

**Experiences and Enlightenment from
Targeted Poverty Alleviation Measures of China**

Master of International Studies

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Resumo

A pobreza existe em muitos países e é um problema mundial que precisa de solução urgente. Como a segunda maior economia do mundo, a China conseguiu tirar mais de 0,8 bilhão de pessoas da pobreza nas últimas décadas. No entanto, quanto menos população pobre sobrar, mais difícil resolver o problema. Em 2013, o presidente chinês Xi Jinping propôs medidas de “Alívio Direcionado à Pobreza” para instruir ainda mais o processo de redução da pobreza na China, para garantir que toda a população pobre saia da pobreza em 2020.

Esta tese concentra-se principalmente nas medidas “Alívio Direcionado à Pobreza”, para estudar os antecedentes, a concepção, o mecanismo e o uso específico dessas medidas, e ainda mais para concluir sua característica de obter experiências e esclarecimentos.

Palavras Chave: Alívio Direcionado à Pobreza, China, Áreas Contíguas da Pobreza, Região Tibetana de Sichuan

Abstract

Poverty exists in many countries and is a worldwide problem that needs urgent solution. As the second largest economy in the world, China has successfully lifted more than 0.8 billion population out of poverty in the past decades. However, the less poor population left, more difficult to solve the problem. In 2013, the Chinese president Xi Jinping proposed “Targeted Poverty Alleviation” Measures to further instruct the poverty reduction process of China, to make sure all poor population get out of poverty in 2020.

This thesis mainly focus on “Targeted Poverty Alleviation” Measures, to study the background, the conception, the mechanism, and specific using of these measures, further more to make conclusion on its characteristic to gain experiences and enlightenments.

Key Words: Targeted Poverty Alleviation, China, Contiguous Poverty-Stricken Areas, Sichuan Tibetan Region

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1. Introduction

My very first idea of doing this research came from the “International Organizations, ONGs and Social Movements” academic unit of this International Studies Master. Thanks to Professor Clara Carvalho from ISCTE-IUL for introduced the conception of Millennium Development Goals (2000—2015)¹ and Sustainable Development Goals (2015—2030)² of the United Nations in the beginning of the course. It was until that time, I noticed that “Poverty Alleviation” is one of the most important issues nowadays in the worldwide, that we could find out both of two Programs put poverty eradication in the very first position. According to the World Bank, the global poverty population declined from 1.922 billion in 1990 to 1.011 billion in 2011 (living on below US\$1.25 a day, 2005 PPP); on the other side it also means that poverty still exist surrounding where we are living now and need us to make more effort together to eradicate it in the next decades. The reason of choosing topic of “poverty alleviation” for my research study to investigate includes multi dimensions. One of the main motives is that I want to understand how the “no poverty” goal being realized through international society efforts, especially in China, which has contributed nearly 70% percent of poverty alleviation population in the world (UN MDG Report, 2015); while there also has another reason that as a Chinese, I have experienced China’s fast development and got great success in social economic in the last several decades, in the meantime I witnessed some social problems like inequality and poverty are still important issues need to be pay attention. In particular the poverty alleviation area, unlike the social equality can be improved by constant policy adjustment, the occurrence of poverty has multi reasons both subjective and objective.

In 2013, the Chinese president Xi Jinping proposed “Targeted Poverty Alleviation” ideology to instruct the poverty alleviation work for the next decades. This research

¹ Source: <https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

² Source: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

study mainly focuses on China’s “Targeted Poverty Alleviation Measures” for background, to further investigate experiences and enlightenments from this progress.

2. Background Study

2.1 Historical process of poverty alleviation in China

If we want to clear the reason of China implementing “Targeted Poverty Alleviation” measures, we have to understand why the poverty exists in China and how serious it is. Trace back to 1949, after the new China regime was established, China was almost totally destroyed by the World War II and Liberation War (Civil War). The people were struggling with hungry all the time, not to mention there was no matured industry system that could produce enough products for people’s daily life.³ So generally speaking, it could be divided into six phases of poverty alleviation process since establish of the new China (Liu, Guo, & Zhou, 2017)(Zhou, Guo, Liu, Wu, & Li, 2018).

Year	1978 Standard			2008 Standard			2010 Standard		
	Poverty line (yuan)	Poor population (million)	Headcount ratio (%)	Poverty line (yuan)	Poor population (million)	Headcount ratio (%)	Poverty line (yuan)	Poor population (million)	Headcount ratio (%)
1978	100	250	30.7				366	770.39	97.5
1980	130	220	26.8				403	765.42	96.2
1985	206	125	15.5				482	661.01	78.3
1990	300	85	9.4				807	658.49	73.5
1995	530	65.4	7.1				1,511	554.63	60.5
2000	625	32.09	3.5	865	94.22	10.2	1,528	462.24	49.8
2005	683	23.65	2.5	944	64.32	6.8	1,742	286.62	30.2
2008				1,196	40.7	4.2	2,172		
2010				1,274	26.88	2.8	2,300	165.67	17.2
2011							2,536	122.38	12.7
2012							2,625	98.99	10.2
2013							2,736	92.49	8.5
2014							2,800	70.17	7.2
2015							2,855	55.75	5.7
2016							2,952	43.35	4.5

Notes: 1978 Standard includes rural poverty standard (1978-1999) and absolute poverty standard (2000-2007); 2008 Standard includes rural low-income standard (2000-2007) and rural poverty standard (2008-2010); and 2010 Standard is the new standard of rural poverty alleviation in China

Chart. 1. Rural poor population in China between 1978 and 2010

Source: Department of Household Surveys of National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of China (2016)

³ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_history_of_China_\(1949-present\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_history_of_China_(1949-present))

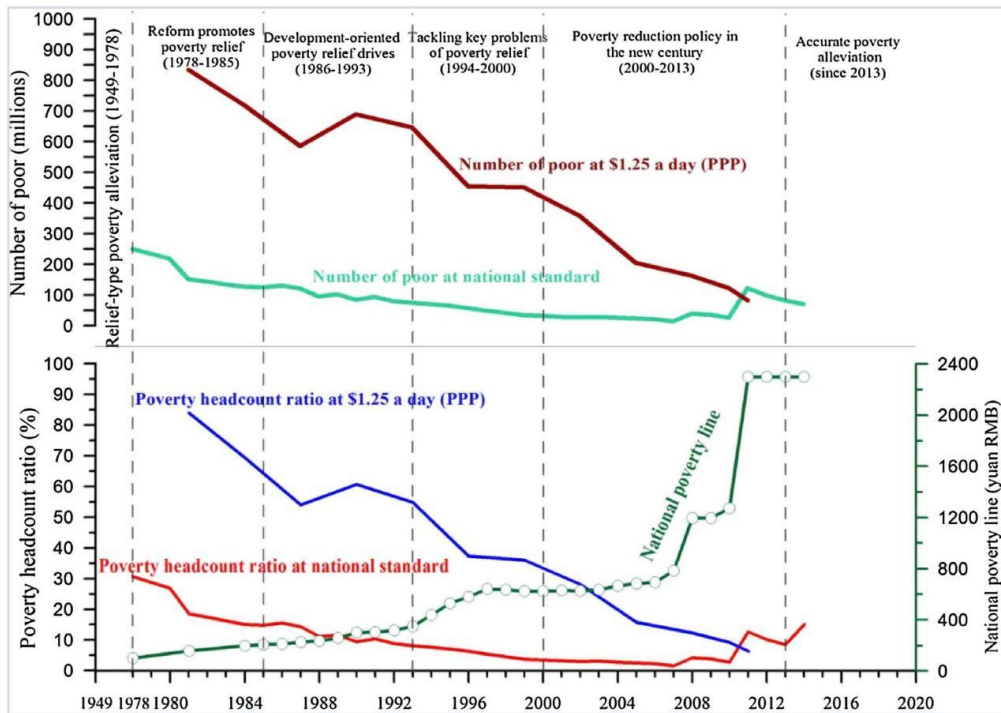


Figure.1. Major poverty alleviation policy/program in China

Sources: NBS, 2015; <http://povertydata.worldbank.org/poverty/country/CHN>

2.1.1 Planned economy antipoverty (1949-1977)

The first phase was from 1949 to 1977. In this period, the mainly task was to make sure no one died because of hungry. But due to a series of natural and man-made disasters such as Anti-US aid war in Korea between 1950 and 1953, three years of natural disasters between 1959 and 1962, and ten years of Cultural Revolution between 1966 and 1976, the poverty alleviation movement was not very effective. There were still 250 million rural poor populations in China by the end of 1977. In December of 1978, The Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China held in Beijing. The Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping decided to implement reform and opening up policy in China, hoping that economic growth could lead the majority Chinese people get rid of poverty.⁴

⁴ <https://baike.baidu.com/item/中国共产党第十一届中央委员会第三次全体会议>[ZHONG GUO GONG CHAN DANG DI SHI YI JIE ZHONG YANG WEI YUAN HUI DI SAN CI QUAN TI HUI YI]

2.1.2 Reform and opening-up extensive development (1978-1985)

The second phase was from 1978 to 1985. During this period, with Deng Xiaoping's Reform and Opening-Up Policy, a lot of labor force moved from rural to city to help urbanization development. In the mid-1980s, the rapid rise of the township enterprises in rural China broken the pattern of the single agricultural investment and employment system and improved the rural economic structure. In this period, the rural surplus labor force began to transfer to non-agricultural employment and the sources of farmers' income diversified, which effectively alleviate poverty (Fan et al., 2004; Park and Wang, 2010). The rural extreme poverty population decreased from 250 million to 125 million with official poverty line (Wang Sangui, 2004), which showed a result of huge success of the economic growth in China.

2.1.3 Development-oriented poverty-relief drives (1986-1993)

The third phase was from 1986 to 1993. At that time, the basic poverty line for selecting the National Poor Counties was the rural net income per capita of below 150 Yuan, and 200 Yuan for old revolutionary regions (refers to the revolutionary base regions created by the Communist Party of China and the old generation of proletarian revolutionaries such as Mao Zedong during the War of the Agrarian Revolution and the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression. It is distributed in more than 1,300 counties (cities, districts) of 28 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government except Xinjiang, Qinghai and Tibet) and minority autonomous areas (refers to the areas where ethnic minorities live together majorly in central and west of China.), even further relaxed to 300 Yuan for counties in very important revolutionary regions and minority autonomous areas in Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, and Qinghai in 1988 (300 Yuan equivalent to about 100 dollars in 1985, but still not enough to buy necessary goods for living due to lack of material). The poverty population of rural China decreased from 125 million in 1986 to 80 million in 1993 (Wang Sangui, 2004).

2.1.4 National Eight-Seven Poverty Alleviation Plan (1994-2000)

The fourth phase was from 1994 to 2000. During this period, the “Eight-Seven Plan” came out. According to State Council Poverty Alleviation Office, the "Eight-Seven Plan" is the first time in the history of New China that has clear goals, clear targets, clear measures and clear deadlines for the Poverty alleviation Development Action Plan: from 1994 to 2000, centralize human, material, financial, and mobilize all sectors of society, strive to use seven years or so to basically solve the problem of lacking food and clothing for 80 million poor people in rural areas across the country (Xiaojian, 2014). Within the “Eight-Seven Plan”, the Chinese government raised the poverty line to 700 Yuan and finally designated 592 counties, which accounted for about 28 percent of all county-level administrative units in China. The majority of the goals of the “Eight-Seven Plan” had been achieved by 2000 with rural net income per capita in National Poor Counties increased from 648 Yuan in 1993 to 1,337 Yuan in 2000; Meanwhile, the population living below the poverty line continued to decline to 32 million(Wang Sangui, 2004).

2.1.5 Village based poverty alleviation (2001-2012)

The fifth phase was from 2001 to 2012. In 2001, the Chinese government formulated and implemented “Outline of China's Rural Poverty Alleviation and Development (2001-2010)”, which shifted the focus of county level poverty alleviation to village level. About 148,000 poor villages were identified based on production, living conditions and farmers’ health and education status for each village (Wang, 2007). In 2006, China ended the agricultural tax that has been last for two thousands of years. In 2011, the Chinese government formulated and implemented again “The Outline for Development-Oriented Poverty alleviation for China’s Rural Areas (2011-2020)”.

2.1.6 Targeted poverty alleviation (since 2013)

The latest phase came with the ideology “Targeted Poverty Alleviation” proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013 during his inspection to the Shibadong Village

of Xiangxi Tujia and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, Hunan Province.⁵The basic instructions are “Seek truth from facts, Adapt to local conditions, Classify the guidance, and Target poverty alleviation” This was the first time the ideology “Targeted Poverty Alleviation” was proposed.

2.2 Reason of implementing “Targeted Poverty Alleviation” measures

With the country’s continuing rapid development, more than 600 million Chinese people have got out of poverty in the last four decades and China (National Bureau of Statistics, 2018) has also become the first country in the world to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals of halving the poverty population. However, under this great success, there are still more than 70 million people in China who are in poverty (until 2013). China proposal the goal that eradicate the total extreme poverty in 2020⁶, which means each year has to help 12 million people get out of poverty, each month 1 million. The task is obvious quite hard. "In the past, when a policy was introduced, a group of people were able to get rid of poverty and become rich. However, what left now are “hard bones”, which means it is more and more difficult to reduce poverty." Liu Yongfu, the Party Secretary and Director of the Office of Poverty Alleviation of the State Council said.⁷

2.3 Conception of “Targeted Poverty Alleviation” measures

The conception of Targeted Poverty Alleviation has been gradually enriched year by year. However, the basic conception includes six accurate measures (Liuge Jingzhun), five batches (Wuge Yipi), ten poverty alleviation projects (Shida Gongcheng) and six actions (Liuxiang Xingdong). Six accurate measures are: accurate poverty identification, appropriate projects arrangement, accurate use of funds, accurate implementation of helping measures, and sending the helping carders

⁵Xiangxi Prefecture covers 7 counties and has 3 million residents. The majority ethnics are Tujia and Miao people. The Shibadong village is a typical mountain area poverty-stricken district.

⁶2021 is the 100th year establishment of the Communist Party of China

⁷Press conference on the work of poverty alleviation during the 13th Five-Year Plan, the Information Office of the State Council, December 15, 2015

to poverty-stricken villages and households to ensure the accuracy of the effect of poverty alleviation(Li et al., 2016).Five batches refers to: supporting the poor households who have the ability to work to develop their industries; relocating ten million of the poor in remote areas with harsh living condition to more hospitable villages or towns; implementing ecological compensation policies to lift those people who live in the ecologically reserve out of poverty; preventing the intergenerational transmission of poverty by strengthening education; and helping the physical disability and social groups with special difficulties out of poverty through the guarantee of social security (Wang, 2016).The ten antipoverty projects include: the vocational education and training, helping cadres residency in impoverished villages, microfinance, ex situ poverty alleviation relocation, e-commerce, tourism, photovoltaic power generation, papyrifera planting, entrepreneurship training of the rich leaders and leading enterprises driving poverty alleviation(Zhou, Guo, Liu, Wu, & Li, 2018). The six actions for antipoverty include: poverty alleviation through strengthen education, which aims to block the intergenerational transmission of poverty; health poverty alleviation, which aims to prevent people from falling into poverty due to illness; financial poverty alleviation, which aims to solve the problems of difficult and expensive loans for poor households who have willingness and abilities to develop and support them getting rid of poverty through the development of industry; service cooperation docking, which aims to encourage the eastern regions and large and medium-sized cities to absorb the employment of the poor labor force, and promote the employment of the poor; 100 counties and 10,000 villages project, which aims to improve the infrastructure facilities in 108 poverty-stricken counties and solve the water circuit problems of the poor people in 10,000 poor villages through some central enterprises; and ten thousand enterprises help 10,000 villages, which organizes more than 10,000 private enterprises to help 10,000 impoverished villages (Zhou, Guo, Liu, Wu, & Li, 2018).

What more, the series of conception also include implementing policies according to the classification policy, to people's local policy, to poverty reasons, and to the type

of poverty, extensively mobilize all social forces to participate in poverty alleviation (Xi Jinping, 2013).

3. Literature Review

3.1 Theoretical Study--National Poverty Alleviation System⁸

Poverty alleviation is a systematic project entailing a set of supporting policies and mechanisms as well as full participation of the entire society. Since 2012 the Chinese government has kept up funding for poverty alleviation and reduction, implemented reforms and innovations to the working mechanism, encouraged all sectors of society to participate in poverty alleviation efforts, and improved the democratic supervision mechanism to ensure the effectiveness of poverty alleviation.

The National Poverty Alleviation System of China was being improved and development year by year. Now, it could be regard as nine aspects: goal, responsibility, work, policy, input, social mobilization, social organization, supervision, and assessment.

3.1.1 Goal

According to the 13th Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development, the general goal of poverty alleviation is that by 2020, the rural poor will be able to achieve stability without worrying about food and clothing, and compulsory education, basic medical care and housing safety will be guaranteed. The per capita disposable income of farmers in poverty-stricken areas has increased faster than the national average, and the indicators in the main areas of basic public services are close to the national average. Ensure that the whole rural poverty-stricken population can be lifted out of poverty according to the current national poverty line, with all the poor

⁸ Hu Fuguo, 2018, Understanding China's poverty alleviation battle (读懂中国脱贫攻坚), Foreign language publishing house, ISBN: 9787119115665

counties shaking off poverty and overall regional poverty being properly addressed (Tan, 2018). The basic requirements and key indicators for poverty alleviation are that rural poor people are free from worries over food and clothing and have access to compulsory education, basic medical services and safe housing by 2020.⁹

3.1.2 Responsibility

CPC Central Committee takes responsibility for policy formulation, project planning, fund preparation, assessment and evaluation, and overall operations planning; Provincial governments take general responsibility for target determination, project release, capital investment, organization mobilization, inspection guidance, etc.; Cities and towns execute job of implementation; make progress arrangements, project implementation, and use of funds, manpower deployment, and implementation (Xi Jinping, 2015).

3.1.3 Method

According to Liu Yongfu¹⁰, The basic requirements and main approaches of targeted poverty alleviation are six accurate measures and five batches. To achieve the poverty alleviation on time for the poor, all the poor counties removed their hats, the basic strategy of precision poverty alleviation must be implemented, and the current poverty alleviation ideas and methods must be reformed from value GDP to the effectiveness of poverty alleviation, and solve well a series of issues especially "who support", "who help", "how to support", and "how to retreat".

3.1.4 Policy

From 1994, the Chinese government has promoted the progress of poverty alleviation through the continuous introduction of a series of poverty alleviation policies. From the National Eight-Seven Poverty Alleviation Plan (1994-2000) to the

⁹ Outline of the 13th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China

¹⁰ Press conference on the work of poverty alleviation during the 13th Five-Year Plan, the Information Office of the State Council, December 15, 2015

Outline of China's Rural Poverty Alleviation and Development (2001-2010) and Outline of China's Rural Poverty Alleviation and Development (2011-2020), etc. But the most significant one is the Decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council on winning the fight against poverty introduced by 2015, which regard this poverty alleviation process in China as a battle, clarified the general goal, basic principles and specific measures.

3.1.5 Funds

Financial special poverty alleviation funds are arranged by China's national fiscal budget to support rural poverty-stricken areas, ethnic minority areas, border areas, state-owned poor farms, state-owned poor forest farms, and Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps poverty-stricken areas (hereinafter referred to as “regions”) in rural poverty-stricken areas, ethnic minority areas, border areas, provinces (autonomous regions, municipalities). Special funds are using for accelerating economic and social development, improving the basic production and living conditions of poverty alleviation targets, enhancing their self-development capabilities, helping to raise income levels, and promoting the elimination of rural poverty.¹¹

3.1.6 Social mobilization

The social mobilization part could be divided into three strategies: special project poverty alleviation, industrial poverty alleviation, and social poverty alleviation.¹²Special project poverty alleviation includes ex-situ poverty alleviation and relocation, village-wide advancement, work-for-aid, industrial poverty alleviation, employment promotion, poverty alleviation pilots, and construction of old revolutionary areas; Industrial poverty alleviation includes clarifying departmental responsibilities, developing characteristic industries, developing science and

¹¹<https://baike.baidu.com/item/财政专项扶贫资金/20494731?fr=aladdin>

¹²Hu Fuguo, 2018, Understanding China's poverty alleviation battle (读懂中国脱贫攻坚), Foreign language publishing house, ISBN: 9787119115665

technology to help the poor, improving infrastructure, developing education and cultural undertakings, improving public health and population service management, improving social security systems, and rationally utilizing energy and ecological environment construction; Social poverty alleviation includes strengthening targeted poverty alleviation, advancing poverty alleviation cooperation between the eastern and western regions, giving play to the role of the military and armed police departments, and mobilizing enterprises and all sectors of society to participate in poverty alleviation.¹³

3.1.7 Motivation

The combination of poverty alleviation, aspiration, and wisdom will strengthen endogenous motivation and improve development capacity. It is necessary to establish the concept of self-reliance in poor households, resolutely eliminate self-confidence in poverty and the idea of "waiting for help" lazy, and improve the initiative of poor households (Jin, 2018).

3.1.8 Supervision

In the process of promoting targeted poverty alleviation, the government has made full use of a variety of supervisory forces such as territorial supervision, special inspection supervision, functional supervision, audit supervision, disciplinary inspection supervision, judicial supervision, and social supervision, and has established a supporting system to combat poverty. It covers all levels of provinces, cities, and counties, the entire process of poverty alleviation, and a comprehensive poverty alleviation supervision system within and outside the system (Fu, 2019).

3.1.9 Assessment

Accurately designing poverty alleviation performance indicators is an important starting point for promoting the implementation of various policies and measures for

¹³ Outline of the 13th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China

precision poverty alleviation and precision poverty alleviation. Currently, targeted poverty alleviation and targeted poverty alleviation have entered the tackling stage. How to determine whether the poor villages and poor households take off their hats? This all requires effective monitoring and evaluation. Scientific and effective results evaluation can improve the problems in practice and clarify the focus of the next work. Accurate assessment is a necessary means to ensure the accuracy of poverty alleviation results, and the effectiveness of poverty alleviation after the implementation of the policy needs to be evaluated in a timely manner (Shi & Li, 2018).

The principles of the precision poverty alleviation evaluation index system include subjective and objective evaluation principles and theoretical and practical evaluation principles. The construction of an index system for evaluating the effectiveness of targeted poverty alleviation includes the accuracy of policy implementation, the degree of completion of education, the completion of infrastructure construction, and the framework of a macro poverty alleviation pattern (Shi & Li, 2018).

3.2 Policy Study--The 17 strategies of “Targeted Poverty Alleviation”

According to the “The State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development”, there are at least 17 strategies of “Targeted Poverty Alleviation” have been introduced.

3.2.1 Establish a file for each poor household

On the basis of the existing work, the poverty-stricken households established in the file are the provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities) that adhere to the effective connection between poverty alleviation and development and the minimum living security system in rural areas, and follow the principle of county-level units, scale control, hierarchical responsibility, accurate identification, and dynamic management. Establish a file for each poor household and build a national poverty alleviation information network system. Special poverty alleviation measures should

be linked to the results of poverty identification, in-depth analysis of the causes of poverty, assistance measures should be formulated from village to village, and concentrated efforts should be made to support them, so as to achieve real poverty alleviation, and ensure that the goal of stable poverty alleviation is achieved within the prescribed time.¹⁴

The establishment of a poverty alleviation development document is to accurately identify the poor households and poor villages, understand the poverty situation, analyze the causes of poverty, identify the need for assistance, identify the main body of assistance, implement assistance measures, carry out assessment and effectiveness, and implement dynamic manage and check the performance of assisting responsible persons and the poverty alleviation of the poor. Monitor and evaluate poor counties and continuous poverty-stricken areas, analyze and master poverty alleviation and development work, and provide a basis for poverty alleviation development decisions and assessments.¹⁵

In addition, according to Wang Guoliang¹⁶, the establishment of a poor county exit mechanism is also a major problem. The state has identified poor counties since 1986. In 1986, 331 poverty-stricken counties supported by the state were identified (counties with annual per capita income below 150 yuan in 1985)¹⁷, and experienced three times of adjustment. The first time was when the “Eight-Seven national poverty alleviation plan” was implemented in 1994, the number of poor counties expanded from 331 to 592. In 2001, when the first Decade National Poverty Alleviation Program was formulated, all 33 poverty-stricken counties in the eastern region withdrew, and all 33 counties used the poverty-stricken regions in the central and western regions. By 2011, when formulating the country's second national poverty alleviation program, the adjustment rights of poor counties were delegated to provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities. In fact, 38 key counties were

¹⁴ Opinions on the innovation mechanism for solidly advancing poverty alleviation in rural development, 2014, General Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China

¹⁵ Answers to questions about poverty alleviation and development, 2014, Anhui Daily

¹⁶ Deputy Director of the Office of the Leading Group for Poverty Alleviation and Development of the State Council

¹⁷ Relaxed standards for minority autonomous counties

transferred this time, but 38 key counties were added at the same time. The total number of poor counties in the country is still 592. Besides, according to the method of China's delineated poverty-stricken areas in 2011, it has supplemented entered some districts and counties. At present, there are a total of 680 districts and counties in the country, including 440 key counties in poverty alleviation work outside the districts and counties. There are 152 key counties. At present, the main battlefield of poverty alleviation work and the main targets of support are 832 district counties and key counties.

In 2014, the Chinese government started this registration work aimed to collect the accurate information of the poor population. Organized by the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development (LGOP), 800,000 people across various provinces were sent to different villages for this purpose. They recognized 128,000 poverty-stricken villages, 29.48 million poor households and 89.62million impoverished people all together, and basically got a clear picture of the distribution, poverty causes and poverty alleviation needs of the impoverished population in China. From August 2015 to June 2016, nearly 2 million people across the country were again mobilized to continue this work, as a complement to the previous round of registration. Another 8.07 million poor people got registered, and 9.29 million people who had been wrongly recognized as poverty-stricken were removed from the list. The accuracy of recognition was therefore further enhanced. Registration of the poor population has enabled China to gather the poverty data specifically from each person, household and village for the first time in history. It has provided an important reference for China to develop the “five-batch” policy measures and identify the objects of targeted poverty alleviation (Tan, 2018).

3.2.2 Stationed at village to help

In order to develop the village-level economy and help villagers escape poverty, some county and town leaders and government officials actively cooperated with some villages. They carried out research and analysis in the village, analyzed the

difficulties of the villagers, and actively contacted higher authorities to help the village ideas and play a positive role in the development of the village economy.¹⁸

Xia Gengsheng, a member of the party group of the State Council's Poverty Alleviation Office, revealed at a press conference that since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, 188,000 outstanding officials have been selected from all over the country and sent to serve as first secretaries of Party committees of poor villages. In total 128,000 work teams and 530,000 personnel are involved, covering all poor villages across the country. They have played an important role in achieving decisive progress in poverty alleviation and solving the problem of insufficient leadership and organizational strength of poor villages.¹⁹

3.2.3 Contiguous poverty stricken areas alleviation

The implementation of contiguous areas poverty stricken areas alleviation is an important part of the national regional development strategy and poverty alleviation development strategy (Yang & Li, 2012).

As a programmatic document for China's poverty alleviation and development in the next 10 years, the Outline of China's Rural Poverty Alleviation and Development (2011-2020) explicitly pointed out 11 consecutive areas of extreme poverty, include Liupan Mountain Area, Qinba Mountain Area, Wuling Mountain Area, Wumeng Mountain Area, Yunnan-Guangxi-Guizhou Rocky Desertification Area, West Yunnan Border Mountain Area, Daxing'anling South Mountain Area, Yanshan-Taihang Mountain Area, Lvliang Mountain Area, Dabie Mountain Area, and Luoxiao Mountain Area. Plus Tibet Autonomous Region, Tibetan region in other four provinces, and three prefecture-level regions in southern Xinjiang, where the central government has clearly implemented special support policies, a total of 14 districts have been identified as the country's main battlefield for poverty alleviation in the next ten years. These areas are the areas with the most poverty alleviation targets, the

¹⁸ "Resident cadres" must become veritable "assistance cadres", 2012, Disciplinary Supervision Committee of the CPC Linqing City

Source: http://www.lqsjw.gov.cn/List_Content.asp?ArticleID=3416

¹⁹ The Information Office of the State Council held a press conference to introduce the work on poverty alleviation, January 5th 2018

highest incidence of poverty, and the most difficult poverty alleviation work. Also the key counties and poor villages need to be seriously treated as well²⁰.



Figure.2. Contiguous poverty-stricken areas on the map of China

Notes: The data on contiguous poor areas are sourced from the Outline for Development-oriented Poverty alleviation for China's Rural Areas (2011-2020) (www.gov.cn/gzdt/2012-06/14/content_2161045.htm), and the key ecological function areas are obtained from the National Main Function-Oriented Zone Planning (www.gov.cn/zwgk/2011-06/08/content_1879180.htm)

Sources: Made by the author(s)(Liu, Guo, & Zhou, 2017). The data on contiguous poor areas are obtained from a publicly website (www.gov.cn/gzdt/2012-06/14/content_2161045.htm), and the data on the key ecological function areas are obtained from the National Main Function-Oriented Zone Planning (www.gov.cn/zwgk/2011-06/08/content_1879180.htm)

3.2.4 Old revolutionary zone construction

The old Chinese revolutionary base areas is simply called the old areas, which refers to those revolutionary base area created under the leadership of the older generation of proletarian revolutionaries such as the Communist Party of China and Mao Zedong during the Agrarian Revolutionary War and the War of Resistance Against Japan. They are distributed in more than 1,300 counties (cities and districts) in 28 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government, except Xinjiang, Qinghai and Tibet.

²⁰ The Central Government will not reduce the support to those provinces who reduced the number of poor county.

The old areas people have made major sacrifices and important contributions to the victory of the Chinese revolution and socialist construction. Although with the care and support of the country, the appearance of the old districts has undergone profound changes, and the living standards of the people in the old districts have improved significantly. However, contradictions such as weak infrastructure and low living standards of the people in some of these regions are still quite prominent, and the task of fighting against poverty is very difficult. In order to further increase support, accelerate the pace of development and construction in old areas, and make people in old areas live happier and better lives, in accordance with the principle of differentiated treatment and precise policy, with key areas, key populations, and key areas as breakthroughs, increase efforts to fight poverty to promote the overall revitalization of the old district.²¹

3.2.5 Special business poverty alleviation²²

The Chinese government aims its poverty alleviation programs at all people whose income is below the poverty line, while putting emphasis on the old revolutionary bases in the central and western regions, areas inhabited by ethnic minorities, border areas and destitute areas. It includes 592 counties in these areas in the key programs of the nation's poverty alleviation effort. The central government and local governments at all levels formulate special programs, appropriate special funds and concentrate resources to improve infrastructure construction, develop specialty and competitive industries, improve social services and enhance the people's quality in these areas. The local governments of other impoverished counties, townships and villages in the eastern, central and western regions are mainly responsible for their respective poverty alleviation programs.

Over the past ten years, the central and local governments have been constantly adjusting their structures of financial expenditure and gradually increasing the

²¹ Guiding Opinions on Strengthening the Fight Against Poverty to Support the Development and Construction of Old Revolutionary Areas, 2016, General Office of the CPC Central Committee & State Council

²² New Progress in Development-oriented Poverty alleviation Program for Rural China, November 2011, Information Office of the State Council the People's Republic of China

financial input into poverty alleviation programs. The financial input increased from 12.75 billion yuan in 2001 to 34.93 billion yuan in 2010, with an average annual growth rate of 11.9 percent, and the accumulative input totaled 204.38 billion yuan in these ten years. For a breakdown, funds appropriated by the central government for poverty alleviation programs increased from 10.002 billion yuan in 2001 to 22.27 billion yuan in 2010, with an average annual growth of 9.3 percent, and the accumulative input reached 144.04 billion yuan over these ten years. The distribution of poverty relief funds reflected the priority principle. The accumulative financial input to the key counties in the national and provincial development-oriented poverty alleviation programs over these ten years reached 145.72 billion yuan, accounting for 71.3 percent of the total input and with the average in-put for each county reaching 136 million yuan; the central government appropriated a total of 135.62 billion yuan for poverty alleviation in 22 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government), including 87.7 billion yuan for 12 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government) in the western regions.

To promote overall economic and social development in poverty-stricken areas, the state implementing comprehensive development-oriented poverty alleviation in villages, and formulated poverty alleviation programs for each and every village covering basic farmland, drinking water for people and livestock, roads, income of poor villagers, social undertakings and other areas. The government pooled and allocated funds for the implementation of the programs on a yearly basis to increase the income of impoverished people, upgrade infrastructure, develop public welfare, and improve the production and living standards. By the end of 2010, some 126,000 villages had implemented the programs, and the villages in old revolutionary bases, areas inhabited by smaller minority groups and border areas had basically completed the work.

3.2.6 Industrial poverty alleviation

Industrial poverty alleviation refers to the market-oriented, economic efficiency-centered, industrial development-led leveraging poverty alleviation and development process. It is an effective way to promote the development of poor areas and increase the income of poor farmers. It is the strategic focus and main task of poverty alleviation and development. Industrial poverty alleviation is an endogenous development mechanism, the purpose of which is to promote the coordinated development of poor individuals (families) and poor areas, root the development genes, activate development momentum, and eliminate the causes of poverty.²³

The development content of industrial poverty alleviation include: at the county level, cultivate leading industries, develop county economy, and increase capital accumulation capacity; at the village and town level, increase public investment, improve infrastructure and cultivate the industrial environment; at the level of poor households, provide employment and improve Human capital actively participates in all links of the industrial value chain. Therefore, from this perspective, industrial poverty alleviation can be seen as a policy tilt for the development of backward regions.²⁴

Industrial poverty alleviation is a fundamental measure to overcome poverty. Relocation, poverty alleviation, ecological protection, poverty alleviation through education, etc. all require long-term stable income growth through the development of industries. Without industrial poverty alleviation, we will not be able to win the all-out battle against poverty (Xi Jinping, 2017).²⁵

However, from the actual situation, industrial poverty alleviation is the most difficult of the five batches. Since the implementation of targeted poverty alleviation, although there are some successful experiences of industrialized poverty alleviation in various places, there are still many problems in many regions. According to the audit results released by the National Audit Office, among the "five batches" of poverty alleviation work, there are the most problems in industrial poverty alleviation, mainly

²³ Rethinking Industrial Poverty Alleviation, Sichuan Poverty Alleviation and Immigration Network

²⁴ Outline of the 13th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China

²⁵ General Secretary Xi Jinping inspects Zhangjiakou, Hebei, January 24th 2017

including: idle use of funds and violations of regulations; slow progress of industrial poverty alleviation projects; industrial projects have not produced benefits or even caused losses; poverty alleviation projects are imprecise; the interest linkage mechanism has not been implemented, etc. (Li, 2018).²⁶

So, how to further improve industrial poverty alleviation? For industrial poverty alleviation, the core work has two points: one is to develop new business entities, and the other is to improve the interest linkage mechanism. The following suggestions are made here:

Firstly, cultivate and develop new types of business entities. New types of business entities have developed rapidly in recent years, but in some poverty-stricken areas, the development of industrial poverty alleviation must first foster and develop new types of business entities due to the lack of talent and other constraints. The main measures include: Strengthen investment promotion, introduce some leading agricultural industrialization enterprises with influential and strong social responsibility, form competitive and characteristic industries, and promote the income increase of poor households; to cultivate local leading companies and cooperatives; encourage business capital to go to the countryside and entrepreneurs to go to and from the countryside, so that more enterprises and entrepreneurs can invest in poverty alleviation and development in their hometowns, and contribute to the revitalization of rural areas and the integration of urban and rural areas.

Secondly, improve the interest linkage mechanism between new business entities and poor households. The government should do a good job of intermediate services and establish a benefit-sharing mechanism between new-type business entities and poor households. This is the key to the healthy development of the agricultural industrialization complex. It can not only help new business entities save organizational costs, construction costs, and time costs, but also effectively ensure the stability and sustainability of industrial poverty alleviation; encourage poor households to use agricultural workers' participation in the industrialized consortium as an operator rather than as an operator, so that poor households with working ability

²⁶ Li Jing, researcher at the Institute of Rural Development, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

become more agricultural workers rather than operators directly facing the market; attach importance to agricultural vocational training and develop professional farmers; the labor force of the poor households employed in the industrialized consortium should also enjoy the government's corresponding poverty alleviation policies for employment, and gradually promote new types of business entities to provide basic social security for agricultural workers, such as "three insurances and one fund" etc. (Li, 2018).

3.2.7 Social involvement poverty alleviation

Social involvement poverty alleviation is a kind of social work to help poor areas and poor households develop economy, develop production, and get rid of poverty. It aims to help poor households or poor areas develop production and change the face of poverty. It is an important part of the new “Trinity” poverty alleviation pattern of the government, market and society (Meng & Xiao, 2014).

People’s organizations, social organizations, private enterprises and the general public also take an active part in the poverty alleviation drive. In line with the actual conditions and specific requirements of the impoverished regions and people, these organizations have helped with industrial development, infrastructure construction, education and public health development, improvement of production and living conditions and ecological environment construction by pairing with the places in need of help, implementing poverty alleviation projects and holding specific aid activities. They have also mobilized the public-spirited personages with professional skills to engage in volunteer work to help people out of poverty. The private enterprises have been actively fulfilling their corporate social responsibilities and engaged in poverty alleviation by donating money, hiring workers and setting up businesses and training bases.²⁷

²⁷ New Progress in Development-oriented Poverty alleviation Program for Rural China, November 2011, Information Office of the State Council the People’s Republic of China

3.2.8 Ex-situ poverty alleviation relocation

Over the past decades, millions of Chinese citizens have been relocated for a variety of reasons such as the Three Gorges Dam, the South-to-North water diversion project (Zhang, 2009) and eco-environmental restoration (Rogers and Wang, 2006). In an effort to eradicate stubborn poverty in the most remote and marginal areas of the country, the Chinese government turned to resettlement (Merkle, 2003; Xue et al., 2013; Lo et al., 2016). The mountainous and environmentally degraded areas are the poorest areas in China, which are characterized by marginality, inaccessibility, and fragility. The Chinese government considers resettlement as a tool to alleviate poverty and rehabilitate the environment (Chen et al., 2014). The ex-situ poverty alleviation relocation, as an important measure to implement the Targeted Poverty Alleviation strategy, aims to help the rural poor living in the regions with harsh conditions to relocate and shake off poverty on a voluntary basis. It is an effective measure to implement the Targeted Poverty Alleviation. Since 2001, the ex-situ poverty alleviation relocation project has been gradually carried out nationwide. By the end of 2015, the Chinese central government has arranged 36.3 billion yuan RMB special funds for the ex-situ poverty alleviation relocation project and relocated 6.80 million rural poverty populations (Xinhua, 2015). The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) has issued the 13th Five-Year Plan for the Ex-Situ Poverty Alleviation Relocation (2016–2020) and planned to relocate about 10 million registered impoverished people to lift them out of poverty. The government provides subsidies for the construction of housing and other basic production and living facilities for the relocated masses. The poor areas which needs to be relocated include the regions without development conditions, the prohibited or restricted developed zone provided by the national main functional area planning, and the region where the infrastructure and basic public service facilities are weak which requires high construction and operating costs as well as the endemic and geological disasters prone areas (NDRC, 2016). The number of rural poor households for different reasons of poverty need to be relocated is shown in Fig.3. The rural poverty population who are

planned to relocation is mainly concentrated in the areas with backward public services and high built cost and with insufficient resources carrying capacity.

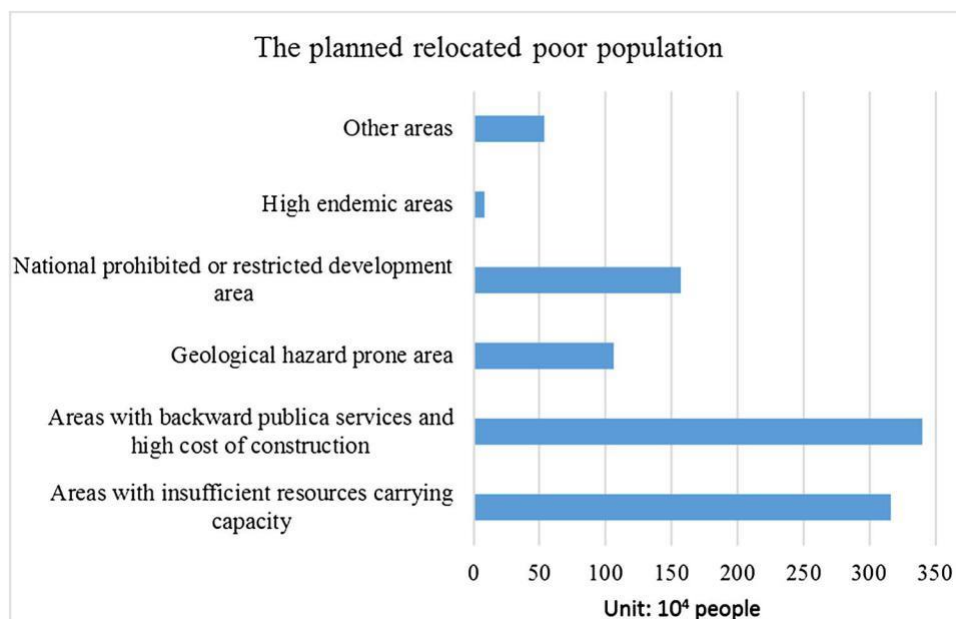


Chart.2. the main causes of poverty for the rural poor population who are planned to be relocated during the period 2016–2020

Sources: The 13th Five-Year Plan for the ESPAR (NDRC, 2016)

The rural poor population who are planned to be relocated was distributed in 1400 counties of China’s 22 provinces, which is mainly concentrated in the central and western regions (Fig.3). More than 70% of the rural poor population who are planned to be relocated is distributed in the contiguous extremely poor regions with fragile ecological environments, poor infrastructure and underdeveloped public services and the state-designated poverty counties. The proportion of the rural poor population that needs to be relocated to the total poverty alleviation resettlements’ population in the western, central and eastern regions is 67.7%, 30.2%, 2.1%, respectively. The number of the rural poor population that needs to be relocated in Guizhou province is the highest, followed by Shaanxi, Sichuan, Hubei and Guangxi provinces. The number of the rural poor population in China that needs to be relocated in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 is expected to be 2.49 million, 3.40 million, 2.80 million, 10 million and 1.2 million people, respectively (NDRC, 2016).

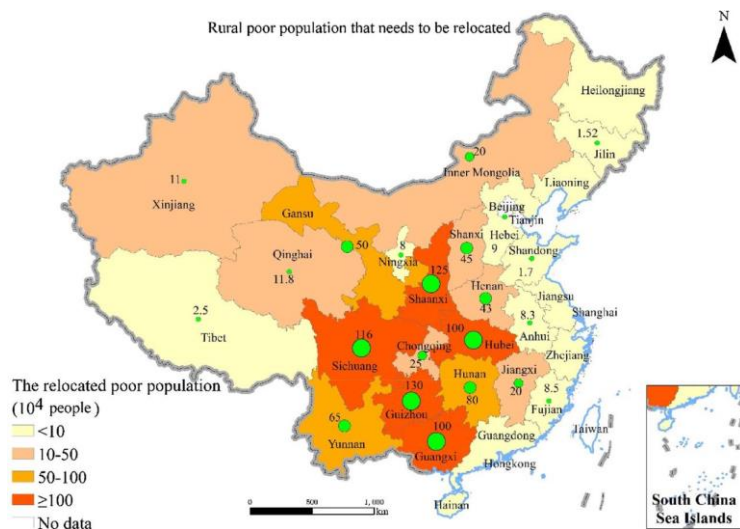


Fig.3. the rural poor population who are planned to be relocated for each province between 2016 and 2020

Sources: The 13th Five-Year Plan for the ESPAR (NDRCC, 2016)

By 2010, the Chinese government had relocated 7.7 million impoverished people, effectively improving their housing, communications, power supply and other living conditions. In the process of advancing industrialization and urbanization, some impoverished areas have combined such poverty-relief relocation with the construction of county seats, central towns and industrial parks, converting cultivated land back to forests and grasslands, migration for ecological purpose, merger of villages and disaster prevention, in an effort to improve public services for these people while promoting the employment of impoverished farmers in urban areas and sectors outside agriculture.²⁸

3.2.9 Financial cooperation poverty alleviation

Finance is the core of the economy and an important engine for activating the intrinsic development momentum in poor areas. At present, in the practice of financial cooperation targeted poverty alleviation in China's impoverished areas, according to

²⁸ New Progress in Development-oriented Poverty alleviation Program for Rural China, November 2011, Information Office of the State Council the People's Republic of China

local conditions, a variety of typical financial cooperation targeted poverty alleviation models have been formed, which have effectively promoted poverty alleviation in poor areas.²⁹

In "Share Cooperative System +" Poverty Alleviation Model, Poor households can use various forms of financial poverty alleviation funds, land, housing, and own funds to invest in joint-stock cooperative economic organizations. By exploring the development of a joint-stock cooperative business model, the poor can receive land rents, dividends, and wages for working in the park. This kind of benefits can achieve stable poverty alleviation. In the practice of precision poverty alleviation, various types of poverty alleviation models have been gradually formed, include: joint-stock cooperative system + tourism, joint-stock cooperative system + professional cooperatives, joint-stock cooperative system + agricultural parks, joint-stock cooperative system + leading enterprises, etc., and achieved good results.

Another model is "Government Bank Insurance" Financial Poverty Alleviation Model, that means in a government-led manner, establish a joint co-insurance mechanism with insurance companies, establish a risk-sharing mechanism with banks, and use the guarantee platform to assist with the reconstruction of the county financial service system to build a "government-bank-guarantee" financial precision poverty alleviation model to open up poverty households' financial assistance channels to help precision poverty alleviation.

To sum up, the successful experience of these two financial precision poverty alleviation models mainly includes the following three points: The government led the establishment of a county-level local government financing guarantee platform; adopted a joint-stock cooperative system to clarify the interest linkage mechanism between the joint-stock cooperative economic organization and the farmers; and opened up the channels of interest and risk linkage between government, banking, and insurance.³⁰

²⁹ Analysis of Financial Targeted Poverty Alleviation Model
Source: https://www.sohu.com/a/325449912_120157781

³⁰ Analysis of Financial Targeted Poverty Alleviation Model
https://www.sohu.com/a/325895205_120157781

3.2.10 Personnel training poverty alleviation

The development of human resources is an effective means of enhancing development capability. Since 2004, the central government has appropriated a total of 3 billion yuan in poverty alleviation funds for the "Dew Program," which focuses on training labor force from poor rural families in technical skills and practical agricultural techniques so that they can find better-paying jobs. By the year 2010, more than four million people from poor rural families had received such training, and 80 percent of them found jobs outside agriculture. A sample survey revealed that workers who had received training earned 300-400 yuan per month more than those who hadn't. The training programs not only helped employment and salary growth in poor areas, they also provided chances for the workers to get access to new skills and new concepts, thus broadening their horizons and enhance their confidence. In 2010, in an attempt to promote employment the state began to carry out a pilot project that provides direct subsidy for high-school graduates from poor families to pursue vocational education.³¹

3.2.11 Science and technology poverty alleviation

The state dispatches to rural areas science and technology teams composed of experts and young and middle-aged intellectuals with practical experience from universities, colleges and research institutions, and appoints scientists as resident deputy heads of key counties for poverty alleviation work to help study and formulate poverty alleviation plans through science and technology, select scientific and technological development programs, introduce advanced practical technologies, organize training in science and technology, solve key technological problems in industrial development, and improve the technological level of industrial development in poverty-stricken areas. The state also launches technology entrepreneurship by technological personnel in rural areas, encourages scientific and technological workers to form interest groups with farmers to start businesses and provide related

³¹ New Progress in Development-oriented Poverty alleviation Program for Rural China, November 2011, Information Office of the State Council the People's Republic of China

services, and guides technology, information, capital, management and other modern production factors to move to impoverished areas to promote local economic and social development, and help farmers increase their incomes and achieve prosperity.³²

3.2.12 Assessment mechanism

The central government has introduced a method to assess the poverty alleviation and development effects of provincial Party committees and governments. From 2016 to 2020, an annual assessment is carried out by the State Council Leading Group of Poverty Alleviation and Development. The assessment mainly focuses on poverty alleviation effects, accurate identification, targeted assistance, the use and management of poverty alleviation funds and other aspects, to guide poverty-relief efforts and ensure the quality of poverty alleviation. The completion of poverty alleviation task in 22 central and western provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities in 2016 was assessed through inter-provincial cross examination and third-party assessment, referring to poverty monitoring data and registration data, and the performance evaluation, audit and social supervision of the use and management of special poverty-relief funds. The provinces that failed to complete their task were criticized (Tan, 2018).

3.2.13 International communication and cooperation

Over the years, China has taken an active part in the international poverty alleviation cause, helping set up an international exchange and cooperation platform for poverty alleviation, and sharing with other developing countries its poverty alleviation experience in order to seek common development. In 2004, the Chinese government co-sponsored with the World Bank the Global Conference on Poverty alleviation in Shanghai, and established, together with the UNDP³³ and other international organizations, the International Poverty alleviation Center in China.

³² New Progress in Development-oriented Poverty alleviation Program for Rural China, November 2011, Information Office of the State Council the People's Republic of China

³³ United Nations Development Programme

Since 2007, the Chinese government and the United Nations System in China have convened every year the Global Poverty alleviation and Development Forum on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October 17) to discuss the situation and problems of international poverty alleviation. The Chinese government has also organized the China-ASEAN³⁴ Forum on Social Development and Poverty alleviation, which has promoted poverty alleviation cooperation between China and the ASEAN countries, facilitating the process of poverty alleviation and promoting regional development, stability and prosperity. In 2010, the Chinese government hosted the China-Africa Poverty alleviation and Development Conference jointly with relevant countries and international organizations, and stressed the “seeking development through reform” approach to reducing poverty and making progress toward the Millennium Development Goals in Africa. In recent years, the Chinese government has completed more than 40 research projects on poverty alleviation theories and policies of both China and abroad, trained 720 middle- and high-ranking officials from 91 developing countries, held more than 100 high-level dialogue sessions, seminars, forums, visits and bilateral exchanges related to poverty alleviation, and signed cooperation agreements or established cooperation centers for poverty alleviation with other developing countries, including Mexico, Argentina, Peru, Venezuela, Colombia, Tanzania and Mozambique.³⁵

3.2.14 Fixed cooperation poverty alleviation

To promote the development of the old revolutionary base areas, ethnic-minority areas, border areas and poor areas, China has put energetic efforts into poverty alleviation work in some key poverty-stricken counties in those areas, with help coming from a number of organizations, including all departments and units of the Party central committee and state organs, people’s organizations, institutions managed in accordance with the Law of the People’s Republic of China on Civil Servants, key large-sized state-owned enterprises, state-holding financial institutions, central

³⁴ Association of Southeast Asian Nations

³⁵ New Progress in Development-oriented Poverty alleviation Program for Rural China, November 2011, Information Office of the State Council the People’s Republic of China

committee of non-Communist parties and All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, and state key research institutions and universities. Over the past few years, those units and organizations have provided various forms of help to their targeted recipients in such aspects as sending cadres to the aided counties, helping them with infrastructure construction, industrialized operations, training of labor force and provision of labor services to other places, investment introduction, ecological construction and medical health services. They also provide their targeted recipients with assistance in culture, education, science and technology, in addition to aid in disaster relief. At present, the number of such units and organizations has reached 272, and the number of key poverty-stricken counties that have received aid has reached 481, accounting for 81.25 percent of the total number of such counties. From 2002 to 2010, these departments and units sent in total 3,559 cadres to do poverty alleviation work in their aid-targeted poverty-stricken counties, ploughed in 9.09 billion yuan-worth of direct aid, both in cash and in kind, helped their recipients of aid introduce 33.91 billion yuan of support funds, and trained 1.684 million people of different caliber for the aid-recipients. Making full use of their own advantages in human resources, fund raising, information and knowledge, the central committees of all the non-Communist parties and All-China Federation of Industry & Commerce have been paired up with some poverty-stricken areas so as to effectively carry out poverty alleviation work.³⁶

3.2.15 Eastern China-Western China cooperation

The eastern region intensifies its assistance in the alleviation of poverty in the western region. Nine provinces (municipalities directly under the central government) and nine cities in eastern China have given support to 207 key counties in ten provinces and equivalent units in western China. Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Liaoning and Shandong have established a mechanism of steadily increasing assistance funds to their target areas in western China, at an annual rate of 8 percent to 10 percent. During

³⁶ New Progress in Development-oriented Poverty alleviation Program for Rural China, November 2011, Information Office of the State Council the People's Republic of China

the 12th Five-Year Plan period, eastern provinces provided disadvantaged western areas with assistance funds of RMB5.69 billion, donations of RMB380 million from all sectors of society, and investments of RMB1.2 trillion from enterprises. A total of 684 Party and government officials from the east were assigned to temporary posts related to poverty alleviation in the west while 1,150 personnel from the west were assigned to temporary posts in the east; eastern provinces conducted training for 778,000 people from the west on exporting labor services and helped the west export 2.403 million workers.³⁷

3.2.16 Ecological poverty alleviation

Ecological poverty alleviation is a poverty alleviation work mode that combines ecological protection with poverty alleviation and development. Through the implementation of major ecological projects, increased ecological compensation, vigorously developing ecological industries, and innovating ecological poverty alleviation methods, we will increase support for poor areas and the poor, so as to promote the coordination of poverty alleviation and development in poor areas with ecological protection and lift poverty. The model of poverty alleviation, which promotes prosperity and sustainable development, finally achieves a “win-win” solution to poverty alleviation and ecological civilization (Xi Jinping, 2015).

Talking about specific measures for ecological poverty alleviation, the state has made efforts to consolidate the achievements of the farmland-to-forest project, improves the subsidy policy, and extends the deadline for such subsidies; has started to implement the pastureland-to-grassland project by adopting such measures as sealing off mountains and hills for natural grass growth and banning grazing to protect the vegetation cover of natural grasslands. It has launched pilot projects in Tibet Autonomous Region and other areas to subsidize people who protect the grassland ecology; organized the implementation of the Beijing and Tianjin sandstorm source control project and made efforts to develop ecological specialty industries in

³⁷ White Paper on China’s Progress in Poverty alleviation and Human Rights, Oct 2016, The State Council Information Office of the People’s Republic of China

project areas to realize the organic integration of ecological construction and economic development. It has taken comprehensive measures to reverse the trend of desertification in Karst areas to realize the integration of industrial development and development-oriented poverty alleviation by closing off hills for the growth of trees and grass, planting trees and grass, developing herbivore animal husbandry, constructing terrace-fields on sloping land and building small hydraulic and water conservation projects. It has implemented the ecological protection and construction project at the headwaters of the Yangtze, Yellow and Lancang rivers to strengthen ecological protection in these areas through the conversion of farmland to grassland, immigration for ecological protection purpose, prevention and control of rodent damage, precipitation enhancement and other measures. The state has enhanced the ecological compensation system, and strengthened the protection of natural forests, the protection and restoration of wetlands, the conservation of wild animals and plants, and the construction of nature reserves to maintain biological diversity.³⁸

3.2.17 Education poverty alleviation

In 2006, a revised “Law on Compulsory Education” was published, in which the government stipulated that the “the State should integrate compulsory education in to the scope of financial insurance”. Between 2006 and 2008, by increasing financial investments in education throughout rural and urban areas, students in both urban and rural areas were able to receive a compulsory education without paying tuition or other fees; students in some regions were given free books and some boarding students were awarded living allowances. By end of 2011, China’s 9-year compulsory education had been popularized in all 31 provinces (autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the Central Government) and the illiteracy rate of young adults had dropped to 1.08 percent. This signified an important milestone in China’s education history, as this goal had been achieved four years ahead of China’s “Dakar Framework for Action” schedule – a UNESCO program. In essence, by this time,

³⁸ New Progress in Development-oriented Poverty alleviation Program for Rural China, November 2011, Information Office of the State Council the People’s Republic of China

China had achieved its goal of providing free and high-quality elementary education to all children by 2015.³⁹

During the 12th Five-Year Plan period, China prioritized education in its effort to eradicate poverty. The measures included: continuing to promote the balanced development of compulsory education, closing the gap in education between urban and rural areas, improving education infrastructure in impoverished areas, implementing the Action Plan for Three-Year Preschool Education, offering cost-of-living subsidies to teachers in rural areas, and enrolling students from poverty-stricken areas, exempting their tuition fees at secondary vocational schools, and allotting living subsidies to the students. All this was targeted at ensuring impoverished people's access to education.⁴⁰

3.3 Characteristics

China's development-oriented poverty alleviation policies display the following characteristics:⁴¹

3.3.1 Combining development-oriented poverty alleviation with social security

By means of these policies, the state guides poor areas and people in poverty to, in line with market-oriented objective, adjust the local economic structure, exploit local resources, develop commodity production, and improve their capability of self-accumulation and self-development. The state also lays stress on comprehensive exploitation and overall development in order to promote local infrastructure construction and balanced economic and social development. The state also pays attention to sustainable development, strengthens resource conservation and ecological construction, and controls the rapid growth of the population. The state promotes equal share of basic public services between the urban and rural areas,

³⁹ CHINA NATIONAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2016, UNDP China and Development Research Center of the State Council of China

⁴⁰White Paper on China's Progress in Poverty alleviation and Human Rights, Oct 2016, The State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China

⁴¹ New Progress in Development-oriented Poverty alleviation Program for Rural China, November 2011, Information Office of the State Council the People's Republic of China

establishes and improves the system of subsistence allowance in rural areas, gradually raises the level of the five forms of support, constantly improves the emergency-response and relief system in case of natural disasters, establishes the new type of cooperative medical care for rural residents, and introduces pilot projects in the new rural social endowment system for rural residents, so as to provide basic living guarantees for the poor. In the key counties covered in the national development-oriented poverty alleviation programs, the state launches pilot projects to integrate development-oriented poverty alleviation policies with the system of subsistence allowance for rural residents, endeavoring to extend the related policies to all the rural poor.

3.3.2 Combining special poverty alleviation actions with industrial and social efforts

Targeting the poverty-stricken people and areas, taking special poverty alleviation funds from the public finances as the main source and aiming at subsistence and development of the poor population, the state works out special programs for development-oriented poverty alleviation and carries them out on a yearly basis. The state gives full play to the functions and responsibilities of the various industrial departments, makes poor areas the top priority for each industry's and department's development, and works hard to promote the development of water conservancy, transportation, electricity, land resources, education, health care, science and technology, culture, family planning and some other undertakings in poor areas. The state mobilizes and organizes all sectors of society to give various forms of support to poor areas in their development. Party and government departments, enterprises and public institutions give special support to designated poor areas, eastern and western China cooperate to reduce poverty, the army and armed police give their support, and all sectors of society participate in this program -- a poverty alleviation model with Chinese characteristics, which helps poor areas to develop and poor farmers to increase their incomes.

3.3.3 Combining outside support with self-reliance

By way of special poverty alleviation funds, transfer payments from the central finance, projects undertaken by various departments, social donations and introduction and utilization of foreign capital, the financial input to poor areas has been continuously increased. Constant exploration in establishing various poverty alleviation models, such as participatory and integrated village development, small-sum loaning, and mutual aid funds among poor villages. Respect is shown to the principal role of the local cadres and masses in development-oriented poverty alleviation for poor rural areas, and extensive efforts are made to bring into play their initiative, enthusiasm and creativity. The cadres and masses exert themselves constantly, and they do not wait for or depend on outside support, but work hard, take an active part in decision-making, and make every effort to lift their localities and themselves out of poverty and backwardness.

4. Empirical Research--Sichuan Tibetan Region

In August 2019, I participated in an “Overseas students entering Sichuan to get known more about targeted poverty alleviation” Program in Sichuan Tibetan Region, one of the 14 contiguous poverty-stricken areas, to further study how the targeted poverty alleviation measures are used to specific areas.

Located in the western part of Sichuan Province, Sichuan Tibetan Region is situated at the junction of the five provinces (regions) of Sichuan, Tibet, Qinghai, Gansu and Yunnan. Include Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture and Muli Tibetan Autonomous County (belonging to Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture). Accounts for more than half of the total area of Sichuan Province, it is the second largest Tibetan Region in China. The Tibetan area of Sichuan is also a collection of ethnic areas, old revolutionary areas, endemic disease areas and ecologically fragile areas. All 32 counties are deeply impoverished

counties, with a high incidence of poverty, deep poverty, and complex causes of poverty. It is typical of extreme poverty area.⁴²



Figure.4. Sichuan Tibetan Region

In recent years, long-term progress has been made in fighting poverty in Sichuan through the aid to Tibetan Region, industrial promotion, and ecological protection, etc. By the end of 2019, all 32 poverty-stricken counties and 2063 poor villages have withdrawn their “poverty hats”. The number of poor people has decreased to 20,400, and the incidence of poverty has dropped to 0.1%.⁴³

4.1 Targeted Poverty Alleviation in Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture

Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Sichuan Province, referred to as Ganzi Prefecture, is located in the west of Sichuan Province and southeast of the Tibetan Plateau with a total area of 153,000 square kilometers, accounts for 31.76% of the total Sichuan province. It is the second largest Tibetan region in China and a prefecture-level administrative region with Tibetans as the main ethnic group. The prefecture has 1 county-level city named Kangding, 17 counties, 325 townships (towns), and 2679 administrative villages. The terrain within the territory of the country belongs to the transition zone between the Sichuan Basin and the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau. It has a clear vertical distribution with the height difference,

⁴² <https://baike.baidu.com/item/%E5%9B%9B%E5%B7%9D%E8%97%8F%E5%8C%BA/3353639?fr=aladdin>

⁴³The People’s Government of Sichuan Province, February 20th 2020

which is characterized by low temperature, long winter, less precipitation, and sufficient sunshine; the total resident population in 2018 was 1.196 million.⁴⁴

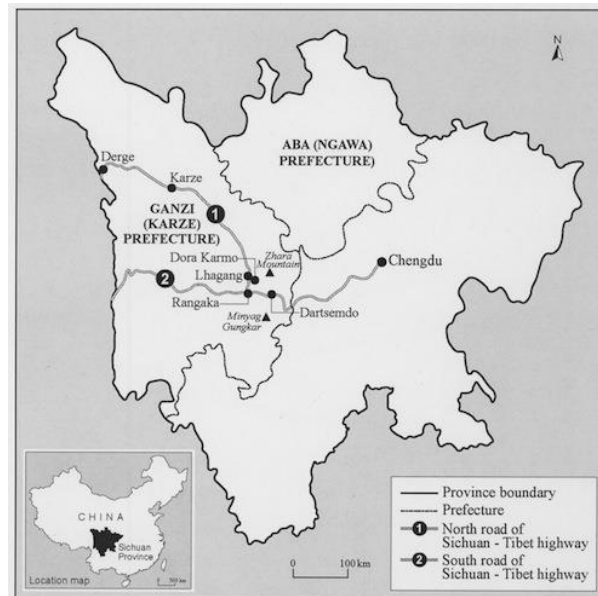


Figure.5. Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture

Source: <https://journals.openedition.org/emscat/2111>

Ganzi Prefecture has harsh natural conditions, with an average altitude of 4112.8 meters and an average annual temperature of 7.8 ° C. It is the highest altitude, the worst climate, and the most difficult condition area in Sichuan Province. At the same time, Ganzi Prefecture is located in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River. It is a national key ecological function area and a fragile ecological environment. The poverty level in Ganzi Prefecture is very deep. The 18 counties (cities) are all deeply poor counties. At the end of 2013, 1360 poverty-stricken villages and 51,775 households with a poverty population of 220,289 were identified. It is one of the “three states and three regions” in the country’s deep poverty areas and one of the 14 contiguous poverty-stricken areas, also an important part of the "four major areas" in poverty alleviation in Sichuan Province.⁴⁵

⁴⁴ The People’s Government of Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture
<http://www.gzz.gov.cn/gzzrmzf/c100184/201901/80366ed98a414d2b86c03d3293bcf26e.shtml>

⁴⁵ A tough battle followed by a tough battle The number of impoverished villages in Ganzi Prefecture reduced from 1,360 to 251, Sichuan Daily, April 18th 2019

So how did Ganzi Prefecture continue to make efforts on win this tough battle against poverty?

4.1.1 Persist in precise implementation and compaction

Implement the "responsibility system + checklist system + limited time to settle system". The results are being compared every month, so does each item. Aiming at the outstanding problems in poverty alleviation work, the "Interim Measures for the Accountability of Poverty Alleviation Work in Ganzi Prefecture" and the "Administrative Measures of Ganzi Prefecture Poverty Alleviation and Resilience Work Team (Trial)" were researched and issued to further standardize and advance poverty alleviation. The "Implementation Plan for Deep Poverty Relief and Poverty Alleviation in Ganzi Prefecture (2018-2020)", "Implementation Plan for 22 Poverty Alleviation Projects in Ganzi Prefecture in 2018" and "Project Funding List" were formulated and issued.

4.1.2 Highlighting industrial employment and increasing income

- i) Promote poverty alleviation through tourism, and comprehensively start the creation of a national tourism demonstration zone around the Gongga Mountain Tourism Circle, the Daocheng Aden Tourism Circle, the Gniew Mountain Tourism Circle, the Gesar Cultural Tourism Belt, and the "Three Rings Belt" in China's most beautiful plateau wetland "One Place" tourism layout, adhere to the integrated development of agricultural tourism, animal husbandry tourism, cultural tourism, built 2 provincial-level tourism poverty alleviation demonstration areas, 16 demonstration villages, 26 rural tourism characteristics towns, 46 boutique villages, and more than 20 series of tourism products.
- ii) Promote poverty alleviation with special agriculture, and build a modern agricultural industry layout around the modern agricultural

economic circle in the east, the characteristic agricultural industrial zone in the north, and the characteristic agricultural corridor in the south. Ten thousand mu of characteristic agricultural and forestry industrial bases, 43 characteristic breeding communities, the country's largest concentrated morel production base for morel, started the construction of the industrial belt in the Dadu River Basin, supporting and cultivating 3348 agricultural and pastoral areas professional cooperatives, collective economic development in 1109 villages, and rapid development of joint-stock ranches in counties such as Ganzi, Litang, Shiqu and Seda.

- iii) Promote poverty alleviation through employment, vigorously cultivate new types of professional farmers and herdsmen, achieve 73,000 local employments, develop 22065 people for public welfare posts, identify 45 poverty alleviation bases (workshops), and effectively broaden the channels for the poor to increase employment income.
- iv) Promote financial poverty alleviation, and issue 1,532 million microcredit funds to 50,222 poor families. Through industrial promotion and production support, by the end of 2018, the incidence of poverty in 1109 villages across the state was less than 3%.

4.1.3 Lay the foundation for protecting people's livelihood

Adhering to the protection and improvement of people's livelihood as the starting point and end point of poverty alleviation work, Ganzi Prefecture has comprehensively improved the production and living standards of the poor.

- i) Housing safety is guaranteed. 22,413 households for ex-situ poverty alleviation, 90,564 households for renovation of dilapidated houses, 13,014 households for relocation of geological hazards, and 2,555 households for renovation of adobe houses in rural areas were implemented.

- ii) Compulsory education is guaranteed. Solidly promote balanced development of urban and rural education, fully implement 15 years of free education, "9 + 3" vocational education and "one village with one kindergarten" construction, 100% subsidize students from poor families, and resolutely block the intergenerational transmission of poverty.
- iii) Focusing on the guarantee of basic medical care. Accelerate the promotion of the "Healthy Ganzi 2030" action, deepen the reform of the medical and health system, promote full coverage of basic medical care, build 1,110 standardized village clinics, and comprehensively implement policies such as the "10 exemptions and 4 subsidies"⁴⁶ to ensure poor patients. The proportion of inpatient personal payments in the county area is controlled within 5%.

4.1.4 Focus on improving infrastructure

- i) Earnestly implement the transportation-first strategy. A total of 3696 kilometers of direct to town asphalt roads and 21,766 kilometers of direct to village hardened roads have been completed, and 2053 village power grids and 2085 village communication networks have been upgraded. The history of no civil aviation, high-speed, and non-electricity townships has ended, and infrastructure conditions in the state have continually improved.
- ii) Water conservancy construction is advancing steadily. 515 villages have completed the safe drinking water consolidation and upgrading

⁴⁶ "Ten exempt" policy: 1. Free of general medical treatment fees 2. Free of in-hospital consultation fees 3. Free cataract rehabilitation surgery projects 4. Free AIDS antiviral drugs and anti-tuberculosis first-line drug treatment 5. Free provision of basic public health services 6 Provide free maternal and child health services and basic family planning technical services 7. Free mobile medical services 8. Free medical treatment for patients with hydatid disease 9. Free basic medical insurance (NCMS) personal payment 10. Free implementation of hospital delivery for poor pregnant women Service "Four subsidies" policy: 1. The subsidy is 25,000 yuan per person for surgical treatment of hydatid disease patients 2. The surgery, rehabilitation training and assistive device adaptation for poor disabled children aged 0-6 are 30,000 yuan per person Subsidy 3. Subsidy for patients with advanced schistosomiasis that meets the conditions for treatment assistance is 5,000 yuan / person • year. 4. For patients with Kashin-Beck disease in the poor, symptomatic treatment is provided at 700 yuan / person • year

project in poor villages, and solved the drinking water safety problems of 34,697 poverty-stricken people who set up files in 8697 households.

- iii) The power grid project is progressing smoothly. The rural grid reconstruction and upgrading in 108 poor villages and the construction of 837 centralized photovoltaic villages have been completed. The communication network construction in 463 poor villages has been completed.

4.1.5 Comprehensively stimulate the endogenous motivation of the poor

- i) Focus on giving play to the main role of poor households in tackling poverty, and guide poor people to want to get rid of poverty, be able to get rid of it, and know how.
- ii) Carry out cultural infiltration actions, organically integrate traditional Chinese culture and the Red Army Long March spirit, and continuously enrich the spiritual and cultural life of the masses through activities such as "showing a public welfare movie per month".
- iii) Carry out civilization-led action, take the Sichuan-Tibet Line Thousand-Kilometer Civilization Corridor and the Tibetan-Qiang-Yi Civilization Corridor as the carrier, rectify all kinds of stereotypes and bad habits, and promote the formation of the simple local customs of virtue and goodness.
- iv) Carry out the popularization of the rule of law, implement the town and township legal advisor system, train rural people to understand the law, and improve the pertinence and effectiveness of the publicity and education of the rule of law by means of case interpretation and mediation.
- v) Carry out a typical demonstration action, set a bunch of "hardworking person" and "kindness person" example around the locals, to let them have a model and a ruler, and develop good habits from heart.

Through unremitting efforts, the sense of gain and happiness of the people of all ethnic groups in Ganzi Prefecture has significantly increased, and the people of Ganzi have realized a historic change from poverty stricken to unworried about food and clothing, and finally to prosperity.

4.1.6 Kangding Love Song—A Cultural Business Card

Kangding City is located in the east of Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province, and is the capital of Ganzi Prefecture. Kangding has a long and splendid history and culture, is the throat of Sichuan, Tibet, the ancient town of tea and horse, and the center of Tibetan-Chinese interchange. Since ancient times, it has been the political, economic, cultural, commercial, information center and transportation hub of Kham Tibetan area. The city covers an area of 11,600 square kilometers, with a total population over 130,000. It is a city dominated by Tibetans, with Han, Hui, Yi, Dai and other ethnic groups living in the city. Since ancient times, Kangding has been the hub of the Tea-Horse Road, the center of the Tea-Horse Interchange, and the fortress that entered Tibet. In the 1920s and 1930s, Kangding, Wuhan, and Shanghai were named the three major commercial ports in China. Kangding became a veritable historical and cultural city.⁴⁷

Happy Horse Country Kangding Love Song National Tourism Resort, mainly based on Tibetan culture, is combined with love song culture, tea and horse road culture, Muya culture, pot village culture, etc., with Kangding regional cultural characteristics, with Kangding love song city, Kangding Tangfan ancient city, cherry blossom international hot spring valley, Gongga Mountain Ice and Snow World and the lifetime open-air hot spring valley feature five major project sections, and build a national-level tourist resort that integrates hot spring vacation, cultural performances, conferences and exhibitions, eco-tourism, and mountain sports.

⁴⁷ Classification of Kangding Tourism Resources and Development of New Tourism Products (Ancient Tea Horse Road), 2015

4.2 Targeted Poverty Alleviation in Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture

Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture of Sichuan Province is located in the southeastern edge of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, northwest of Sichuan Province, and adjacent to the Chengdu Plain. The overall outline of the whole surface of the state is a typical plateau with high terrain and significant vertical climate. The county has 1 county-level city and 12 counties with a total area of 84,242 Square kilometers. The resident population in 2017 was 940,100.⁴⁸

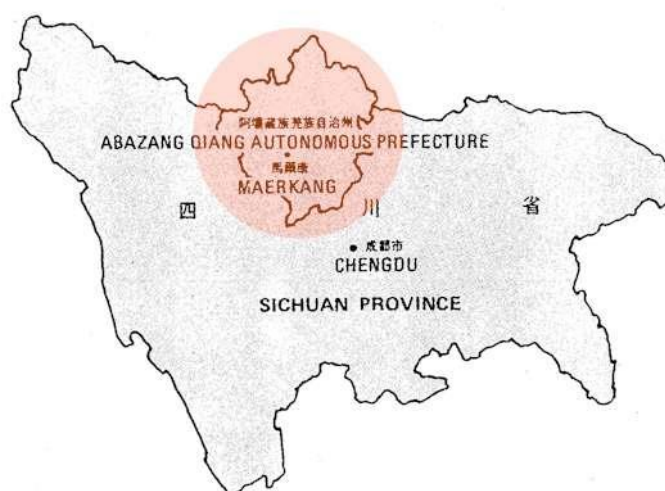


Figure.6. Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture

Source: http://www.vesan.se/3Bjork/8bj_tibet.htm

As the second largest Tibetan area in Sichuan Province and the main inhabited area of the Qiang ethnicity in the country, Aba Prefecture is one of the main battlefields for the new round of poverty alleviation and development in the country and the province. The counties (cities) belong to the special poverty-stricken areas of the state and the province for poverty alleviation and development. Among them, Heishui, Rangtang, and Xiaojin are the key counties for national poverty alleviation and development. According to statistics, as of the end of 2015, there were 606 poor villages in Aba Prefecture (Lei, 2016).

⁴⁸The People's Government of Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture
<http://www.abazhou.gov.cn/abazhou/c102028/abgk.shtml>

Since the implementation of the poverty alleviation work, Aba Prefecture has achieved practical results in hard work, explored and overcome the new path of "six integrations" with targeted poverty alleviation, and achieved state-level results in poverty alleviation work throughout the state.⁴⁹

4.2.1 Integration of targeted poverty alleviation and industrial development

Take the development of characteristic industries as the core support for poverty alleviation, actively promote the transformation of resource advantages into industrial advantages, and realize a village-oriented industry and increase income for households. Vigorously develop a new type of cooperative economy, and explore sustainable development models such as "diversified and quantified", "enclave" economy, and "return-type poverty alleviation".

In the industrial poverty alleviation battle, the three-year plan is to invest 2.5 billion yuan to actively carry out poverty alleviation in industries such as agriculture, tourism, and e-commerce. Newly rebuilt 70,000 mu of characteristic agricultural industrial bases, carried out 450,000 practical technical trainings for farmers and herdsmen, built 10 modern agricultural industrial integration demonstration parks and 80 initial processing facilities for agricultural products. Build 9 national demonstration e-commerce demonstration counties, 13 e-commerce experience centers, and 80 tourist poverty alleviation demonstration villages, with a focus on covering 21,912 poor people in 241 poor villages (Xu, 2018).

4.2.2 Integration of targeted poverty alleviation and basic infrastructure upgrading

Take the shortcomings of infrastructure as the key to tackling poverty alleviation; accelerate the extension to poor villages, lean towards weak links, and move towards higher standards. Newly renovated (expanded) 4,149 kilometers of rural roads; accelerated the construction of water conservancy projects such as drinking water

⁴⁹ Aba Prefecture explores a new path of "six integrations" and targeted poverty alleviation
Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture Poverty Alleviation and Development Bureau
<http://fpkfj.abazhou.gov.cn/abzfpkfj/c100002/201911/73ffa22a6bab4743985f4201ebb9ce07.shtml>

safety, supporting water production, and water ecological management; the construction of rural power grids and skeleton power grids was used to solve the electricity consumption of 39,000 people; Comprehensive rural environment improvement project; 100% coverage of township communication network.

4.2.3 Integration of targeted poverty alleviation and employment promotion

Putting poverty alleviation on employment in a prominent position, and the most important task is to improve the employment and entrepreneurship of the poor labor force and achieve stable employment. Adhere to the two-way development of "market demand + government services" and provide "tailor-made" services for mass employment; actively promote mass entrepreneurship and innovation, and fully support migrant workers and entrepreneurs to return home and start businesses.

4.2.4 Integration of targeted poverty alleviation and ecological protection

Scientifically allocate ecological public welfare posts, drive poor farmers and herdsmen to participate in a forestation and greening project construction, grassland desertification management, forest and grassland (wetland) management, etc., to ensure that the state has labor capacity, employment willingness, no stable source of income and stable employment. The establishment of channels and the establishment of poverty-stricken households have achieved local employment and continued income growth.

Cultivate a modern forestry industry base of 50,000 mu, and drive more than 1,000 poor people out of poverty (Xu, 2018).

4.2.5 Integration of targeted poverty alleviation and social security

In-depth implementation of fifteen-year compulsory education and improvement of a multi-in-one funding system; priority is given to the implementation of the "ten exemptions and four subsidies" for the poor, and 100% of the basic medical insurance

coverage for the urban and rural poor; physical examination to strengthen disease prevention and control.

4.2.6 Integration of targeted poverty alleviation and endogenous motivation

Carry out in-depth promotion of poverty alleviation policies; set up 1352 night schools for farmers and herdsmen, organize nearly 1 million person-times in science, culture, science, and technology; actively promote the project of benefiting people through culture, strengthen positive incentives, and inspire exemplary role.

4.2.7 Suining—Li County fixed cooperation poverty alleviation

Suining is located in the center of the Sichuan Basin. It is a regional central city in the Chengdu-Chongqing Economic Zone and a modern industrial base in Sichuan Province. Suining has a total area of 5,300 square kilometers and governs one county-level city, two municipal districts, and two counties; the registered population in 2018 was 3,653 million. In 2019, Suining achieved a gross domestic product (GDP) of 134,573 billion yuan.⁵⁰

Li County is located in the western part of Sichuan Province, the eastern part of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, and the southeastern edge of the Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture. The county has jurisdiction over 4 towns and 9 townships. In 2018, the total population was 43,902, of which 21,064 were Tibetans, accounting for 48% of the total population; 13,894 were Dai, accounting for 32% of the total population; 8,699 were Han, accounting for 19.5% of the total population; and 245 from other ethnic groups, accounting for 0.5% of the total population. The agricultural population is 36,000 and the cultivated area is 40,000 mu.

According to the spirit requirements of the document of the “Work Plan for Counterparts in Yi District of Sichuan Province for Sichuan Province”, the 7 cities

⁵⁰ The People's Government of Suining
<https://baike.baidu.com/reference/726723/1e9a7V8LP1obR0MTEMiUxh92Y6A6Gfe4dxRZ4i9mA4eEZXFVD5KbXXzZ343LwN7VF12AgRhYjkInGIUEFTVUbUwA4sE4yfvtMEICJ1Fg0L0IfH8pt-8zze71KJNbSDPYa18moLe daWo>

and 35 counties in the province with relatively developed economies are paired with 45 counties in Tibetan and Yi Region.⁵¹

According to “Resolutely Win the Poverty Alleviation Development Challenge and Ensure the Implementation of a Well-off Society” and combine with facts, Suining has assisted Li County mainly in five aspects, including improving the conditions of farmers' production and living infrastructure, vigorously conducting compulsory education and medical and health support, promoting the development of industries with special advantages, increasing the introduction of talents, and expanding exchanges and cooperation .Ensure that 36 poverty-stricken villages, 1,246 poor households and 4,534 poor people are lifted out of poverty as scheduled under the current standard(Hu, 2018).

On July 31, 2018, Li County withdraws from the poor county sequence approved by the Sichuan Provincial Government.⁵²

⁵¹ Sichuan Province launched the implementation of counterpart assistance in Tibet and Yi Region in poverty-stricken counties, The People’s Government of Sichuan Province, August 22nd 2016
<http://www.sc.gov.cn/10462/10464/10797/2016/8/22/10392865.shtml>

⁵² Sichuan approved 15 counties to withdraw from impoverished counties sequence, Xinhua Net, August 1st 2018

5. Conclusion

Development-oriented poverty alleviation is extremely difficult for a developing country like China, with a population of over 1.3 billion. Nevertheless, China has made strenuous efforts in this regard, which has resulted in great achievements.

The Chinese government is clearly aware of the fact that, although China's overall national strength has been greatly improved, China remains a developing country with low per-capita income and is faced with the serious challenge of narrowing the gaps between urban and rural areas, between different regions, and between the rich and poor. At present, the deep-seated obstacles hindering the development of China's poverty-stricken areas are still there, such as the large size of the impoverished population, comparative deprivation, frequent cases of sinking back into poverty, and underdevelopment of regions with special difficulties that lie in vast and contiguous stretches. Therefore, development-oriented poverty alleviation is and will continue to be an arduous and long-term task for the Chinese government.⁵³

After years of trials and experimentation, China has accumulated a wealth of experience in promoting human rights through development-oriented poverty alleviation, and established a new model of development-oriented poverty alleviation with Chinese characteristics.⁵⁴

- Proceeding from the prevailing national conditions and exploiting its institutional advantages. China is the world's largest developing country with more than 1.3 billion people. Development is the paramount task of the CPC in governing and rejuvenating China, which is essential to addressing the country's existing problems. By exploiting its political and institutional advantages, China has formed a trans-regional, trans-departmental, and trans-industrial poverty alleviation process to which all social sectors contribute through the mechanism of "Party leadership, government guidance and social participation."

⁵³ New Progress in Development-oriented Poverty Alleviation Program for Rural China, November 2011, Information Office of the State Council the People's Republic of China

⁵⁴ White Paper on China's Progress in Poverty Reduction and Human Rights, Oct 2016, The State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China

- Accelerating economic development and promoting poverty alleviation. Taking poverty alleviation as a major element of economic development, China promotes poverty alleviation alongside economic growth, combines development-oriented poverty alleviation and socio-economic development, treats poverty alleviation through development as the main focus of the economic and social development plan, coordinates the development of poverty alleviation and human rights protection, and achieves effective interaction between plans for poverty alleviation and elimination, national economic and social development, and national human rights action.

- Adhering to multi-form poverty alleviation, and focusing on effect. Development is the fundamental approach to poverty eradication. China addresses poverty alleviation by enhancing the skills of the impoverished population and improving their capacity for self-development, and acts to prevent the transfer of poverty across generations. The government adds preferential policies to its general welfare policy, devising preferential policies for the impoverished population on the basis of the general welfare policy for the rural areas, agriculture and farmers. It takes targeted poverty alleviation and elimination as the basic strategy, with differentiated and targeted measures, and provides aid and guarantees for all those who qualify.

- Prioritizing social fairness and justice, and striving to bring benefits and common prosperity to all. Focusing on ensuring and improving public well-being, China encourages institutional and organizational innovation, and promotes social fairness and justice. It is establishing a social fairness guarantee system applying to rights, opportunities and rules, protecting the people's right to equal participation and equal development with the rule of law, and bringing the benefits of reform and development as well as common prosperity to the whole population.

As a responsible country, China will continue to shoulder its international duties suitable to its development phase and development level, actively participate in international poverty alleviation, share advanced poverty alleviation concepts and experiences with other countries, and conduct exchanges and cooperation in this field. China is also keen to continue working with the international community to create a beautiful and poverty-free world where people enjoy common prosperity.

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