

UNITED NATIONS



THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR
FOR 2001

Beijing , China
February 2002

2001 was a year of major achievements for the UN country team in China, and also a year of transition, as a number of the team members were reassigned and in some cases long interim periods occurred impacting the cohesion of the team and the speed with which the workplan could be implemented.

Overall, the UNDAF has been recognized as a planning framework not only for the UN system organizations, but also as a frame of reference for some of the bilateral donors, who began their multi-year programming exercises with the Chinese government in 2001. More importantly, the government recognized the UNDAF as a document of reference, as was amply shown during the ECOSOC session in July. As a result of our joint presentation, some ECOSOC members, in particular from African countries, felt that the China experience was exemplary.

As shown in the attached table, we believe that our greatest achievements were in area of HIV/AIDS, human rights and sustainable development. With regard to HIV/AIDS, the UN system organizations collectively were successful in breaking the wall of silence. Your own intervention with President Jiang Zemin at the beginning of the year is gratefully acknowledged by us in this context. In the area of human rights, the High Commissioner for Human Rights came twice to China in 2001, and her visits clearly had a beneficial impact on China advancing in its acceptance of international human rights standards and norms. The ratification process of the Covenant of social, economic and cultural rights visibly led to changes in the position of Chinese leaders on a number of human rights issues, e.g. the relationship between national sovereignty and human rights. High ranking officials are now accepting that human rights supercede national sovereignty in cases where claims on sovereignty clash with the protection of human rights. The ratification also triggered a greater comfort level among and by Chinese authorities to deal with rights issues. As a consequence, our work on rights based approaches to development has been strengthened.

In the 10th Five Year Plan for 2001 – 2005 , the government has given sustainable development equal importance to economic development goals, aiming to achieve win-win situations and solutions in future. It is fair to say, that a major part of all ODA programmes in China has been focused on environmental issues, and the results are here to see. These issues have been mainstreamed into the government's own policies, plans and programmes. A noticeably different attitude during international negotiations, regarding climate change for instance, can be witnessed, and China is likely to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and the Bonn/Marrakech agreements in the next few months. Also China played a major mediating role during the Durban conference against racism.

The achievements with regard to other millenium development goals are less positive. While efforts continued to address the reduction of poverty, in particular in rural areas, to promote universal education, gender equality, and improve MCH, trend analyses indicate that some of the earlier gains are lost to greater vulnerability as a result of the transition to the market economy. The government is retreating faster than commercial or other services are established, resulting in increased vulnerability of the poorer segments of the society. The UN system organizations are therefore focusing their attention on these issues. Through advocacy and policy advice and the funding of projects which in the Chinese context take on

the character of pilot exercises, the UN organizations are supporting the government's goals for a reversal of such trends. To develop the right policy tools and instruments is a particular challenge, both in terms of their material content, but also in terms of the process by which they are identified, accepted and operationalized. While the UN system may not always have the most suitable solution at hand, through our advocacy work we can ensure that these issues are given the urgent attention they deserve. China's WTO entry will most likely result in a further widening of gaps and social disparities, unless they are properly attended to. Increases in social unrest throughout the country in 2000/2001 indicate that the tolerance threshold is being reached. The UN country team therefore decided to make this issue an item on its work agenda for 2002.

A noteworthy result of our work and a change in national attitudes is the government's greater willingness to give civil society organizations a stronger voice and to share the burden of managing socio-economic change and transformation through public private partnership. Several UN organizations co-sponsored an international NGO Forum on Poverty Reduction, and the first national level meeting of about 100 CEOs on the Global Compact raised interest in this UN initiative beyond our expectations.

Given the size of China and the nature of our operational interventions, joint programmes are less of value in this country. By contrast, joint advocacy, pooling of experiences and coordinated advice to the government is a real possibility and has thus been identified in the UNDAF as a strategic cooperation instrument. Since the approval of the UNDAF, the UN system as a whole, and smaller groups of 3-4 organizations have come together and acted jointly in their advocacy and policy advisory work.

China's entry into WTO will change China's standing in the world. Both developing and OECD countries are looking to China to assume a more proactive regional and global role. In turn, China is looking to the UN system for guidance and support in meeting these expectations.

TABLE FOR THE 2001 RC ANNUAL REPORT

**To be included in the report or filled in electronically
(filled in by CT, TG Chairs and Coordination Support Unit, as applicable)***

MDGs/CROSS CUTTING ISSUES	INTER-AGENCY THEME GROUPS OR AGENCIES COLLABORATING Name of related Inter-Agency Group if applicable, Agencies involved (3 or more). For TGs List chair and participants including government, donors, BWI and civil society, regional commissions and agencies not based in the country.	IMPACT/RESULTS, GOOD PRACTICE/LESSON LEARNED, JOINT PROGRAMMES, OTHER COMMENTS	SELF-ASSESSMENT OF CT Please rate on a scale of 1-6 for progress made in country level collaboration, Include comments on how the results were achieved and difficulties encountered in implementing these elements of UN Reform and collaborative activities. 1-2 =Limited, 3-4=Moderate, 5-6 =Extensive
Eradicate poverty and hunger	<p>TG (chair:UNDP, participants: most UN agencies, WB, ADB and several bilateral donors) IFAD as a non resident organization. On many occasions, national experts were invited to brief the TG members of current govt changing priorities and approaches.</p>	<p>TG work resulted in improved, policy advocacy and dialogue with Govt during the finalization of the national poverty reduction policy and programme. In particular, govt. accepted to widen the scope of the poverty definition and to allocate central funds at the village level subject to participatory planning exercises.</p> <p>Both on the national and international side there is a better analysis of issues & experiences. Microcredit schemes remain project-based, and their impact on national policy formulation low at present</p> <p>Joint preparation and support to first ever NGO conference on PR resulted in establishing the role</p>	<p>4</p> <p>As there is very limited national aid coordination in this field, collaborative action could only be realized informally among donors. UN system came together in TG, but operational activities run in parallel with limited cross-fertilization. Some new issues were given recognition, such as child trafficking and child labour.</p>

* NB: The rows should be filled out with one or two sentences on an example, lesson learned or activity the CT wishes to highlight. Only rows relevant to the UN's collaborative activity during the course of the year in the particular country need to be filled in.

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		<p>which civil society organizations can play in poverty reduction. Also the importance to rebuilt the rural public health system was given greater attention (ill health being the single most often cause for poverty (re: public health see more below)</p>	
<p>Achieve universal primary education</p>	<p>TG (Chair: UNESCO and UNICEF, participants: all sponsors of EFA and all major bilaterals, academics and some NGOs), govt. expert addressed the TG on govt. policy re: girls education</p>	<p>TG organised 3 public forums on the issues of financing, role of private instits and impact at early childhood level leading to greater consensus on these issues among all interested. Programmes by UNICEF, UNESCO and UNDP focused on Basic Education (1-9), in particular Curriculum design, text book revisions, with new issues raised e.g. sex education, girls education. Long distance learning centre established in Ningxia Advocacy for school feeding introduced to reduce dropout rates in poor rural areas, especially of girls.</p>	<p>4 Projects made a difference As they got issues on the table There is a need to step up advocacy of the appropriate use of ICTs for distance education in basic education</p>

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Promote gender equality and empower women	TG (chair: UNIFEM, participants: all resident UN agencies and major bilaterals and international NGOs)	Several Staff training events organized helping to mainstream gender concerns among programme staff of all UN agencies And Govt counterparts More inclusion/focus in project design eg management of professionals, Entrepreneurship development Gender case study conducted by 3 agencies Media promotion of issues resulted in increased coverage in the national media of gender related issues	5 Projects and dialogue with Govt made a difference Training groups addressing core issues Collection of indicators positive dev to gender mainstreaming
Reduce child mortality	TG on Public Health (chair: WHO, participants all relevant UN agencies and several bilateral donors and international NGOs) Several agencies came together, including the World Bank, to support the national Iodine deficiency prog The 5th Regional Conf on Children was held in	Major breakthrough in IMCI, leading now to replication in other provinces, the influence of HIV/Aids is beginning to be addressed as is Problem of unplanned children recognised, to be included in system. Through intensive collaboration greater national attention has been focused on the declining rural Health Insurance system and on pilots in Rural Community Health System, which are aimed at reversing unfavorable	3 Concern re worsening conditions in rural areas Issues of discrepancy in estimates between Govt and UN More work needed with regard to girl children and the integrated Management of Child Illness in the context of Poverty reduction

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	Beijing focusing attention on the issue of the well-being of children	trends.	
Improve maternal health	Linked to other collaborative action in the Health Sector Reform handled by TG on Health (chair: WHO, Participants: most of resident UN organizations, bilateral donors, WB, ADB and several international NGOs)	Programmes have been successful in showing that the removal of admin targets to childbirth does not negatively impact the goals of the family planning policy Improving access to maternal care Health care reform, social security, insurance, advocacy of extension of coverage to non-employed sectors stepped up which has brought the existing disparities more into focus within the UN system as well as in the interaction with the govt.	3 National level attention to these issues is accompanied by uneven efforts at provincial level, there is still a great danger of inattention to the issue of MCH
Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	TG (chair: UNICEF, participants: all co-sponsors of UNAIDS and in an expanded group all major donors, UNDCP active participant as a non resident organization)	Breaking the silence: SG talked to President Jiang Zemin Joint meeting with TG and Nat Coord Committee Press conferences, all succeeded in joint planning of PAFs and establishing a coordinated UN system response	6 for AIDS, 5 for other diseases The AIDS collaboration has helped in defining our capacity Further issues to be addressed in future

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	TG also manages active working groups.	to the AIDS epidemic in China. A joint feedback seminar on strategic planning was held and a joint condom strategy agreed to linking family planning and AIDS prevention successfully. UN system invited to assist in preparation and holding of first 1st National Aids Conference, Concert on World Aids Day, which gave the AIDS epidemic public attention and all health system workers the necessary clearance to deal with it. For the first time people with AIDS involved, as a first timid step to remove the stigma. The National Plan of Action was published and showed the commitment to improved treatment and care General agency recognition and activities/engagement Legislation being pushed forward, public engagement in debate Malaria activity in infested provinces, increased govt awareness	CCA chapter on AIDS needs to be updated

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		GAVI programme development Advocacy re HepB (major concern) 62% WHO budget to Western Prov Advances In Health Sector Reform HIV/Aids / TB immunis programmes Influenza/Encephalitis Cross border collaboration/forums Prevention of non-communicable diseases 3rd National Mental Health Conf Workplace safety & occupational health Blood safety	
Ensure environmental sustainability	TG (chair: UNDP, participants most resident UN agencies) close links to informal donor group established as well as to TG on Disaster Manag (see below), support for Consultative meeting on desertification, in the preparation for programmes on POPs intensive consultations among UN agencies, WB and bilateral donors	Substantial, increased efforts in Govt to mainstream environmental issues, e.g. through the 10th Five Year Plan, greater media coverage Air pollution and water/sanitation issues, the need to attend to solid and hazardous waste management are only a few of the obtained results. Major UN study on environmental health completed, which as other activities has increased the UN profile on these issues. Overall there is a noticeable change from a defensive to a progressive stance	6 Quantum leap after years of effort, excellent collaboration according to each organization's strengths and many instances of collaborative and joint action

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	Excellent local coord among UNIDO, WB and UNDP as implementing agencies under Montreal Protocol	and climate change and energy management are now centre stage in national policies and programmes. Biodiversity activities increasing Water shortage and quality: change of mindset at policy level away from a technology view to a management approach	
Develop a global partnership for development	Bi-lateral agencies, NGOs, and national agencies well represented at TG and operational level Donor Aid coordination in several areas, dialogue initiated with govt on enhancing aid coordination among ODA donors and in the area of PPP	All UN agencies have reached out to business sector and were successful in mobilising donations, e.g. for publications. Increasingly there are also operational activities, e.g. in the area of intellectual property, sustainable development. Overall there is a noticeable change of position both on the UN side as well as the national side. A Global Compact meeting resulted in great interest by CEOs in this initiative of the SG and its introduction into China. Govt. proactively pursuing regional cooperation in the ASEAN/Silk Road countries as well as NEA. China increased its contribution to	4 Emerging/unfolding theme Greater recognition of necessity for global partnerships made more prominent by China's WTO entry

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		Global TCDC Fund and is seeking new approaches to South/South cooperation	
Cross-cutting issues:			
Recovery and Peace-building (prevention and post conflict)	Not applicable in the case of China		
Disaster Management	TG (chair: WFP, participants: all resident UN agencies) frequent invitation of national experts, involvement of UNOCHA in operational activities	Successful adjustment of agenda from disaster relief (which was prominent after 1998 floods) to disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation issues. Several joint missions to advise govt. on enhancing effectiveness of disaster relief operations after earthquakes and blizzards.	4 Scope of attention needs to be enlarged to also encompass social emergencies
Human Rights	TG Rule of Law (chair: UNDP, participants: about half of all resident UN organizations) close consultation with informal Donor Round Table (coordinated by Ford Foundation), great support from UNHCHR visits to China	Rights based approach to programming in health, child trafficking and protection and education greatly advanced. Rights based approach project for disabled with 3 rd party costsharing agreed and funded. Rights based dialogue in other TGs introduced. UN system inputs sought for the drafting of Basic Health Law as well	3 CT more engaged in/ focused on issues around Human Rights approaches However, challenges remain in operationalization such approaches

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		<p>as the Mental Health Law comments solicited on the family planning law. Similarly UN system's advice was sought during the ratification process of the Covenant of Social, Economic and Cultural Rights</p> <p>MOPS and ACWF more comfortable to engage in rights based dialogue. Visible progress made with regard to:</p> <p>Public campaign against violence against women , new institution mechanism for protection of rights of women and children</p> <p>Fundamental workers rights, reform of child labour, non-discrimination ratification of ILO coventions and of 2 protocols Sex exploitation of Children and Children in Armed conflict. Greater willingness to translate into Chinese of international human rights literature</p> <p>Convention re: food security ratified</p>	

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Other issue/s (CT to add to table where relevant)			
IMPACT OF UN REFORM ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE UN SYSTEM AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL			
Harmonization and Simplification of Programmes and Programming Cycles: CCA/UNDAF, and links with PRSP, Joint Mid-term Reviews	UN country team met regularly once a month throughout the year. Location of meetings rotated. WB and IMF participated in most meetings. On several occasions members of the CT represented the UN system at national events.	No major activity to report in 2001, as CCA/UNDAF were completed and approved in 2000. Under the umbrella of the UNDAF four UN agency programmes were approved in 2001 (UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNIDO) UNFPA, WHO conducted programme reviews. The joint presentation of the CCA/UNDAF by the members of the CT and the government to ECOSOC in July was a living testimony to the value added through the work of the UN resident coordinator system, which has enhanced the relevance and impact of each agency's programme in China UNChina website redesigned to highlight joint activities in addition to providing access to website of each agency CCA database strengthened as a comprehensive monitoring tool	5 Inspite of heavy workloads and individual commitments, UN organizations devoted considerable time and effort to harmonizing their programmes. More needs and can be done to promote greater understanding and cohesion at all levels of the UN system. CT retreats will be organized more frequently to strengthen the cohesion.

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Joint Programming	UNDP/IMF/WB and DFID WHO, UNICEF and WB WFP, UNICEF, WHO and UNESCO UNIFEM, UNAIDS and UNICEF WFP, IFAD and UNDP	A joint programme supporting fiscal reform. Funds have been pooled and project is nationally executed. Major progress made in tax system reform, computerization, establishment of single account/treasury function, public budget management system Significant policy, programme and monitoring dialogue on immunisation issues for children Preparatory work on child nutrition policy and programme design, especially around school lunch programmes for children Policy research on men's awareness of their role in the prevention of HIV in Gunagdong province Poverty alleviation programme through securing household level food security using food aid and micro-credits	4 The UNDAF exercise has clearly enhanced the willingness and preparedness to undertake joint action from policy dialogue, through programme design and joint monitoring and evaluation. As the national authorities see the value added of such joint efforts, more joint and collaborative programmes are likely to come on stream
Harmonization and Simplification of Administrative Procedures	UN Admin Officers met monthly made up of representatives from all agencies with local representation.	Payment practices for local DSA etc standardised across agencies. Insurance coverage for seconded staff harmonized across agencies Inclusion of travel insurance coverage	4 Extensive discussion over long period of time, moderate gains.

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		in process	
Common Premises and Services	UN Admin Officers met monthly made up of representatives from all agencies with local representation	<p>General guidelines formulated to help agencies in conversion of seconded staff to UN contracts. By end-2001 20% hold UN contracts (in 8 agencies: ILO, UNESCO, WFP, UNDP, UNOPS, UNFPA, FAO & UNAIDS).</p> <p>DSB agreement in principle secured for their staff to be converted to UN contracts (3 staff so far, 4 in process by end-2001).</p> <p>Housing rentals re-negotiated for 5 UN office premises with significant savings.</p> <p>UNDP introduced e-banking facilities, saving UN system substantial amounts annually in commissions.</p> <p>UNDP helped resolve customs issues for several agencies (FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF) during recent China-Japan trade conflict.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Discussion tend to belengthy and consensus is difficult to reach as agencies have varying degree of delegated authority</p>

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Partnerships (BWI, donors, and civil society)	BWI: see above Donors: Co-financed by CIDA, Japan and UNDP Initiated by DFID/WB and managed by UNDP Civil society:	Such partnerships are formed around concrete issues. Joint ODA Database launched in Dec 2001 covering all development projects financed in China by UN Agencies and bilateral ODA agencies. Commonality Study: the identification of common development priorities in China for enhancing aid coordination (due February 2002) by government coordinating authorities for ODA grants and donor consultations China has made major strides in recognizing the contribution which civil society organizations can make to development and in the development cooperation context.	5 China has now a web-based donor data base system up and running, which can replace the less effective Development Cooperation Report format. Government has become more open to discuss aid coordination issues and has welcomed donor initiatives in this regard.

RC ANNUAL REPORT 2001 : ANNEX

COMPOSITION OF COUNTRY TEAM

Resident:

UN Resident Coordinator

UNDP Resident Representative

- Ms. Kerstin Leitner

UNICEF Resident Representative

- Mr. Edwin J. Judd

FAO Representative

- Mr. Gamal M. Ahmed

IMF Representative

- Mr. Ichiro Otani

UNHCR Regional Representative

- Mr. Colin Mitchell

WHO Representative

- Dr. Janos Annus

UNAIDS Country Programme Advisor

- Dr. Emile Fox

UNOPS Portfolio Manager

- Mr. Gerald Gunther

UNFPA Representative

- Mr. Sven Burmester (until Oct 2001)

- Ms. Junko Sasaki, Representative ai

WFP Representative

- Mr. Douglas Broderick

ILO Director

- Mr. Djankou Ndjonkou

UNESCO Representative

- Mr. Yasuyuki Aoshima

UNIDO Representative

- Mr. Sergio Miranda-da-Cruz

IBRD, Director

- Mr. Yukon Huang

UNIFEM Gender Adviser

- Ms. Lanyan Chen

Non-Resident:

UNDCP, Representative (Regional Centre East Asia & Pacific): Mr. Sandro Calvani

UNHCHR, Leader Geographic Teams: Mr. Gianni Magazzeni

IFAD, Country Portfolio Manager (Asia & Pacific Region) : Mr. Erik Martens

List of Theme Groups (mentioning any participation of BWI or non-UN partners)

Theme Group	Participants
Poverty Alleviation & Food Security	WB, Ford Foundation, Embassies of Australia, Canada, Germany & Netherlands (+ UNDP, FAO, UNIDO, WFP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO)
Working Group on Microfinance	WB, JICA, AusAID, State Leading Group on PA, CASS (+ FAO, IFAD, ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF & WFP)
Gender	WB, Canadian & Australian Embassies, Ford Foundation (+ WFP, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNDP, UNIDO, UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO & ILO)
Basic Education	WB (+UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA & WFP)
Environment & Energy	UN only: WFP, UNIDO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO & FAO
Rule of Law	UN only: UNDP, UNICEF, UNIFEM & UNHCR

Disaster Management	WB, Red Cross (+ UNDP, WFP, UNIDO, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR, ILO, UNFPA & FAO)
HIV/AIDs	WB, EU, DFID, AusAID, Ford Foundation, MOH (+ WHO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA & UNESCO)
Health	WB, AusAID, Ford Foundation, DFID, MOH (+ WHO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, WFP & UNAIDS,)