



Yaozhou, located in the Tongchuan Prefecture, has been identified by the government as a poverty-stricken county. Because of the difficult living environment and underdeveloped infrastructure in rural areas, there is rapid rural-urban migration. The resulting problem of children and women being left at home when men leave to work in the city is significant. World Vision first began working in the area in 2005, in collaboration with the local community and authorities. Our project in Yaozhou formally started in 2015 and the target population are ethnic Han.

BRIEF INFORMATION

IMPACT AREA POPULATION

86,300 people

PROGRAMME LIFESPAN

2015–2027

CHILDREN AVAILABLE FOR CHILD SPONSORSHIP

(as of Feb 2019)
1,213

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Yaozhou is located in the central part of Shaanxi Province in north-west China. The landscape in the north of the province is mountainous, while the south has rivers and plateaus. Winters are dry and cold, while summers are hot and rainy.

PROGRAMME GOAL

To contribute to child well-being so that children can grow up happily, through partnerships with the community and local leaders.

YAOZHOU
CHINA

REALITIES

Economic Poverty

While China has been experiencing economic growth, rural areas have been lagging behind. Poverty rate in the community is 16.5%, as measured by the percentage of the population living on less than S\$500 a year. Coal mining was previously a major source of income for families, but as a result of overexploitation in recent years, the incomes of workers in this industry have fallen. Many young males and parents choose to work outside the district, resulting in an increasing number of left-behind children, left behind women and migrant children. The proportion of left-behind children in Yaozhou is about 30.3%, higher than the national average of about 21.9%.

Educational Challenges

For children living in mountainous communities, the nearest school is sometimes 5km away from home. These schools are usually located in private houses or abandoned buildings. The infrastructure is poor and there are not enough learning materials. There is also a limited pool of teachers and the quality of education is low. The mindset of parents is heavily focused on academic results, and they often neglect the nurture of life skills. Among left-behind children, it is common for them to encounter difficulties communicating with other people, expressing their own feelings, having good judgement and knowing how to protect themselves.

Healthcare Concerns

Water sources in Yaozhou district are limited and unevenly distributed. Some community members have to travel as far as 5km to the nearest water source. Sediments and impurities are often found in drinking water and can lead to health issues. There are generally no flush toilets in households and bacteria in outdoor septic tanks fester in the summer. There are insufficient rubbish collection points and waste is not disposed properly. These factors create an environment where infectious diseases spread easily.



KEY CHALLENGES AND WORLD VISION'S KEY INITIATIVES



Children have insufficient educational materials and learning spaces.

CHALLENGE Little development of life skills in children

INITIATIVE Establish child activity centres to nurture children holistically

Through activities and games, children's abilities in social skills, listening, speaking and communication are honed. Child activity centres also provide a safe space for children to cultivate their interests and experience more love and support by interacting with others. This is especially important for left-behind children who experience social isolation. Local secondary school students, young volunteers and social workers are also involved in reaching out to vulnerable children. By increasing the participation of children and parents, we are also able to increase their understanding of child well-being.

CHALLENGE Community leaders and families lack resources and skills to break the poverty cycle

INITIATIVE Empower local partners and community leaders to lead positive change

World Vision proactively facilitates the formation of community groups. These groups receive training to enhance their capacity to address community needs. We also build consensus with local partners and train them on child well-being issues and appropriate actions to take. Together, community members and local partners are mobilised to monitor the health, education and development of children in the community. This is done with the ultimate goal of empowering locals to lead community transformation.



Families collect water from sources like this. The water is unclean and can contain sediments.

CHALLENGE Insufficient sources of clean water and poor sanitation

INITIATIVE Increase accessibility to clean water and promote good hygiene practices

Our interventions will focus on improving the accessibility of clean water in densely populated areas, such as community spaces and kindergartens. This will be done by working closely with community groups to identify issues and pilot projects that address those needs, with the aim of getting the government to pay more attention to the water issue. Advocacy activities will also be conducted within the community to raise awareness of the importance of good hygiene.

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

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Sponsor a child or give towards a Gift Catalogue item, which benefits the community!

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

Because of our community-focused solutions, for every child you help, four more benefit too!