

# Preschool Nutrition Improvement Project in Selected Counties of Xiangxi Prefecture, Hunan, P. R. China

Sharing at the Webinar on Nutrition and School Feeding

PRESCHOOL NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN HUNAN, CHINA

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30 June 2022







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# PART.01

## Project Background

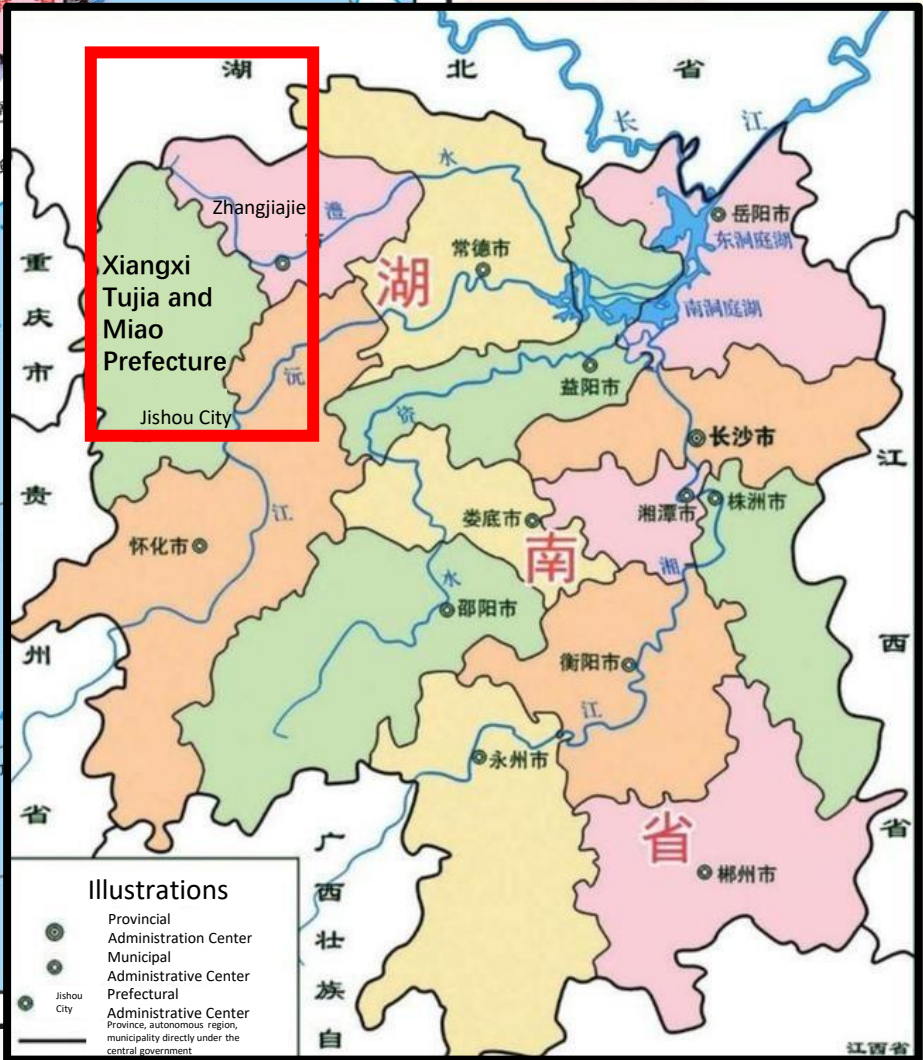




图例

- 未定 国界
- 省、自治区、直辖市界
- 特别行政区界
- 地区界
- 军事分界线

1 : 48 000 000



Illustrations

- Provincial Administration Center
- Municipal Administrative Center
- Prefectural Administrative Center
- Jishou City
- Province, autonomous region, municipality directly under the central government



November 3, 2013

Xiangxi Tujia and Miao Prefecture  
in Hunan Province

“Targeted Poverty Alleviation”

was first proposed



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At the end of 2017,  
in Xiangxi  
Prefecture:

Poverty Incidence **10.55%**

**7** deeply impoverished counties  
including Longshan and Yongshun



**Fight against poverty**

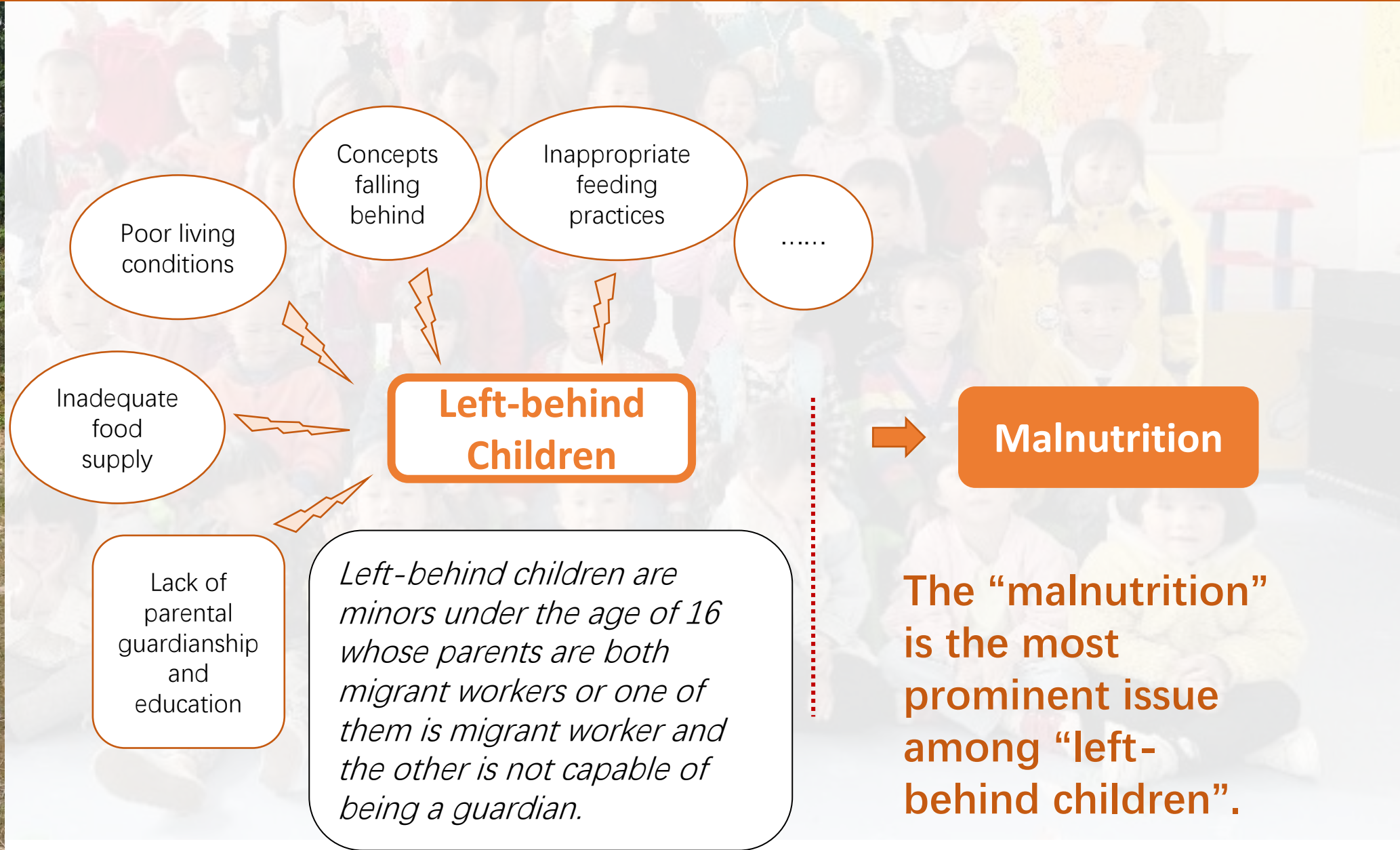
February 25, 2021

Complete victory in the fight  
against poverty, and  
China has eradicated absolute  
poverty





# Project Background





# Project Background



**Children (6-24 months)**

“Nutrition Package”  
Treatment

**Children (6-15 years old)**

Nutrition Improvement Program for Rural  
Compulsory Education Students



**Policy  
Gap**

**Children (3-5 years old)  
Lack of security**





# **PART.02**

## **Project Objectives**





In early 2018, WFP team's field visit in Xiangxi Prefecture

## ★ Nutrition for Poverty Alleviation



Focus on kindergartens in rural and mountainous areas

Key targets: left-behind children from poor families, children from low-income families

By improving the dining conditions and nutritious meals for preschool children in township (village) kindergartens, the project aims to improve the nutrition status of children in the pilot project area effectively, reduce the malnutrition rate of children in the project area, and leverage government's inputs to promote policy development and provide an empirical basis for wider replication.

At the same time, in alignment with national targeted poverty alleviation program, the project provides precise assistance to poor households in the project area and enhances their ability to participate in the market value chain, so as to effectively increase farmers' income, and consolidate the results of poverty alleviation.



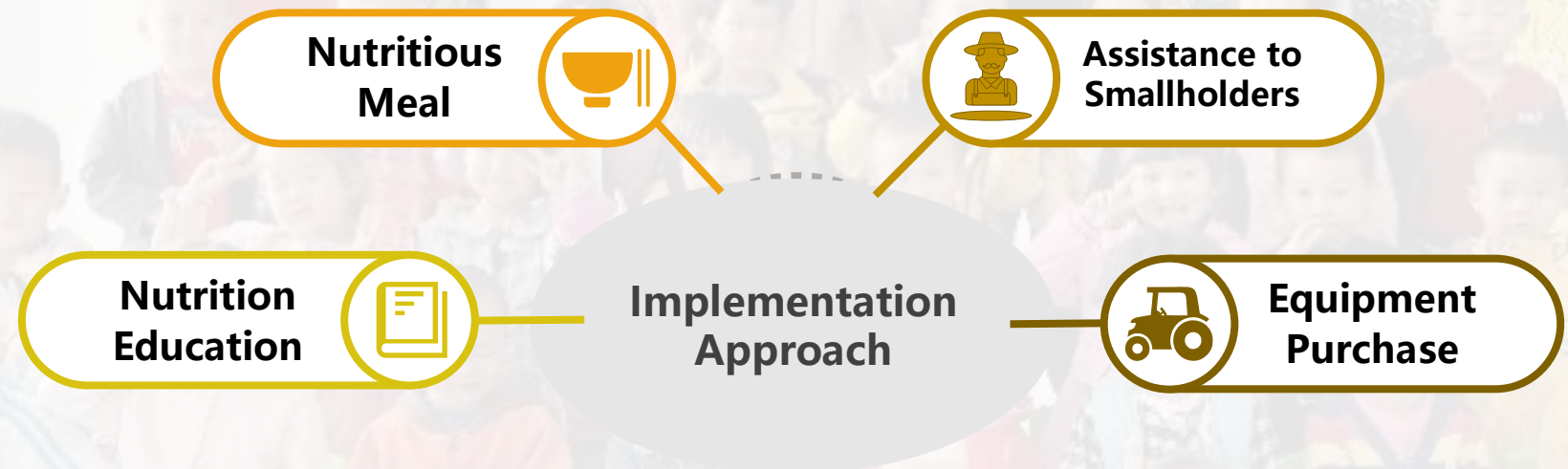


# **PART.03**

## **Project Implementation Approach**



# Project Implementation Approach



## “Four-New” Paradigm

New guarantee for healthy growth	New environment for safe dining
New measures for targeted poverty alleviation	New awareness of nutrition education



# Project Implementation Approach

## Nutritious Meal

1

### Model

With reference to the current subsidy standard of 4 yuan per student per day (equivalent to 0.6 U.S. dollars per person) for the national nutrition improvement program for rural compulsory education students, the model of “two meals and a serve of refreshments” and “combination of meat, vegetable and soup” is developed.

In other words, the project provides breakfast, lunch, and refreshments mainly with milk and supplemented food to help absorption.

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2

### Recipe with Quantity

Based on the principle of nutritional needs, local seasonal foods are used as the main ingredients to develop mandatory recipes with quantity requirements, providing diverse and seasonal dishes and menus so that kindergarten children can enjoy fresher, more nutritious and diverse meal supplements.

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3

### Local Food

A local food ecosystem is established to help poor farmers to increase their income and achieve sustainable development of the program. According to the idea of “what young children eat should be what farmers grow”, smallholders are recommended to grow home-grown, nutritious food ingredients, and to adopt traditional organic and pollution-free farming methods to produce green and nutritious agricultural products, while kindergartens spend more than 30% of the WFP meal subsidy funds purchasing agricultural products from smallholders in need.

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4

### Digital Monitoring on School Feeding

Through the China Development Research Foundation's big data platform, School Nutrition Improvement Initiative, the project's school feeding is monitored dynamically in real time to increase transparency.

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## Nutrition Education



# Project Implementation Approach

Nutritious Meal

Nutrition Education

Meals Reporting

现场图片

上传图片: 10/10(长按照片即可删除)

拍摄

菜谱信息 添加菜谱

绿豆粥 炖 删除

原料	单价	用量	
大米	2.5 元/斤	0 斤	
绿豆	8 元/斤	0 斤	
白糖 (绵白糖)	4 元/斤	0 斤	

上报 复制

The system analyzes the reported data in the back-end, develops the report on nutritious meal, points out the shortcomings, and provides suggestions to ensure nutritious meals.

The teacher photos the meals of the day and uploads them to the mini program

Input information with quantities and prices

4

## Digital Monitoring on School Meal

Through the China Development Research Foundation's big data platform, School Nutrition Improvement Initiative, the project's school feeding is monitored dynamically in real time to increase transparency.

The third-party team supports to customize nutritious recipes

Helping smallholders produce high-quality agricultural products



Third-party team adjusts the recipes according to recommendations from monitoring data

High-quality agricultural products are made into nutritious meals according to recipes



# Project Implementation Approach

## Nutritious Meal

01

### Targeted Education

Kindergarten staff

Nutrition theory learning through lectures, offline practices, and online Q&A, etc. and regular nutrition level test for faculty and staff.

Children

By enhancing the ability to recognize, choose and control ingredients, improve their knowledge, attitude, belief and practices through education, offline practices, psychological intervention, and preparation of materials (including short videos, posters, nutrition books, etc.).

Parents

Improve nutrition knowledge and ensure the scientific nutrition of children's diet when they leave the school, through parent-teacher meetings, home-school interactive activities and online learning

## Nutrition Education

02

### Education in Various Forms and Means

Targeted education activities are carried out for groups with different knowledge levels.

- Kindergarten staff: theoretical teaching
- Children and parents: games, group chats

03

### Characteristic Education and Advocacy

Third-party education team from Normal College of Jishou University, with over 60 experts and teachers from different disciplines participating



**Training of students in the preschool education system**



**Pay attention to the psychological problems of left-behind children**





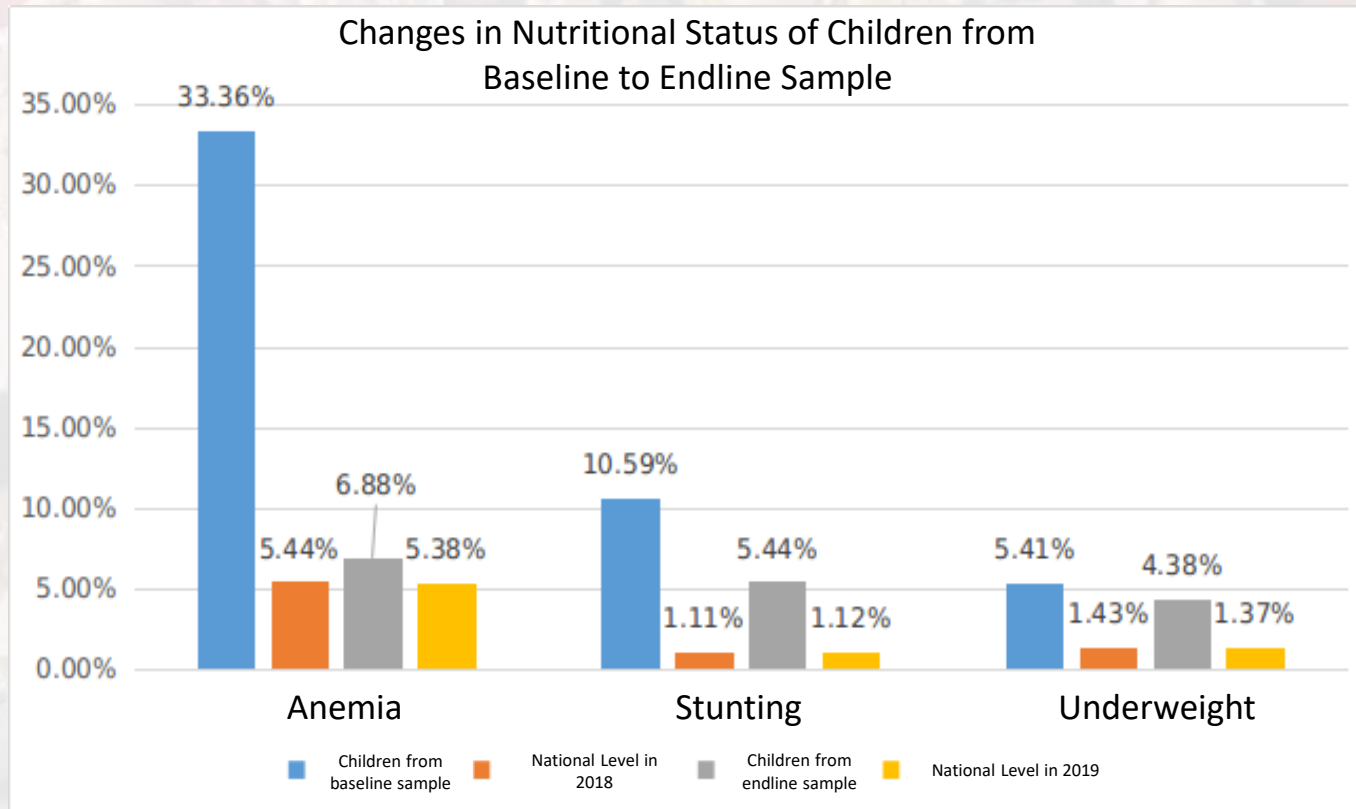
# PART.04

## Project Achievements



## I. Children's Nutrition Indicators Improved Significantly

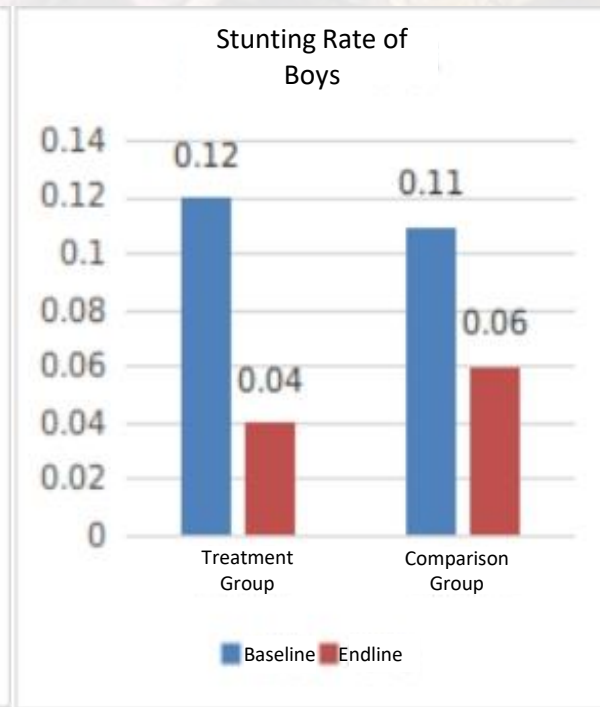
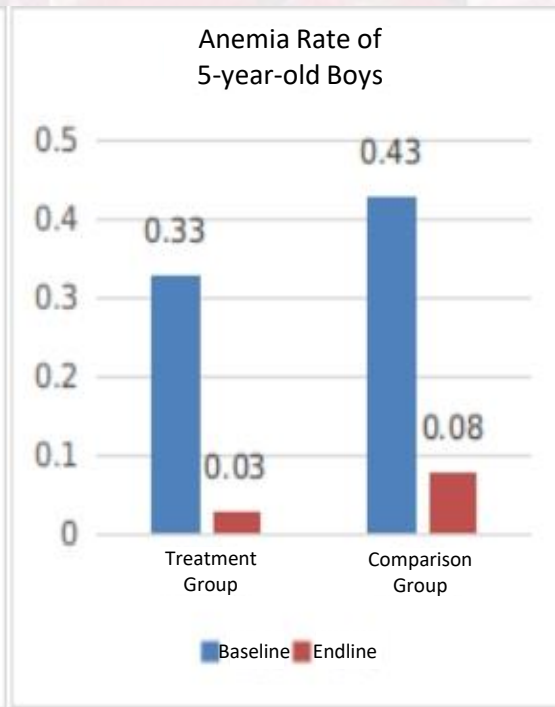
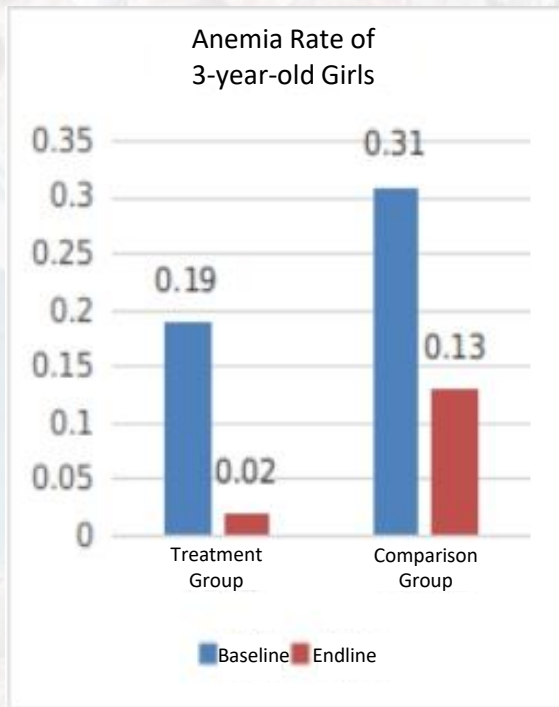
### Prominent Reduction in Anemia Rate





# Project Achievements

## Stunting Rate Significantly Improved

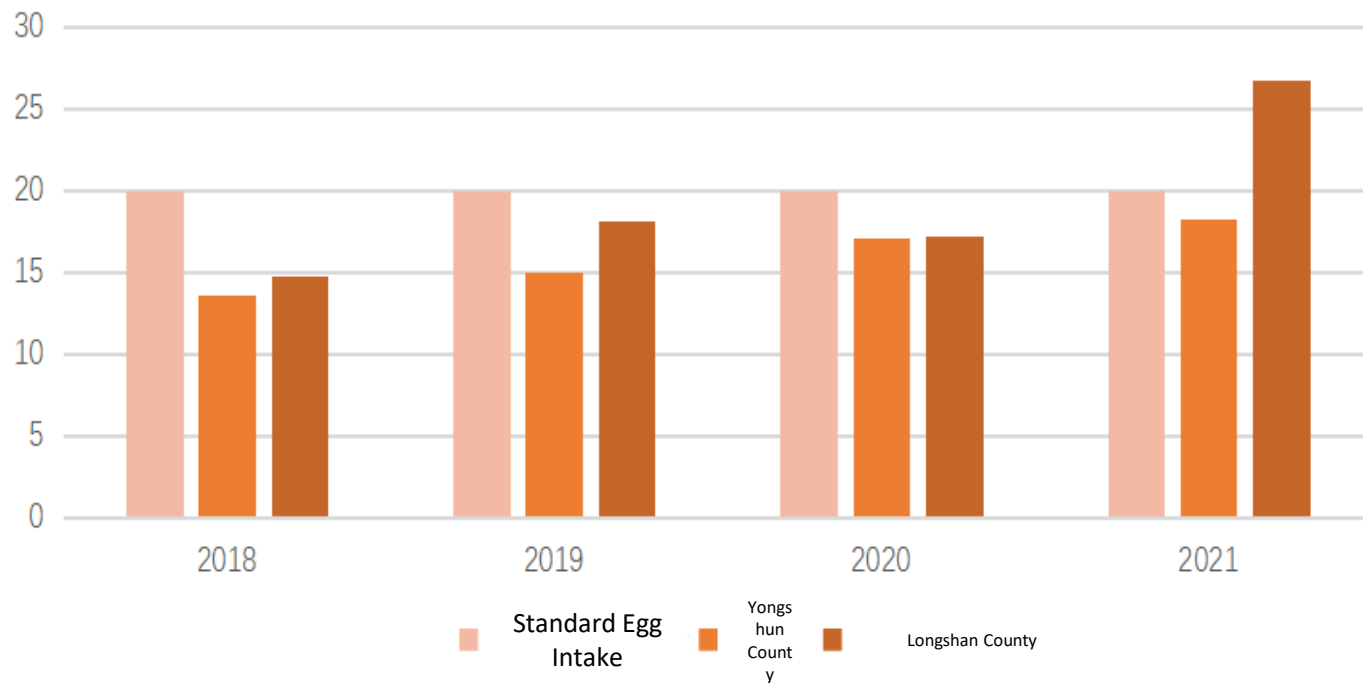




## II. Diversity of School Meal and Children's Nutrient Intake Improved Significantly

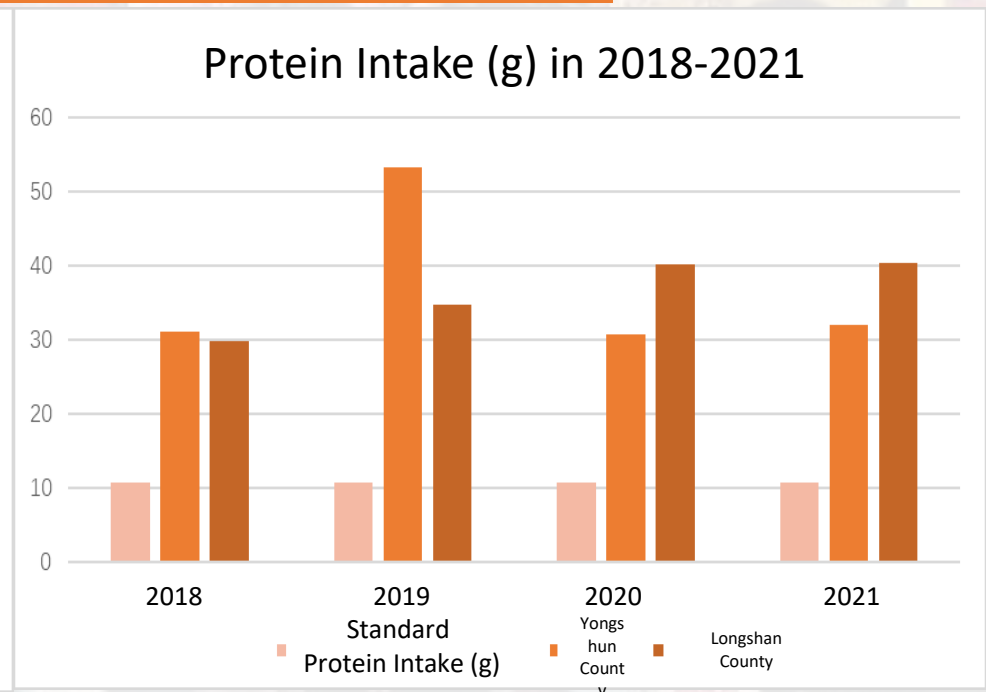
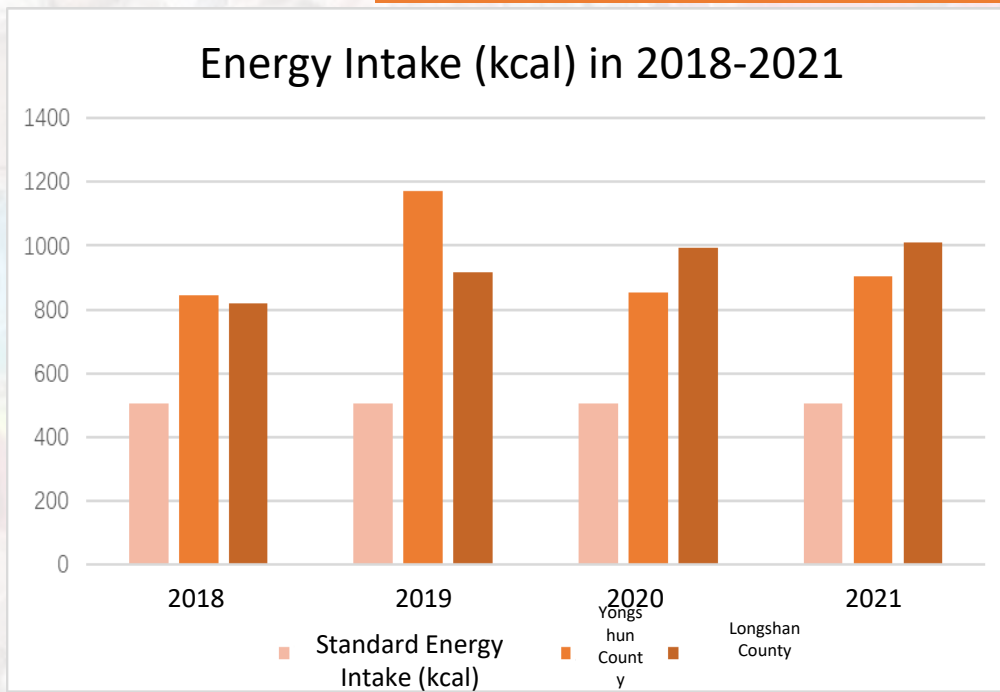
Most of kindergarten children's lunch has reached the standard intake, including cereals, poultry and fish, bean products, fruits and vegetables.

Egg Intake (g) in 2018-2021



# Project Achievements

The nutrient intake of kindergarten children from lunch has reached standard intake, and the energy, protein and percentage of energy from fat, carbohydrates, iron, zinc and vitamins reached or even exceeded the standard.





**III. The project takes local agricultural products as ingredients to establish a local nutrition ecosystem, improve the production capacity of farmers, and increase the income of poor farmers to ensure the sustainable development of the project.**

Table 1 Production Diversity

	Treatment Group (1)	Comparison Group (2)	Difference in means (3)=(1)-(2)
Diversity in planting	9.052	5.000	4.052***
Diversity in breeding	1.897	1.000	0.897***

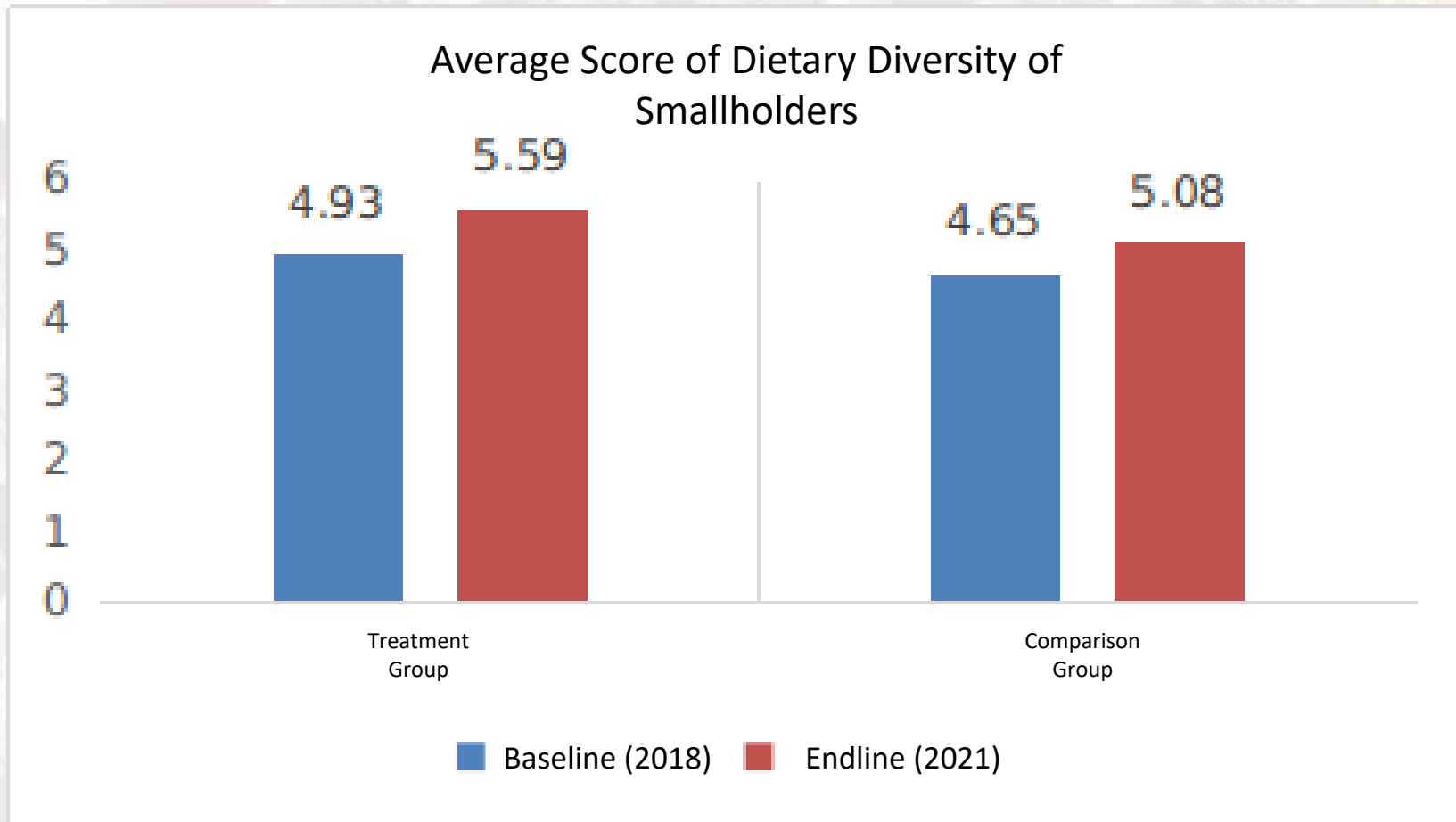
Note: the calculation in this table is based on 106 endline surveyed households, including 58 households in the treatment group and 48 households in the comparison group.

Table 2 Per Capita Annual Household Income (yuan)

Annual Income Per Capita	Treatment Group (1)	Comparison Group (2)	(1)-(2)
Baseline	3,632.88	8,034.64	-4,401.75
Endline	6,570.02	10,282.12	-3,712.10
Endline-baseline	2,937.14	2,247.48	689.65

Note: the calculation in this table is based on 37 households, including 12 households in the treatment group and 25 households in the comparison group.

# Project Achievements





### IV. The Ability of Nutrition, Health and Food Education in Kindergartens Improved Significantly



Kindergarten and Staff Participating Competence Test

»»» In the closed-book test conducted by the third-party team, the kindergarten staff excelled, and all achieved good or above. They are capable of producing science-based, balanced and nutritious diets, and making recipes in line with the actual local conditions.

»»» Kindergarten teachers have significantly improved their nutritional literacy and teaching ability, and introduced the concept of food education into early childhood education by conducting food education classes in daily teaching, thus developing balanced nutritional awareness and healthy diets in the children's families.

## V. Multi-party Collaboration to Improve Child Nutrition

### Cross-department Coordination Mechanism

- Government-led
- Cooperation with prefectural and county departments of agriculture and rural areas, education and sports, women's federation, market supervision and management, health, foreign investment and assistance

### Third-party Team

Normal College of Jishou University guides and adjusts the nutritional feeding to ensure the science-based nutrition and healthy growth of children.

### Provider of Cooperative Platform——WFP

It helps leverage the advantageous resources of other enterprises and social organizations, and unites the strengths of all stakeholders in society. For example,

- Mengniu Dairy Group has donated pure milk to provide a strong supplement for the improvement of children's nutrition.
- Amway Foundation has donated toys and teaching tools for children in the nutrition improvement area to provide professional support for nutrition and food education.



## VI. “Xiangxi Model” Developed

After four years of implementation, the Xiangxi project has gained many successful experiences, providing a Xiangxi model for the nutrition improvement of rural preschool children in impoverished mountainous areas, and the project experience has been expanded to WFP’s subsequent project areas in Jingxi, Guangxi, Linxia, Gansu and Wangcang, Sichuan, promoting the community to pay attention to the nutrition improvement for preschool children.





# Thank you!

PRESCHOOL NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT  
PROJECT IN HUNAN, CHINA

Speaker: Yi Zungang

30 June 2022

