resulted in insufficient coverage of preventive health services and relatively poor medical care conditions. In some provinces, the lack of funding restricts the coverage and quality of preventive health services.

(3) The unbalanced sex ratio at birth exists in some regions due to traditional bias in favor of boys. Particular attention needs to be paid to the higher female infant mortality rate in rural areas.

(4) Although the national monitoring system for maternal and child mortality has been improved in recent years, accounting for child mortality rates and immunization coverage among unregistered and floating populations remains a challenge. Due to the high cost and the lack of policy support, medical services for migrant children cannot be guaranteed. Considering the transfer of a large number of rural labors into cities, health care services for left-behind children in rural areas are also inadequate.

(5) Some basic intervening measures that may have significant impacts on child survival have not been fully implemented in the poorest regions, including newborn screening and counseling on appropriate feeding, screening for low-birth-weight children, neonatal disease screening, and high risk infants management, comprehensive management of childhood illness, micro-nutrient supplement, and the prevention of diarrhea, pneumonia and meningitis by using new vaccines.

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

The Chinese Government has attached great importance to the living and health condition of women. China signed a number of international conventions on protection of women, and formulated the *Program for the Development of Chinese Women*, the *Law on Maternal and Infant Health Care* and the *Population and Family Planning Law*, providing a legal basis for Maternal and Child Health (MCH) service. The Chinese Government has continuously optimized the MCH legal system and service system. MCH public service projects have been implemented, MCH applicable technology has been popularized and fairness and accessibility of MCH services is improved. The national maternal mortality rate (MMR) and child mortality rate have dropped considerably, and the health status of women and children has been improved significantly. The MMR fell from 1,500 per 100,000 in 1950s to 24.5 per 100,000 in 2012, and the infant mortality rate from 200 per 1,000 to 10.3 per 1,000 during the same period.



China also strives to build a national healthcare system for women by increasing government input and integrating social resources, incorporating maternity insurance into social security system. The Chinese Government steadily carries forward the maternity insurance for urban workers and advances the maternity protection measures for unemployed women in rural areas. Furthermore, the Chinese Government has also carried out public campaigns to enhance people's awareness of maternal and reproductive healthcare. These measures and initiatives have significantly improved maternal and reproductive health care in China.

Table 5-1 China's Progress Towards the Targets of Goal 5 by the End of 2012

GOALS AND TARGETS	Current Situation	Government support	Challenges
Target 5A: Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio	Likely	Strong	None
Target 5B: Achieve universal access to reproductive health	Potentially	Good	Some

Target 5A: Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio

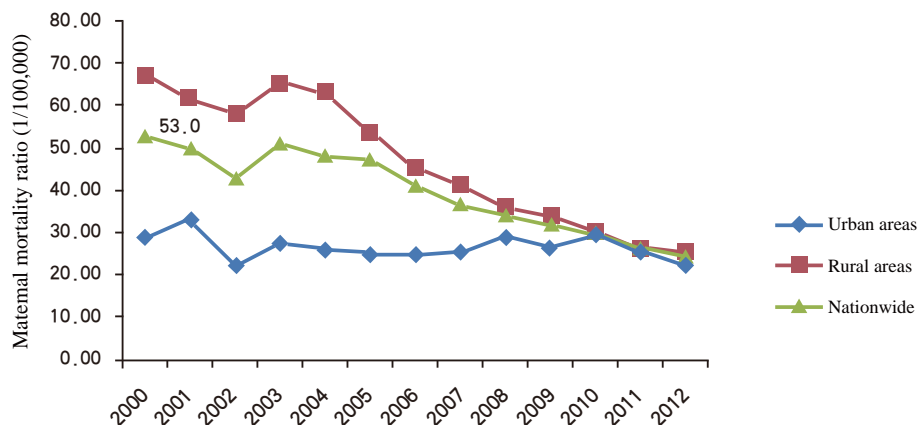
1. Current situation

Significant progress has been made on the reduction of MMR in China. It is possible that by 2015 China reaches its target of reducing the MMR by three quarters ahead of schedule. In 2012, the MMR nationwide was 24.5 per 100,000, which is 74.1 percent lower and 53.8 percent lower compared with 1990 and 2000 respectively. Though narrowed, the regional disparity remains evident. Overall, the MMR is higher in western regions than in central and eastern regions, the lowest MMR is in the eastern regions. In 2011, the MMR in western regions was 2.1 times of MMR in the eastern regions, which indicates a remarkably narrowed gap compared to the 5.4 times in 2000. The disparity on MMR between urban and rural areas has also



been reduced. In 2012, the MMR in urban and rural areas was 22.2 per 100,000 and 25.6 per 100,000 respectively, and the MMR in rural areas declined by 61.9 percent compared to 2000. The gap has narrowed to 1.15 times from 2.4 times in 2000 (see Chart 5-1). Meanwhile, the MMR among the migrant population is still higher than that among permanent residents.

Chart 5-1 Maternal Mortality Ratio in China, 2000-2012



Maternal Mortality Ratio in China, 2000-2012

Source: China Maternal and Child Health Supervision System

The top five causes of maternal mortality are obstetric hemorrhage, amniotic fluid embolism, hypertensive disorders in pregnancy, pregnancy associated with cardiac disease, and venous thrombosis & pulmonary embolism, which altogether account for 68.8 percent of the total maternal mortality. Maternal mortality caused by obstetric hemorrhage has declined from 20.8 per 100,000 in 2000 to 7.5 per 100,000 in 2011, with a decrease of 63.9 percent. In 2011, 11 percent of maternal mortality occurred at home and on the way to hospital. With the improvement of economic, environmental and medical conditions, the MMR declines year by year.

Promoting hospitalized delivery is a key measure to ensure maternal and infant safety and reduce mortality.

The Ministry of Health launched subsidies for hospitalized delivery of rural women in central and western regions in 2008, and expanded its coverage to the whole rural areas in 2009. A total of RMB 10.9 billion was invested in this program by the Central Government from 2009 to 2012. By the end of 2012, 37.62 million pregnant women had received subsidies under this program. It has significantly increased the hospitalized delivery rate, effectively ensured maternal and infant safety and created a good environment for hospitalized delivery. In 2012, the national hospitalized delivery rate reached 99.2 percent, and that in rural areas was 98.8 percent. With the rising hospitalized delivery rate, the MMR in rural areas has taken on a downward trend.

Table 5-2 Rate of new method for delivery and hospitalized delivery rate

Year	Rate of new method for delivery (%)			Hospitalized delivery rate (%)		
	Nationwide	Urban areas	Rural areas	Nationwide	Urban areas	Rural areas
2000	96.6	98.8	95.2	72.9	84.9	65.2
2005	97.5	98.7	96.7	85.9	93.2	81.0
2010	99.6	99.9	99.4	97.8	99.2	96.7
2011	99.7	99.9	99.6	98.7	99.6	98.1
2012	99.8	99.9	99.7	99.2	99.7	98.8

Source: Statistics of the former Ministry of Health.

2. Government support

Since the promulgation of *the Law on Maternal and Infant Health Care* in 1994, China has adhered to the “one law and two programs” (*Law on Maternal and Infant Healthcare, Program for the Development of Chinese Women* and *National Program of Action for Child Development in China*). Continuous improvement has been made on MCH-related laws and policies and MCH service system. The Chinese Government provided whole-process MCH services with strengthened MCH informationization, and conducted extensive international cooperation and exchanges. Efforts made by the Chinese Government in recent years mainly cover the following aspects.

(1) Gradual improvement on MCH laws and policies. In 2011, the Chinese Government issued *the Program for the Development of Chinese Women (2011-2020)* and *National Program of Action for Child Development in China(2011-2020)*, which considered women's health and children's health as top priorities with clear objectives and measures in this regard. The 12th Five-Year Plan focuses on the improvement of people's livelihood, incorporating main indicators of women's and children's health in the planning for economic and social development, and it clearly sets targets of reducing the MMR to 22 per 100,000 and the infant mortality rate to 12 per 1,000 by 2015.

(2) Continuous improvement on MCH service system. The MCH system is one of the earliest public health care service systems in China. It is a system with Chinese characteristics independent from the medical care system and the disease control system. Specialized MCH institutions are the core of the MCH service system. By 2011, there were 3,036 specialized MCH institutions, 442 maternity hospitals, 79 children's hospitals, 33,000 community health centers (stations), 37,000 township health centers, and 663,000 village clinics nationwide. Over 500,000 professionals were engaged in MCH services, among which 262,000 worked at MCH institutions; there were altogether 146,000 beds available, and 170 million clinical visits per year. These institutions play an indispensable role in promoting the health of women and children. There were also full-time or part-time MCH personnel at community health institutions, township health centers and village clinics. The coverage of the MCH is gradually expanding and the service is improving.

(3) Strengthening the informationization of MCH services. China established its MCH annual reporting system in the early 1980s, the national birth defects monitoring

network in 1986, the national maternal mortality monitoring network in 1989 and the national under-five children mortality monitoring network in 1991. To make better use of resources and improve efficiency, the above three networks were integrated into one system in 1996. Currently, the integrated monitoring network covers 140 million people in 334 districts and counties, including birth defects monitoring in 783 hospitals of 64 districts and counties. A national MCH institution monitoring information system was established in 2005.



(4) Strengthening MCH work through the health care system reform. Since the reform of medical care services in 2009, MCH, as an important part of public health care, has been drawing more and more attention and becomes a key task in improving people's livelihood. Based on the program to reduce MMR and eliminate neonatal tetanus, China launched the National Basic Public Health Service Program and the Program of Major Public Health Service for Women and Children. In 2009, the basic National Basic Public Health Service Program was implemented with a subsidy of RMB 15 per person from the Central Government budget. It includes maternal health care and health education. Under the program, basic public health services are provided free of charge for all residents through local medical institutions in urban and rural areas. In 2011, the subsidies for basic public health service increased to RMB 25 per person and maternal health care service programs were also increased. By 2012, a total input of RMB 56.6 billion was made from the central government budget on the program.

(5) Extensive international cooperation and exchanges on MCH. To promote the health of women and children, the Chinese Government has been actively involved in international exchanges and cooperation on MCH. Over the years, the Chinese Government has conducted fruitful cooperation with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Bank and other international organizations on women's health care,

children's health care, reproductive health and family planning, exploring the implementation of reproductive health services in humanitarian emergency settings and other areas. Through a series of cooperation projects, China has improved the facilities and equipments of MCH institutions and local healthcare institutions, trained a number of MCH professionals and introduced advanced management and service concepts as well as applicable technologies to improve MCH service at local levels, especially in poverty stricken areas. International cooperation and exchanges on MCH have deepened the communication and understanding between China and the international community, which played an active role in promoting the health of Chinese women and children. The development pattern and achievements of China on MCH provide useful experience for other developing countries and have received positive response from the international community.

3. Challenges

(1) The gaps in maternal mortality ratio between urban and rural areas, different regions and different population groups have been reduced but are still obvious. To improve the health of women in western regions, rural areas and the migrant population is the focus and main challenge.

(2) The MCH system and the service network need to be improved. The professional skills of relevant personnel needs to be enhanced. The MCH service at local levels is inadequate and unsatisfactory. What's more notable is the poor accessibility and inadequate use of MCH services in poverty-stricken areas, remote mountainous areas and ethnic minority areas.

(3) Investment in MCH is inadequate. A stable MCH input and compensation mechanism has not been established.

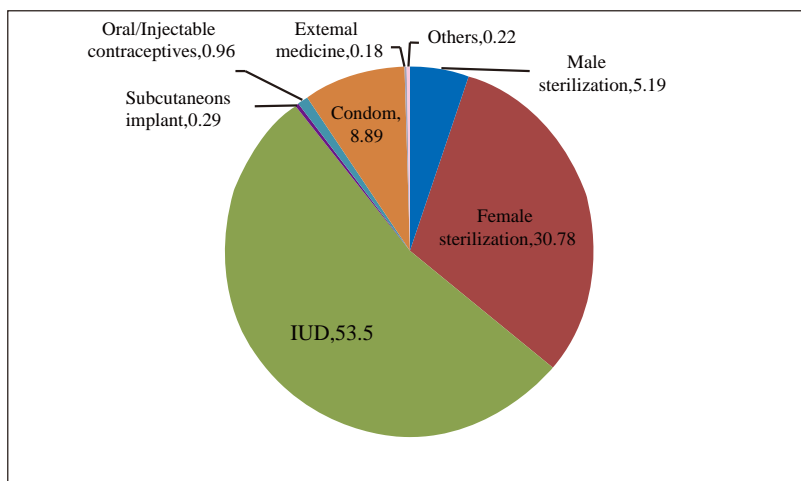
(4) Midwife is not recognized as an independent profession in Chinese health system. But they are the first medical personnel pregnant women meet in their community, especially in rural areas.

Target 5B: Achieve universal access to reproductive health

1.Current situation

According to Chinese regulation, all citizens at childbearing age in China have free access to family planning services, including contraceptive surgery, medication and devices. The overall contraceptive rate among married women of childbearing age has remained above 80 percent. Among the contraceptive methods used, male sterilization, female sterilization, intrauterine device (IUD), subcutaneous implant, oral/injectable contraceptives, condom, external medicine and other methods accounted for 5.19 percent, 30.78 percent, 53.5 percent, 0.29 percent, 0.96 percent, 8.89 percent, 0.18 percent and 0.22 percent respectively. The contraceptive methods has shown some changes compared with a decade ago but long-term methods are still the contraceptive methods used by the majority. Data from the 2008 National Demographic Change Sampling Survey showed that the fertility rate among adolescents (15-19 years old) is 5.26‰. According to estimates by the United Nations Population Division, China's unmet requirement for family planning of the 15-49 age group accounts 2.3 percent. Both are low compared with other countries.

Chart 5-2 Contraceptive methods used by married women of childbearing age,



Source: former National Population and Family Planning Commission

Sound and systematic maternal health care management is an important measure to improve the quality of maternal health care, and to ensure maternal and infant health. China launched its maternal health care model on a trial basis in 1978 and has established a complete set of systematic maternal health care system that

includes prenatal care, prenatal screening and diagnosis, screening and management of high-risk pregnant women, hospitalized delivery, newborn care and postnatal visit. The rate of systematic maternal management rose from 77.2 percent in 2000 to 85.2 percent in 2011.

Table 5-3 Healthcare for Women

Unit: %

Year	Rate of examination of women's diseases ①	Incidence of women's diseases	Rate of maternal card registration	Rate of prenatal examination	Rate of postnatal visits	Rate of systematic maternal management
2000	38.6	26.5	88.6	89.4	86.2	77.2
2005	34.2	27.5	88.5	89.8	86.0	76.7
2010	61.2	28.8	92.9	94.1	90.8	84.1
2011	65.4	28.3	93.8	93.7	91.0	85.2

Source: Statistics of the former Ministry of Health.

Note: ① Statistical caliber has changed since 2008.

2. Government support

The Chinese Government has made great progress in implementing the Program of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development. It has been able to provide more client-oriented family planning services and pay more attention to informed choices. The idea of quality services in family planning is to be people-oriented. It focuses on quality service, the satisfaction of citizens, the informed choice on contraceptive methods, and the legitimate rights of citizens.

The Chinese Government makes tremendous efforts to promote premarital and pre-pregnancy health care according to the *Law on Maternal and Infant Health Care*. Premarital health care services are carried out extensively at the local levels. In 2011, the national rate of pre-marital health check reached 41.0 percent, 8.9 million people took premarital medical checks. Pre-pregnancy healthcare is an important measure for primary birth defect prevention. Since 2009, folic acid supplement for the prevention of neural tube defects has been included in the major public health service program. Free folic acid supplements have been provided three months in advance for rural women who prepare for pregnancy and for those during the first three months of their pregnancy. A total of RMB 470 million

was invested in this program by the Central Government from 2009 to 2012, which was distributed to local governments according to different proportion. By the end of 2012, folic acid supplements were provided to 34.76 million rural women through the program.



To address the rising incidence of cervical cancer and breast cancer among Chinese women, the All-China Women's Federation and the Ministry of Health jointly launched a free breast cancer and cervical cancer inspection project for rural women on a pilot basis in 2009 as a major public health service reform project. Between 2009 and 2011, the Central Government invested RMB

355 million to provide free cervical cancer checks for a total of 11.69 million rural women and free breast cancer checks for 1.46 million rural women. The project has promoted early diagnosis and treatment of the two cancers among rural women and raised their health awareness. Meanwhile, the “Relief Fund for Poor Mothers with Cervical and Breast Cancers” was established. It has helped a total of 10,450 poor female patients. From 2012 to 2015, free cervical cancer screening is to be provided for 50 million rural women and free breast cancer screening for 6 million.

In response to the increasing unintended pregnancies of unmarried adolescents, China makes continuous efforts to gather social forces to jointly improve the education and life skills of young people. The National Health and Family Planning Commission of the People's Republic of China and the United Nations Population Fund set up a project base in China to provide sex and reproductive health education for Chinese adolescents. They advocated the inclusion of adolescent reproductive health services into the free service system, paying special attention to service and education for out-of-school youth and migrant youth. As a non-governmental organization, the China Family Planning Association has worked together with relevant international organizations to provide extensive reproductive health education and service for adolescents through youth health programs in schools, factories and communities. Currently, the China Family Planning Association is actively calling for attention to the issue of sexual and reproductive health among adolescents through law and policy support, and will develop specific measures to form a multi-sectoral cooperation mechanism to provide a favorable social and youth-friendly environment for young people.

Migrant population rose from 6.57 million in 1982 to 236 million in 2012. The State Council issued *Regulations on Provision of Family Planning Services to the Migrant Population* in May 2009 in order to provide family planning services for the migrant population. According to the Regulations, the migrant populations enjoy free access to contraceptives, family planning services and relevant trainings at their residential place. In recent years the National Population and Family Planning Commission have launched a program for migrant population called “Love and Care” in order to promote equal access to basic health services and free family planning services.

3. Challenges

- (1) The regional disparity in reproductive health service is still large. Providing reproductive health service for migrant population becomes a major challenge, the equal access to reproductive health service needs to be further improved.
- (2) Women's reproductive health is still a big concern. Breast cancer, cervical cancer and AIDS, syphilis and other major diseases pose serious threats to the health of women, and unintended pregnancies and infertility problems become increasingly prominent.
- (3) With the decline in maternal and infant mortality rates, birth defects become a growingly prominent public health problem.
- (4) Currently, China still needs to make efforts on adolescent fertility rate and unmet needs for family planning, especially reproductive health and family planning services for unmarried people and migrant population. In addition, how to define and calculate the unmet requirements on family planning still face some difficulties.
- (5) Some enterprises and employees still lack enough awareness and measures on maternal health promotion. Measures at workplace should be taken to prevent women in pregnancy or breastfeeding period from hazardous working environment. Accessing women to prenatal and postnatal health check, flexible working hours and breastfeeding facilities to ensure them free from maternal discrimination are all needed.



Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

The Chinese Government has endeavored to improve people's health and made significant progress in disease control and mortality reduction. By 2010, China had achieved the goals set in the *National Action Plan (2006-2010) for AIDS Containment, Prevention and Care*, succeeding in keeping the number of HIV carriers below 1.5 million. Despite many challenges ahead, China is making

steady progress towards the MDGs concerning the control of HIV/AIDS. The prevalence of tuberculosis (TB) in China reduced to 0.66 ‰, 61 percent lower than the figure of 2000. This meant that the MDG indicator for TB control had been achieved ahead of schedule. The actual malaria incidences decreased from 14,140 in 2009 to 2,716 in 2012.

Table 6-1 China's Progress Towards the Targets of Goal 6 by the End of 2012

GOALS AND TARGETS	Current Situation	Government support	Challenges
Target 6A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	Likely	Strong	Some
Target 6B: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it	Already met according to available information	Good	Some
Target 6C: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	Likely	Strong	None

Target 6A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

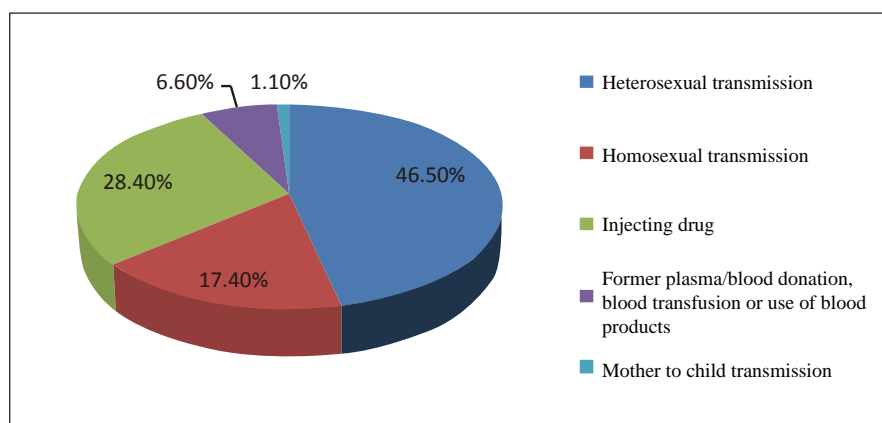
Target 6B: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it

1. Current situation

The Ministry of Health of the People's Republic of China, UNAIDS and the World Health Organization (WHO) conducted an estimation on HIV/AIDS epidemic conditions. By the end of 2011, there were approximately 780,000 people living with HIV in China, among which women account for 28.6 percent. Among people living

with HIV, 46.5 percent were infected through heterosexual transmission, 17.4 percent through homosexual transmission, 28.4 percent through injecting drug, 6.6 percent through former plasma/blood donation, blood transfusion or use of blood products, and 1.1 percent through mother-to-child transmission. In 2011, there were approximately 48,000 people newly found living with HIV in China, among which 52.2 percent were infected through heterosexual transmission, 29.4 percent through homosexual transmission, 18.0 percent through injecting drug, and 0.4 percent through mother-to-child transmission. An estimated 28,000 people died of HIV in the same year. By the end of 2012, a total number of 500,605 HIV carriers and AIDS patients had been reported nationwide among which 385,817 were HIV carriers.

Chart 6-1 Proportion of HIV transmission route, 2011



Currently, China's HIV epidemic shows the following characteristics: firstly, although the epidemic continues to expand, the rate has slowed down; secondly, sexual transmission continues to be the primary mode of transmission, with homosexual transmission taking an obviously increasing share; thirdly, China's HIV epidemic remains one of low prevalence overall, but with pockets of high infection in some localities; fourthly, more people living with HIV are entering the period of onset and the number of deaths is increasing; fifthly, the infected patients cover various groups of people and the epidemic situation is complicated. The prevalence among elderly males and young students has increased.

With positive publicity, the HIV/AIDS awareness rate has reached by 75 percent and 84 percent among Chinese rural and urban residents respectively. In terms of prevention and control, 17,083 HIV screening laboratories and 377 HIV confirmatory laboratories have been established in China by the end of 2012. All counties are capable of doing HIV antibody tests. A total of 218,200 AIDS patients have received HIV antiretroviral therapy, and 167,000 are still on treatment. 87 percent of reported cases eligible for treatment have received antiviral therapy. Cumulatively, 384,000 drug users have been treated in 756 methadone maintenance treatment clinics established across the country. The intervention coverage rates among sex workers and MSM (males who have sex with males) have reached 85.7 percent and 74.0 percent respectively. In 2009, China incorporated the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV into the major public health service program in its health care reform. From 2010 to 2012, the Chinese Government invested RMB 2.582 billion to expand the program to comprehensive prevention and control of mother-to-child infectious diseases such as HIV, congenital syphilis, and hepatitis B. The central finance supported programs expand their coverage from 453 counties in 2009 to 1,156 counties in 31 provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities. Since 2003 when the prevention effort of mother-to-child transmission of HIV was launched, 37.76 million pregnant women have been tested for HIV, among whom more than 25,770 are HIV positive, and 80 percent of postpartum women with HIV have been taking antiretroviral drugs by the end of 2012. The rate of mother-to-child transmission has reduced from 34.8 percent to 7.4 percent in the areas covered by the program and around 79 percent of mother-to-child transmission cases have been prevented.

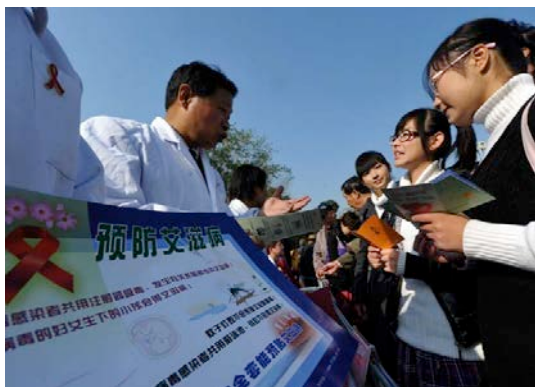
2. Government support

The Chinese Government attaches high importance to HIV prevention and control. Since 2010, the State Council has issued *Circular on Further Strengthening HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment* and the *National Action Plan (2011-2015) for AIDS Containment, Prevention and Care*, confirming relevant goals, indicators, and specific measures during the 12th Five-year Plan period. China has comprehensively advanced the implementation of various HIV/AIDS prevention and control measures, including the expansion of the coverage of publicity and education, monitoring and testing, mother-to-child transmission prevention, comprehensive intervention, and antiretroviral therapy, as well as strengthening of blood management, health security, care and aid, protection of rights and interests, organizational leadership, and team building.

The Chinese Government now plans to include the comprehensive capacity building for hospitals dedicated to infectious diseases in areas with high HIV prevalence into *the Construction Plan for the Major Disease Prevention and Control System*, giving priority to the construction of functional rooms like operating rooms in such hospitals with an aim to provide easier access to medical services for people living with HIV. After the launch of pilot projects in 2012, the government has invested RMB 141 million to support the building of six hospitals dedicated to infectious diseases in areas with high HIV prevalence such as Henan, Hunan, Guangxi, Yunnan, and Sichuan provinces. Meanwhile, it has also increased its investment in AIDS prevention and treatment year by year. Central Government funding for the HIV prevention and control was stepped up, from RMB 2.07 billion in 2010 to RMB 2.20 billion in 2011 and RMB 2.39 billion in 2012. Local governments have also boosted their funding in this regard.

The Chinese Government has provided more care for those affected by HIV. Eligible sufferers have been included in the minimum subsistence system or as recipients of basic living aid so as to be provided care and support on a regular basis. AIDS orphans have been given a higher basic life subsidy (RMB 600 per child per month) and have been properly cared for through foster care, adoption, or small family care. Eligible elderly and childless HIV sufferers in rural areas have been given an annual

subsidy of RMB 3,400 per person on average according to the Rules of Rural Five Guarantees. Foundations and other social organizations have been mobilized. A total of nearly RMB 100 million was raised to ensure normal life and learning for AIDS orphans. Funded by micro-credit and other forms of financial assistance, people living with HIV have been assisted in planting, breeding, artisanship, and other productive activities according to local conditions so as to achieve self-support and mutual support.



With the substantial support of the relevant government departments, more and more social organizations are involved in HIV prevention and control. At present, about 1,000 social organizations are active in this area. They are engaged in health education, intervention for the high-risk groups, follow-up visits, care & aid and other tasks. Their work is a positive supplement to the efforts of the government. Besides, China has also been actively carrying out international cooperation. It has formed close partnership with the United Nations and the Global Fund. China has conducted sound bilateral cooperation with countries like the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia. Many international NGOs have also been actively engaged in China's HIV prevention and control.

3. Challenges

(1) Sexual transmission has become the primary mode of transmission, which is more difficult to detect. The epidemic trend has increased obviously among the MSM group. The prevalence among elderly males and young students has also increased. Meanwhile, the existing technology, measures and capacity to prevent and treat the disease are insufficient.

(2) Due to low intervention coverage among high-risk groups, there are less than 50 percent of HIV carriers and AIDS patients who are aware of their status and therefore

have not realized the risk of further spreading. Meanwhile, late diagnosis of a considerable proportion of infected persons impacts the effectiveness of prevention and intervention services.

(3) The HIV prevention and control measures provided for migrants and sex workers, particularly for low income sex workers, are insufficient.

(4) People living with HIV have gradually entered the stage of attack, and the number of those requiring antiretroviral treatment has significantly increased. There are also more drug resistant cases, increasing pressures and difficulty on treatments. Meanwhile, due to readjustment in treatment standards, there is greater demand for a larger variety of drugs and need for funding.

(5) The participation of social organizations remains imbalanced and the government support must be further improved.

(6) Discrimination against people living with HIV widely exists in the society.

(7) There are no effective measures to protect employment and treatment rights of people living with HIV and AIDS. More efforts should be made to protect their privacy.

Target 6C: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

1. Current situation

China is one of the 22 high-burden countries for tuberculosis. According to the WHO's statistics, China now has 4.99 million TB patients, ranking second in the world. In addition, there are about 1 million new TB cases emerging every year.

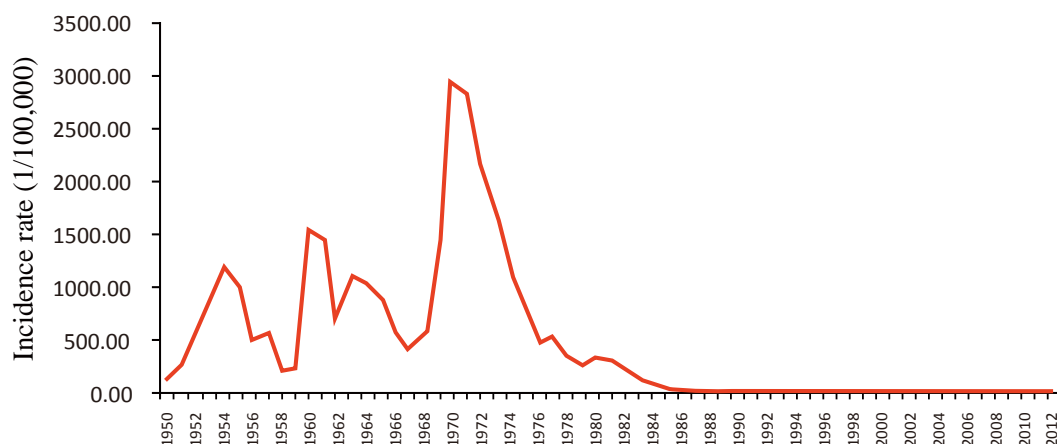
The Chinese Government has always attached high importance to TB prevention and treatment, and has carried out three National TB Control Programs successively. Since 2001 in particular, it has launched the WHO-recommended modern TB control strategy (DOTS) at all levels. Since 2005, the geographic coverage of DOTS has remained at 100 percent and the cure rate for smear-positive TB cases has increased from 76.3 percent in 1991 to 93.8 percent in 2012. The upward trend of TB prevalence has been curbed effectively and the Chinese Government has achieved its commitments to

the international community on TB control at this stage. Meanwhile, it has also fulfilled the target of TB control in the MDGs ahead of schedule.

Malaria used to be a major insect-borne infectious disease which seriously threatened the health and life of Chinese people and impeded the social and economic development. With nearly 60 years of efforts, the malaria prevention and treatment has seen remarkable achievements in China. The number of incidences has decreased from 30 million

before liberation to 2,716 cases in 2012. The incidence rate has decreased to 0.20158/100,000; only 14 deaths occurred and the mortality rate was 0.001033/100,000. Among all the incidences, 2,473 or 91.05 percent of the total were imported from abroad, while the remaining local cases were only scattered in some areas of Yunnan, Anhui, Hubei, Tibet and Guangxi. Judging from the current epidemic situation, China has fully achieved the commitments concerning malaria control in the MDGs.

Chart 6-2 Incidence of Malaria in China, 1950-2012



2. Government support

The Chinese Government has attached high importance to TB prevention and treatment, preliminarily creating a sustainable mechanism involving the leadership of the government, multi-department cooperation, and full participation of the whole society. The *TB Control Management Measures* formulated in 2013 further improved the strategy and mechanism of TB prevention and treatment. Since DOTS was adopted at all levels in 2001, funds for TB prevention and treatment saw



continuous increases across China from RMB 130 million in 2001 to RMB 1.4 billion in 2012. The TB prevention and

treatment service system has been gradually established, including TB control organizations and medical institutions at all levels, and primary health care networks in towns and villages such as community health service centers/stations. Besides, the Chinese Government has also made vigorous efforts to incorporate multi-drug resistant TB into the major disease insurance of the New Cooperative Medical Scheme in Rural China and the medical aid program and kept improving the reimbursement proportion. In 2012, all first-line and second-line anti-tuberculosis drugs necessary for current clinical TB treatments were included in the *National Essential Drug List (2012 Edition)*.

In May 2010, the former Ministry of Health and 12 other departments jointly issued the *Action Plan for Eliminating Malaria (2010-2020)*, putting forward the goals to eradicate malaria from the whole country but the border regions in Yunnan province by 2015 and to eradicate malaria from the entire country by 2020. The Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention issued the *Technical Proposal on Malaria Eradication (2011 Edition)* and the *Monitoring Scheme on Malaria Eradication* in 2011 and

2012 respectively. In 2013, the former Ministry of Health issued the *Examination and Evaluation Plan on Malaria Eradication in China (2013 Edition)*. All of these documents provided useful guidance for the scientific planning and standardized implementation of the malaria eradication efforts in China.

Current measures for preventing and treating malaria mainly include the following aspects: firstly, strengthen the control and management of sources of infection, detect, report and give standard treatments to patients of malaria promptly, validate all malaria cases reported directly through the network, conduct standard procedures at infected points in villages or residential areas where malaria cases have occurred and may spread, and give anti-relapse treatment to patients who suffered from tertian fever in the previous year during the resting phase after malaria infection. Secondly, strengthen the control of malaria vectors, draw on health campaign and the new countryside construction efforts to conduct anti-mosquito work in the malaria spreading season, apply residual pesticide spray indoors and spray pesticide on the anti-mosquito nets at infected points. Thirdly, enhance health education by carrying out the publicity and education campaigns among key groups such as people entering and exiting the borders and primary & secondary school students, at the locations such as entry & exit ports, schools, hospital waiting halls, community health service centers, large construction sites, meanwhile publicize the knowledge on malaria prevention and treatment and the national policy on eliminating malaria to the general public through newspaper, radio, TV, Internet and other media on the National Malaria Day. Fourthly, enhance malaria prevention and treatment among migrant population, establish and improve the relevant reporting system, make more efforts to protect people entering and exiting the border from getting infected, enhance the malaria prevention and control among domestic migrant population. Fifthly, improve the malaria monitoring and screening network, enhance the capacity of malaria confirmatory laboratories, strengthen prevention effort in regions where the eradication targets have been achieved and non-prevalence provinces to avoid inflow of infected people from malaria endemic areas.

After the Global Fund withdrew from China in 2012, the Chinese Government has increased its investment in the malaria elimination, making a total transfer payment from the central budget of RMB 120 million for malaria-related projects, effectively ensuring the smooth progress of malaria elimination in China.

3. Challenges

- (1) The harm of the multi-drug resistant tuberculosis becomes increasingly prominent. There are around 120,000 new cases of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis every year. The number of people living with TB/HIV co-infection has been growing.
- (2) Limited by the scope and level of the support, poor TB (multi-drug resistant TB in particular) patients cannot afford the medical expenses to complete standard treatment, leaving the infection to spread.
- (3) The prevention and control capacity in some local areas remains to be improved, which impedes the efficient implementation of the strategies and measures for TB prevention and treatment.
- (4) With the soaring social and economic development, the entry and exit of people for different purposes such as business, tourism and employment has become more frequent in recent years, causing the growth of malaria cases imported from foreign countries.



Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

The Chinese Government has always attached great importance to environmental protection. Especially in recent years, it has put environmental protection on a more prominent strategic position, established the ecological and environmental protection guideline, prioritized protection and natural recovery, reduced human intervention and utilized the natural recovery to promote the ecological protection and restoration. It included the reduction of the emission of major pollutants as an obligatory target for economic and social development of the country, raised various strategic thoughts like building ecological civilization, promoting the historic transformation in environmental protection, and vigorously exploring a

new path for environmental protection. China spared no efforts to solve outstanding environmental problems, which hamper scientific development and harm public health, and pushed forward China's ecological environmental protection to undergo great changes from understanding to practice. The strategic conception of building up ecological civilization and a beautiful China proposed by the Chinese government requires us to grasp and solve a whole series of problems about resources and environment from the perspective of civilization and progress, and to realize at a higher level the harmony between mankind and nature, environment and economy, as well as mankind and society.

Table 7-1 China's Progress Towards the Targets of Goal 7 by the End of 2012

GOALS AND TARGETS	Current Situation	Government support	Challenges
Target 7A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources	Likely	Strong	None
Target 7B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss	Unfulfillment	Good	Some
Target 7C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation	Already met	Strong	None
Target 7D: Achieve by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	Likely	Strong	Some

Target 7A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources

1. Current situation

In the 12th Five-year Plan, the Chinese Government intensified its efforts for ecological resource protection and governance, continued the implementation of natural resource protection of forests, expanded the achievements in restoring farmland to forests or grasslands and returning grazing grass to grasslands, promoted the comprehensive

control of desertification, soil erosion, and protected vegetation, rivers, lakes and wetlands. It managed and protected forests and grasslands, enhanced fire control, pest control and disease prevention in forests and grasslands, and implemented a compensation and reward mechanism for protecting the ecosystem on grasslands. It intensified the construction, monitoring and management of nature reserves and enhanced the level of protection and management. By the end of 2012, 2,669 nature reserves of different categories and levels were set up across China, covering a total area of 149.79 million hectares. Its land area accounts for 14.94 percent of national territory. There are 363 state-level nature reserves

covering a total area of about 94.15 million hectares, which accounts for 62.85 percent of the total area of nature reserves in China and 9.8 percent of the national territory.

Key ecological functional zones and protected zones are established to construct China's ecological security pattern. Among them, 25 key state-level ecological

functional zones have been established, covering an area of nearly 3.86 million square kilometres which accounts for 40.2 percent of the national territory; and 1,443 state-level protected zones have been established, covering an area of 1.2 million square kilometres accounting for 12.5 percent of the national territory.

Table 7-2 Different categories of nature reserves across China, 2012

Different Categories of Nature Reserves in China, 2012				
Category	Quantity		Area	
	Number	Percentage (%)	Area (10,000 ha.)	Percentage (%)
Natural ecosystem	1,882	70.51	10,373.66	69.26
Forest ecosystem	1,397	52.34	3,062.77	20.45
Grassland and meadow ecosystem	43	1.61	215.83	1.44
Desert ecosystem	33	1.24	4,092.42	27.32
Inland wetland and water area ecosystem	335	12.55	2,926.21	19.54
Marine and coastal ecosystem	74	2.77	76.63	0.51
Wildlife	664	24.88	4,434.49	29.61
Wild animals	523	19.60	4,248.17	28.36
Wild plants	141	5.28	186.33	1.24
Natural relics	123	4.61	170.59	1.14
Geological relics	91	3.41	115.55	0.77
Prehistoric life relics	32	1.20	55.04	0.37
Total	2,669	100	14,978.73	100

Source: Ministry of Environmental Protection of PRC

In terms of conservation of forest resources, according to the result of the 7th National Forest Inventory (2004-2008), the forest area in China amounts to 195.4522 million hectares, the forest coverage rate reaches 20.36 percent, and the forest stock volume is 13.7 billion cubic meters. China's forest area, forest stock volume, and planted forest area rank number five, six and one in the world respectively. From 2003 to 2011, key national forestry programs cumulatively completed the reforestation of 36.464 million hectares. In 2012, 24 national natural reserves for forestry system were established, with an additional protected area of 2.1747 million hectares; 23 national natural reserves were newly set up throughout

China. By the end of 2012, the natural reserves of forestry system totaled 2,150, covering an area of 124.865 million hectares and accounting for 13 percent of the total national territory.

As for grassland protection, efforts are being strengthened to carry out such measures as restoring grazing grass to grasslands and managing grasslands to control the sources of sandstorms. China has nearly 400 million hectares of grassland, accounting for about 41.7 percent of the national territory in 2012. The yield of fresh forage on natural grasslands across China amounts to over 1 billion tons (equivalent to around 323 million tons of hay),

4.7 percent increase over the previous year. The livestock grazing capacity reached 254.57 million sheep unit, a 3.4 percent increase over the previous year.

In 2012, 125 wetland protection programs were carried out, restoring nearly 20,000 hectares. Eighty-five pilot national wetland parks were established, covering 90,000 hectares. At present, there are a total of 298 national wetland parks in China.

In terms of improving the marine environment, in 2012, China's overall marine environment was relatively good. The quality of offshore waters remained stable and quality level was acceptable. The general condition in sea areas under the jurisdiction of China was relatively good; sea water falling in the first category quality standard accounted for about 94 percent of the sea areas under the jurisdiction of China.

As for the quality of fresh water environment in 2012, China was confronted by significant challenges. The water

of quality inferior Category V accounted for 10.2% of all state-administered sections along the Yangtze, Yellow and other eight rivers. The overall water quality in those ten rivers was slightly polluted, while lakes and reservoirs remained plagued by serious eutrophication.

Ground water pollution was still a striking problem. Ground water monitoring was carried out at 4,929 monitoring points (including 800 national monitoring points) in 198 prefecture-level administrative areas across China in 2012.

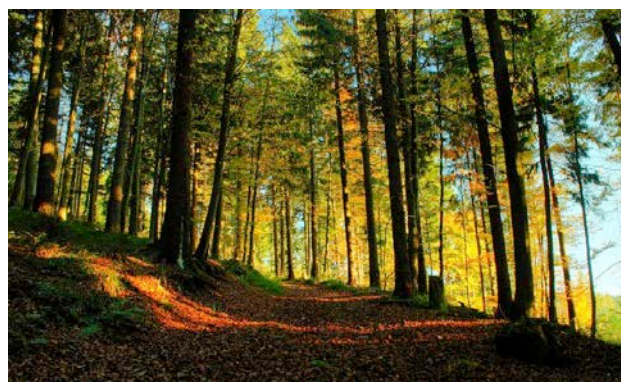
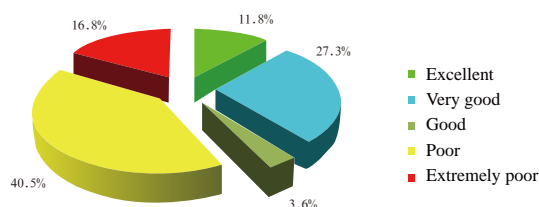


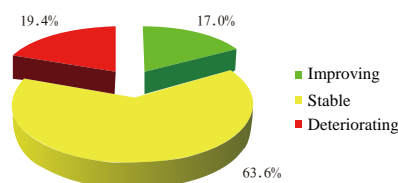
Chart 7-1 Ground water quality across China in 2012



Source: The 2012 Report on the State of the Environment in China

The monitoring results in 2012 showed that China's overall air quality was stable, but the situation remained severe. Nationwide, the air quality in urban areas remained stable in general. Only 40.9 percent of the 325 cities of prefecture level or above enjoyed air quality up to the new ambient air quality standards and only 23.9 percent of the 113 key cities for environmental protection had air quality up to relevant standards. In 2012, the Chinese government allocated RMB 1.09 billion to support coal-fired boiler renovation in the 15 key cities specified in the 12th Five-year Plan on Air Pollution Prevention and Control in Key Regions to carry out the comprehensive treatment projects on coal-fired boilers. Coal-fired boilers with a total capacity of 28,997 steam tons were renovated, including a capacity of 15,406 steam tons for dedusting facility renovation and 13,591 steam tons for clean energy substitution. Acid rain distribution remained stable, and mainly concentrated from Yangtze River and Southward to Eastern Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau

Chart 7-2 Ground water quality change in 2012 against 2011



Source: The 2012 Report on the State of the Environment in China

covering about 12.2 percent of the total national territory.

In 2012, China's acoustic environment quality was relatively good. In the same year, Level I and Level II acoustic environment could be seen in 79.4 percent of urban areas and in 77.9 percent of the key cities for environmental protection.

In 2011, China's investment in environmental pollution control reached RMB 602.62 billion, accounting for 1.27 percent of the year's GDP. The investment in urban environmental infrastructure construction was RMB 346.94 billion, 17.9 percent lower than the previous year, that in the control of industrial pollution sources reached RMB 44.44 billion, 11.9 percent higher than the previous year, that in the environmental protection acceptance projects amounted to 211.24 billion, an increase of 3.9 percent over the previous year.

Table 7-3 Nationwide investments in environmental pollution control Unit: RMB 100 million

year	Investment in urban environmental infrastructure construction	Investment in industrial pollution source control	Investment in environmental protection acceptance projects of the year	Aggregate investment
2001	595.7	174.5	336.4	1,106.6
2005	1,289.7	458.2	640.1	2,388.0
2010	4,224.2	397.0	2,033.0	6,654.2
2011	3,469.4	444.4	2,112.4	6,026.2
Growth rate (%)	-17.9%	11.9%	3.9%	-9.4%

Source: Ministry of Environmental Protection of PRC

In the last decade, China's capacity for soil conservation has been growing steadily. National key soil conservation projects have been implemented, covering more than 600 counties throughout the country. By 2010, China had put 1.068 million square kilometers of land under comprehensive soil erosion control. The current control measures could help reduce 1.5 billion tons of soil erosion, increase the water storage capacity by more than 25 billion cubic meters, and directly benefit nearly 150 million people every year.



China has set the building of an energy-saving society for its economic and social development as its strategic mission, focused on energy saving and reasonable development and utilization of mineral resources, and strict protection of farmlands and water resources, and vigorously promoted sustainable use of resources. China has striven to improve its energy security level and reduced the use of fossil fuels through such measures as closing down outdated production facilities, strengthening energy saving in key areas, and actively developing new energy and renewable energy sources. Nowadays, China has become the country in the world to enjoy the largest area in the fields of installed hydropower and wind power capacities, as well as collector area of solar water heaters.

2. Government Support

In 2012, the Central Government allocated RMB 180 million as a special fund for the construction of national natural reserves, supported 61 national natural reserves to develop regulated and standardized construction, and used Satellite HJ-1 to conduct remote-sensing monitoring and onsite inspection on human activities in 363 national natural reserves. In 2012, the Central Government arranged RMB 250 million in subsidies for state-level forestry reserves, supported such tasks as background survey of natural resources in the reserves, special investigations of social and economic conditions,

the monitoring of ecological environment and so on in 156 national nature reserves. China has improved and perfected the planning and policy system of coastal wetland protection and construction, actively participated in *the Implementation Plan of National Wetland Protection Project (2011-2015)*, prepared and drawn up *the National Marine Ecology Protection and Construction Plan* which listed coastal wetland protection and restoration as a major task. It has also started to carry out the first national plan on marine pollution prevention and control - *the Offshore Pollution Prevention and Control Plan (2012-2015)*. Designed to improve the offshore environment and maintain healthy marine ecological system, the Plan specifies the basic tasks in five aspects and 40 goals and missions in key sea areas, confirms eight categories of key projects, and proposes comprehensive policies and measures in six aspects.

In April 2012, the State Council promulgated *the Plan on Water Pollution Prevention and Control in Key River Basins (2011-2015)*. It examined and evaluated the implementation of the 2011 plan in eight provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities along the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River. It convened the National Inter-Ministerial Joint Conference for Environmental Protection cum Special Session on Water Pollution Prevention and Control in the Songhua River basin. It revised *the Explanatory Notes on Implementation Evaluation Indicators for the Special Plan on River Pollution Prevention and Control*. Besides, it set up a consultation system for river pollution prevention and control, carried out the preliminary building of a comprehensive water environment management platform, and signed on *the Agreement of Water Environment Compensation in the Xin'an River Basin*, marking the official launch of the compensation mechanism for water environment in cross-boundary rivers.

On January 12th, 2012, the State Council issued *the Opinions on Carrying out the Strictest Water Resources Control System*, laying out all-round deployment and specific arrangements in this regard at the national level. It also released *the 12th Five-year Plan on Building a Water-Saving Society*, emphasizing the monitoring and management of functional water areas, and activating the national capacity building program for water resources monitoring.

In September 2012, the State Council promulgated *the 12th Five-year Plan on Air Pollution Prevention and Control in*

Key Regions. The plan covered 13 key regions including the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Region, the Yangtze River Delta, and the Pearl River Delta and 117 cities of the prefecture level and above in 19 provinces. It clearly sets the targets of "decreasing the average annual concentration of PM10, SO₂, NO₂, and PM2.5 by 10 percent, 10 percent, 7 percent, and 5 percent, respectively by 2015", clarified the working pattern and primary tasks for PM2.5 control, and enhanced the synergy to manage regional atmospheric environment. As China's first comprehensive plan on air pollution prevention and control, it marked the start of a gradual shift of the country's air pollution prevention and control effort from being oriented towards total emission control to being targeted at environment quality improvement.

3. Challenges

(1) China's environmental problem breaks out in a short time. Since human population increases drastically, economy develops rapidly, and the pace of urbanization is on the increase, great pressure has been exerted on environmental protection.

(2) Although China has abundant water resources on the whole, it suffers from uneven spatial distribution of the resources and insufficient per capita resource endowment. Water pollution remains severe.

(3) With coal as the dominant fuel and the shortage of oil resources and natural gas, the conflict between energy consumption and environmental protection is still remarkable in China.

(4) The effect among ecological control regions suffers imbalance. The western part of China, especially the northwest, faces graver challenges in restoring its damaged environment than the eastern part of the country.

(5) China has a huge amount of land, but the per-capita land area and per-capita cultivated land area are both very low with land resource endowment. Land protection and management face multiple difficulties, and the problem of prevention and control of land deterioration remains severe.

Target 7B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss

1. Current situation

As one of the 12 countries boasting the best biodiversity in the world, China has such land ecosystems as forests, bushes, meadows, grasslands, deserts, and wetlands, and its marine ecosystem includes the Bohai Sea, the Yellow Sea, the East China Sea, the South China Sea, the Kuroshio Current, estuary areas and upwelling zones. There are 34,984 species of higher plants, ranking the third in the world. It has 6,445 species of vertebrates, accounting for 13.7 percent of the world's total. More than 10,000 species of identified fungi covers 14 percent of the world's total. Among all species of vertebrates, there are 562 species of mammals, 1,269 species of birds, 403 species of reptilians, 346 species of amphibians, and 4,936 species of fishes. 420 species are endangered rare wildlife, which are included in the National List of Key Protected Wildlife.

In general, the total number of wild fauna and flora in China is limited, and over-consumption remains a very severe problem. Due to habitat destruction, overdevelopment, and other reasons, the population of some species of wild animals and plants beyond the coverage of the national protection efforts, especially those with high economic values, has yet to reverse the trend of decrease.

2. Government Support

(1) A series of policies, laws and regulations have been formulated to protect biodiversity. The Chinese Government has drawn up more than 20 relevant laws and regulations in environment and resources, which include *the Environmental Protection Law of the People's Republic of China*, *Forest Law of the People's Republic of China*, *Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Wildlife*, *Law of People's Republic of China on the Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine*, *Grassland Law of the People's Republic of China*, *Animal Husbandry Law of the People's Republic of China*, *Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Nature Reserves*, *Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Wild Plants Protection*, *Regulations on Administration of Agricultural Genetically Modified Organisms Safety*, *Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Administration of Import and Export of Endangered Wild Animals and Plants*, and *Regulation on Protection*

of Wild Medicinal Resources. The promulgation and implementation of these laws and regulations have played important roles in protecting China's biodiversity. It has also formulated *the National Strategy and Action Plan for Protection of Biodiversity (2011-2030)*, *UN Decade for China's Action on Biodiversity*, and *Task Assignment for the Implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Biodiversity*. In 2012, the Chinese Government compiled and completed the National Biodiversity Background Assessment Report to analyze the macrostructure of China's ecosystems, regional distribution of biodiversity, as well as the current conditions and gaps of biodiversity protection in China.

(2) A sound working mechanism and system for biodiversity protection has been established. In June 2011, China set up the National Committee for Biodiversity Protection, consisting of members from 26 departments. It was responsible for coordinating relevant work across China and guiding "China's action for the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity."

3. Challenges

(1) Total resources remain unclear. The assessment system is still imperfect. Diversity of the ecosystem remains unknown. The situation of the species resources remains unclear. There is a lack of unified, effective, objective and just evaluation indicator. All of the aforementioned has resulted in insufficient scientific evidence on China's biodiversity protection.

(2) Biodiversity protection is weak in social support, and it is short of protection funds. In recent years, although governments at all levels have made more investments in the protection of and research on biodiversity, a large gap remains between funds provided and the amount actually needed, leaving a considerable number of relevant projects not well implemented.

(3) Biodiversity protection in China lacks scientific support, and it also started very late. There has been a shortage of scientists and researchers. Scientific and research work have yet to receive enough attention. There is still a lack of research on many economic and technological problems with regard to biodiversity protection. Right now, biodiversity protection still remains to endure passive protection with much blindness and randomness.

(4) The conflict between biodiversity protection and population and economic development stands out. The

requirements of population on land and resources continue to increase, which has all the more posed as a threat to biodiversity protection.

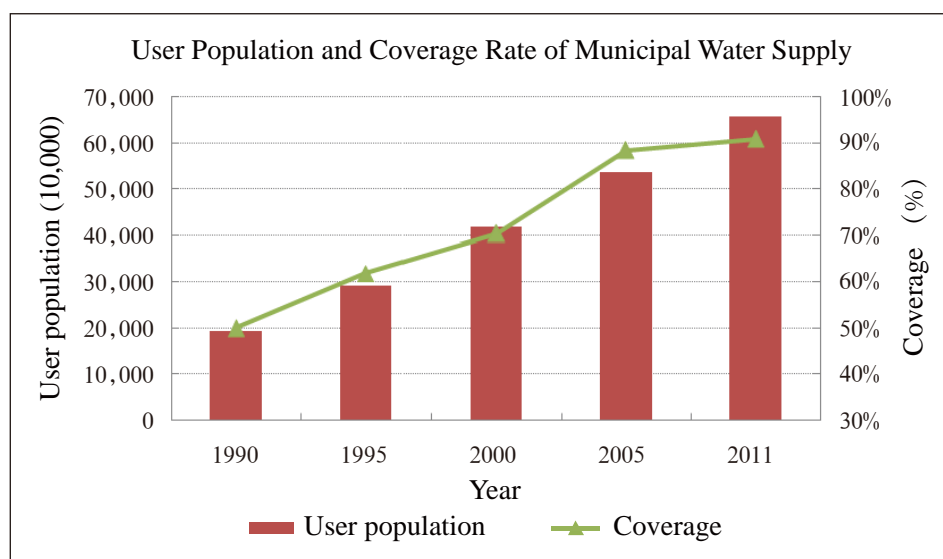
Target 7C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

1. Current situation

Since the implementation of the 12th Five-Year Plan, China has made great progress in the construction of facilities for urban water supply and waste water treatment.

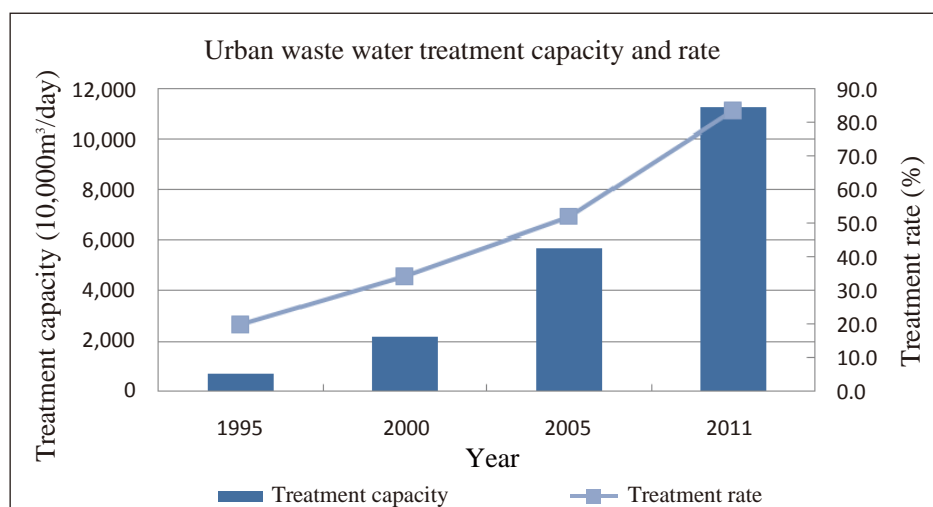
The treatment capacity and the service level have been drastically improved, and the operational efficiency has also been remarkably enhanced. At the end of 2011, the urban water supply capacity in China reached 380 million cubic meters per day, serving 660 million people, an increase of 120 million against 2005. The water service coverage rate went up to 90.8 percent, up by 2 percentage points over 2005. The waste water treatment capacity in cities and counties of China reached 137 million cubic meters per day, and the annual treatment capacity amounted to 39.3 billion cubic meters. The urban waste water treatment rate reached 83.6 percent, 32 percentage points higher than that of 2005.

Chart 7-3 User Population and Coverage Rate of Municipal Water Supply



Source: Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People's Republic of China

Chart 7-4 Urban waste water treatment capacity and rate



Source: Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the People's Republic of China

In 2012, 113 key cities for environmental protection across China monitored a total of 387 centralized drinking water sources, including 240 surface water sources and 147 ground water sources. In the key cities for environmental protection, the total water supply amounted to 22.96 billion tons, serving 162 million people. Out of it, 21.89 billion tons of water was up to relevant standard, accounting for 95.3 percent of the total, 4.7 percentage points higher than the previous year.

The Chinese Government attaches great importance to the safety of drinking water for rural residents. In 2009, it had already achieved the target ahead of schedule. It is predicted that by 2015, the population proportion of rural centralized water supply across China will have risen to around 80 percent, the quality of the water supply and the safety guarantee will be further improved, and positive progress will also be made with regard to the water supply in rural and urban integrated areas.

In 2012, the Central Government carried out environment sanitation monitoring at 14,000 monitoring points in 700 counties across China. The monitoring included the sanitary treatment of rural waste water, garbage and excrement, the prevention and control of soil pollution

and biological control over vectors, and the sanitary environment of rural schools. It provided foundation for controlling and eliminating health hazard factors in environment, as well as further adopting intervening measures for public health.

In 2012, the Central Government invested RMB 1.325 billion in building sanitary toilets for 2.946 million rural households. By the end of 2012, 3.346 million rural households had sanitary toilets, exceeding the target set for the year. The construction of sanitary facilities played an effective role in preventing and reducing diseases, as well as improving rural environment and sanitation.



Table 7-4 Improvement of water supply and construction of sanitary facilities in rural areas

Improvement of Water Supply and Construction of Sanitary Toilets in Rural Areas						
Year	Population cumulatively benefiting from water supply improvement (100 million)	Yield of the water supply improvement (%)	Penetration rate of tap water in rural areas (%)	Total cumulative number of households with sanitary toilets (10,000)	Annual increase	Penetration rate of sanitary toilets (%)
2000	8.8	92.4	55.2	9,571.8	1107.9	40.3
2005	8.9	94.1	61.3	13,740.1	579.5	55.3
2010	9.1	94.9	71.2	17,138.3	1,060.4	67.4
2011	9.0	94.2	72.1	18,108.5	1,028.9	69.2

Source: Statistics of the Ministry of Health

2. Government Support

In December 2012, the Chinese Government issued *the Guidance on Supervising National Ecological and Rural Environment*, which clarified the great significance, major fields, tasks, and supporting measures in this regard, and provided relevant standards and guidance. In this case, the reinforcement on supervision over ecological and rural environment would safeguard the construction of ecological civilization.

In 2012, the Ministry of Water Resources and the National Development and Reform Commission released *the Circular on Issuing the 12th Five-year Plan and the 2020 Vision on Renovating and Constructing Water Supply Facilities in Urban Areas Across China*, which encourages and guides regions with abundant resources to extend urban water supply facilities and services to rural areas, as well as vigorous development of water supply in urban and rural integrated areas.

In 2012, the Chinese Government conducted comprehensive management of contiguous waterways in rural areas, so as to improve the flood control and drainage capacity, and the living environment of rural residents. To this end, the Central Government allocated RMB 1 billion and selected 25 small and medium-sized key counties as pilot counties for the work. The Central Government thus arranged special subsidies for small irrigation facility construction to support a pilot project, which was launched to work on dredge rural rivers with a basin area less than 50 square kilometers and rural ponds with a volume of smaller than 100,000 cubic meters. By 2012, a total of RMB 700 million had been allocated to 140 counties, with RMB 5 million for each one.

In 2012, the Chinese Government printed and distributed *the 12th Five-year Plan on Comprehensive Control of Rural Environment* which specified the overall objectives, major tasks and supporting measures in this regard. It also firmly implemented the policy of “Promoting Sound Management with Incentives,” and further strengthened the contiguous environment management and improvement in rural areas. In the same year, the Central Government allocated RMB 5.5 billion for special rural environment management to support the implementation of relevant work across China, effectively solving a series of major rural environment problems.

3. Challenges

(1) China still needs to strengthen the waste water treatment in some key fields. Considering the high

pollutant emission across the country, China must take such measures as emission reduction at sources, emission control in the process, and emission treatment at the tail-ends, and reinforce the control over pollution-intensive industries. Besides, water pollution caused by traditional industries cannot be ignored, either.

(2) Intensify the monitoring of water pollution, and devote greater efforts to control the pollution of major industries.

(3) Citizens are encouraged to cultivate sanitary concepts and habits, and enhance awareness of environmental protection.

(4) There is still a lack of enough environmental protection facilities and investments in rural areas. It is difficult to collect and utilize waste water in rural areas. There isn't enough treatment equipment available. In China, the dispersed distribution of rural localities have resulted in dispersed sewage, which has led to the difficulty in collecting sewage from human and animal excreta, kitchen waste water, cleaning sewage, and landfill infiltration.



Target 7D: Achieve, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

1. Current situation

From 2008 to 2012, national urban government-subsidized housing projects newly started more than 30 million affordable apartments and basically completed more than 18 million affordable apartments, thus solving the housing problem for 17 million households. By the end of 2012, through the provision of low-rent houses, public rental houses, affordable houses, price-restricted commercial houses, as well as renovation of old houses, China solved

the housing problems for nearly 31 million low and middle income households, and a large group people moved into new homes. Rural residents saw greater increase of residential areas than urban residents. In 2011, the per capita housing area in rural areas was 36.2m², 9.7m² more than that in 2002, indicating an increase of 36.6 percent.

Although it has made positive progress in solving residents' housing problems, China is still confronted with challenges in the construction of affordable housing and the rebuilding of houses because of historical shortage. A large number of low and middle income urban families are still living in old and dilapidated buildings. It is quite difficult for many rural migrant workers and newly-employed workers to have an apartment in urban areas.

2. Government Support

In 2009, the Chinese Government established the coordination panel for the government-subsidized projects to better organize and lead the rebuilding of houses and the construction of affordable housing. Every year, the coordination panel consulted with provincial governments at different levels to work out the tasks of houses reconstruction, signed on the responsibility statements, and implemented assessment and accountability. The Chinese Government also introduced many policies to subsidize the construction of affordable houses and the rebuilding of houses, and to support the land allocation, tax relief and financial services.

From 2008 to the end of 2012, the Central Government invested more than RMB 460 billion in subsidizing the construction of affordable houses and the rebuilding of various houses (old and dilapidated buildings). Over 90 percent of the amount was given to financially troubled areas in Central and Western China. The local governments at all levels also made more investments in the rebuilding of houses through financial budgets, housing provident fund revenues, net incomes of land transfer, and other means.

To help poverty-stricken rural households meet their basic housing needs, since 2008, the Chinese Government has launched the pilot project of renovating rural dilapidated houses. In the past five years, the Central Government has accumulatively invested RMB 73.172 billion in subsidizing 10.334 million rural households to renovate their houses, helping more than 10 million households move into solid houses to enjoy a safer and better life.

From now on, China will continue to vigorously promote the renovation of rural dilapidated houses, strive to rebuild almost all existing dilapidated houses and ensure that a overwhelming majority of urban families can live in separate apartments subject to the civilization and health standards by 2020, and establish a long-term mechanism to make sure that rural residents can live in safe houses.

3. Challenges

(1) China's urban housing security system is far from perfection. Efforts need to be made to improve the system through renovation of old buildings, and the provision of low-rent and public rent housing.

(2) The low-rent housing system functions as the most critical part of China's current housing security system. It determines the efficiency of the entire social housing security. Low-rent housing still awaits further development. The range of coverage should be extended so as to further perfect the operational pattern of low-rent housing.

(3) It is difficult to raise funds for affordable housing. The development model needs to be improved.



Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

As a developing country, China is not bound by the obligation (prescribed by Goal 8) of assisting other developing countries. Nevertheless, China has always regarded strengthening cooperation with other developing countries as a cornerstone of its foreign policy. China's involvement in the South-South Cooperation takes various forms and covers a wide range of fields, such as trade, investment and development cooperation, and constitutes an important part of the global South-South cooperation.

Since 2000, while being dedicated to achieving the MDGs domestically, China has striven to provide assistance to more than 120 developing countries within the South-South Cooperation framework, so as to help them improve their capacity for independent development to achieve the MDGs. Assistance has been delivered through many ways such as construction of infrastructure, agricultural and industrial projects, provision of various goods and equipment, dispatching experts for technical cooperation, medical teams and volunteers, offering emergency humanitarian assistances, and holding human resources trainings and so on. From 2000 to 2012, China has provided more than RMB 250 billion in aid to foreign countries.

In recent years, China has been constantly increasing its foreign aids, especially for the least-developed countries and other low-income countries. It has carried out targeted measures in the fields of poverty relief, agriculture, medical service, education, human resources development and other fields related to people's livelihood. In September 2008, the Chinese Government announced at the UN High-level Meeting on the MDGs six aid initiatives for other developing countries, which involved agricultural production, food aid, medical service, education and training, clean energy development, debt relief, zero tariffs, etc. In September 2010, the Chinese government announced at the UN Summit on the MDGs another six aid initiatives to accelerate the development of developing countries, further strengthening the cooperation in agriculture, addressing climate change, education, medical service, infrastructure construction, etc. All these actions of the Chinese Government fully showed the great importance it attached to poverty reduction and sustainable development across the world.

In the past 10-odd years, China has implemented more than 700 foreign aid projects of various kinds, covering

industrial and agricultural production, infrastructure, culture, education, public health, and other fields related to economy, society and human life. All of those projects have improved the infrastructure and people's living standards in developing countries, and provided them with large numbers of goods and equipment urgently needed in production and people's life.

In the field of agriculture, China has assisted other developing countries in enhancing their capacity of agricultural production and increasing grain output. It has set up over 30 agricultural technology demonstration centers, provided abundant agricultural machines and equipment, and sent a great many agricultural experts to provide guidance and share experience with the developing countries in Asia, Africa and other regions. Since 1996, China has cooperated with the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (UNFAO) in dispatching agricultural experts to the developing countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Asia-Pacific regions. In 2008, China donated USD 30 million to UNFAO to set up a trust fund, which has further helped other developing countries improve their agricultural production capacity. Besides, China has also provided food aids to countries suffering from shortage of food. In 2011, it offered food aids worth of RMB 770 million. In 2010, China announced that it would send 3,000 agricultural experts and technical personnel to other developing countries and receive 5,000 foreign trainees for agricultural training in the next five years, with the focus on strengthening cooperation in the field of agricultural planning, hybrid rice, irrigation facilities, aquaculture, agricultural machinery, etc.

From 1983 to 2012, 110,000 foreign officials and technical personnel were invited to attend seminars, study programs, research programs, training courses in China in the fields of public administration, economy and trade, agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and fishing, diplomacy, transportation, energy, environment and irrigation, medical services, etc. In addition, China has made the commitment to receiving 80,000 foreign trainees including 3,000 principals and teachers, giving more training to in-service master's degree programs, and strengthening the developing countries' education capacity building from 2011 to 2015.

With regard to medical aid to other developing countries,

China has built over 40 hospitals and 30 medical care centers for malaria prevention and control, provided medical equipment and anti-malarial drugs, and dispatched medical teams to 53 countries. Besides, China has donated USD 14 million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. By 2015, China will have dispatched another 3,000 medical experts to the other developing countries, provided 100 hospitals with medical devices and drugs, most of which will be used to deliver maternal and child care and to treat diseases like malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. Meanwhile, China will also have trained 5,000 doctors, nurses and management personnel for these countries. In May 2013, the 4th International Roundtable on China-Africa Health Cooperation was held in Botswana, which laid the foundation for further promoting China-Africa health cooperation.



In terms of environmental sustainability and addressing climate change, China is committed to helping other developing countries develop renewable and clean energy. To this end, China has assisted in building a batch of small clean-energy projects such as hydropower, bio-gas and solar energy projects in other developing countries. Meanwhile, China has also held more than 60 training sessions and trained nearly 1,700 people on clean-energy development to enhance these countries' capacity building. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in June 2012, the Chinese Government made the commitment to donating USD 6 million to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Trust Fund, so as to help other developing countries organize programs and activities to build their capacity for environmental protection. In addition, China invested RMB 200 million in a three-year international cooperation program. From 2012 to 2015, China will carry out 200 clean-energy and environmental protection projects for other developing countries.

China places great emphasis on multilateral and regional cooperation. It has actively supported and participated in many events held by the United Nations (UN),

the World Bank (WB), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), joined the G20 and BRICS in policy coordination on development issues. China has vigorously promoted and participated in regional cooperation, in particular within the framework of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) plus China, Japan and Korea, Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Greater Mekong Sub-region Cooperation, the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, etc. Through those efforts, China aims at actively maintaining the multilateral trade system, advocating the trade and investment liberalization, sharing the experience in promoting development and poverty eradication, and greatly enhancing practical economic and financial cooperation and reforms in global economic governance for a growing and flourishing global economy. After the outbreak of the global financial crisis in 2008, China has further enhanced its coordination and cooperation with other countries in order to jointly tackle the crisis. China has made important contribution to financial stability and healthy economic development at the global and regional level. On the 5th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation held in July 2012, President Hu Jintao, on behalf of the Chinese Government, declared the new measures to further deepen the China-Africa practical cooperation, specifying the direction and areas for cooperation in the next three years.

Target 8A: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system

China has always advocated building an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory multilateral trade system. After its accession to WTO in 2001, China has conscientiously fulfilled the commitments, striven to ease its market access, played an active role in the Doha Round negotiations, and participated in the policy review mechanism and the dispute settlement mechanism. All of those endeavors posed China as a model of developing countries' integration into globalization. Through holding bilateral talks with developed countries, China uses the existing mechanism to promote the information exchange among regional free trade agreements, the further development of regional trades, and the fusion of multilateral trade systems.

China supported the WTO's Aid for Trade initiative to assist other developing countries, especially the least-

developed countries, in trade, development, economic diversity and sustainable development, and also fulfilled its commitments to the United Nations Millennium Declaration. To help the least-developed countries develop economy, China not only paid attention to strengthening trade-related infrastructure construction, but also focused on improving their productivity and supported them to actively participate in multilateral trade mechanism. From 2010 to 2012, among the various projects aided by China, there were about 90 large and medium-sized trade-related infrastructure projects, which greatly improved these countries' transportation and information technology capacity. China also conducted many production capacity enhancing projects like building cement plants and chemical fertilizer plants in Eritrea and Mozambique. In December 2011, China reached cooperative consensus with the Cotton-Four (C-4) (Benin, Mali, Chad, and Burkina Faso) at the 8th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, to help them develop cotton industry. Since 2008, China has given donations to the WTO's "Aid for Trade" project, and set up the "China Project" in 2011 to subsidize the least-developed countries' participation in the WTO activities. In May 2012, along with the WTO's Secretariat, China held the Beijing 2012 Round-table on WTO Accession Best Practices for Least Developed Countries, and issued the Beijing Declaration, which exerted positive influences on simplifying procedures for the least-developed countries' accession into WTO and made contributions to their participation in the multilateral trade system and economic globalization.



The outbreak of the large-scale financial crisis raised the international community's awareness of reforming the international economic and financial governance structure and enhancing the role of the emerging markets and developing countries. With the great efforts of China and other emerging countries, the Council of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) adopted the resolution on share

and governance reforms in December 2010, to double the collective shares and give around 6 percent shares to the emerging markets and developing countries, and to cede European countries two seats in the executive board. After the fund replenishment, China's quota increased by 2.398 percentage points to 6.394 percent, which brought its rank upward from the sixth to the third among the IMF member states, and gave China a major push to help further establish an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system.

Target 8B: Address the special needs of the least developed countries

In 2005, at the 60th UN Anniversary Summit, President Hu Jintao announced zero tariff on some goods exported to China from the least-developed countries that have diplomatic relations with China. In 2008, at the UN High-level Conference on the MDGs, Premier Wen Jiabao announced zero tariff on 95 percent of goods exported to China from the least-developed countries as an aid to the economic development of these countries. On July 1, 2010, China officially carried out the zero tariff treatment measures on 60 percent of goods exported to China from least-developed countries that have diplomatic relations with China.

In March 2013, President Xi Jinping said during the dialogue with leaders from BRICS and African countries that China had already made its commitments to zero tariff on 97 percent goods exported to China from least-developed countries that have diplomatic relations with China and would have met all those commitments by 2015.

In order to ensure smooth implementation of the related tariff measures, China will take the following actions: firstly, promulgating departmental rules and regulations promptly and making announcements, so as to keep the public informed of the relevant policies; secondly, establishing the liaison mechanism with exporting countries' embassies in China, to ensure that the least-developed countries can enjoy zero-tariff treatment measures; thirdly, giving business trainings to these countries' officials to improve their management; and fourthly, printing and distributing blank certificates of origin countries to the issuing organizations of these countries free of charge.

From July 1, 2010 when the zero-tariff measure was officially launched to April 2013, 26 beneficiary countries exported goods to China, whose total value reached USD

2.25 billion, and tariff exemptions of RMB 1.34 billion. Since 2008, China has become the largest export market of the least-developed countries in a row. China's imports from these countries have accounted for a quarter of their total exports.

So far, the developed countries have not yet fully fulfilled their commitment to granting “zero tariff and deductible” on 97 percent export goods from the least-developed countries. As a developing country, China took the lead to carry out the zero-tariff treatment measure and fulfill its commitment to the Millennium Declaration, showing China's determination to maintain an open, just, and fair multilateral trade system and its goodwill to help the least-developed countries develop their economy. What China has done will inspire other developing and developed countries to ease the market access for the least developed countries.

Target 8C: Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing states

China understands and cares about the difficulties and obstacles that landlocked countries encounter in developing their economies and participating in international trade. China has always supported their efforts to develop and has gone to great lengths to provide landlocked countries with transport services. China has also cooperated with other developing countries in developing transportation infrastructure. China has built highways and built or restored railways in developing countries. Those projects have improved their communication and transportation, promoted their participation into global and regional cooperation, and stimulated their economic and social development.



Since 2002, China, Mongolia and Russia have engaged in seven rounds of negotiations on a *China-Mongolia-Russia Transit Transport Agreement* (herein referred to as “the Agreement”) among the three countries. The Agreement aims at standardizing practices of transit goods transportation, making transport more efficient, promoting bilateral trade and investment, and stimulating economic development among those three countries. It also serves as a good example of international cooperation. The Chinese Government attached great importance to transit transport involving great interests of transit countries as well as landlocked countries, and took an active part in negotiations for relevant agreements in the attitude of equality with mutual benefits and friendly cooperation.



Since 2003, China has actively carried out *the Almaty Programme of Action*, and made the following progress: firstly, it became a party to *the Greater Mekong Sub-region to Facilitate Cross-boundary Passenger and Freight Transport Agreement*, and several other international conventions on goods transit, which have provided effective legal protections for the convenient transport of goods and personnel from landlocked developing countries; Secondly, it has highlighted the importance of infrastructure development for landlocked developing countries, and helped to construct cross-country transportation networks; Thirdly, it has further developed regional trade cooperation with landlocked developing countries. China will continue to push forward the implementation of *the Almaty Programme of Action*, work with landlocked developing countries to achieve joint progress.

Within “the Framework of the Sino-Mongolian Joint Committee for Economy, Trade and Technology and Working Group,” China has made great efforts to solve problems concerning transit goods transportation, port handling capacity, and other aspects. Tianjin Port (Group) Company and Mongolian Railways LLC will establish a

bonding and logistics company with joint investment in Dongjiang Free Trade Port Zone, Binhai New Area, Tianjin Municipality, to provide warehouse services for Mongolia's transit cargos in China and improve the handling capacity of the Erenhot port. Meanwhile, China cumulatively provided Mongolia with USD 800 million of loans to support its IT construction and the renovation of urban transport facilities, and supported its improvement of agriculture and animal husbandry technologies.

In addition, China has continued to strengthen its aid programs to small island developing states to address their unique needs. In April 2006, China announced at the first China-Pacific Island Countries Forum on Economic Development and Cooperation 6 initiatives for cooperation with small island developing states in the Pacific Ocean, supporting their economic development. Those initiatives covered finance, tourism, medical service, capacity building, establishment of earthquake and tsunami early warning system, and other fields. So far, all those initiatives have been fully carried out. In September 2011, at the 3rd China-Caribbean Economic and Trade Cooperation Forum, China announced its six initiatives to enhance the practical cooperation with small island developing states in the Caribbean Sea. The initiatives covered finance, trade and investment, agriculture, fishing and forestry, medical services, environmental protection and new energy, culture and education, tourism, capacity building, and other fields. In June 2013, during his visit to three Latin American countries, President Xi Jinping announced that China would further support small island developing states in the Caribbean Sea to develop their economies. All of the initiatives strongly support the economic growth of many underdeveloped areas including small island states in the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.

Target 8D: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries

As a member of multilateral economic and financial organizations, China has always tried its best to fulfill international obligations to support the social and economic development of low-income countries.

By the end of 2012, China had made a cumulative commitment of USD 615 million to the African Development Fund (ADF). In 2011, China made a commitment of USD 128.8 million to the latest replenishment of the African Development Fund (ADF-12). In addition, China made a commitment of USD 195 million to the Multilateral Debt

Relief Initiative (MDRI) of ADF.

China has made a total commitment of USD 356 million to the Inter-American Development Bank. In 2011, China made a commitment of USD 6.13 million to the latest Fund for Special Operations (FSO) under the bank.

China had made a total commitment of USD 95.2 million (approximately) to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for supporting structural adjustment of low-income countries, debt relief of heavily indebted poor countries, natural disaster relief, technical assistance, and general poverty reduction. In 2011, China made a commitment of USD 17.5 million of Special Drawing Right (SDR) interest subsidies in the form of interest spreads to the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT). In 2012, it committed another USD 10 million for technical assistance in Africa in the form of interest spreads.

By the end of May 2013, China had accumulatively made a total commitment of USD 48.298 million to the Special Development Fund (SDF) under the Caribbean Development Bank. In 2013, China committed to donating USD 7 million to the 8th replenishment of the Special Development Fund (SDF-8).

To reduce the debt burden of the developing countries and facilitate their economic development, China announced six times successively to discharge 396 due interest-free government debts worth of nearly RMB 30 billion owed by 50 heavily indebted poor countries and the least-developed countries unconditionally.

Target 8E: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries

China actively provides other developing countries with medical services and drug aids. By the end of 2008, China had sent medical teams successively with 3,000 personnel in total to 21 regions of Algeria to provide medical services, including general surgery, brain surgery, orthopedics, obstetrics, gynecology, anesthesia, acupuncture, and nursing. The Chinese medical team became the best and the largest team in Algeria.

In its 50 years' foreign aids, China has offered huge numbers of free drugs to the developing countries, including anti-malaria artemisinin (Chinese herbal medicine), vaccines against bird flu and Type A influenza, and other drugs developed independently by China. In recent decades, China has provided anti-malaria drugs to Ethiopia, Burundi, Sudan and many other African countries, which played an important role in preventing and treating malaria and reducing the local people's suffering from the diseases.

Over the past four decades, in close cooperation with local doctors, Chinese medical teams not only diagnosed and treated many common diseases and frequently-occurring diseases, but also successfully delivered some complicated technical services like cardio surgeries, tumor removals, and re-plantations of severed limbs. They saved the lives of many dying patients. Apart from modern medical technologies, they also introduced many traditional Chinese medical techniques like acupuncture and massage as well as diagnosis and treatment methods which integrate traditional Chinese and Western style to African countries, curing many complicated cases. The drugs provided by China substantially improved the recovery rate of common diseases patients. Moreover, Chinese medical teams also improved the local medical service conditions, built and upgraded the medical facilities, and trained local medical personnel. They did make great contributions to the development of local medical service.



Target 8F: In cooperation with the private sector, make available benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

After many years' development, China has built a national telecommunication network that covers the entire country, connects to the rest of the world, enjoys advanced technologies, and conducts comprehensive business. In terms of both the network scale and the number of users, China ranks the first in the world. Moreover, in terms of the pace of technological development, China is also among the first line. By the end of April 2013, the total number of telephone users in China had reached 1.43 billion, including 1.155 billion mobile phone users. The mobile phone coverage rate was 85.6 percent. The number of Internet users rose to 581 million, with an Internet coverage rate of 43.4 percent. The rapid development of mobile Internet has not only pushed forward the industrial integration and the technological innovation, but also greatly enriched users' information consumption. By the end of 2012, the number of mobile internet users in China reached 420 million and the coverage rate was 31.3 percent. Many mobile businesses like mobile application stores, WeChat, mobile videos, mobile reading, and mobile payment methods flourished in China. More information communication technologies are applied to each and every sector of national economic and social development daily. Their role in promoting China's harmonious and coordinated socio-economic development is increasingly important.

The Chinese Government attaches great importance to information infrastructure construction and makes outstanding achievements in popularizing and speeding up broadband access. China carried out the "Project for Popularizing and Speeding up Broadband" in 2012 and launched the "Broadband China-2013 Action Plan" one year later. By the first quarter of 2013, China's broadband access population had reached 181 million, covering

43 percent of Chinese families. A total of 112 million families were installed with Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) broadband, a 150 percent increase against the number before the launch of the "Project for Popularizing and Speeding up Broadband."

In addition, the Chinese Government has started the “Project of Extending Communication Coverage to Every Village” to popularize telecommunication services and various technologies, aiming at promoting rural informationization. By the end of 2012, the Chinese Government had accumulatively spent over RMB 80 billion to set up telephone lines for 150,000 remote villages and administrative villages. Broadband is now available in 87.9 percent of administrative villages. The basic integrated information platform of telecommunication companies has covered the whole country.

While striving to develop its own communication industry, China also encourages domestic companies to step out and help other developing countries. Through international technological cooperation, they can make contributions to the progress of other countries’ communication industry.

The Chinese enterprises have vigorously helped African countries develop their telecommunication through participating in the local construction of optical cable network. Their participations have not only promoted the progress of African telecommunication technology, but also facilitated the all-round development of African economy and society, including poverty relief, agricultural development, gender equality, and addressing climate change. Besides, their participations have brought the monopoly of Western telecommunication companies to an end, hence reducing the communication charges, accelerating the implementation of telecommunication projects and benefiting African people. Chinese telecommunication companies substantially promote the progress of African mobile communication.

Conclusion

The table below summarizes China's latest progress towards the MDGs.

GOALS AND TARGETS	CURRENT SITUATION	GOVERNMENT SUPPORT
Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger		
Target 1A: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$ 1.25 a day	Already met	Strong
Target 1B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people	Potentially	Strong
Target 1C: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	Already met	Strong
Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education		
Target 2A: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	Already met	Strong
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women		
Target 3A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015	Already met	Strong
Goal 4: Reduce child mortality		
Target 4A: Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	Already met	Strong
Goal 5: Improve maternal health		
Target 5A: Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio	Likely	Strong
Target 5B: Achieve universal access to reproductive health	Potentially	Good
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases		
Goal 6A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	Likely	Strong
Target 6B: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it	Already met according to available information	Good
Target 6C: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	Likely	Strong
Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability		
Target 7A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources	Likely	Strong
Target 7B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss	Unfulfillment	Good
Target 7C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation	Already met	Strong
Target 7D: Achieve, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	Likely	Strong
Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development	--	--

In summary, China has met 7 of 15 well-defined targets ahead of schedule. As a major participant in the South-South cooperation, China has achieved great progress in establishing a global partnership for development and made important contributions to implementing MDGs in developing countries. Despite unremitting endeavors in recent years, China still faces some challenges in full fulfillment of the targets, including full and productive employment and decent work for all, women and young people in particular, universal access to reproductive health, reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS, and ensuring environmental sustainability. In future, apart from these

targets, China should also attach importance to nascent challenges. Special attention should be paid to the changing population structures and aging society as well as coordination between the development between urban and rural areas, among different regions, between economic development and social building, and between population dynamics and the environment, and enhancing its capacity in addressing crisis and disasters. In the next two years, the Chinese Government and Chinese people will continue to work hard so as to achieve new progress towards the MDGs by 2015 and make more contributions to the fulfillment of MDGs in the world.