



eio
independent
evaluation

Independent Country Evaluation The People's Republic of China (2016-2024)

December 2024

OBJECTIVES



ASSESS
results and performance of the UNIDO-China Cooperation



FOCUS
on strategic positioning of UNIDO, its contribution to the UNSDCF, SDGs and the 2030 Agenda



CONSIDER
China's dual role as recipient and donor

SCOPE

The evaluation covered **UNIDO's cooperation with China (2016-2024)** focusing on the **Country Programme 2021-2025**

METHODOLOGY

April 2024 – November 2024

Evaluation timeline



DIRECT OBSERVATIONS of key project sites



ONLINE SURVEY with 84 respondents



REVIEW of over 200 **DOCUMENTS**



INTERVIEWS with 80 key stakeholders

COUNTRY CONTEXT

FACTS



The world's second-largest population
1.4 billion



Third-largest land area
9,596,960 km²



Second-largest economy and top manufacturer



Transitioned to high human development group

CHALLENGES



Income inequality and environmental challenges



GAP

Western and Eastern provinces
Rural and Urban areas



- ❖ 27% of annual global carbon dioxide
- ❖ a third of the world's gas greenhouse emissions

PRIORITIES



Green and innovation driven industrial growth



Commitment to achieving carbon peaking by **2030** and carbon neutrality by **2060**



Rural revitalization and agricultural modernization

Expand aid, trade, and investment in developing economies

UNIDO CHINA COOPERATION

Portfolio 2016-2024

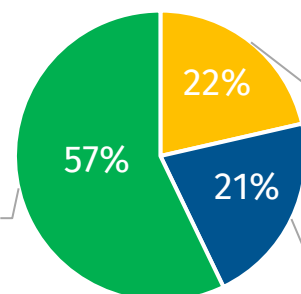
14 ongoing projects
USD **121.4 million**



15 completed projects
USD **118.7 million**

Ongoing projects by Thematic Area (as of March 2024)

Safeguarding the Environment



Advancing Economic Competitiveness

Creating Shared Prosperity

4 Country Programme Frameworks since 2000

- UNIDO contributes to **China's green industrial transformation** and innovation-driven industrial growth
- The Country Programme (CP) established a strong basis for **decarbonizing the industry** through renewable energy sources
- The Country Programme contributed to **rural revitalization and smart agro-food systems**
- UNIDO helped accelerate **compliance with multilateral environmental agreements**



UNIDO played a crucial role in **China's dual role** as a recipient of development assistance and an emerging donor

There are **communication and coordination challenges** between UNIDO HQ, the country office and various UNIDO projects



Recommendation 1

Incorporate the following elements in the **next Country Programme**:

- Develop a comprehensive program to support Chinese SMEs in transitioning to greener production methods
- Optimize UNIDO's role in promoting innovation-driven industrial growth in China.

Recommendation 2

Strengthen **coordination and integration** of UNIDO activities:

- Strengthen UNIDO's project management and operational efficiency in China
- Establish a high-level industrial policy dialogue mechanism with key Chinese ministries

Management Action Plan 1 includes:

- SME empowerment
- Capacity-building activities on international standards, incl. Free Trade Zone Guidelines
- South-South Cooperation initiatives transferring 4RI and renewable energy technologies to other Global South countries
- Capacity building on international environmental standards

Management Action Plan 2 includes:

- Organize annual capacity-building workshops
- Propose regular coordination mechanisms for efficient M&E
- Support partner expert, JPO and internship programs
- Facilitate high-level participation in UNIDO key events
- Establish mechanisms for industrial policy dialogue on green industry and decarbonization
- Advocate for streamlined administrative processes