

YOUR ANNUAL UPDATE

Thanks to your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Shaanxi. Learn more about the valuable ways your support has benefitted them.

Education is a key focus in Shaanxi, with parents, teachers and children of all ages participating in a variety of programs to strengthen children's educational and vocational opportunities.

Parents, teachers and students participated in education and awareness training on the impacts of bullying within schools and learned strategies to prevent and address bullying at all stages.

Students and teachers also participated in programmes to encourage girls to engage in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). These programmes have opened up wider career opportunities for children in Shaanxi, especially girls.



2880

Students participated in reading programmes



172

Teachers participated in training to prevent bullying



4560

Parents participated in gender-sensitive



COVID-19'S IMPACT IN CHINA

Hear from Huiru about how COVID-19 has impacted her community.

"Our school has strict prevention and control measures, but the uncertainty of the pandemic still restricts us from doing a lot of things, such as going out to exchange and learn, and getting together to carry out activities. We hope the pandemic will end soon, so that our study and life can return to normal."

CASE STORY: CAREER CONFIDENCE



NAME: XIAOXIN

AGE: 14 YEARS OLD

HOBBY: DRAWING

"I really like the project classes and activities that my school offers. We take one class every week. I have learnt a lot under the guidance of the teachers. These activities help me change my introverted and shy personality, and find my future study goals and life direction."

Meet Xiaoxin

Like the child you sponsor, Xiaoxin has been empowered by Plan International to change her life. Xiaoxin, a secondary school student, lives in a minority village in a border county of Yunnan Province. In her village, it is common for young adults to leave their hometown in search of work, rather than completing further study.

Adolescent children generally lack self-confidence, easily lose interest in academics, and are short of soft skills in life. Gender stereotypes can present additional barriers to young girls, limiting their opportunities and ambitions.

Learning important life skills

Plan is working with local education departments to provide training and support for secondary school students, including guidance on important life skills and career planning.

Students participate in activities including career planning and financial management, which equip them with practical life skills, build their self-confidence and fully prepare them for the transition from school to future learning and social life.

Gaining confidence and ambition

Through her participation in these activities, Xiaoxin has gained confidence, participating in activities and taking a leadership role amongst her peers. Career counselling has also helped her determine her future life goals. After graduating from lower secondary school, she will continue her study in higher secondary school and work hard to get into a good university. She hopes to become an excellent teacher in the future.

Xiaoxin's parents, motivated by her positive performance, are very supportive of her and hope that she can live the life she wants in the future.



Xiaoxin has gained confidence and ambition.

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 9,364 CHILDREN IN SHAANXI

OUR PROJECTS IN SHAANXI ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



GIRLS IN STEM



1,150 students, including 672 girls, participated in the school's STEM club courses. Children, especially girls, have enhanced their interest, ability and confidence in learning technology.

Girls often have limited access to **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) opportunities, especially in rural areas.** Due to harmful gender stereotypes and lack of resources, rural girls face more obstacles in improving their ability in science and technology, which also limits their future career opportunities and contributes to the low rates of women in STEM-related jobs.

Plan is supporting schools to carry out teacher training, girls' STEM club courses, technology day activities and reading promotion in order to encourage their educational development in STEM-related areas.

40 teachers have participated in training on STEM theory, as well as gender equality and inclusivity, to understand the importance of breaking gender stereotypes and improving the ability of all children, including girls, to learn hands on practical skills.

PREVENTING BULLYING IN SCHOOLS



Bullying is a serious issue for schools in Shaanxi. It affects students of all ages and genders, and schools are often not equipped to address the underlying issues

Through Plan's Anti-School Bullying campaign, 6 schools improved their school bullying prevention systems. They carried out a series of activities to raise awareness on bullying for teachers and parents and encourage students to create a bullying-free environment.

2,540 students, including 1,256 girls, helped to spread awareness on strategies to prevent bullying, through class meetings, handwritten newspapers, knowledge lectures, hidden danger investigations, and performances.



"I am very happy to be part of the Anti-School Bullying campaign. We should not be bullied and should adamantly fight against bullying. We should be civilised, disciplined, tolerant and friendly, and jointly build our harmonious and peaceful campus."

- Linru (10) from Shaanxi

YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



FUTURE CHALLENGES TO ADDRESS



33%

of students experience bullying



32%

of children aged 0-5 have experienced anaemia



75%

of parents still strongly believe in traditional gender roles



Your support helps girls and boys to stand up for their futures.

· Gender stereotypes limit opportunities for girls. Plan will continue to encourage girls to engage with a wide range of economic opportunities, especially in STEM fields.

· Many children are unaware of how to deal with bullying. Plan will continue awareness programs and establish bullying prevention programs within schools.

· Parents and caregivers often lack resources and knowledge about early childhood education and development. Plan will support with family care training.

· Many young women are moving away from villages to larger cities but unable to find job opportunities. Plan will implement more youth employment opportunities in these areas.

We know the best is yet to come, and together we will continue to work for a brighter future for the children in



“COVID-19 has had a big impact on our work, but thanks to your support, we have ensured that our activities can be carried out smoothly and we have achieved results through online training for local partners and teachers.”

Wang Shaoping

Programme Area Manager, Shaanxi

YOUR GENEROSITY WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT CHILDREN IN STANDING UP FOR THEIR FUTURE AND RIGHTS