

Terms of Reference for **Outcome Evaluation on Xiaokang/MDGs and Gender**

A. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Since 1979, with the introduction of reforms and open-up policies, China's GDP has grown at an average of 9.8 percent per annum, per capita income has increased fifty-fold and some 500 million people have been lifted out of poverty. As highlighted by the 2008 MDG progress report, many targets have been achieved seven years in advance of 2015, including those relating to the eradication of poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education and reducing under-five mortality rates. China is also on track to reduce maternal mortality and control HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, with good hopes of achieving these MDG targets by 2015. China's Human Development Index (HDI) has improved twice as fast as other countries at the same level of development in 1980, increasing from 0.553 to 0.763 in 2007. And since 1980, the per capita GDP (PPP value) has increased tenfold from US\$ 312 to US\$ 3,266. Yet, as pointed out by the UN China Common Country Assessment (CCA), and as detailed in the MDG progress report, there remain a number of significant national development challenges that need to be addressed for China to meet its MDG targets and retain and equitably distribute the benefits of the remarkable gains achieved in recent years.

In recognition of the development challenges, in 2003 the Government of China redefined its national development vision to 'Xiaokang', or an all-round, balanced and good society for all by 2020. In addition to the quadrupling of per capita incomes, Xiaokang advocates for the 'scientific outlook on development' focusing on achieving 'five balances' - between urban and rural areas; regions; economic and social development; people and nature; and between domestic development and 'opening up'. China's strong political commitment to focus on human-centered development presents a unique opportunity for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to support the country's long-term reform efforts through a range of knowledge-based interventions throughout the 11th Five Year Plan period (2006-2010).

In the UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD) for China (2006-2010), UNDP and the Government of China agreed to work together to achieve ten development outcomes in China during the Country Programme (CP) cycle (2006-2010). 2010 is the last year of the current UNDP Country Programme in China. It is therefore good time to look back vis-à-vis what results have been achieved, including best practices and lessons learned. In this connection, UNDP and the government have decided to conduct an outcome evaluation on UNDP's efforts in areas of supporting to Xiaokang/MDGs and promoting gender equality.

B. EVALUATION PURPOSE

The main purposes of the outcome evaluation are to (i) assess the key results that have been achieved with UNDP support in the past few years and (ii) summarize the best practices and lessons learned in achieving the results. Specifically, the following UNDP Country Programme (CP) outcomes will be covered by the evaluation:

CP Outcome 1:	Xiaokang/MDG concepts and indicators integrated into national and provincial development vision, policies and plans.
CP Outcome 2:	National efforts to lead and manage Xiaokang/MDG implementation supported through a variety of instruments and capacity building initiatives.
CP Outcome 5:	Capacities to pursue gender-equity efforts enhanced through advocacy, gender sensitive analysis and implementation.

C. EVALUATION SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

In late 2009 and early 2010, the UNDP Evaluation Office (EO) commissioned an Assessment of Development Results (ADR) in China. Since the ADR assessment has already covered several important dimensions of the UNDP Country Programme in China from a results perspective, the outcome evaluation will use the ADR as the foundation.

During the outcome evaluation, the evaluation team will look at the following key projects that are expected to contribute to the above-mentioned outcomes.

Project title	Award ID	Project ID	Project Duration	Implementing Partner (IP)/Cooperating agency(ies)
All-round Xiaokang	32759	33756	2005-2010	CICETE/NDRC
Fiscal Reform	36548	39815	2006-2010	CICETE/MOF, SAT
Land Reform	45813	54218	2006-2010	CICETE/MOLR, China Institute of Reform and Development
Migrant Workers	47308	56779	2007-2010	CICETE/MOLSS,NDRC
YEM	56970	70148	2009-2011	CICETE/NDRC, Ministry of Civil Affairs
Advanced Leadership	34876	37316	2008-2010	CICETE/Organizational Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China
Science and Technology Support to Poverty Reduction (TTF)	43420	50692	2006-2010	MOST
UN Joint Programme on Culture and Development	51447	64069	2009-2011	SEAC
Ethnic Minority Poverty Reduction	44494	52371	2006-2010	SEAC
Green Poverty Reduction	44274	51952	2006-2012	CICETE/Hainan, Shanxi, Xinjiang, Mentougou
HRD and Gov't Capacity Building	44659	52605	2006-2011	CICETE
HRD in NE&W China	44660	52606	2006-2010	CICETE/MOHRSS
Project title	Award ID	Project ID	Project Duration	Implementing Partner (IP)
Promoting Women's Equal Rights		00054242	2007-2008	Civil Society

and Participation in Local Governance				Organizations, National Institutions
UN Joint Programme: Preventing and Responding to Domestic Violence in China through a Multi-sectoral Approach	00058301	00072377	2009-2011	All China Women's Federation, Ministry of Justice
Gender responsive budgeting seminar with ACWF, NWCCW, National Statistics Bureau and Ministry of Finance			August 2007	
Launch of the 'Asia-Pacific Human Development Report on Gender: Power, Voice and Rights' at the 100 th International Women's Day with ACWF			March 2010	
Mitigating the Negative Impacts of HIV and AIDS on Human Development	00048790	00059074	2007-2011	National Population and Family Planning Commission
Addressing the Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS and Furthering a Multi Sector Response to HIV/AIDS in China	00048684	00058943	2007-2011	Multi-IP

Moreover, the evaluation team will also look at some key non-project activities, such as policy advice and dialogues, knowledge building and sharing initiatives, etc.

D. EVALUATION QUESTIONS

During the outcome evaluation, the evaluation team is expected to answer the following questions:

General questions

- Were the intended outcomes achieved?
- What progress towards the outcomes has been made?
- What factors have contributed to achieving or not achieving intended outcomes?
- To what extent have UNDP's outputs and assistance contributed to the intended outcomes?
- Has the UNDP partnership strategy been appropriate and effective?
- What factors contributed to effectiveness or ineffectiveness?

Gender-specific questions

- What are the key contributions of UNDP towards gender mainstreaming and equality in China?
- What are the main best practices and lessons learned in UNDP's promoting gender mainstreaming and equality in China?

E. METHODOLOGY

During the outcome evaluation, the evaluation team may use the following approaches for collecting data and information:

- Desk review of related documents
- Interviews/meetings with concerned managers, staff, partners, stakeholders, beneficiaries, etc.
- Field visits
- Briefing and debriefing with UNDP China and the government

F. EVALUATION PRODUCTS (DELIVERABLES)

The evaluation team is expected to produce the following products (deliverables) during/after the evaluation mission.

Evaluation inception report - An inception report shall be prepared by the evaluators before going into the full-fledged data collection exercise. It should detail the evaluators' understanding of what is being evaluated and why, showing how each evaluation question will be answered by way of: proposed methods, proposed sources of data and data collection procedures. The inception report should include a proposed schedule of tasks, activities and deliverables, designating a team member with the lead responsibility for each task or product. The inception report provides UNDP China and the evaluators with an opportunity to verify that they share the same understanding about the evaluation and clarify any misunderstanding at the outset.

Draft evaluation report - UNDP China and the key partners and stakeholders in the evaluation will review the draft evaluation report to ensure that the evaluation meets the required quality criteria (see Annex 1).

Final evaluation report - The team leader of the evaluation is responsible for producing the final evaluation report and submitting it to UNDP China on a timely basis (as per the standard format in Annex 2).

G. EVALUATION TEAM COMPOSITION AND REQUIRED COMPETENCIES

The evaluation team will consist of two consultants: one international consultant (as team leader) and one national consultant (as team member). The international consultant should have an advanced university degree and at least ten years of work experience in the field of development. The team leader will take the overall responsibility for the quality and duly submission of the evaluation report in English.

Specifically, the international consultant (team leader) will perform the following tasks:

- Lead and manage the evaluation mission;
- Design the detailed evaluation scope and methodology (including the methods for data collection and analysis);
- Decide the division of labor within the evaluation team;
- Conduct an analysis of the outcome, outputs and partnership strategy (as per the scope of the evaluation described above);
- Draft related parts of the evaluation report; and
- Finalize the whole evaluation report and submit it to UNDP.

The national consultant will perform the following tasks with a focus on China-specific analysis:

- Liaise with Chinese project authorities; collect and translate, when necessary, project materials;
- Introduce Chinese background information to the international consultant;

- Review project documents particularly including those in Chinese;
- Participate in the design of the evaluation methodology;
- Conduct an analysis of the outcome, outputs and partnership strategy (as per the scope of the evaluation described above); and
- Draft related parts of the evaluation report.

H. EVALUATION ETHICS

The evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation, the UNEG Norms for Evaluation in the UN System, and the UNEG Standards for Evaluation in the UN System. The evaluation team must get permission from UNDP China and the government if it would like to collect and disclose sensitive data and information.

I. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

To facilitate the outcome evaluation, UNDP China will set up an Evaluation Focal Team (EFT), which will provide both substantive and logistical support to the evaluation team.

During the evaluation, UNDP China will help identify the key partners for interviews by the evaluation team. The international consultant (team leader) and the national consultant (team member) will each work for four weeks for the evaluation

J. TIMEFRAME FOR THE EVALUATION PROCESS

The timeframe for the specific tasks/activities is as follows:

Task/Activity	Timeframe
Evaluation design	Week 1
Desk review of existing documents	Week 1
Briefing with UNDP China	Week 1
Evaluation inception report	Week 1
Interviews with UNDP and partners	Week 2-3
Field visit	Week 2-3
Drafting of the evaluation report	Week 3
Debriefing with UNDP China	Week 3
Finalization of the evaluation report	Week 4

K. COST

The costs to be incurred by the evaluation will be borne by the projects concerned.

L. ANNEXES

Annex 1: UNDP Handbook on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluating for Development Results (2009) – Annex 7. Evaluation Report Template and Quality Standards

Annex 2: Documents to be reviewed by the evaluators

- UNDP Guidelines for Outcome Evaluators

- UNEG Norms for Evaluation in the UN System
- UNEG Standards for Evaluation in the UN System
- UNDP Country Programme Document for China (2006-2010)
- Assessment of Development Results (ADR) for UNDP in China (2010)
- Project Documents, briefs, reports, etc.

- End -