

ANNUAL UPDATE

CHINA

SHAANXI



Together with your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Shaanxi. Learn more about the valuable ways we work with children and communities.

Once the capital of 14 Chinese dynasties, the ancient Shaanxi Province is now home to nearly 40 million people. Today, most families are dependent on farming and livestock for their income, and many residents of rural communities migrate from Shaanxi to pursue work in transportation, construction, and other sectors. This year, our projects in Shaanxi focused on fostering inclusive, quality education for everyone, from young children to girl students of STEM.



13,000

Young children participated in reading activities



4,500

Caregivers discussed young children's health and literacy



368

Students participated in weekly STEM activities

"IT IS WONDERFUL TO SEE YOUNG MIGRANTS IN SHAANXI, ESPECIALLY WOMEN, FIND GOOD JOBS AND IMPROVE THEIR SELF-CONFIDENCE."

Cheng Ying, Project Officer





**IN THE WORKFORCE,
70% OF TECHNICAL
JOBS ARE HELD BY
MEN.**

**“THERE ARE NO SUCH THINGS AS SUBJECTS THAT ARE
‘FOR’ GIRLS OR BOYS. WHEN THERE IS A WILL, THERE IS A
WAY!” – TONGYAO (13)**

A 2020 World Economic Forum report found that just 15% of engineers are women. We set out to change that statistic.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) is a growing priority for schools around the world. This year, our partner schools in Shaanxi offered a variety of regular, engaging STEM activities for all students, especially girls.

Knowledge Is Power

What creates gender inequality in STEM? Studies show that girls and women are less likely than men to pursue STEM at all levels of education. While this can foster a belief that girls and women are less capable of success in those fields, we know that it's more likely that girls and women are lacking the confidence – not the intelligence – to be strong scientists, developers, engineers and mathematicians.

Since July 2022, we've been working with 35 teachers at 15 partner schools in Shaanxi to empower girls and young women to believe that – just like their male peers – they can do anything. Over the last year, 368 students, including 252 girls, have been participating in weekly STEM activities, where they practise logical thinking, verbal skills and collaboration.

Changing the Narrative

In April, 1,286 students in Shaanxi participated in “Girls in ICT Day,” a celebratory day of competitions and activities to uplift the successes of women in STEM. 4,662 pre-school, primary and secondary school teachers – including 3,807 women – also took part in an eight-month-long STEM Teaching Design Competition. Today, all of our partner schools have better classrooms and equipment to provide high-quality STEM education to all students.



Children at 15 partner schools participated in weekly STEM activities.

WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH 9,089 CHILDREN IN SHAANXI

OUR PROJECTS IN SHAANXI ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Plan's projects in Shaanxi are supporting stronger schools, healthier children and empowered leaders.

GETTING A STRONG START



This year, 13,000 children participated in engaging educational activities designed by Community Child Development Networks. In Shaanxi, many parents are unaware of the importance of early childhood development, or don't have the resources to support their children as much as they'd like to.

Community Child Development Networks in Shaanxi have organised a wide array of fun, gender-inclusive learning activities for 13,000 young children and 4,500 parents, from Chinese festival story sharing to children's self-protection training, parent-child reading and handicrafts. 240 kindergarten teachers participated in workshops about gender equality, and 188 local kindergartens have signed up for annual reviews by the Shaanxi Education Bureau.

RESILIENT SKILLS



In Shaanxi, the pandemic has left a lasting impact on employment opportunities for young people. For young adults entering the workforce, finding a job in Shaanxi is harder than ever. Women are statistically less likely to have vocational training or formal educations, limiting their financial status.

This year, 272 migrant youths – including 240 women – learned modern vocational skills to improve their abilities to generate consistent income. New skills in mobile phone photography, video editing and live streaming were brought together with conversations about gender equality, communication, sexual health and safety. 30 vocational school educators, including 25 women, learned how to better meet the needs of young migrants in Shaanxi.

“Through Plan's life skills and vocational training, I learned about video editing, communication and financial management. I also made many friends.”

- Ying (19) from Shaanxi



YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



We will continue to work for a better future for the children in Shaanxi. These are some of the areas we will focus on in the time to come.

- Children in rural China are at a high risk of malnutrition. With your support, we will continue to offer workshops for parents to learn more about health and early childhood development.
- Many schools do not have effective strategies to stop bullying. Next year, we will collaborate with social organisations to strengthen community support networks for children.
- Young women, and particularly immigrants, in Shaanxi struggle to find good jobs. In 2024, we will continue to support at-risk young women with sustainable vocational skills.

Thank you for your continued support.



“The pandemic has finally passed, and schools have returned to normal. Seeing the happy, smiling faces of children as they participate in activities, I feel extremely relieved.”

Wang Shaoping
Programme Unit Manager

THE PLAN EFFECT



Your sponsorship commitment becomes long-term change – providing help for self-help. We involve children at the centre of all projects, bringing effective and sustainable solutions to families and communities. With Plan's Effect, your commitment helps empower communities to transform their lives and futures.

THE LAST 12 MONTHS



JANUARY

188

Kindergarten classrooms reviewed by education officials



APRIL

1,286

Students celebrate Girls in ICT Day



MAY

272

Young migrants learn new vocational skills



SEPTEMBER

381

Community members learn about bullying prevention

