



World Vision Project Profile



Yongsheng Area Development Programme China

World Vision's involvement with Yongsheng began in 1997 when it responded with relief operations to an earthquake. Subsequently, Yongsheng ADP was established in response to the compelling needs in this remote part of China. Over the years, initiatives and goals have evolved and expanded to impact more children and families. Through close partnerships with local authorities, community members in Yongsheng ADP are empowered to exercise self-reliance.

Brief Information

Impact Area Population: 15,663 people
Programme Lifespan: 1998 – 2018
Children Available for Sponsorship
(as of Nov 2015): 387

Geographical Location

Yongsheng ADP is in the northwestern part of Yunnan Province, lying between the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau and Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. Its main city, Lijiang, is 516 km away from Kunming, the capital of Yunnan Province.

Realities

Environmental Challenges

76% of Yongsheng County is mountainous. In this region, living conditions are very harsh. The climate varies according to altitudes and seasons, with occasional snowfall. It is prone to natural disasters like floods, drought, hailstorms and earthquakes. There is a high level of environmental degradation due to over cutting of trees for firewood. Hill slopes left barren make landslides a frequent occurrence.

Economic Poverty

20% of Yongsheng's population still live below the National Poverty Line. Soil and weather conditions make the main economic activity, agriculture, unprofitable. The main crops grown are corn and potato, but yields are low and knowledge on agricultural practices is deficient. Farmers face challenges in transporting and marketing produce. With families stretched to make ends meet, the lure of work in China's booming cities becomes attractive. Many parents make the difficult choice to leave their children behind in search of better jobs. In Yongsheng, there are about 10,000 "left-behind" children, who are often cared for by grandparents who struggle to care for them properly.

Educational Difficulties

The government increasingly values education in rural areas and invests more, especially in school infrastructure. But school facilities are insufficient. Inadequate equipment, poor teaching methods and lack of vocational training further inhibit students' holistic development. Parents are uninvolved in their children's education, viewing it as the school's responsibility. There is also a lack of emphasis on early education, with as many as 27% of children aged three to six not attending pre-school and missing out on a foundation for development.

Healthcare Challenges

Poor conditions of village clinics and lack of medical facilities mean that children's health suffers. Children are not given nutritious meals. As meat is costly, some families cannot afford to eat it regularly. This negatively impacts children's growth. The stunting rate in Yunnan is as high as 20% of children under five years old. Poor standards of maternal care and unsafe delivery practices have led to high maternal mortality and unwarranted risk of child injuries. On top of these issues, over 70% of the ADP does not have access to sanitary latrines, and garbage is deposited behind houses or in rivers, causing disease to spread more easily.





Programme Goal

Communities are able to work together to achieve their own well-being and their children can thrive in the fullness of health and happiness.


Key Challenges and World Vision's Key Initiatives

Challenge: Limited sources of income in rural areas

 Initiative: Empower families to improve household income

WorldVision seeks to improve the community's capacity to generate income and increase food supply by introducing new seed varieties, improving agricultural farming and animal husbandry techniques, and providing technical training and equipment. This helps to make nutritious food affordable and accessible to families to tackle issues like stunting in children under five. Roads and bridges are improved to enable the community to access markets to sell their produce. Irrigation canals are built so crops can be well watered and farming output can increase.

Challenge: Low education levels of the community and inadequate school facilities

 Initiative: Improve the quality of formal and informal education of children

To supplement school infrastructure built by the government, World Vision improves schools by providing tables and chairs, canteens, sports equipment, dormitory beds and latrines. Extracurricular activities such as reading are organised and career planning is provided for high school students. Teachers are trained to improve their teaching skills. Communication between parents and schools is promoted to increase community involvement in schools.

Challenge: Poor health awareness and water shortages during periods of drought that affect health

 Initiative: Improve the health and nutrition of women and children

World Vision facilitates medical checkups, improves medical facilities, provides basic healthcare training and services, improves understanding of communicable diseases and supports the immunisation of children. Water tanks and water systems are also provided to schools to enable year-round access to water. The community is educated about water conservation, handwashing and good hygiene practices.




With World Vision's help, children now have access to clean water.



New desks and chairs are provided to improve children's learning in school.

Challenge: Degradation of natural environment and lack of disaster preparedness

 Initiative: Educate and equip households to protect the environment

To protect the environment and improve the living conditions of children, solar water heater systems and biogas units are provided to replace firewood with alternative energy, which can be used for cooking and lighting in kitchens. To prevent soil erosion and provide villagers with more profitable sources of income, the community is encouraged to grow walnut saplings. World Vision also works in partnership with local authorities and community organisations to integrate disaster risk reduction in rebuilding work and ensure community members are equipped with disaster preparedness skills.

Through all these interventions, World Vision is transforming the lives of children in Yongsheng, making a change today as well as giving them hope for the future!

How You Can Help

Sponsor a child in Yongsheng or give towards a **Gift Catalogue** item, which benefits Yongsheng community!

Thank you for your heart for the poor, and for making a difference in the lives of children and families in China.