

**We couldn't have done  
it without you!  
Thank you!**

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**World Vision**  
SINGAPORE

**Lives Changed  
Communities  
Transformed**

**Yongsheng, China**





## Background

Yongsheng Area Development Programme (ADP) is located in Yongsheng County, one of the four counties under the Lijiang City Prefecture in southwest of Yunnan Province, China.

The largely agricultural communities that populate Yongsheng County grappled with poor soil and weather conditions that led to low crop yields. Lack of access to markets in this mountainous region hindered trade and exacerbated the poverty there. Often plagued by disasters such as floods, drought, hailstorms and earthquakes, Yongsheng's poverty rate stood at 20% when World Vision started working in the area in 1998.

The arduous mountainous terrains also made it difficult for children to attend school. As a result, children often dropped out of school to find manual work to supplement their household income instead, typically in the field or farm. Thus, economic difficulties and low levels of education significantly affected the communities' ability to break out of the poverty cycle.

## YONGSHENG AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (ADP)

**TOTAL POPULATION: 55,543**

**NUMBER OF FAMILIES: 13,579**

**WOMEN: 14,700**

**GIRLS: 4,900**

**MEN: 17,151**

**BOYS: 12,250**

**ADP start date: October 1998**

**ADP end date: September 2018**

## How the Journey Began

World Vision's work in Yongsheng jumpstarted in 1996 after a severe earthquake hit Lijiang, which called for immediate emergency relief. In 1998, Yongsheng became the pilot county to start an ADP, benefitting 15 villages from 3 townships. After the first programme lifespan ended in 2010, an evaluation revealed that the local community was still in need of wider ADP development interventions which targeted issues in healthcare, water and sanitation, education, child rights and protection, female empowerment, disaster management, economic development and environmental conservation.



# Clean Water, Sanitation and Health

Before World Vision started work in Yongsheng, health clinics and hospitals lacked basic medical equipment to treat even common diseases. Without access to timely and adequate healthcare, children and families were vulnerable to escalating health issues. The scarcity of clean water sources in the mountains and its inaccessibility also created a sanitation problem exacerbated by improper disposal of waste. Without basic sanitation, children were often infected with diarrhoea, acute respiratory tract infections and pneumonia.

Over the years, World Vision **improved the quality of maternal and child healthcare** in the area through **training village doctors and equipping 20 health clinics and 3 hospitals with medical equipment** such as blood glucose meters.

To reduce incidences of child deaths, 117 people were trained to understand the importance of managing common childhood illnesses and seeking timely treatment for emergency cases. A community-led Children Injury Prevention and Monitoring Response Team was also established to empower families with critical skills in responding to child injuries immediately after the incident to prevent the worsening of the injury.



**“It was great that my son received treatment after a fall. Thank you!”**

– Hu, Father of 2 children,  
Recipient of such free rapid medical help



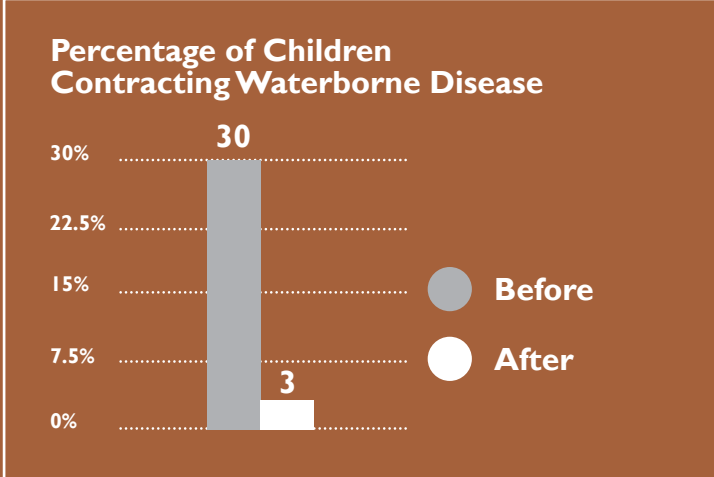
**11  
Clean Water  
Projects**

were implemented over the lifespan of the project.

**2  
Schools**

gained access to clean drinking water with the construction of water systems in the community. Locals were also educated on the importance of boiling the water before consumption.

**200  
Households**



The improvement of the drinking water system reduced the incidence of children contracting water borne diseases by 27%.

As Yongsheng ADP phases out, the village committee will continue to work in collaboration with the Health Department of Yongsheng County to provide more clean and safe drinking water, toilets and medical aid to improve the villagers' living environment. Continued training of health workers will be sustained by the local hospitals.





**“With the assistance of World Vision, my elder son was able to complete middle school. Currently my youngest son is in grade one. I want to support them through college. Nowadays, more and more young parents in the village are starting to pay attention to their children’s education, with the hope of a better future for their children through quality education.”**

– Tang, Father of two children, speaking in Mandarin

## Education

When World Vision first began the programme in Yongsheng, the education situation was alarming. Despite having a nine-year government funded compulsory education, 1 in 10 children dropped out of school. A combination of poor school infrastructure, lack of teaching resources and poor quality of lessons gave children little incentive to make the arduous, treacherous journey to school. School buildings in Yongsheng were mainly made of mud and tiles, which left them prone to quick collapse should a tremor hit the earthquake-prone county.

In response, World Vision constructed new schools, repaired old school buildings, built canteens, basketball courts and even latrines with solar heating systems. The children also benefitted from new desks and chairs, textbooks, computers and new materials for extra-curricular activities. In total, **over 3,000 children in 137 schools benefitted from improvements** to school facilities and **3,267 students received new stationery**. Dormitories were also constructed and renovated, providing a safe and clean environment for boarding students who live far from their homes.

**“After the teachers used the new teaching methods, classes are now livelier! There have been more interactions between us and the teachers and it actually improves our learning.”**

– A junior high school student in Yongsheng County High School

To enhance teaching capabilities, World Vision provided professional skills training to equip teachers with the ability to engage students better. As a result, school teachers have been using a variety of teaching methods and tools during classes. This led to an **increase in teacher-student interactions**, students’ participations in class and their learning interests.

Furthermore, World Vision supported school events such as Children’s Day, Sports Day and Child-Parent activities. On average, students are now more motivated to go to school, giving a **4 out of 5 satisfaction rating** when asked about their new school curriculum. In addition, more than half of the students expressed that their parents are more involved in their school life. As parents gain a better understanding of their child’s education, they become more willing to send their children to school.

An improved economic situation for families and enhanced quality of teaching in schools through World Vision’s support have reduced school drop-out rates by 9%.





# Economic Livelihood & Food Security

In the past, 95% of farmers used traditional methods to grow crops and breed animals. Yield and economic efficiency were low.

World Vision introduced new varieties of hybrid corn and virus-free potatoes in areas where droughts were frequent, **improving yield by 35%**. The villagers also received help to plant Chinese herbs and high quality walnuts, **increasing household incomes by 35% and 40%** respectively. New and improved roads were built to increase access to markets.

Farming families were trained in animal husbandry skills such as artificial insemination, diagnosing diseases in the animals, improving quality of animal feeds and breeding. **70% of villagers have now mastered new skills** of crop cultivation and animal husbandry!

Irrigation systems were key in reducing Yongsheng's farmers' reliance on rain-fed agriculture, especially in the dry season. These interventions **increased the community's food production by 15% and overall income by 10%**.

World Vision also installed **biogas digesters and solar water heating systems benefitting over 1,400 people**. These alternative energy sources significantly reduced the reliance on firewood, providing a healthier environment for children to grow up in and ensuring the land can remain productive for generations. Farmers now spend less time cutting firewood and more time working in the fields, resulting in increased incomes.



With the help of World Vision, a local non-profit organisation was established to provide microfinance loans to the villagers and to set up an economic cooperatives group. When World Vision phases out, this local NGO will continue with poverty alleviation and development work.

With these interventions, the villagers need not leave their children behind to go to cities and seek labour-intensive jobs. They now have higher yielding crops and proper infrastructure, enabling them to earn higher income and sustain themselves.





## Disaster Management

Every year from April to September, children are especially at risk due to floods, droughts and hailstorms – natural disasters that frequent Yongsheng County. In the last four years, two major earthquakes have hit. These disasters destroy homes, crops and roads, threatening people's lives and livelihoods.

World Vision worked with the County Seismological Bureau to **educate the villagers** on hazards, characteristics and coping methods of common disasters. **Exercises were conducted** so that the community could familiarise themselves with evacuation routes and avoid injuries.

Within one year of implementation of disaster prevention and management programmes, **50% of villagers surveyed had knowledge on risk reduction** for at least two disasters and could apply their knowledge. These efforts have equipped children and families to prepare for and respond to disasters, thereby minimising the damage incurred and saving countless lives.

In 2016, a newly formed Emergency team of **150 community members** were further trained in disaster management and self-rescue. They devised emergency plans for the respective disasters and are responsible for the safety of the villagers. The Emergency team will also continue to train other villagers once World Vision phases out.



## Story of Change Lighting Up Jianhong's Life

For many families in Yongsheng ADP, health issues of their children are often left untreated due to poverty. Hindered by health challenges, these children are deprived of a normal childhood and education. Imagine not being able to go to school or play with friends!

Jianhong, 12, suffers from *strabismus*, a misalignment of the eyes that affects vision from birth. It is estimated that up to 5% of all children have some type or degree of strabismus. However, because his condition was left untreated, his sight deteriorated badly. Even when he sat in the first row in class with prescribed glasses, he could not see a word on the blackboard. Learning became difficult for him. His poor eyesight also made him apprehensive about playing with his friends due to the fear of falling. Sadly, after his first medical examination, his family could not follow through with the doctor's recommendations for timely treatment as they could not afford medication and the cost incurred from commuting to the hospital.

Upon learning of his situation, World Vision staff visited Jianhong and his family regularly and encouraged his parents to take him to the local hospital for a check-up.

**World Vision did not give up on Jianhong. Financial assistance was arranged for him to undergo eye surgery.**

Subsequently, when World Vision staff met Jianhong in school, he was seen playing with his friends. He has fully recovered and his vision is perfectly normal! Jianhong was so excited to tell the World Vision staff about his new life.

"I am really happy now that I can see everything around me. Thank you World Vision!" he exclaimed.

Now that he can see, Jianhong can learn without difficulty and have a fun, fulfilling childhood!



**"I am really happy now that I can see everything around me. Thank you World Vision!"**