

Implementation of “Child-friendly” schools in China April 2006 – September 2007



In China, governmental educational expenditures are unequally allocated between urban and rural areas, with only 23% of them being affected to the countryside while more than 60% of the population lives there.

In the state of Shaan Xi, one of these neglected regions, the schooling rates remain low. On average, only 40% of the girls and 45% of the boys achieve primary school. In the secondary schools, only 25% of the girls and 31% of the boys of school age attend the classes.



There are also more students than schools to welcome them, so the existing classrooms are **overcrowded**. Most pupils need to walk a long way to go to school, up to 10km.

School buildings often are in a **poor state**, with water dropping from the roof, cracked walls, one or two latrines for all the pupils and mould growing on wooden infrastructures. Boarder dormitories are in the same condition and there are neither a heating system nor sinks and showers for the students living there.

Thus, Plan has set up a project that aims at implementing “child-friendly” environments in 5 schools of the Shaan Xi state, by **improving their teaching and management conditions**.

A child-friendly school is a place adapted to children rights and needs. It meets a number of criteria, such as **healthy and safe environment, teachers’ training and children participation in the life of the school**.

The project will take place in **3 primary and 2 secondary schools** and contribute to a better quality education for **3655 pupils**. The activities will concern:

- the support for the creation of **pupils guilds**, which will allow the students to plainly participate in the social life of the school and get involved in its development ;
- the setting up of a **school development committee** in each school, where all the members of the community (children, teachers, parents) will participate ;
- the supply of **sports and educational equipments** (books, notebooks, wall maps, ...);
- the **training of the teachers** to new teaching methods (like participative lessons) ;
- the building and renovation of classrooms and dormitories ;
- the building of latrines and lavatories.

The students and the communities are directly involved in all the phases of the project. They are the ones who assessed the needs and they made suggestions for the project. They will be in charge of the monitoring and evaluation all along the project course.

This involvement is the central element for a perennial development.

The total budget is **168 822 euros** for the 18 months.