



RURAL DEVELOPMENT



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樂施會
OXFAM
Hong Kong

無窮世界
World
Without
Poverty

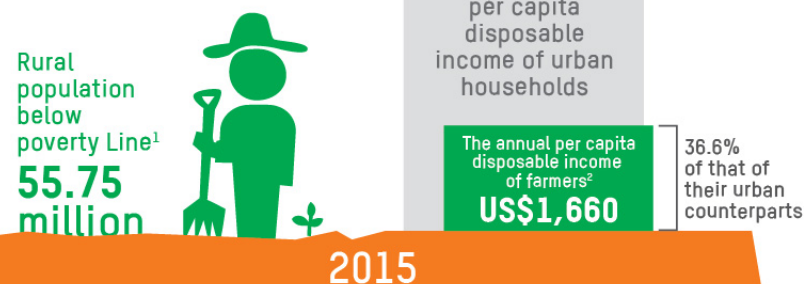
INTRODUCTION

Rural development is a major part of Oxfam Hong Kong's (OHK) work in mainland China. OHK began implementing its rural development programmes in Southwest China in 1991 and later extended its work to the northwest region. The programme's geographic focus now includes Yunnan, Sichuan, Guizhou, Guangxi, Shaanxi, Gansu and Qinghai provinces.

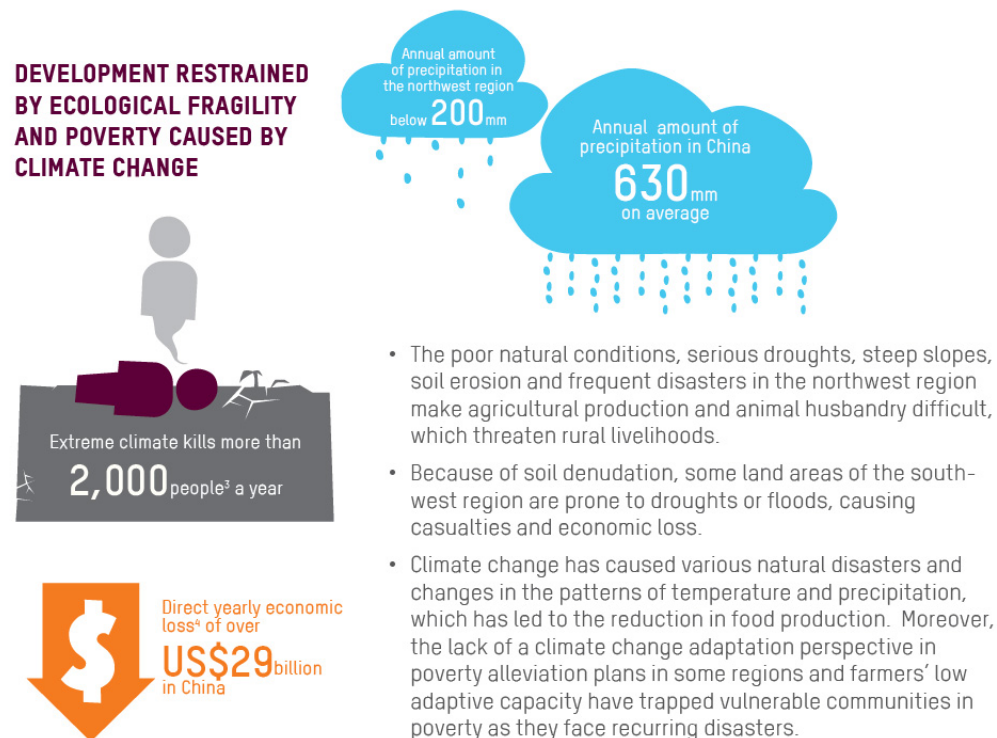
The programme has several aims. It aims to improve the livelihoods of poor and disaster-prone communities in Western China, and enhance their capacity for disaster prevention and risk reduction, climate change adaptation. It also aims to empower the communities and enhance their organising skills. OHK strives to influence government departments to improve and implement related policies, and reinvent the participatory management mechanism for the poverty alleviation system to promote sustainable community development.

1. RURAL POVERTY AT A GLANCE

RURAL POPULATION AND INCOME



DEVELOPMENT RESTRAINED BY ECOLOGICAL FRAGILITY AND POVERTY CAUSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE



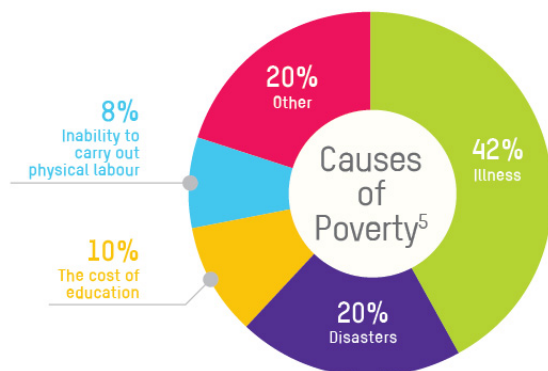
¹ China's national rural poverty line is an annual income per capita of RMB2,300 (USD 333) at constant 2010 prices.

² The annual disposable income per capita refers to the total sum of income which can be used for consumption and savings, i.e. the income which a resident can use to purchase whatever he/she pleases.

³ Source: National Climate Change Adaptation Plan, 2013

⁴ Source: National Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2013; China's National Assessment Report on Risk Management and Adaptation of Climate Extremes and Disasters, March, 2015

INADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC SERVICES, ILLNESS, DISASTERS AND THE COST OF EDUCATION TRAP PEOPLE IN POVERTY

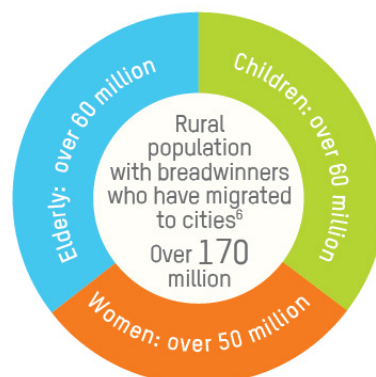


- In the remote mountainous areas of the western region, transport, communications and information services have continued to lag behind. Furthermore, the facilities for medical care, hygiene and basic education are inadequate and also of poor quality. Thus, poor farmers and herders have to pay a high price both financially and in terms of time it takes for them to travel to areas where they can use public services.

CHILDREN, WOMEN AND THE ELDERLY STAY BEHIND IN VILLAGES DURING URBANISATION



- Rapid urbanisation has led to the outflow of talent and financial capital from villages to cities. The problems and pressures children, women and the elderly who stay behind face are prominent and numerous. For instance, children face development and educational problems, women experience heavy financial burdens and the pressure of caring for their families, and the elderly deal with challenges to their livelihoods and some even commit suicide. Without a significant amount of villagers with a variety of capacities, community organising is difficult. Participation in public affairs and community governance of stay behind villagers is usually limited.



⁵ Source: National Poverty Alleviation Office

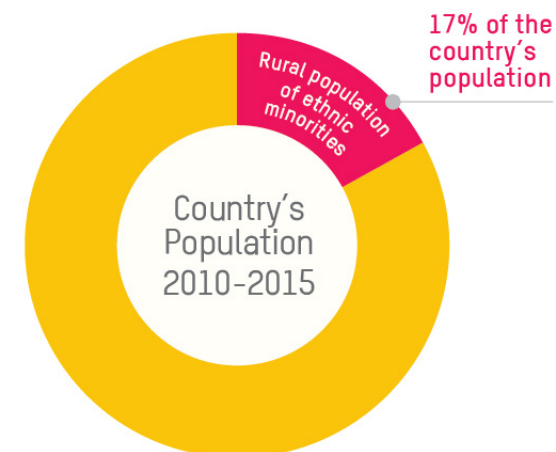
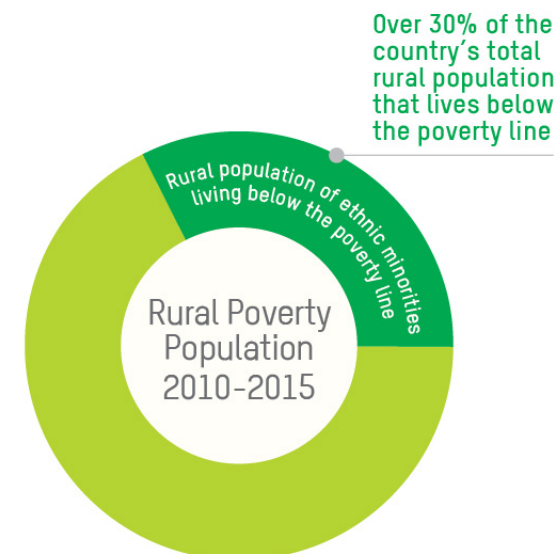
⁶ With rapid industrialisation and urbanisation in place, more and more rural labour force (mainly males) has been driven towards towns and cities, leaving behind a large group of people, mostly the elderly, women and children, in the villages.

SMALLHOLDER FARMERS MARGINALISED BY THE MARKET

- It is difficult for small-scale farming economy to resist market risks. As individual rural households operate on small-sized and scattered lands, farmers are too weak to respond to market risks. Moreover, increased production may not translate into increased income; even result in less income due to market uncertainties and the lack of market information.

MARGINALISED GROUPS

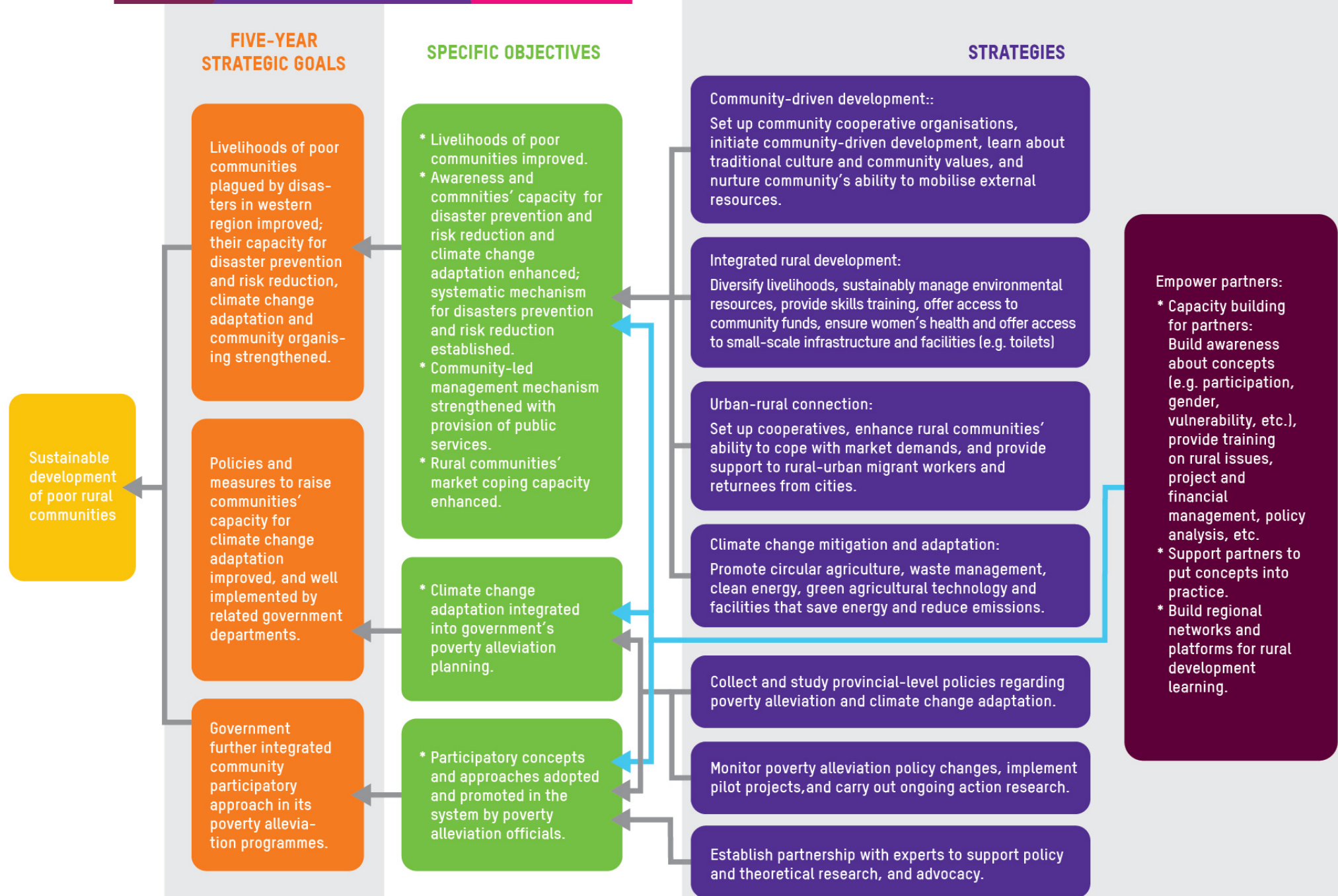
- Due to historical and geographical factors, the social and economic development in ethnic minority regions lags behind other regions. The pace of poverty alleviation in the eight provinces⁷ where ethnic minorities predominantly reside has also lagged behind that of the country over the past two years. This further demonstrates the growing difficulties in poverty alleviation in ethnic minority regions.
- As of 2015, rural population of ethnic minorities living below the poverty line: 18.13 million, 32.5% of the country's total rural population that lives below the poverty line.
- As of 2015, there are 421 ethnic autonomous counties with per capita income levels below the poverty line, 51% of all poverty-stricken areas across the country.



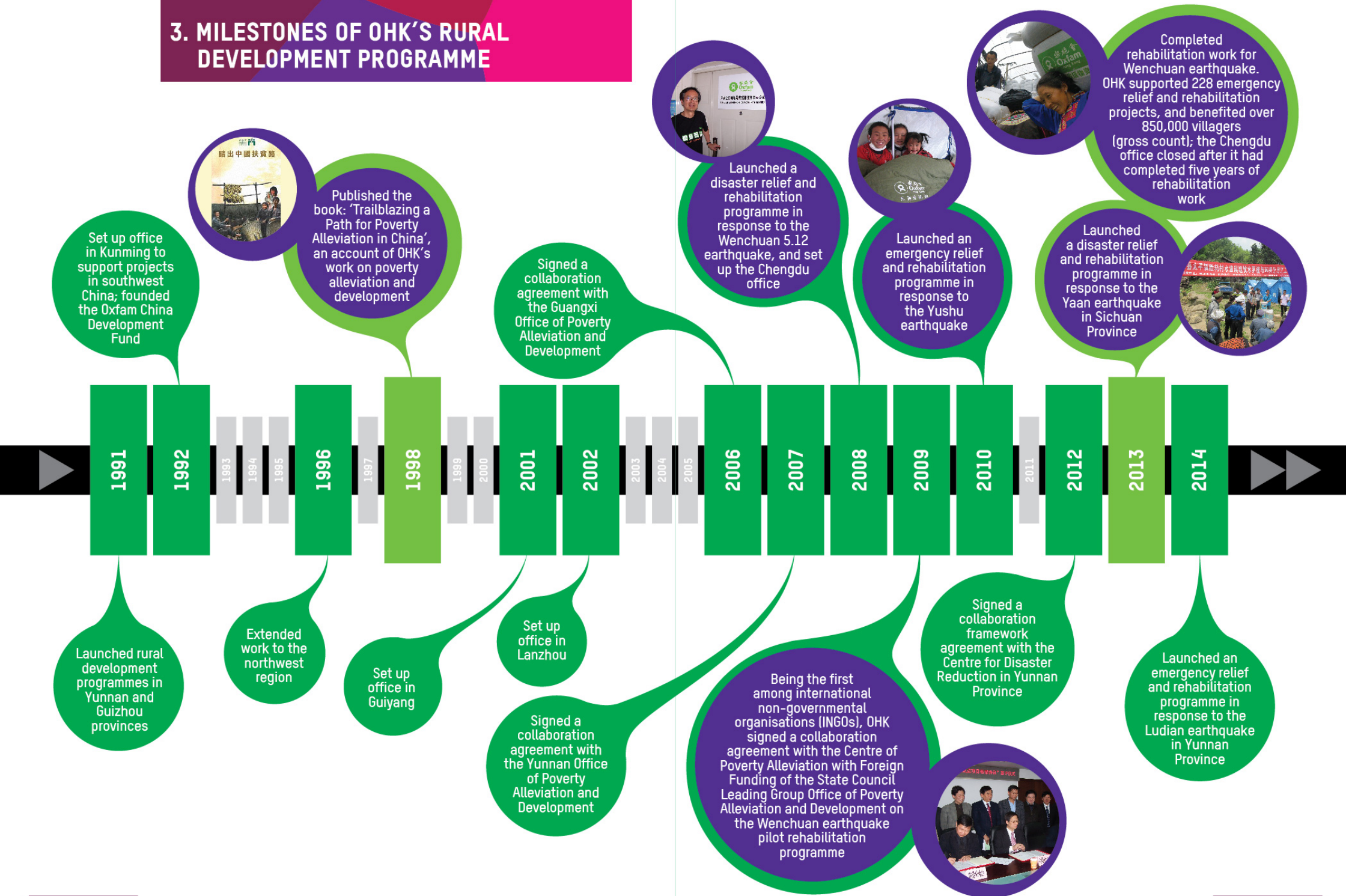
⁷ Namely, these are the five autonomous regions: Inner Mongolia, Guangxi, Tibet, Ningxia and Xinjiang, and three provinces: Guizhou, Yunnan and Qinghai.

Source: The PRC's National Bureau of Statistics, State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development, Ministry of Civil Affairs, Ministry of Land and Resources, State Ethnic Affairs Commission, National Health and Family Planning Commission, All-China Women's Federation, China Meteorological Administration and The World Bank.

2. THEORY OF CHANGE (APRIL 2014 – MARCH 2019)

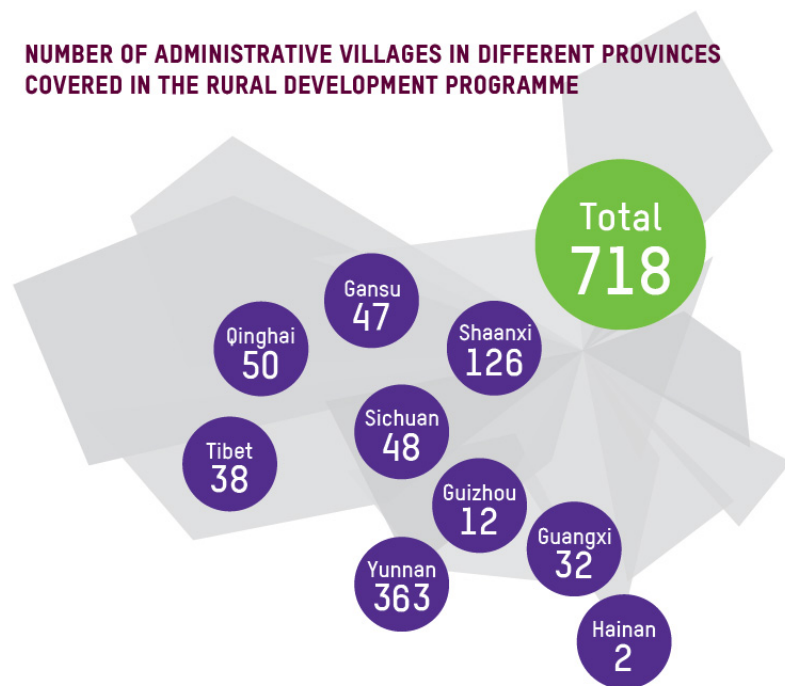


3. MILESTONES OF OHK'S RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



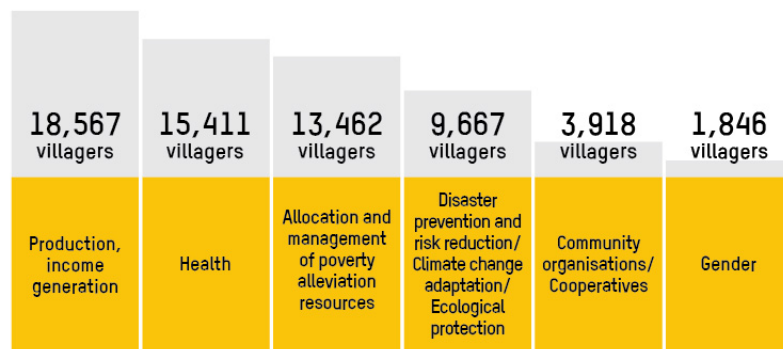
4. MAJOR OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES (APRIL 2014 – MARCH 2016)

NUMBER OF ADMINISTRATIVE VILLAGES IN DIFFERENT PROVINCES COVERED IN THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

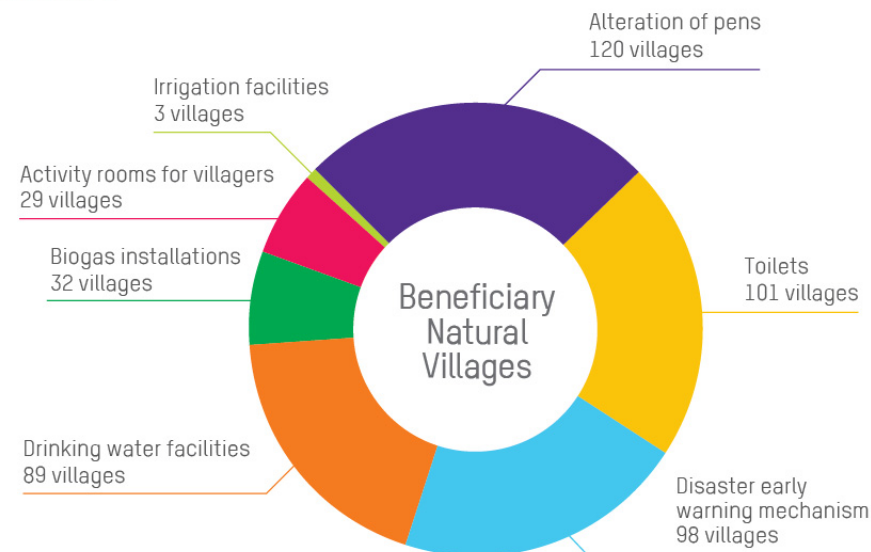


We implemented projects to build communities' capacity to improve their livelihoods, hygiene conditions, capacity to prevent and reduce the risk of disasters as well as adapt to climate change.

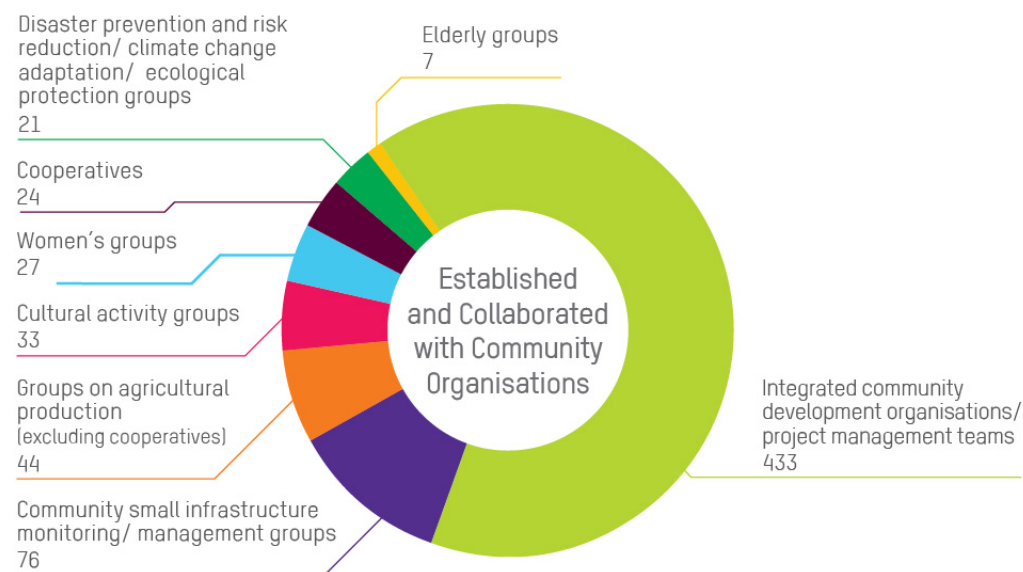
62,871 VILLAGERS (GROSS COUNT) BENEFITED FROM THE VARIOUS THEMATIC CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING TRAININGS AND FIELD VISITS).



472 NATURAL VILLAGES BENEFITED FROM THE BUILDING OF SMALL-SCALE INFRASTRUCTURES AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MECHANISMS IN THE COMMUNITY.



OHK facilitated the establishment of and collaborated with 665 community organisations in order to strengthen communities' self-governance. It also did so to provide communities with sustainable services and enhance their capacity to cope with market demands.



GOOD PRACTICES

Sustainable Ecological Village Development Model

In 2012, Liugou Village in Shaanxi Province was struck by serious flood. OHK partnered with a local grassroots organisation, the Shaanxi Mothers' Environmental Protection Association, to integrate climate change adaptation into the rehabilitation and ecological development of the village. This partnership helped the villagers develop green livelihoods through tea growing and cattle farming. Through the project, villagers also learnt to reduce the use of pesticides by combining physical and biological solutions for disease and pest control, carry out household waste classification and compost using organic waste.

Through setting up the Pollution-Free Tea Cooperative, farmers saw an increase yearly in income of more than US\$290 for every mu (approximately 667 square metres) of tea plantation. The cooperative helped organise bulk orders, provided technological support, and provided a green certification for products to enhance marketability.

In response to disasters triggered by climate change, OHK and the Association also supported the village to improve its disaster early-warning system, set up evacuation sites, provide villagers with a venue for disaster training and drills. Later when disaster struck, the Village Disaster Prevention Leading Group and the other eight working groups successfully transferred the villagers to nine evacuation sites, and avoided casualties.



Post-disaster Sustainable Development: Nurturing Community Organisations

Shuiguanyin Village in Shaanxi Province was seriously affected in the Wenchuan 5.12 earthquake. Oxfam and its partner actively assisted in the reconstruction of the facilities. In addition, in view of the community's reduced capacity to develop their livelihoods and lack of public services, OHK partnered with local organisation the Gender Development Solution to set up a community development fund for micro loans in 2012. This was managed by a management team whose members were elected by the villagers. This helped meet the villagers' various needs in terms of production, and enhanced their awareness and ability to participate in public affairs.

Part of the interest earned from the community development fund was used to build up villagers' capacity and to organise various community organisations, such as the Farmers' Technical School, the Women's Health School, the Community Disaster Prevention and Environmental Protection Group and Cultural Activities Team. The groups and activities have enriched the life of the villagers, especially that of the women who stayed behind, and have promoted self-governance in the community.

Community Driven Development Makes Government's Innovative Participatory Poverty Alleviation Mechanism a Reality

In 2013, OHK partnered with various government departments in Yunnan Province to implement community-driven development pilot projects in 14 administrative villages. The projects emphasised the communities' power to formulate its own plan through the use of poverty alleviation resources and the disclosure of appraisal criteria and management rules. This was done so as to enhance the communities' organisational capacity and explore how to make the government's participatory poverty alleviation mechanism innovative. The projects have successfully facilitated change in the government's perception of poverty alleviation as well as its operations. This has led to the formulation of a policy paper on participatory approaches, which was incorporated into the government's appraisal scheme.

The projects also mobilised resources from the government at multiple levels. The matching fund of US\$813,000 from the provincial budget has helped enhance the efficiency of the use of these funds.



The Development of Minority Culture Strengthens Community Cohesion

Before the implementation of the projects, Baixing in Guizhou Province was a community made up of Yao people which received little attention from the outside world, with an annual per capita income of only US\$102. There, most of the young people had left to work in the cities; only the elderly, women and children stayed behind. Furthermore, the community's economy relied heavily on small-scale farming. There was a lack of cohesion in the community and its traditional culture was gradually fading away.

The projects supported by Oxfam, however, integrated the development of the Yao culture into the enhancement of the people's livelihoods, enabling the villagers to realise the value of their own culture. They started to develop cultural and creative products and handicrafts (such as Baixing maple dyeing), to market them and to develop in-depth experiential eco-tourism. Such activities have helped the community develop its livelihoods through its culture and have brought about significant change. Their annual per capita income has increased by over five times as much. The villagers are proud of being a member of the community. Many young people have come back to their hometown to start their businesses, and five cultural companies have already been set up. Some craftsmen have also begun to form a cooperative together.



5. ABOUT OHK'S PARTNERS (APRIL 2014- MARCH 2016)

Strategic Goals	Number of partners (including government departments, local NGOs, academic, training and research institutes, women's organisations, private sector) by provinces							
	Yunnan	Sichuan	Guangxi	Guizhou	Gansu	Shaanxi	Qinghai	Multi-provinces
Livelihoods of poor communities plagued by disasters in western region improved; their capacity for disaster prevention and risk reduction, climate change adaptation and community organising strengthened	33	11	8	9	12	12	7	1
Policies and measures to raise communities' capacity for climate change adaptation improved and well implemented by related government departments	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Government further integrated community participatory approach in its poverty alleviation programmes.	13	-	2	-	-	-	-	-

Total number of partners: 94⁸

⁸ Some partners are implementing more than one project; they thus contribute to different strategic goals. They are classified into different strategic goals in the table but counted only once in the total number of partners.

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