



# Country Programme Document for China

(2026-2030)





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# I. UNDP within the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

**1.** Since the reform and opening up, China has made significant strides in economic and human development. China is one of only a few countries to move from low human development to high human development. The country has also lifted over 770 million people out of extreme poverty,<sup>1</sup> accounting for nearly three-quarters of global poverty reduction efforts during this time.

**2.** Alongside these advancements inequalities and divergences continue to exist, and new ones are emerging. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, in 2023, 21 out of 31 provinces in China have a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita below the national average<sup>2</sup>. Regional disparities remain elevated and are a critical area of focus for the Government, with the urban-rural income ratio at 2.34.<sup>3</sup> Rural communities tend to record compounded vulnerabilities; being older, less skilled, and more impacted by digital gaps.

**3.** The rapidly ageing population of China has important implications for livelihoods and living standards, calling for the sustainable development of pension and social assistance systems, and a care economy. At the same time, new forms of work are increasing the risks of new vulnerabilities, with over 10 per cent of the workforce now participating in the platform economy<sup>4</sup> and a relatively high youth urban unemployment at 16.5 per cent.<sup>5</sup> As everywhere else in the world, women in China are considerably affected and at risk of unemployment in the low carbon transition.<sup>6</sup> They also carry a higher burden of care and household responsibilities, spending 1.9 times as much time as men on unpaid domestic and care work.<sup>7</sup>

**4.** As a populous country with high total emissions (14,314 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq in 2021) and carbon intensity above the global average,<sup>8</sup> China injected renewed momentum by announcing in 2020 its dual carbon goals – to peak emissions before 2030 and reach carbon neutrality before 2060.<sup>9</sup> Having installed 357.8 gigawatts in new solar and wind capacity in 2024,<sup>10</sup> China is a critical contributor to the global pledge to triple renewable energy by 2030. China is also one of the 12 mega-biodiverse countries in the world.<sup>11</sup> As the chair of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15), China presided over the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).<sup>12</sup>

**5.** These efforts reflect a pivot towards “high-quality development”,<sup>13</sup> emphasizing sustainable and green growth during the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year plan (2021–2025) period. However, setting the country on a sustainable path towards carbon neutrality in such a short period is presenting multiple challenges.



UNDP has worked in Zhengzhou to treat wastewater as part of a programme to strengthen water security and governance across China for two decades.

<sup>1</sup> World Bank Group, “Lifting 800 Million People Out of Poverty – New Report Looks at Lessons From China’s Experience”, 25 September 2023, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/04/01/lifting-800-million-people-out-of-poverty-new-report-looks-at-lessons-from-china-s-experience>

<sup>2</sup> Data for China do not include Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Macao Special Administrative Region of China, or Taiwan Province of China. National Bureau of Statistics, 2023 National GDP per capita and Gross Regional Product by province, 2023.

<sup>3</sup> National Bureau of Statistics, “Residents’ income and consumption expenditure in 2024”, 2024.

<sup>4</sup> Wei Du and Xueyu Wang, New Forms of Employment and Labour Protection in China, ILO eBooks, 2024.

<sup>5</sup> National Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Urban Surveyed Unemployment Rate of the Population Aged from 16 to 24 Excluding Students, 2025.

<sup>6</sup> UNDP, “Navigating the Path to a Just Transition: Employment Implications of China’s Green Transition,” 2023.

<sup>7</sup> National Bureau of Statistics, The Third China Time Use Survey, 2024.

<sup>8</sup> The People’s Republic of China First Biennial Transparency Report on Climate Change, 2024.

<sup>9</sup> Xinhua News Agency, “Xi Jinping delivered an important speech at the general debate of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly”, 22 September 2020, [https://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-09/22/content\\_5546168.htm](https://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-09/22/content_5546168.htm)

<sup>10</sup> National Energy Administration, Grid-connected operation of renewable energy in 2024, 27 January 2025

<sup>11</sup> Convention on Biological Diversity, “China – Country Profile”, 2025.

<sup>12</sup> Convention on Biological Diversity, “Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework”, 2022.

<sup>13</sup> The transition of the Chinese economy towards “high-quality” development was raised by President Xi 2017 in his report at the opening session of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. Full text available here: [https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/19thcpnationalcongress/2017-11/04/content\\_34115212.htm](https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/19thcpnationalcongress/2017-11/04/content_34115212.htm). The concept now underscores China’s medium- to long-term development vision.



UNDP is working to safeguard the balance of ecosystems through the protection and restoration of forests in Wuxi County where over 90% of the area is covered by mountains and hills.

Coal consumption – the primary emissions contributor, accounted for 53.2 per cent,<sup>14</sup> making it a critical area for reforms. Accelerated actions on energy savings and efficiency, as well as on effectively addressing emissions from other sectors – the hard-to-abate sectors, and other gases, including methane, are now critical for the whole of the economy transition to low carbon development consistent with domestic and international pledges.

**6.** Against this context, driving development through innovation has been identified as a key focus area by the Government. This and the above policy priorities and related reforms were reiterated during the Third Plenum.<sup>15</sup>

**7.** As the development pathway of China has evolved, so has its role as a development cooperation partner. Starting with the Third White Paper on International Development Cooperation (IDC) published in 2021,<sup>16</sup> China has begun to draw on international frameworks, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), for policies pertaining to its overseas development engagements. China continues to engage in South-South Cooperation. It has put forward the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund under the Global Development Initiative, a national policy to support global development and sustainability efforts in partnership with over 20 United Nations agencies and other international organisations, pledging \$4 billion since 2022.<sup>17</sup> China has also established the Kunming Biodiversity Fund with the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund in 2024 to support the

achievement of the 2050 goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly in developing countries.

**8.** The evaluation of the previous programme acknowledged the valued role UNDP continues to play in China, leveraging its mandate, comparative advantage, and limited resources. Among the key results areas, UNDP has a unique offer in facilitating South-South cooperation and North-South exchanges to advance sustainable development,<sup>18</sup> being a fertile testing ground for solutions to shared development challenges, from multidimensional poverty to biodiversity protection, as well as informing the policy and practice of the Government. At the same time, the role of UNDP as a trusted and careful advocate<sup>19</sup> on vulnerabilities and focus on the principle of leave no one behind (LNOB) was also recognized as important, building on a strong and deep network of partnerships across a variety of stakeholders, pivotal to deliver effective results.

<sup>14</sup>National Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Communiqué of the People's Republic of China on the 2024 National Economic and Social Development, 2025.

<sup>15</sup> Communiqué of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China

<sup>16</sup> State Council Information Office, China's International Development Cooperation in the New Era, 2021.

<sup>17</sup>Xinhua News Agency, "Forging High-quality Partnership For a New Era of Global Development -- Remarks by H.E. Xi Jinping President of the People's Republic of China At the High-level Dialogue on Global Development," 2022.

<sup>18</sup> UNDP, Independent Country Programme Evaluation China, Chapter 3

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., Chapter 2, Finding 3.



Participants of UNDP's HER Digital Future initiative learn how to apply STEM skills to address development challenges.

9. The evaluation also highlighted challenges, including a somewhat limited ability to attribute specific outcomes or impacts to UNDP, or to quantify the value of UNDP influence, given the vast scale of China, its strong institutions, rapid development progress and ownership over external assistance.

10. Moving forward, the evaluation recommended strengthening UNDP role as a convening platform between China and developing and developed partners for strategic opportunities to accelerate concerted actions towards the SDGs. This will include maintaining support for the transition of China to a low carbon economy, and promotion of the SDGs, with a strong focus on poor and vulnerable groups and the implications and risks of uneven development, through policy and advisory work, leveraging lessons from programming and an extensive network of expertise.<sup>20</sup>

11. In light of continuing and emerging development challenges in China, and its size and implications for the global sustainable development agenda, China is a critical actor in efforts to advance the SDGs at the speed and scale required in this last stretch towards the deadline of 2030. Therefore, the UNDP country programme, within the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2026–2030, aims to leverage national commitments and investments into sustainable development to maximize SDG impact, both domestically and overseas. This will include piloting and co-developing innovative development solutions, which can also provide valuable lessons with the potential to be applied in other developing contexts, helping to advance global SDG progress and the Pact for the Future.

12. Drawing on UNDP comparative advantages and lessons learned, building on past achievements and leveraging the shared



Residents in Chengdu promoting sustainable lifestyles as part of UNDP's annual ReThink innovation week.

timeline of both the SDGs and the next five-year plan for China, UNDP will contribute to three UNSDCF priorities:

- (a) accelerating the national transition to “high-quality development”, contributing to shared prosperity, leaving no one behind, and addressing new frontiers of sustainable development;
- (b) accelerating its transition towards a nature-positive and low carbon economy, working towards setting a strong basis to advance the Government’s dual carbon goals; and
- (c) strengthening partnerships with IDC stakeholders to enhance the SDG impact of IDC engagements.

13. The programme is fully aligned with national priorities and the SDGs commitments. In line with the stated priorities of the UNSDCF and leveraging its technical, coordination and governance strengths, UNDP will provide integrated policy advice, evidence-based solutions, and support implementation nationally and locally to advance the three priorities. UNDP will also facilitate two-way



Dongwo Village, one of 40 clean energy pilot villages across nine provinces, where UNDP is working to help advance China's low-carbon transition.

sharing of best practices and lessons learned between China and partner countries, enhancing collective efforts to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**14.** In doing so, strategic partnerships will be critical, both at the national and local levels. Key government counterparts and civil society organization partners include, but are not limited to, the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), Ministry of Finance (MOF), and All-China Women's Federation, All-China Youth Federation, China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA), Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA), Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Ministry of Water Resources (MWR), National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA), and People's Bank of China (PBOC).

**15.** These partnerships will be paired with deepened and expanded engagements with a broader set of stakeholders to drive sustainable change. Leveraging government financing, UNDP will co-design innovative blended finance instruments to unlock investment from financial institutions to accelerate scale and speed for SDG implementation. Using its convening role, UNDP will work closely with the corporate and financial sector in China, including with the Asia Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, China Export-Import Bank, and New Development Bank. Partnership with critical policy platforms, including the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED), will be strengthened for policy advisory on the acceleration of actions necessary. UNDP will collaborate with United Nations agencies, including through joint programming, leveraging the collective expertise of the United Nations system to enhance national contributions to multilateral platforms and global development agendas.



UNDP marked its global 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in China with a high-level reception attended by longstanding development partners.



## II. Programme Priorities and Partnerships

**16.** In the 2026–2030 cycle, UNDP emphasis will be on three critical levers of development for positive global impact of measurable local SDG actions at speed and scale. These will be mainstreamed throughout the three priorities of the country programme outlined under paragraphs 11 (a–c) above, in alignment with the UNSDCF.

**(a) Innovation:** UNDP will co-develop new models of development that shift away from traditional approaches to address new frontiers for sustainable development. This will include leveraging cutting-edge technologies and digital solutions to drive SDG progress, as well as prioritising the State Council designated national innovation demonstration zones for sustainable development (SDG Demo Zones)<sup>21</sup> and in major cities in China.

**(b) Systematic and integrated development approaches**<sup>22</sup> will be promoted by UNDP to comprehensively address multiple and compounding socio-economic and environmental development challenges. The programme will leverage UNDP global and regional assets, including Global Policy Network (GPN) Policy Centres and Hubs. Through United Nations multi-agency joint programmes and thematic collaborations, UNDP will support implementation of the UNSDCF and maximize impact, improve coordination, and deliver holistic solutions to complex SDG challenges at subnational levels, including by deploying the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme to strengthen project implementation in field offices and pilot demonstration sites.

**(c) Financing** to accelerate redirecting and aligning public and private finance for the SDGs through partnerships with financial

institutions, regulatory bodies and corporate sectors and leveraging UNDP comparative advantage in maximizing synergies across portfolios, through interconnected global hubs of expertise.

**17.** An integrated portfolio approach will be operationalised across outcome areas, which will leverage UNDP end-to-end signature solutions, and optimize limited resources. This aims to create synergies for sustainability and scale results for development impact over and beyond UNDP supported interventions. Also, UNDP integrates human rights into sustainable development programming.<sup>23</sup>

### Priority 1. Addressing new frontiers for sustainable human development

**18.** UNDP will focus on improving quality of life by contributing to “rural revitalization” in China, in particular the central and western regions,<sup>24</sup> reducing inequalities, empowering marginalized groups, and promoting comprehensive rural development. Emphasizing new frontiers for sustainable human development, UNDP will work on the just low carbon transition, the silver and care economy, the digital economy, and the future of work, to address vulnerabilities, across these areas. UNDP will specifically strengthen joint programming with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and apply a life-cycle approach to enhance participatory, sustainable, and resilient development opportunities in underdeveloped regions.

21 The State Council, Approvals for Specific SDG Demo Zones are Publicly Available.  
 22 CCICED, “Policy Recommendations to the Chinese Government at the 2024 Annual General Meeting”, 2024.  
 23 UNDP, Human Rights Mainstreaming, <https://www.undp.org/rolhr/human-rights/mainstreaming>  
 24 Xinhua News Agency, “China’s new push for rural reform, revitalization”, 2025, [https://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202502/24/content\\_WS67bbaa6ac6d0868f4e8efe7d.html](https://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202502/24/content_WS67bbaa6ac6d0868f4e8efe7d.html)

**19.** UNDP will focus on experimenting with innovative solutions in the State Council designated SDG Demo Zones and major cities in China, including (a) leveraging digital transformation, (b) testing adaptive policies, and (c) deploying next-generation financing models. Engagement in the demonstration zones will serve as living laboratories where new ideas can be piloted, refined, and the Government to take them to scale as well as generate valuable insights for partner countries towards future-ready, sustainable, and resilient societies.

**20.** UNDP will work to support digital transformation that does not exacerbate divides, which will require the adoption of adequate safeguards (including responsible application of Artificial Intelligence). This will help optimize resource allocation, promote meaningful participation of all levels of society and strengthen public and private accountability, enable real-time responses to shifting social and economic conditions, and expand economic opportunities for vulnerable populations.

**21.** UNDP will collaborate with China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchanges to support local governments to explore new policy mechanisms and engagement models that are aligned with its evolving development priorities. This includes adaptive social protection systems, regulatory sandboxes for emerging technology, and people-centred urbanization strategies that empower local communities to co-design solutions for housing, mobility, and green infrastructure. By embedding data-driven policymaking and participatory governance mechanisms, UNDP will help local and regional

governments become more agile, responsive, and leave no one behind.

**22.** By leveraging its SDG financing offer, UNDP will support innovative financing mechanisms and partnerships that unlock new resources to scale sustainable development progress for LNOB and maximize investments in the SDGs at the national and local levels. This includes blended financing instruments, social impact bonds and digital finance solutions that bridge across different public and private stakeholders such as development banks, domestic banks, and credit unions, as well as the corporate sector. UNDP will also work to integrate SDG principles into governance and business models of micro, small and medium enterprises, and women-owned businesses to facilitate participation in new market opportunities for sustainable and resilient economic growth.

**23.** In view that China produces almost 30 per cent of global manufacturing added value, UNDP will support governments towards transitioning businesses and industries to sustainable production and procurement practices and unlock both economic and environmental benefits that will accelerate SDG progress. Emphasis will be on the adoption of international Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards, and incorporation of low-carbon operational standards to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the supply chains.



An embroidery craftsman in Yunnan, beneficiary of a UNDP training initiative in e-commerce, demonstrating how to use digital functions on a mobile phone.

**24.** The aim is to support China in accelerating actions towards its dual carbon goals and the “Beautiful China” initiative, <sup>25</sup> as well as for enhanced contributions to and tangible progress on multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), including the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Global Biodiversity Framework, and Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

**25.** Advancing integrated approaches will be the key focus and feature of its work on the environmental dimensions of the SDGs, emphasising and leveraging the synergies across different sectoral priorities for enhanced co-benefits. UNDP will systematically work across efforts related to climate mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity protection, conservation and sustainable use of marine and marine resources, and sustainable livelihoods derived from sustainable ecosystems. The purpose will be to demonstrate development pathways that reduce disparities and decrease pressures on the environment.



Yi ethnic minority women in the village of Waipula, where UNDP has helped support women entrepreneurs to increase income levels and strengthen livelihoods.

## Priority 2. Accelerating the low carbon and nature-positive transition

**26.** In this context and building on its extensive portfolio, UNDP will contribute to informing an ambitious trajectory to carbon neutrality. This will include advising on and testing innovative approaches to decarbonisation and decoupling growth from emissions, including promoting the green hydrogen economy and enhancing energy efficiency and savings.



UNDP is supporting local communities across 27 provinces in China to reduce pollution and protect the environment through circular economy practices.

**27.** UNDP will pursue pilots in areas where room for improvement is the largest and has the biggest potential for a low carbon and nature-positive transition, including in hard-to-abate sectors and resource-rich areas.

**28.** UNDP will continue to promote a circular economy to eliminate waste and enable continual use in emerging sectors, by enhancing innovative green sustainable supply chain management and adoption of standards, policies, and regulations on chemicals management. Leveraging technologies and digitalisation, UNDP will promote sustainable production and consumption, as well as regulatory changes, at the intersection of environmental protection, the fight against pollution, and people’s wellbeing.

**29.** UNDP will promote the integration of the marine economy into sub-national development strategies, explore synergies between marine and land economies, promote the green and low carbon transformation of traditional industries and develop innovative financial instruments for investments that strengthen the economic livelihood of local communities and enhance the sustainable use of marine ecosystems. UNDP will conduct natural and marine science outreach to raise public awareness and engagement in marine conservation to support marine ecological restoration projects, including the rehabilitation of coastal wetlands, seaweed beds, and coral reefs.

**30.** The focus on a just and inclusive low carbon transition remains central to leave no one behind. UNDP will bring forward innovation, informing policy making to ensure social considerations, including targeting women and vulnerable and marginalised groups, are systematically and coherently included in the process. Among others, beneficiaries will be urban and rural communities and those affected in the transition of critical sectors linked to fossil fuels, hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and persistent organic pollutants (POPs).



Geese in Chongming Dongtan Bird Nature Reserve, a UNESCO World Natural Heritage site where UNDP is working with partners to strengthen wetland protection, low-carbon development, and efforts to provide sustainable funding for ecological conservation.

**31.** UNDP will continue promoting signature nature-based solutions for healthy ecosystems that can also act as carbon sinks, generating a virtuous cycle between environmental protection and nature-related efforts. UNDP will co-design technology-led solutions to facilitate the transition from nature negative to nature positive and improve the management of natural resources and ecosystems. For example, UNDP will address unsustainable agricultural practices to reduce soil and water pollution and address rural sewage and black-odorous water bodies with nature-based solutions.

**32.** Redirecting greater investment and finance towards the environmental dimensions of the SDGs will also be critical for speed and scale, building on China's advancements in green finance. Through its extensive global capacities, UNDP will promote partnerships with domestic financial institutions, regulatory bodies, and corporate sectors to inform, among others, on green and SDG-aligned fiscal policy options, and mechanisms such as carbon pricing and emissions trading, aiming at strengthening resilience against environmental risks. UNDP will also explore innovative solutions towards enhancing commercial finance participation through blended instruments and tools.

### Priority 3. South-South Development Partnerships to drive SDG impact

**33.** UNDP will accelerate the pivot towards integrated approaches and enhanced emphasis on strategic multilateral partnerships for global development. The aim is to maximize the sustainable development impact of the international development cooperation engagements of the country, to advance the SDGs globally through mutual learning, demand driven approaches and based on best practices.

**34.** UNDP will serve as a connecting platform to channel the demand, need and experience across partner countries and regions and link them - through South-South and trilateral cooperation partnerships - into the expertise and financing of China as well as its experience in developing innovative and replicable development solutions. Complementing the traditional North-South cooperation of development assistance,<sup>26</sup> the partnerships will contribute to the implementation of the SDGs and global public goods.

**35.** UNDP will work with key Chinese stakeholders to inform their IDC policies and practices to strengthen contributions to sustainable development outcomes, effectively responding to development and humanitarian demands of partners, particularly those of vulnerable populations, while advancing the principles of leaving no one behind.



Through South-South Cooperation, farmers in Sri Lanka are receiving support from UNDP China to lower GHG emissions using biogas & solar technologies.

**36.** This will include providing analytical and policy advisory support on IDC policies, financing mechanisms, and implementation strategies, with a focus on aligning them with international standards and best practices.

**37.** UNDP will also provide capacity-building support for Chinese IDC stakeholders on SDG-aligned result-based management approaches.

**38.** UNDP will advise Chinese institutions on piloting scalable sectoral development solutions through South-South Cooperation in areas such as poverty alleviation, green development, disaster risk reduction and digital economy.

**39.** Partnerships for scale with Chinese financial sector stakeholders and international financial institutions will be further explored to redirect and mobilize resources to narrow the global SDG financing gap. UNDP will aim to enhance synergies and co-benefits across various funding sources, in collaboration with development banks and IDC stakeholders.



Beneficiaries of a UNDP China supported South-South Cooperation initiative in Sri Lanka showcase their cattle during an on-site field visit.



### III. Programme and Risk Management

**40.** This country programme document outlines UNDP contributions to national results. It serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. This country programme is mainly funded through other resources, including global environmental funds and domestic resources from subnational governments and the private sector in line with laws and regulations of China. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarter levels with respect to country programmes are defined in the UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures and its Internal Control Frameworks.

**41.** The programme will be nationally executed. If necessary, national execution may be replaced by direct execution for part or all of the programme in case of force majeure. The Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT), will be used in coordination with other United Nations organizations to manage financial risks. Cost definitions and classifications for programme and development projects effectiveness will be charged to the relevant projects.

**42.** This programme will adopt a two-tier risk framework:

**(a) social and environmental risks:** disasters and environmental degradation could have significant impacts on vulnerable rural communities, social and environmental standards will stand to guide mitigation response; and

**(b) operational risks:** economic uncertainties surrounding evolving policy environment, UNDP will maintain a high-degree of agility and capacities to adapt, including building up early warning systems and strong business continuity plan.

**43.** In response to the aforementioned risks, UNDP adheres to the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) policy and accountability framework to ensure foresight and risk-informed decision-making at both the programme and project levels, engaging a diverse range of stakeholders and beneficiaries.

Its risk management framework is integrated and systematic, designed to enhance programme effectiveness and relevance while safeguarding its reputation as a value-driven and risk-aware entity. By embedding risk considerations into its operational and strategic processes, the programme remains proactive in identifying challenges and developing innovative solutions to both organizational and development-related risks.

**44.** Complementing this approach, UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES) reinforce its commitment to maximizing social and environmental benefits while preventing, minimizing, mitigating, and managing potential adverse impacts, ensuring that all interventions are implemented in alignment with the national regulations of partner, upholding sustainable and responsible development practices that contribute to long-term resilience and inclusivity.

**45.** Recognizing the status of China as an upper middle-income (UMIC) country and considering its transition towards becoming a high-income country, the country programme envisions a gradual exit strategy from its current form towards an evolved presence and programmatic footprint.



An evaluation team member interviews a project beneficiary in Shaanxi Province. UNDP's rigorous evaluation methodology emphasizes on-the-ground engagement, including direct interviews with beneficiaries to ensure credibility and integrity.



