

Child Sponsorship in Tiandeng

Progress Report, January 2012



Fang Yujie (centre) says, "My future in school will be very interesting and colourful. I feel excited that we can enjoy many sport equipments provided by ActionAid, including badminton, ping-pong and basketball."

Dear Sponsor,

Warm greetings from China! We are so excited to bring you this newsletter from Tiandeng, where the child you sponsor lives!

Today, you can read stories about our progress in Tiandeng, including one from Xiaolin, a 13-year-old girl, who is excited to tell you about the new books in their school library. You can also see how your sponsorship is helping build confidence in women and make the environment better for local communities.

As you know, we work closely with local communities over a period of years, to make sure they gain enough knowledge and skills to support

their own families and communities. This means you may see some projects are repeated across communities so that everyone can benefit.

I do hope you enjoy reading the enclosed articles. Thank you once again for your generous sponsorship of a child living here in Tiandeng.

With kind regards,

Zheng Xiaojing
Sponsorship Coordinator
ActionAid China



Other ways in which your sponsorship is helping to change lives in Tiandeng:

- Five road construction projects have taken place, benefitting 2,600 people with passable roads. This will help people get to their fields, to school, to health clinics and the markets.
- Provided sports equipment to six primary schools during Children's Day in June. On this day 2,350 children had fun with games, sports and refreshments.
- Constructed three toilet blocks for the local schools, benefitting over 1,236 students.
- Held an HIV prevention training to raise awareness about the virus, how to protect themselves and how to care with people living with HIV.



"I love the new clean road in front of my home. We can use it even when it rains. We are so happy!" says Huang Simin, playing with her friend

The Gift Fund - Making art more enjoyable

"My name is Lu Linkang from LongAng Primary School. Before, we seldom had enjoyable drawing classes because we didn't have the right equipment. But since ActionAid gave us new crayons, colour pencils, paint brushes and notebooks, our classes become much more fun."

Thanks to those of you who generously donated to the Gift Fund, over 2,700 students from 20 schools have received stationary and recreational equipment. Some of the students decided to design their own t-shirts using the paint.



Linkang (left) and other students proudly showing you their crayons



Students with their hand painted T-shirts

Looking ahead, ActionAid plans to:

- Provide environmental training for 75 student representatives from two schools. They will share the information about protecting the environment with the rest of their schools.
- Set up a further two Women's Learning Groups for over 780 women.
- Continue our road reconstruction projects for a further 1,893 people to benefit.

Thank you! All our work here in Tiandeng is only possible because of your sponsorship of a child. On behalf of my colleagues at ActionAid China and the women, men and children living here, thank you!

If you would like to write to the child you sponsor or a message of support to the wider community, please use the following address: [ActionAid China, P.O Box #9, Sanyuanli Post Office, Beijing 100027, China.](#)

Please include your supporter reference number and the child's reference number. If you do not have these to hand, please call your UK Supporter Care Team on 01460 23 8000 and they will be happy to help!

A school library benefits over 280 students

"My name is Lu Xiaolin and I am 13 years old. I want to tell you a piece of delightful news; I have made progress in my Chinese! I could only get a score of 70 before, but since we have new books in our school library, I can get over 90. My teachers have praised me and my parents are so happy!"



"I feel so happy to have new books in school," says Xiaolin

Before, there were only several broken old books which weren't related to our studies. We didn't read much. What is worse, as this is a boarding school; we didn't have much to do after school.

When I saw ActionAid bring so many interesting books I was so excited. I helped to carry and place the books on our new shelves in the library. So far, I have finished five books. My favourite so far is about how to treat life, our family and friends. I will try to do everything well and not let my parents down.

Thank you so much, I will now enjoy school so much more!"

As Xiaolin excitedly tells you, ActionAid provided 425 books (including dictionaries, storybooks and educational books) and six book shelves to Tiannan Primary School. Now 289 students, including 106 that board, can benefit.

Building the confidence of women

"I never used to talk very much in front of people because I was afraid of being wrong. What I want to say now is thank you very much. It is ActionAid that has given us a ray of hope again in our lives through establishing a Women's Learning Group. Since this, I have become more talkative and confident," explains Deng Xiujin (47) from Daoxiang community.

In rural areas, including Tiandeng, women are not only responsible for household chores but also heavy field work. Without enough education, they are not able to find ways to improve their lives.

ActionAid supported Xiujin's community to start a Women's Learning Group. This group



Deng Xiujin organising women in the Women's Learning Group formed by ActionAid

currently has 238 women taking part. However, it is not just limited to women; men can join in if they want to. Xiujin continues to tell what the group does and how it is benefitting them:

"Our group is fully facilitated with over 100 books, TV and DVDs and sport equipment. We meet three times per week. Through learning to read and write, and do simple mathematics, many shy and timid women are learning to talk and express themselves.

We not only gain lots of knowledge from this group, but we also keep fit by doing some exercises and learning traditional dances. This helps us to stay healthy and in good shape.

I serve as the finance person within our group. This year, I ran for a village committee member and successfully won the position because of the experience I had through working for the Women's Group. I can now help villagers eliminate poverty. One newspaper even published my achievement as the first woman representative, which encouraged me a great deal."

Making Jinjie Community a safer, cleaner place

"There was lots of rubbish in our community and the smell made us feel uncomfortable. In the summer it puts us off eating. We wanted to change this but didn't know how," says Deng Tinghai (19) from Jinjie Middle School.

Jinjie Community did not have any storage facility for rubbish. Neither did they have rubbish bins or collections, so rubbish would accumulate on the ground. Tinghai continues to explain how this changed:

"With the help of ActionAid, bit by bit we cleaned the community and made our village more suitable for people to live. ActionAid gave us books and DVDs related to environmental protection and dealing with rubbish.

We formed a group and had five large-scale clean-ups in the community, with all the villagers supporting us. A new waste storage and 28 waste bins were also put into our community [the waste storage is a large room where rubbish can be taken to].

People are now more willing to pay attention to deal with rubbish according to what they have learnt. Day by day the sanitation of our village is becoming much better.

As a group we are determined to make our community cleaner and more beautiful. Not only is our village changing but I am much more confident, speaking about these issues in public."

This project, supported by you, enables 650 people to have a safe, clean area to live. Thank you.



Learning about the environment through books. Tinghai (right) and other members of the group are learning about cleanliness