

Africa-China Review

VOLUME 003

Poverty Alleviation:

Can China's experience of Poverty Alleviation work for Africa?



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Editor's Note

According to the Report to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, in 2022, a total of 832 impoverished counties and close to 100 million poor rural residents have been lifted out of poverty, and among them, more than 9.6 million poverty-stricken people have been relocated from inhospitable areas.

China has steadily and miraculously eliminated absolute poverty in less than a generation. China has made the fastest progress among developing countries on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For example, China achieved the poverty reduction goal of the SDGs 10 years before schedule.

The 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China announced that China is prepared to invest more resources in global development cooperation and remains committed to narrowing the North-South gap, and supporting and assisting other developing countries to boost their development. China and Africa enjoy mutual cooperation through different forums like FOCAC and BRI.

Africa has about 60% of the world's arable land and owns vast natural resources like: oil, gold, diamonds, timber and more. Additionally, Africa has the youngest population in the world, with 70 percent of sub-Saharan Africa under the age of 30. Such a high

number of young people is an opportunity for the continent's growth – but only if these new generations are fully empowered to realize their best potential. However, with all the above fortunes; Africa has the largest share of extreme poverty rates globally, having 23 of the 28 poorest countries in the world. Worse still, about 30 million more Africans fell into extreme poverty when COVID-19 broke out in 2020. Before the pandemic struck, over 445 million people – equivalent to 34% of Africa's population – lived below the poverty line.

Although the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the end of COVID-19, Africa is not likely to meet SDG 1 – to end poverty in all its forms for 97

percent of the population.

It is against this background that Africa-China Review organized a one day webinar that brings together academics, experts, researchers, private sector and media professionals from Africa, China and Kyrgyzstan- (Central Asia) to discuss the following topics:

1. *How did China make it to win absolute poverty?*
2. *How can China's experience benefit Africa and other countries?*
3. *How is Sino-African cooperation helping to alleviate poverty in Africa and other countries in the world?*

The meeting took place on Wednesday, July 19th, 2023 at 16.00hrs Beijing time, 11.00am (EAT), 10.00am (CAT) ■





TOPIC

Poverty Alleviation Seminar

Can China's experience of Poverty Alleviation work for Africa?



Guest of Honor, Hon. Zeno Mutimura
Former Senator and Former Rwandan
Ambassador to China



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The Chinese Ambassador to Rwanda



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Gerald Mbanda
Researcher and Publisher
Africa-China Review



July 19th, 2023
16:00 Hrs Beijing time
11:00 am (EAT), 10:00 am (CAT)



zoom
Meeting ID
894 4900 3190
Pass-code
255178



Opening statement by the guest of Honour, Amb. Zeno Mutimura



Amb. Zeno Mutimura

It is a great honor for me to be associated with this seminar and a greater honor to make me the guest of honor.

On this topic whether China's experience of poverty alleviation can work for Africa, I would like to say some few things I know about China and Rwanda. China overthrew other countries that were economically more powerful and today China is the second largest economy in the world. Over the past 40 years, China has lifted nearly 800 million people out of poverty, accounting for more than 75 percent of global poverty. Comparatively 60% of growing economies are in Africa.

In 1994 Rwanda's GDP was a mere 200 dollars and the country was almost at a standstill. More than one million people had been killed in one hundred days during the genocide against the Tutsi. There were many criminals, 120 thousand prisoners. The country was at crossroads.

In order to build a new Rwanda, after 1994, the government convened what was known as Urugwiro consultative discussions

that brought together people from all walks of life including those who were in the government that had killed people. The discussions deliberated on where the country was coming from and where we were going.

Commissions were set up, including vision 2020, which envisaged Rwanda to have a GDP per capita of a middle income country. There was no money in the treasury as the fleeing genocidal government looted everything. These were the challenges that I can call putting Rwanda into the laboratory. The leadership had to take the bull by its horns and consequently the country [▶▶▶page 7](#)

««page 6 accomplished much.

In vision 2020 there is pillar no 6 about regional and international integration. Rwanda applied to join the East Africa Community which had collapsed in 1977 and revived in 1999. Rwanda also joined the Commonwealth although it was not colonized by Britain. These integration efforts have served Rwanda very well.

In 2013, Rwanda lifted one million people out of poverty a testimony of focusing on people centered governance, a resemblance shared with China. Today, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has good relations with the Rwandan ruling party RPF.

The fact is that Africa-China relationship is historical. China gave military and financial support to African countries in the 1960 during liberation struggles. The Tazara Railway was significant in economic development. China-Africa relationship has been symbiotic.

In 1949 after the war ended, China was not a member of the UN as Taiwan had the seat. In 1979 China regained its position, at the UN after African countries voted for the

support of PRC to join. What I know about China is that it does not forget friends. A Tanzanian diplomat Salim Ahmed Salim who was instrumental in supporting China to join UN was awarded.

Most African countries opened diplomatic relations with China and recognized the One China Principle. Chinese are hardworking people. They treasure their culture. The leadership is people based. Chinese keep time.

When we talk about China Africa cooperation we should know that Africa is not one country. Africa has more than 50 nations that have different backgrounds. With hard work and visionary leadership, it is possible that African countries can as well win poverty as China managed to do.

Thank you for listening to me and with those remarks I declare this seminar open ■

Ambassador Zeno Mutimura is a former Rwandan diplomat who served in China and Tanzania, and also served as a member of Parliament.



China's success to end poverty not only belongs to China, Amb Wang Xuekun



Amb. Wang Xuekun

On Wednesday, 19th July, The Chinese ambassador to Rwanda H.E Wang Xuekun presided over a one day virtual seminar on poverty alleviation convened by Africa-China Review publication. The seminar brought together experts from China, Africa and Kirgizstan. Below is the full speech by Ambassador Wang during the event.

Good morning, dear friends,

Welcome to this seminar on poverty alleviation focusing on China's experience. I would like to thank you for your interest. Hon. Zeno Mutimura, former senator and Rwandan Ambassador to

China, your presence here today adds significance to our event! I would also like to thank you, Mr. Mbanda, for bringing us together.

To eradicate poverty is the common aspiration of mankind. The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda puts the poverty reduction as the No. 1 priority. The thousands of years history of China is also a history to combat poverty, especially since the 19th century when China fell behind the major

countries in the world due to the corrupted governance and foreign invasion. People suffered heavily.

The founding of the Communist Party of China brings hope to the whole nation. Since its founding, putting the people at the center has been its guiding ideology. After it historically founded the People's Republic of China and ended the foreign invasion, it launched the campaign against poverty.

Over the past four decades, a total of 850 million Chinese people were listed out of poverty. In 2021, we solemnly proclaimed that China finished the task of eradicating absolute poverty. This has [▶▶▶page 9](#)

««page 8 never been seen in China's history. In this process, China's economy leapfrogged to 18 trillion US dollars, became the largest trading partner with over 140 economies, established the largest educational, health, social security system in the world. It narrows the gap among people, creates a more equal society and leaves no one behind.

Dear friends,

China's success to end poverty not only belongs to China. Our experts and scholars with us today will tap into the China's practices and experience in this aspect. I will focus on what does it mean to the world and Africa.

China's success brings more economic opportunities to Africa. A larger Chinese economy provides more market to the continent. Trade between us is booming despite the global headwind. For Rwanda, China exempts the tariff of 98% Rwanda products. Rwandan coffee and chili is more than popular in China. China's experience to grow mushrooms is shared with Rwandans to improve people's livelihood. More Chinese people visit this country. More investment from China pours into Rwanda, making China the largest source of FDI. China exempted debt for Rwanda worth more than 50 million YUAN in order to relive its debt burden. Not long ago, China contributed 500 thousand US dollars to help Rwanda to tackle the floods.

China's success provides more public good for Africa. In 2021, President Xi Jinping put forward the Global Development Initiative, aiming to revitalize the global development agenda and mobilizes resources for developing countries. Tangible benefits were reaped. 32 concrete measures were proposed to implement the GDI. More than

one hundred of projects are designed to help with the social-economic development of the global south, covering important areas like poverty alleviation, food security, information technology, green development. China welcomes more countries to join the GDI and is ready to work with Africa to explore more development opportunities so as to build a better world.

China's success inspires those countries who want to accelerate development. It creates a new model for human progress and provides new options for developing countries to draw from to achieve independent development. It dispels the myths that only westernization could lead to success. China and Africa can work together to prove to the world, that we can not only won the victory against colonialism and foreign invasion, but also win the battle against poverty and backward development. We can stand on our own feet and let our people make a better life.

Dear friends,

For the past more than 100 years, China has been struggling to achieve modernization.



China and Africa can work together to prove to the world, that we can not only win the victory to colonialism and foreign invasion, but also win the battle against poverty and backward development.



««page 9 Now, under the leadership of CPC, China is on a new path to modernization with Chinese characteristics. The national rejuvenation is in an irreversible trend. China's endeavor to modernization is not a solo played only by itself, but a symphony enjoyed by all. It will unleash even more and huge opportunities for Africa. I would also like to encourage you to use every chance to promote more China-Africa's cooperation, to proliferate our friendship and to build a closer China-Africa community with shared future.

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Dear friends,

For the past more than 100 years, China has been struggling to achieve modernization. Now, under the leadership of CPC, China is on a new path to modernization with Chinese characteristics. The national rejuvenation is in an irreversible trend. China's endeavor to modernization is not a solo played only by itself, but a symphony enjoyed by all. It will unleash even more and huge opportunities for Africa. I would also like to encourage you to use every chance to promote more China-Africa's cooperation, to proliferate our friendship and to build a closer China-Africa community with shared future.

Thank you ■

His Excellence Wang Xuekun is the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Rwanda.



How Nations Succeed: General Principles Emerged from the Economic Miracle of China



Prof. Qingjie Xia

In less than 70 years' time, China successfully transformed herself from a backward agrarian country into an industrialized one. People still remember this transformation process freshly. So what general principles of political, economic and social development have emerged from the rise of China? After reading Professor Yi WEN's latest book "The Code of Scientific Revolution", I have got some answers to this question.

First, a country's scientific and technological capabilities come from powerful state-owned scientific research institutions. Professor Wen studied the history of European scientific revolution and industrialization, finds

out that all major scientific and technological breakthroughs were the result of state-funded research projects. It wasn't the result of the so-called "freedom, democracy and rule of law", nor the result of the ancient Greek scientific development; the underdevelopment of science and technology before the founding of New China was not related with the lack of scientific thoughts in the ancient China or its authoritarian regime, but because of the shortage of

state funding; the success of the "two bombs and one satellite" after the founding of New China was the result of the Chinese government's attention and the countrywide support; without state funding, scientists cannot rely on scientific research to make a living, let alone scientific research and technological development.

The achievements of New China's scientific and technological development reveal the first core secret of the scientific revolution of Europe, America and Japan since the European Renaissance.

Second, state-owned enterprises (SOEs hereafter) are the core tools [»»» page 12](#)



◀◀page 11 of national economic development. Also like a strong person must have developed limbs, a number of strong SOEs are the strong arms and legs of a country. Professor Wen found that early European countries established a large number of SOEs or State-Chartered-Enterprises (SCEs) (such as city state Venice's arsenal manufacture in the Renaissance period, the East Indian Company and West Indian Company in countries such as the United Kingdom and the Netherlands) for the purpose of national development, and even allowed these SCEs operating in the colonies to have armed forces, and if necessary, these SCEs can occupy colonies, manage civil and criminal justice, mint, collect taxes, launch wars, overthrow colonial governments through force, plunder local resources for free, to ensure investment returns and pay income taxes to the state.

The great contribution of the SOEs of New China revealed the second core secret of the early industrialization of European countries. The difference is that New China never has and never wants to have colonies, nor does it rely on slave trade and drug trade to accumulate capitals needed for further development, but let those SOEs building up transportation, communication, energy and power to help the country. These infrastructure facilities contributed to the Chinese economic miracle. Instead of replacing private firms, the Chinese SOEs provide products and services that private firms cannot or are slower to supply.

Third, encourage market economy and non-state-owned enterprises. Since the Industrial Revolution started in the 18th century, various industrial and commercial enterprises have gradually replaced farmers as chief players of the societies. While making

profits, these enterprises also provide society with capital and consumer goods, employment opportunities, and tax revenue for state. In addition, in the contemporary international competition, whether a country has agglomerations of strong high-tech enterprises is the main indicator of the country's international political and economic competitiveness. Improving the market mechanism and encouraging the development of non-state-owned enterprises have become the core model of contemporary national development.

Fourth, institutional arrangements are the result of political, economic and social development, not the premise. Professor Wen also revealed by studying the history of European industrialization since the Renaissance in Europe that the development of various institutional arrangements in the process of industrialization in Europe, America, Japan and other countries were the consequences of those countries' adapting to the needs of economic development, not that technological progress and economic prosperity of the West were brought about by the so-called "liberal, democratic and rule of law" as claimed by the institutional economics.

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, especially since the reform and opening up, the various institutional arrangements have been continuously established and improved according to the needs of China's political, economic and social development. The reason why the New China did not believe in any kind of doctrine was mainly because the Chinese Communist Party (CCP hereafter) found in its long-term revolutionary practice that any time when things were done according to the ▶▶▶page 13

««page 12 so-called dogma, the revolutionary cause would suffer setbacks and failures; on the contrary, if policies and measures were formulated realistically, the revolutionary cause and economic construction will be victorious and successful.

Fifth, participating in international political and economic competition is the core driving force for a country's political, economic and technological development. Professor Wen found that after the Renaissance, European countries fought over a hundred wars for territorial expansion and other interests, such as the Hundred Years War (1337-1543), the Thirty Years War (1618-1648), the First Anglo-Dutch War (1652-1654), Second Anglo-Dutch War (1665-1667), Third Anglo-Dutch War (1672-1674), Fourth Anglo-Dutch War (1780-1684), Nine Years War (1688-1697) and so on. In order not to be wiped out by the enemy in the war, governments of various countries set up ordnance departments and even state-owned academies to try their best to develop artillery and gunpowder.

The famous Italian scientist Galileo was an artillery expert at the Ordnance Bureau of Florence, the artists Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo were ordnance engineers, and Lavoisier was a chemist who found the secret of oxygen burning, greatly improved gunpowder and hence created the modern Chemistry as a science at the French Academy of Sciences. It can be said that the frequent wars between European countries after the Renaissance led to the occurrence of the scientific and technological revolution, and the application of the achievements of these technological revolutions to business led to the occurrence of the industrial revolution.

Sixth, building the most thoroughly open

society is a necessary prerequisite for economic development. While opening up the political participation to the people, China also empowers the masses, especially the hard-working people, with economic rights such as land and the right to receive public educational and medical services. Only when the vast numbers of people develop can a country develop.

After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the most thorough land system reform in human history was implemented, and the land of landlords and capitalists was confiscated and distributed equally to the vast masses of peasants who had no or little land. Later, the collectivization of rural land and the nationalization of urban land were implemented.

Without the collectivization and nationalization of land, there would be no large-scale infrastructure construction and industrial parks that take up a lot of land. After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the social service affirmative action measures were to open the nine-year compulsory education and public medical services to all citizens. In this regard, Nobel Laureate in Economics Amartya Sen said that before the reform and opening up, the new China had prepared the human capital foundation for the economic take-off after the reform and opening up.

Last but not the least, the core prerequisite for a country's economic development is that the country must have a strong central and local governmental structure dedicated to the well-being of the vast majority of its citizens. Just like a capable person needs a strong and developed brain, a country must first have a strong nerve center, »»»page 14



««page 13 that is, the central government that focuses on the political, economic and social development of the country and its organizational structure and framework that extends to the grassroots people, and this government must put the interests of the people, especially the working masses, at the core. Professor Wen concluded that in the waring period from the end of Renaissance to the end of 19th century, the European countries whose decision-making process and resources were gradually centralized won the wars and survived, whereas those who remained decentralized lost and disappeared.

The Chinese government under the leadership of the CCP is such a government whose sole purpose and goal is to "serve the people wholeheartedly" and nothing else. In addition, the CCP and the People's Army led by it are a great political party and a great army that have been honed in the long-term domestic revolutionary wars and anti-aggression wars.

The CCP has its own unique ideology, invincible and strong will, and strict organizational structure and discipline. It was under the leadership of such a strong political party that New China headed off the threats posed by the Korea War (1950-1953), Vietnam War (1964-1973), and Sino-Indian Border War (1962), and won a peaceful environment for China. The governmental governance in many developing countries has been weak. If governmental regulations are relaxed in accordance with the neoliberal economic dogma, the political and economic governance of many developing countries will

not be realized, let alone economic growth and development.

All in all, China's economic miracle shows the universal laws of a country's economic take-off, that is, a country's scientific and technological progress is the result of state financial support, SOEs are a powerful propellant of a country's political, economic and social development, non-state-owned manufacturing enterprises are main players of the societies, and institutional arrangements are the result of a country's economic development not the prerequisite of it. International political, economic and military competition leads the state to fund scientific and technological development and promote economic development.

Opening economic rights to all citizens and providing basic social services such as education and medical care are the preconditions for a country's economic and social development, and the last and most important point is that a strong, promising, people-oriented central and local government organization is the most important prerequisite for a country's political, economic and social development. The above principles emerged from the industrialization process of China demonstrated that without active governments' influential function, no country would be able to develop ■

Qingjie XIA, Ph.D. in Economics (University of Bath, UK), Professor at the School of Economics, Director of the Center for Human and Economic Development (CHEDS), Peking University, Beijing, China.



China's experience on poverty alleviation inspires African countries



Dr Adhere Cavince

China has made significant strides in poverty alleviation and a global example showing that it is possible to win the war on poverty in one generation. There is need to move beyond superficial discussions and truly understand the factors that contributed to China's development success. The title of the seminar, "Can China's experience of poverty alleviation work for Africa?" is an appropriate discussion at this point, and indeed it is possible for Africa to benefit from China's experience due to several reasons.

China's inspiring achievements, the interest among African countries in joint development, and the enabling conditions facilitated by a strong partnership between China and Africa. For Africa to overcome poverty the same way China did, one challenge must be overcome of moving beyond spectacle and speeches and critically examine and implement the key factors behind China's development. China's success story has its foundation in a re-

form-driven policy agenda that is people-based, involving the aspirations, consent, and support of the population.

Learning from China's people centred approach, is important to show the significance of rural revitalization and inclusive development. There have been successful partnerships between China and Kenya, particularly in transportation and ICT sectors. The integration of Chinese software, like M-pesa and mobile banking, has played a significant role in Kenya's modernization. Greater exchange of governance experiences, market and trade facilitation, capacity building for young people through scholarships, and leveraging China's goodwill in multilateral settings to overcome development challenges, such as extreme poverty must be encouraged.

The role of media in creating targeted messages to promote positive narratives and opportunities for investment, fostering a deeper understanding between China and Africa must be promoted. There is great potential for Africa to learn from China's poverty alleviation experience, and the importance of understanding the underlying factors of China's development success and how they can be applied in African contexts.

By leveraging China's partnership, goodwill, and expertise, African countries, including Kenya, can advance their development agendas, promote inclusive growth, and overcome challenges like extreme poverty. Embracing a people-based reform agenda, rural revitalization, and media-driven positive narratives can contribute to strengthening the collaboration between China and Africa and foster mutual prosperity ■

Dr. Adhere Cavince is a scholar of international relations with a focus on China-Africa cooperation, based in Nairobi, Kenya.



China's Policy and Experience on Poverty Reduction



Li Xin

The effects of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) have continued to be felt all over the world especially in Africa as a developing continent and in Southern Africa in particular.

The effects of the Belt and Road Initiative in 1986, major reforms involving agriculture and rural areas were launched, providing for a massive, planned, well-organized poverty alleviation effort at the national level. Special poverty alleviation agencies were set up, poverty standards were set, key impoverished areas and counties were identified.

In early 1990s, China put forward the goal of achieving moderate prosperity in all

respects, and continued to press ahead with massive national campaigns on poverty alleviation. In 1994, the State Council launched the Priority Poverty Alleviation Program (1994-2000), China's first ever national poverty alleviation program with definite goals, targets, measures and deadlines (to lift 80million people out of poverty in 7 years).

By the end of 2000, the impoverished population

in rural areas had been reduced to 32.09 million and the incidence of poverty down to 3.5%, based on the poverty alleviation standard at that time. From 2000, China enacted a new series of poverty alleviation policies and measures. Listing the central and western regions as the priority region, and choosing as individual targets 150,000 impoverished villages besides the 592 key counties, where the full participation of villagers in poverty alleviation efforts was encouraged.

A whole range of efforts were directed to business development, training and transfer of rural labor, poverty alleviation through relocation, and [page 17](#)

««page 17 relocation for the development of the eco-economy. By the end of 2010, according to the national poverty standard, the impoverished rural population had been reduced to 26.88 million, and the incidence of poverty had fallen to 2.8%.

CHINA'S POVERTY ERADICATION HISTORY AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The CPC set the goals that by 2020 it would help all the rural population out of poverty as defined by the existing standard, raise all impoverished counties out of poverty, and eliminate poverty over entire regions – mobilizing the whole Party, the whole country, and all sectors of society to engage in this endeavour.

In 2013, on his inspection tour to Shibadong Village, Huayuan County, Hunan Province, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed for the first time the concept of "giving differentiated guidance for targeted poverty alleviation in line with local conditions by seeking truth from facts".

AFTER THE 18TH COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA (CPC) NATIONAL CONGRESS IN 2012

In 2020, the 98.99 million people in rural areas who were living below the current poverty threshold all shook off poverty; all the 128,000 impoverished villages and 832 designated poor counties got rid of poverty. China has eliminated poverty over entire regions and eradicated extreme poverty. China has won the battle against extreme poverty and achieved the poverty alleviation goal set on the UN 2030 Agenda

for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule.

SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN THE LIVING STANDARDS OF THE POOR

China has supported and guided poor areas in developing economic activities geared to their available resources, and encouraged poverty alleviation through new forms of business and new industries such as e-commerce, photovoltaic (PV) power generation and tourism, and through the consumption of products and services from poor areas.

The economy in rural areas has achieved sustained and rapid growth. Supporting and guiding poor areas to develop local specialty businesses has been key, while

Education was made compulsory. Improvement health care, safe housing for all. Infrastructure and social services in poor areas, improved access to good quality education and electricity access have been achieved.

MULTIDIMENSIONAL STANDARD FOR POVERTY REDUCTION

Household applications for poverty registration are discussed and reviewed, disclosed for public supervision, and then evaluated by each level of administration. The households confirmed as poor are then registered and a file is created in the national poverty alleviation information system. Dynamic management of the poor population in place to remove those who have »»page 18



««page 17 been wrongly identified and to add those newly identified.

Two Assurances: Adequate food and safe drinking water and Clothing.

Three Guarantees: Compulsory education. Basic medical care and Housing security.

COOPERATION WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES ON POVERTY REDUCTION

China's International Cooperation on Poverty Reduction has played a key role as a Facilitator of the Global Cause of Poverty Alleviation. China has supported other developing countries in poverty alleviation. China has launched international poverty alleviation cooperation projects for the benefit of all and it is important to mention that China has shared its experience on poverty reduction.

EXPANDING GLOBAL POVERTY REDUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

Major mandates of IPRCC: The International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC) was established in May 2005, jointly initiated and established by the Chinese government, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank. It is designed to provide an international platform for research, training, exchange, collaboration and knowledge sharing on poverty reduction.

IPRCC is an International exchange Platform for Poverty Reduction and Development. The mandate includes uniting more stake holders and promote exchanges and cooperation between China and African countries in poverty reduction and development. IPRCC jointly launched the Africa-China Alliance for Poverty Alleviation (ACAPA) with 29 institutions

around the world on November 10th, 2022.

FOCAC POVERTY REDUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

FOCAC Poverty Reduction and Development Conference was launched in the year of 2010, and now has been developed into an important platform of experience and knowledge sharing between Africa and China. It has been successfully held in Ethiopia, Mauritius, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, etc.

ORGANIZE TRAINING SEMINARS ON POVERTY REDUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

In 2022, IPRCC overcome the impact of the epidemic, and implemented the online training programs. IPRCC has successfully held 11 online training programs for 361 participants from 25 countries, of which 160 trainees were from 13 African countries.

FACILITATING INTERNATIONAL POVERTY REDUCTION COOPERATION

Case No.1 of China-Rwanda Poverty Reduction Cooperation: In March 2019, after graduating from the "Alibaba Entrepreneurship Support Program," Rwandan entrepreneurs jointly initiated the "Green Path" project to replicate the Chinese "Rural Taobao" model and assist local farmers in expanding into the e-commerce market.

Case No.2 of China-Rwanda Poverty Reduction Cooperation: Rwanda Agricultural Products Chilli Suace and Coffee became popular in China with the help of Alibaba's eWTP (Electronic World Trade Platform). As a result, the income of Rwanda local »»»page 19



««page 18 farmer and agricultural producer multiplied.

Case No.3 of China-Rwanda Poverty Reduction Cooperation: At the end of 2018, Visit Rwanda, Rwanda's official tourism agency, made its debut on Fliggy (one of the biggest online travel platform and app in China), offering unique products and itineraries such as mountain gorilla tourism. Since then, Chinese tourists can access first-hand information about tourism in Rwanda and book travel packages through Fliggy. This move greatly facilitated the development of Rwanda's tourism industry, and many local residents were able to escape poverty by relying on inbound Chinese tourists.

FACILITATING INTERNATIONAL POVERTY REDUCTION COOPERATION

Case No.4 of China-Rwanda Poverty Reduction Cooperation: The Chinese government has supported the construction of 181 rural wells in 11 regions of Rwanda through gratuitous assistance, which has played an important role in ensuring drinking water, improving water

quality and improving health and sanitation conditions in Rwanda's impoverished areas.

We are Looking forward to sharing knowledge products in poverty reduction and rural development with Africa; continue to organize training seminars on poverty reduction and development for Africa, as well as sharing research reports, case studies, visual products and other knowledge products with relevant research institutions on topics of common concern in the field of poverty reduction and rural development in various ways ■

LI Xin is the Deputy Director General of the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC)



Removing millions out of poverty: What lessons can Africa get from China?



Mweusi Karake

Sixty years ago China was as poor as most African countries. Some African countries like, Ghana, Ethiopia, Egypt, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda had a better citizen's welfare; I hate to use income per capita, for a country can raise income per capita and remain very poor. An excellent example is a country once called Zaire and now DRC. A country can easily have 90 Millionaires, and 90 million beggars!

On the other hand, "Over the past 40 years, the number of people in China with incomes below \$1.90 per day – the International Poverty Line as defined by the World Bank to track global extreme poverty– has fallen by close to 800 million," according to world bank joint study undertaken by China's Ministry of Fi-

nance, the Development Research Center (DRC) of the State Council, with the China Center for International Knowledge on Development (CIKD) acting as the implementing agency. The report looked at the key drivers of China's poverty alleviation achievements over the past 40 years, considers the insights of China's experience for other developing countries and puts forward suggestions for China's own future policies.

With this, China has contributed close to three-quarters of the global reduction in the

number of people living in extreme poverty. At China's current national poverty line, the number of poor fell by 770 million over the same period. Since this report was released 13 months ago. We for certain conclude that as of today May 2023. The 80 Million people is no more 'close "but most likely had been fully achieved and many times over.

Lifting 80 Million people out of poverty is equivalent to lifting the entire population of Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, and South Soudan out of poverty over night! I will not dwell on the content of the above report. As indicated it has been on internet for over one year; so and one who care to read about china has probably read it. In my current discussion I will dwell on [page 21](#)

««page 20 the so called “Chinese growth magic”. For no matter how benevolent China would have been, she could not have lifted so many millions out of poverty without lifting the entire nation. Below are the facts that have made China what she is and what Africa should learn:

POLITICAL APPROACHES WITH CHINESE CHARACTER

China does not copy and paste any economic nor political model. For example China literally “Selects” its leaders as opposed to “elect”. In the western models that African have copied from their former colonial masters, the Chinese approach might be accused of being “undemocratic”. But by “selecting” rather than the one adult one vote western model, China never has inexperienced leaders. You must have been tasted. You don’t simply come out of TV talk show and become a president. That is why for so many years the Secretary General of the Chinese Communist Party is a potential step towards being a Chinese president. This way, when a twenty, fifty years vision like poverty alleviation has been set, the incoming Chinese president will have been part of the vision and will therefore either keep the vision, or improve it.

Africa like China therefore, must come up with a political system that is suitable to African problems, timing and vision not “copy and paste” of western so called democratic systems. With due respect to “equality” I honestly do not understand why my houseboy/house girl, an illiterate street sweet banana vendor, should have equal opportunity as a university professor or an army general in deciding who our next president should be. Call undemocratic if you wish, but that is my unapologetic opinion.



Lifting 80 Million people out of poverty is equivalent to lifting the entire population of Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, and South Soudan out of poverty over night!

These should be helped to organize, and uplift their welfare but not to make choices on matters that they don’t understand, like the notorious Trump’s MEGA made mainly of non-college educated white males.

EDUCATION TAKES PEOPLE OUT OF POVERTY

I grew up in different refugee camps in north western Uganda, where refugees’ successes was measured by how many acres of land a family could till (usually maize crops), the more tons of maize the more the head of the family (read father) could shine. This was demonstrated by a newly acquired “wealth meter” property. E.g. a new transistor Radio or better a brand new Raleigh Bicycle. Some greater performers were even able to construct a two room iron sheets roofed shelter! The more sons a family had the more manpower to achieve these short term targets. My dad with six sons; a very huge manpower, underperformed in these wealth meters, and neighbors gossiped behind his back for not utilizing his god given manpower. SONS!

My dad, a trained school teacher, had decided that he is better off sending his children to school than ride a posh bicycle or own a transistor radio. He had also decided that »»» page 22



« «page 21 a house is not a movable property and he was contented living a grass thatched house; after all he had left a five bedroom, modern house in Rwanda. My siblings and I are not among the richest people in our country Rwanda, but if my dad had chosen a bicycle and iron sheet roofed house of our education, I would not be writing this article.

China provides, clear guidance to her citizens regarding Education. Not just guidance. China instills discipline and even possible punitive measures to the parents who make short term priorities over long term ones such as education: As a result china provides a nine-year compulsory education policy that enables children over six years old nationwide to have free education at both primary schools (Grade 1 to 6) and junior secondary schools Grade 7 to 9). The policy is funded by government, and tuition is free.

Indeed China's national education expenditure is one of the highest worldwide. In the year 2021 it totaled nearly 5.8 trillion Yuan (about 840 billion U.S. dollars) , up 9.13 from the previous year, according to the Ministry of Education, accounting for well over 5 percent of the country's GDP.

CHINA IS NOT LAND LOCKED, FACE IT SO NEITHER IS AFRICA

Western economists have attributed china's rise in just seven decades to geographical location. China is not land locked it has seas very important for trade. Very true and very wrong!! We have to remember that china is continent or for those who would like to minimise her "a sub-continent" based on this classification, Africa is not land locked.

A few countries like Rwanda are land locked, but Africa as a continent is not land locked. What African leaders have failed to do is make Africa one entity. The organisation of African Unity (OAU) created in early sixties and replaced by the African union (AU), has simply being talking shops.

I am not a politician; I challenge anyone who dare to argue, to show me any African country that has lifted 80 million citizens out of poverty in just four decade. Some hundred African citizens (please don't tell me OAU/AU staff) who have been lifted out of poverty because of OAU/AU poverty alleviation programmes.

According to the current Constitution of China, the president must be a Chinese citizen with full electoral rights who has reached the age of 45.

The president is elected by the National People's Congress (NPC), China's highest state body, which also has the power to remove the president and other state officers from office. Elections and removals are decided by majority vote.

Between 1982 and March 2018, the president and vice-president were limited to two consecutive terms. However, these limits were removed at the 2018 National People's Congress ■

Mweusi Karake is a regional integration advocate formerly with COMESA.

Chinese projects create jobs and contribute to Uganda's Prosperity



Mubarak Mugabo

Chinese projects have created more than 50,000 jobs for Ugandans which has helped the people to increase their incomes, fight poverty and live a better life. The Chinese projects generally contribute towards Uganda's prosperity.

China's projects like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) despite intense negative backlash in developing countries, it remains popular in Africa and doing wonders in Uganda. There are many BRI projects in Uganda including roads, hydro power, industrial parks, agricultural and medical exchanges and other sectors.

For the last few years, I have interacted with researchers, government officials of these projects on a number of occasions to evaluate the benefits and shortcomings of BRI; their positive contribution outweighs the negative.

This explains why China surpassed United States in the eyes of young Africans regarding positive influence according to a survey conducted by Ichikowitz

Family Foundation last year.

THE KAMPALA-ENTEBBE EXPRESSWAY

Last week; I traveled to Entebbe international airport from Kampala, the capital of Uganda, a distance of about 36 kilometers. For those familiar with the route, it used to take us more than four hours to drive that distance.

It would cost Uganda shillings 4000, about \$1.4 for each passenger in a 14-seater commuter taxi. This is because the main road has got more traffic to many Kampala and Wakiso city suburbs. »» page 24



««page 23 In 2012, government designated the route for the construction of the Kampala-Entebbe Expressway, with funding from Exim Bank of China. The project was commissioned in 2018.

The four lane expressway now cuts the travel time to about 25minutes at the same cost but enabling travelers to the airport and the neighboring residential area reduce time. Many passengers are now happy with this time saving and safe project.

Although it costs Uganda Shillings 5000 (about \$1.7) for light vehicles to use the route, the scost and time saved is worth it. Besides saving time and money for Ugandans, the four lane expressway is the best and one of its kind in Uganda today. Ugandans used to boast about the old Entebbe-Kampala Road, Kampala-Mubende-Fort portal road and Kampala-Karuma-Gulu highway as the one of the best roads in the country.

KARUMA HYDROPOWER PROJECT

Karuma is in Kiryandongo district where Uganda's biggest hydroelectric power project is yet to be commissioned. Uganda acquired a \$1.4billion loan again from Exim Bank of China to construct this 600 megawatts hydroelectric power project. The project is located on the River Nile, in Kiryandongo district.

The six turbine mega project recently tested one of the turbines and today is contributing up to 100 megawatts to the national grid. According to Uganda's ministry of Energy and Mineral resources, Uganda's electricity generation capacity is 1,360 megawatts, Karuma hydro power station will increase the capacity to 2,000 megawatts upon

commissioning any time soon this year.

On my way from Kingfisher Oil field in Kikuube district, also operated by China's oil giant China National Offshore Oil Company (CNOOC), I toured Karuma hydro power station to check on the progress, I observed that local communities have immensely benefitted from the project ranging from market for agricultural products, services, jobs and skills.



The expressway and Karuma projects are part of the BRI projects in Uganda intended to reduce the cost of doing business, allowing those able to start small factories and small medium size enterprises which can provide jobs for unemployed youths.

Okema Julius, 27 years old joined Karuma project in 2015 as a construction porter, he had no skill that can warrant him employment anywhere, today he can operate construction equipment, drive heavy-load vehicles and draw plans. He has since married, built his own house and taken his children to school. Over 3000 unskilled Ugandans have been employed in the construction Karuma hydro power station.

The expressway and Karuma projects are part of the BRI projects in Uganda intended to reduce the cost of doing business, allowing those able to start small factories and small medium size

»»»page 25



««page 24 enterprises which can provide jobs for unemployed youths. According to United Nations Children’s fund (UNICEF), Uganda has the second youngest populations in the world with 78 percent under the ages of 35 years. The 2022 Uganda Bureau of Statistics report shows that about 10 million Ugandan youths are neither in education, employment or training.

The few ones who are able to work as casual workers in projects like Karuma hydropower project have got opportunities in small factories established in the various parts of the country.

CHINESE-ESTABLISHED INDUSTRIAL PARKS

Liao Shen industrial park is located in Kapeeka village, Nakaseke district in central Uganda, about 60 kilometers from Kampala. Established in 2015, it occupies a 259-hectare piece of land.

The 2021 Frederich Ebert Stiftung study revealed that 14 operational firms and two others under construction within Liao Shen industrial park. According to the ministry of

finance, 50000 jobs have already been created by four industrial parks, of which almost 20,000 jobs are created in Liao Shen industrial park. Also about 350 operational firms are constructed in industrial parks all together.

Other than contributing to value addition of our products, buying maize, mangoes and other fruits from local farmers, The Park employs hundreds of young people from the countryside.

Those employed, apart from getting the jobs and improving lives, young people leave parks much more skilled than they came and becoming more employable.

Although BRI projects in Uganda and Africa as a whole are misrepresented and labeled as a debt trap, these three major BRI projects in Uganda have got tangible benefits for young people and serves as roads to Uganda’s prosperity ■

The writer is a Ugandan journalist and China Africa Press Center Fellow 19.



Battle Against Poverty: Marching Forward Together



Jin Songbao

Mr. Jin Songbao, a former diplomat has spent more than two years working with people in Wujiazhai village; Jinping County, Yunnan Province shared his experience. His testimony shows that in the journey to win poverty, there must be some who make sacrifices by moving from their comfort zones to help out in poor rural areas.

Below is the testimony Mr. Jin Songbao shared with the seminar participants.

Hello everyone.

It's my pleasure to be part of today's discussion. Two years ago, I was a diplomat at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Now I am the first secretary and captain of the resident work team in a

village. You may be wondering why my role has shifted from a diplomat to a rural worker.

In 2021, China had secured a complete victory in its fight against absolute poverty. However the foundation of victory in some areas is not solid and stable. After 2021 to help people that have been lifted out of poverty to achieve better and faster development, the central government has decided to continue to send work teams to relevant poverty-stricken

areas. Not only the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but all other ministries, state-owned enterprises, universities etc. have assigned work teams across the country.






It was against this background that I was stationed in the village. Now my work team have 3 members. I am the captain, and the other two are from Yunnan Provincial Government.

You may be interested in what we do in the village. I would say I am a witness, a participant and a contributor. Next I will demonstrate with PPT to share with you my practical experience of working at grassroots on poverty alleviation.

So today I am a [▶▶▶page 27](#)

««page 26 little bit like a reporter in a remote rural area on the front line. I Hope it will be a showcase for you to better understand China's policies and efforts in the battle against poverty.

Our job focuses on the following 5 aspects:

	<i>To consolidate the results of poverty alleviation</i>
	<i>To improve the infrastructure</i>
	<i>To revitalize rural businesses and industries</i>
	<i>To improve governance at village level</i>
	<i>To serve the villagers wholeheartedly</i>

Firstly, although our country has won the battle against poverty, there is still a long way to go to consolidate the results of poverty alleviation. To this end, we visit some poor families quite often to ensure early detection, early intervention, and early assistance. Make sure they don't fall back into poverty again.

In the pictures, the guy wearing glasses is me.

We have adopted a set of targeted policies tailored to individual household and people, so that we can address the root causes of poverty with precision.

At the moment all the farmers don't need to worry about their basic needs on food and clothing. And we also make sure that they will get access to compulsory education, basic medical services, safe housing and clean drinking water.

Among them education remains top priority in our agenda. Because in the long run education can break the chain of inter-

generational transmission of poverty. BTW, this year I've raised some money from my schoolmates for the poor students to continue their study in school.

Secondly, We try our best to improve the infrastructure. From The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, provincial and state governments we raised more than 2 million Chinese Yuan to pave the roads, renovate village clinic, open kids club, erect street lights, improve the environment, and continuously enhance people's sense of gain, happiness and security.

Recently I am in touch with a European transnational company which has branches in China, try to persuade them into donating some money to build a public toilet for our village.

Thirdly, the revitalization of rural businesses and industries play very important role in rural revitalization.

We have tried our best to find economic crops such as fruits, flowers or medicinal herbs that can increase farmers' income and at the same time beautify the countryside. Usually the government will provide funds for these kinds of projects.

Fourthly, to improve the level of governance at village level. We pay attention to the training of the members of local village committee. By holding regular meetings every week, the difficulties in the work are collectively studied and discussed, thus the working ability of village cadres is continuously improved. We also teach them how to use specific software and database on computer, and greatly improve the efficiency.

Furthermore, we monitor local election and publicize some frequently-used »»page 28



««page 27 laws and regulations to keep the village running in order.

Lastly, to serve the villagers wholeheartedly in different ways. Our president Xi Jinping once said emotionally, "The country is the people, and the people are the country." We always keep in mind that, in the people, the Party has its roots, its lifeblood, and its source of strength.



We have adopted a set of targeted policies tailored to individual household and people, so that we can address the root causes of poverty with precision.

We mediate farmers' disputes, harvest the crops with them, and take their "little things" to heart and solve problems for them. We even work in evenings or on holidays. Although it is very hard work, what is gained is the satisfaction and trust of the farmers. The above are what we are doing in the village.

To sum up, in my point of view, there are five reasons for China's stunning achievements in poverty alleviation:

- No.1** *We have strong leadership of the Party with President Xi Jinping at the core.*
- No.2** *We have targeted policies tailor-made for the poor people.*
- No.3** *The government and society provide huge support on funds and resources.*
- No.4** *We got strong task forces resident in rural areas.*
- No.5** *The masses are fully mobilized.*

Just one more thing. Not far from our village, there is a primary school donated by an African country called Equatorial Guinea. It's a vivid example of collaboration in poverty reduction between China and African countries. In a sense, our achievement in poverty reduction not only belongs to China, but also belongs to the world.

Through our joint efforts, I wish one day there would be no poverty on our planet. Everyone can live a happy and prosperous life ■

Mr. Jin Songbao is the First Secretary, Captain of resident work Team in Wujiashai village, Jinping County, Yunnan Province- China.



The historical feat of eradicating absolute poverty as scheduled was a hard-won victory for China



Gui Tao

The country, led by the Communist Party of China, has not only the vision but also the determination to win the war against poverty. But are the results seen in China replicable? The quick answer is yes and no. No, because some Chinese policies and conditions, such as the strong leadership of the ruling party and the large-scale mobilization of social and economic resources among different regions and departments, are not easy to replicate in other countries where different economic and political systems are in place. Yes, because even though the overall Chinese strategy for poverty eradication is not easily replicable, it holds important

lessons for the global fight.

Some elements in its strategy can be learned. Xinhua published a think tank report on China's poverty alleviation studies two years ago. The report, which can be accessible on Xinhua's website, summed up five elements in China's success on poverty reduction with 5Ds which I would like to share with you.

DETERMINED LEADERSHIP

Political economy theory shows that when a particular task becomes the top priority

of a country's top leader and is continuously implemented (the "nail" spirit), it creates a strong national will and drives allocation of resources. The objective is noble because it is people-centered and confronts the issues of social inequality and efficiency for the overall well-being of the country and society.

DETAILED BLUEPRINT

China is adept at strategic planning, and also focused on medium-term and short-term goals, such as the "two centenary" strategic goals, the "Five-Year Plans" and the annual Central Economic Work Conference. The blueprint design, formed on the basis of in-depth study and an understanding of domestic and international issues and trends, [»»» page 30](#)



««page 29 helps all sectors of society form stable expectations of the future. With the common goal of eradicating absolute poverty, several generations of Chinese leaderships have led the nation in successive struggles, which ensured policy continuity and spurred the entire country to work together toward a unified goal.

DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED

Translating economic growth into poverty alleviation is no doubt complicated. Even more complicated is translating economic growth into policies that are more widely shared or effectively target the poor. China has combined economic development with proactive precise poverty reduction, effectively offsetting the declining "trickle-down" effect of economic growth. In recent years, China has adopted a strategy of transforming its economy from one defined by high-speed growth to one centered on high-quality development. This economic transformation will undoubtedly have a tremendous impact on the future of poverty alleviation in China.

DATA-BASED GOVERNANCE

Precise poverty alleviation requires precise data. In the fight against poverty, the Chinese government has attached particular importance to the development of big data and the digital economy and emphasized the

application of advanced digital management, which made China's poverty alleviation success possible in a relatively short period of time. China's national poverty alleviation data system, established in 2014, included information on 128,000 poor villages, nearly 30 million poor households and nearly 90 million poor people, and has since been dynamically adjusted.

DECENTRALIZED DELIVERY

Poverty alleviation, especially the "last mile" of eradicating absolute poverty, cannot be achieved without proper execution. The effective implementation of China's poverty alleviation policies is also due to the "decentralized" nature of the country's governance structure, featuring many improvisations at subnational levels to implement national policies. So to sum up, determined leadership, detailed blueprint, development-oriented, data-based governance as well as decentralized delivery, they are the 5Ds behind China's poverty alleviation success and if you can replicate these elements, you can replicate China's success ■

Mr. Gui Tao is the Director of Local News Desk, Department of News for Overseas Service, Xinhua News Agency.

Chinese Small Technology Improved Farmers' Yields and Nutrition in Tanzania



Dr. Chuanhong Zhang

Agriculture played a very important role in China's poverty reduction. Without the good foundation of agriculture development, it was very difficult for China to achieve industrialization. Since 1978, China has achieved high growth of agricultural GDP, ensuring food security nationwide and poverty reduction in rural area.

China uses less than 9 percent of the world's arable land and 6 percent of water to feed more than 20 percent of the world's population. The self-sufficiency ratio of three staple crops—maize, rice and wheat are over 95%. The overall mechanization rate of agriculture is 72%. China has gone through rapid agricultural modernization

process. Compared to China, Africa has rich resources for agriculture development such as fertile and arable land but agricultural productivity is still low and food insecurity is prevalent in Africa.

Agricultural cooperation has been prioritized in China-Africa cooperation. Since 1960s, China started to dispatch agricultural experts to Africa to help Africa tackle her food insecurity issues. Hybrid rice from China increased rice yield in Madagascar and

Uganda. Rice production in Mozambique has been increased enormously with Chinese technology.

As the top university in agriculture, China Agricultural University (CAU) has been giving great efforts in building capacities of both smallholder farmers and professional elites in Africa. Today, I would like to share a case of poverty reduction project implemented by our team at China Agricultural University under the leadership of Professor Li Xiaoyun. The project focused on transferring small technology in China to smallholder farmers in Tanzania to test whether China's development experience can be applied in African context. [▶▶▶ page 32](#)



««page 31 By sharing this case, I would like to answer two specific questions: If China's experience is relevant to Africa, in what way it works? How can we target the smallholder farmers in Africa as poverty is concentrated in rural areas of Tanzania similar to China as well as most of other developing countries?

The project is named as “Small Technology, Big Harvest”. We call it “small” because it



... China used the “8 point-Charter for Agriculture” which is a holistic approach focusing on improving agricultural productivity, literally means “soil, water, seeds, fertilizer, management, density, tools and protection

does not require high capital input and it is simple technology that can be easily learned and disseminated by smallholder farmers in rural Tanzania. In 2009, Professor Li and his team from CAU went to Tanzania and learned that the maize production there was very low compared with the yield in China.

The practice of the smallholder farmers in Morogoro region was very rough. People didn't do land preparation, no proper cultivation, not using improved seeds and no weeding, not to mention applying fertilizers and chemicals. Professor Li was thinking how he could help those farmers improve their maize production under the condition that the smallholder

farmers couldn't get much support from the local government in infrastructure and capital input. He thought of China's experience before 1970s.

Many people ask how China developed its agriculture when government didn't have large budget to invest in infrastructure and provide subsidies. The “8 point-Charter for Agriculture”, which is a holistic approach focusing on improving agricultural productivity, literally means “soil, water, seeds, fertilizer, management, density, tools and protection” played a significant role in improving the crop yield. African smallholder farmers could also apply these small technologies. By doing land preparation, increasing the density, using improved seeds, weeding for a couple of times, local farmers in Morogoro region of Tanzania could actually increase their yield of maize by 2-3 times.

However, even this easy trial was not that easy at the beginning. Local farmers were reluctant to apply these technologies as they couldn't see the results but more labor inputs were needed. After witnessing the good harvest of a village extensionist in Peapea village, other farmers started to apply these small technologies.

To encourage more farmers to apply these technologies, the project not only provided some materials such as improved seeds, planting ropes, small amount of fertilizers, but also organized award ceremonies at the harvest season. Demonstration farmers who outperformed others were given new bicycles as a reward. The project also works with the local government to train agricultural extensionists. An excellent extensionist can earn a motorcycle as a gift. With this system, by the end of 2020, more than 1000 »»page 33

««page 32 households in the Morogoro region in Tanzania had adopted these technologies either through training or self-learning. This has fundamentally revolutionized the maize production practices of the area.

The smallholder farmers in this region have harvested a lot of maize and achieved food security. However, due to the long-term single crop production, the soil condition in this area is not good. Since 2022, we started to encourage local people to try inter-cropping of maize and soybeans. We call this new project “small beans, good nutrition”. By inter-cropping maize and soy beans, the income of the local farmers has been increased and the nutrition problem has been solved as locals have started drinking soy milk. They started to learn how to process soy milk and even add different spices into the soy milk. Due to rich plant protein of soy milk, the project is expected to contribute to the improvement of nutrition for rural people in Tanzania.

During the process of project implementation, the self-organization capability of the local people has also increased with a very small budget as local farmers work very hard to distribute seeds. To upscale the impact

of the project, the local government also started to organize award ceremony for the most successful farmers to encourage more people to practice intercropping pattern of soy bean and maize. These farmers also achieved resilience during COVID-19 and the global economic recession. They achieved food security, nutrition, land maintenance and environmental sustainability.

Most importantly, this project has won the hearts of local people. If you go to that area almost all farmers are very grateful for what China has done for them. The relationship between the local government and local community are becoming closer. Through this project, we have proved that China's experiences in poverty alleviation can be shared and adopted by African countries. However, we also need to be aware that when applying Chinese experiences into African context, the local conditions, different development phases need to be taken into consideration and a tailor-made approach embedded into China's experience works better for African countries ■

Dr. Chuanhong Zhang is a professor at China Agricultural University.



China Poverty alleviation success story: a big lesson for Africa



Gerald Mbanda

China's success story in eliminating extreme poverty is a big lesson to Africa that the continent can also overcome poverty. The question of how and when, can be interrogated by borrowing a leaf from China's experience. Although the conditions may not be the same, but the adaptation of people centered policies, hard work and commitment by leadership form the cornerstone of China's success story.

China which is home to nearly one fifth of the world's population eliminated extreme poverty 10 years ahead of schedule set by the UN 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. The milestone remains unmatched in the history of

humankind to be achieved in one generation.

In the initial period of reform and opening up, confronted by the grim challenge of a large rural impoverished population base and a high incidence of poverty, the second generation of the central collective leadership headed by Deng Xiaoping issued a declaration that "Poverty is not socialism; socialism means eliminating poverty." China indeed proved that what other countries assume to be impossible has been possible

at a grand scale due to the commitment by leadership. China considers fight against poverty important in achieving fundamental human rights.

From personal experience when I travelled to western China in November 2019, one year before China declared winning the war against extreme poverty, and also my second visit to the country in June 2023, after the COVID-19 pandemic, I witnessed how poverty alleviation strategies were fast tracked and coordinated right from the top leadership in government, down to the local leaders and the local people. The poor families in every village were identified and supported to shake off poverty. »» page 35



Apartments built for poor families in Guizhou, Sheng (province) of Southwestern China. Photo: Gerald Mbanda.

««page 34 What impressed me most was the re-settlement of the poor families that lived in arid areas into modern housing estates with magnificent furnishings, running water, tarmacked streets, modern schools for children, health and recreational centres etc. It was hard for me to understand how the government was taking responsibility to improve the well-being of its entire population. African economies may not have the financial muscle to put up the same, but improvement in living standards can be done within the available means. It simply requires the political will the leadership.

For Africa to get out of the poverty trap, it is essential to plan at all levels from top to bottom and the implementation of the plan is key. Coordination and consultation at all levels helps to achieve the same goal without duplication or change of strategy without consensus. The fight against corruption should be high on agenda as it is an impediment to the fight against poverty. Leaders must be of high integrity, transparent, accountable and must put the interests of the people first.

In China, President Xi Jinping, always showed concern about impoverished families and put poverty alleviation as top priority of his work agenda. His proposals and policy decisions paid off and extreme poverty was eliminated in a record time to make a better living for the Chinese people. In his book, “Up and Out of Poverty,” Xi, reflections of wisdom can similarly guide African leaders in the fight against poverty. “How will we ever be able to eliminate poverty?” Xi asks. “We must free our mind and get down to real work. Our work must be performed one step at a time, and our experience will accumulate one step at a time. As long as we look to ourselves for the answers and become self-reliant, we will be able to cast off our fetters and move forward with ease. With persistence, even water droplets can drill through stone.”

Africa must cast off the misconception that “we are not able” and develop a positive mind-set and self-confidence. When leadership shows the right attitude and direction, the people will join hands ■

Gerald Mbanda is a researcher and publisher on China-Africa Relations.



China's poverty alleviation success holds lessons for Nigeria



Alexander Ayertey Odonkor

The government of Nigeria has demonstrated keen interest in studying China's development model, which has transformed the Asian country into a global economic powerhouse. Nigeria recognizes the potential of adopting an approach similar to that of China.

Considering that the two countries have maintained a durable partnership over five decades, with thriving bilateral cooperation including trade and investment – as both countries prioritize development – it should not be out of the blue that Nigeria is ready to emulate the Asian giant's rapid development, which has improved lives in

China and the rest of the world.

As a proud member of the global community, China has indicated its readiness to share the country's development experience with the rest of the world. Faced with similar formidable challenges China had experienced in the past, Nigeria could draw vital lessons from the Asian country's economic rise, which will certainly be an invaluable addition to efforts dedicated to foster

development in Africa's biggest economy.

For example, in poverty alleviation, a daunting task, China's experience of lifting about 800 million people from poverty within four decades, the first in human history, presents important lessons to Nigeria, which is home to the largest population on the African continent.

With a population of more than 213 million, about 88.4 million people in Nigeria lived in extreme poverty in 2022 – accounting for 12.9 percent of the world's entire population that lived in extreme poverty in that year. In fact, over the last 7 years, Nigeria has experienced a steady rise in its population that lives in extreme poverty.

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To effectively tackle rising poverty in Nigeria, it is imperative for policymakers, the development community and all relevant stakeholders to take immediate, accelerated and concerted actions in a problem-solving process, drawing lessons from recent poverty eradication strategies that are inclusive and efficient. To achieve this goal, Nigeria could tap into China's experience, which is as recent as 2020, to address various challenges that have impeded its poverty alleviation progress.

««page 36 Unfortunately, if the Nigerian government fails to take immediate and pertinent actions to effectively lift its people out of poverty, the situation could be worse in the coming years, particularly as the country's bulging population projected by UN DESA-World Population Prospect could reach 264 million and 410 million in 2030 and 2050, respectively, which will present additional challenges.

To effectively tackle rising poverty in Nigeria, it is imperative for policymakers, the development community and all relevant stakeholders to take immediate, accelerated and concerted actions in a problem-solving process, drawing lessons from recent poverty

eradication strategies that are inclusive and efficient. To achieve this goal, Nigeria could tap into China's experience, which is as recent as 2020, to address various challenges that have impeded its poverty alleviation progress.

A recent report (2022) from the World Bank that reveals that as many as 4 in 10 Nigerians live below the National poverty line highlights major factors constraining poverty reduction gains in the West-African country. Namely, sluggish growth, low human capital, labor market weakness and exposure to shocks have stalled poverty alleviation progress in Nigeria.

To add more, the report shows that jobs do not translate Nigerians' hard work into an exit from poverty – as most workers are engaged in small-scale household farm and non-farm enterprises – just 17 percent of Nigerian workers hold the jobs best able to lift people out of poverty.

In fact, these challenges in Nigeria share similarities; if not the same with those faced by policymakers and relevant stakeholders in China when they sought to alleviate poverty in a populous country. To address these challenges, China adopted two approaches – the first was broad-based economic transformation to create new opportunities and raise average incomes.

The second was recognition that targeted support was needed to alleviate persistent poverty; initially support was given to areas disadvantaged by geography and the lack of opportunities and later to individual households. These two approaches, rooted in the country's people-centered development philosophy, was the key to poverty eradication in China.

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« «page 37 In the case of Nigeria, establishing and strengthening the broad-based economic transformation to open new opportunities and raise average incomes – which has the tendency to further increase the total population of the Nigerian workforce with jobs best able to lift people out of poverty, means scaling up investments dedicated to accelerate structural transformation of the economy – the transformation will drive industrialization and boost productivity across various sectors, including agriculture which is central to fostering job creation and inclusive growth.

Although agriculture is a major component of the Nigerian economy, contributing 23.36 percent to GDP in 2021 – the sector's contribution to GDP has typically been stunted since 2011 – this phenomenon is evident in agriculture's share of the country's total employment, which has also been declining continuously for more than a decade. Since 2010 agriculture's share of employment in Nigeria has experienced a free fall – dropping continuously from 41.36 percent in 2010 to 34.97 percent in 2019.

To address this pressing challenge, which certainly has not been limited to the agriculture sector, policymakers and relevant organizations should more than ever, increase concerted efforts designed to

accelerate value addition and drive structural transformation of the Nigerian economy – increasing infrastructure investment in key areas such as energy, water supply, ICT, transport, healthcare and education – to improve access to electricity, clean water and sanitation and create a conducive environment for businesses to thrive, especially small and medium-sized enterprises which account for the largest share of all employment in the country.

To achieve this onerous task, Nigeria could benefit enormously from its good relationship with China to accelerate infrastructure development in the country, leveraging the Asian giant's vast expertise in this area to attain set goals. Through this means, Nigeria could create decent jobs for its rapidly growing population and adequately support social protection programs which will lift its population from poverty ■

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The Transformative Role of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in Poverty Alleviation



Staff Writer

The Agriculture played a very important role in China's poverty reduction. Poverty alleviation has long been a priority for the Chinese government, and the Communist Party of China (CPC) has played a pivotal role in spearheading the country's remarkable progress in this area. Under the CPC's leadership, China has experienced one of the most successful poverty reduction campaigns in human history, lifting millions of its citizens out of poverty. Below are key strategies and initiatives employed by the CPC to combat poverty and foster socio-economic development in China.

TARGETED APPROACHES AND PRECISION POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Recognizing the diverse nature of poverty, the CPC has adopted a multi-dimensional approach to poverty alleviation. This strategy, known as "precision poverty alleviation," aims to address the root causes of poverty by tailoring policies and interventions to suit the unique circumstances of each region and household. By identifying impoverished areas and households, the

CPC has been able to allocate resources more effectively and efficiently, ensuring that aid reaches those who need it most.

Rural Development and Agricultural Modernization

Given that the majority of China's poor population resides in rural areas, the CPC has placed a strong emphasis on rural development and agricultural modernization. The government has implemented a range of measures to boost agricultural productivity, improve infrastructure, and enhance rural living standards. These initiatives include investments in irrigation systems, transportation networks, education, healthcare, and access to [page 40](#)



««page 39 clean energy. By providing rural communities with better opportunities and resources, the CPC has laid the foundation for sustainable poverty reduction.

JOB CREATION AND SKILL ENHANCEMENT

Recognizing the importance of employment in poverty alleviation, the CPC has prioritized job creation and skill enhancement programs. The government has implemented policies to stimulate economic growth, attract investment, and promote entrepreneurship, particularly in rural areas. Additionally, vocational training programs have been established to equip individuals with the skills necessary for gainful employment. By creating a conducive environment for job creation and offering training opportunities, the CPC has empowered individuals to improve their livelihoods and escape the cycle of poverty.

SOCIAL WELFARE AND SAFETY NETS

To provide a safety net for the most vulnerable members of society, the CPC has expanded social welfare programs, including healthcare, education, and housing subsidies. The government has also implemented targeted poverty alleviation measures such as the provision of minimum living allowances, medical insurance, and pensions to those in need. These initiatives have not only improved the well-being of the poor but also ensured that they have access to essential services, thereby reducing the risk of falling back into poverty.

INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION AND HUMAN CAPITAL

The CPC recognizes that education is a powerful tool for social mobility and poverty reduction. As part of its poverty alleviation efforts, the government has invested significantly in improving access to quality education, particularly in rural areas. This includes the construction of schools, the recruitment of qualified teachers, and the provision of financial aid to disadvantaged students. By prioritizing education and human capital development, the CPC has empowered individuals to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty and contribute to the country's long-term development.

CONCLUSION

The Communist Party of China's role in poverty alleviation has been instrumental in transforming the lives of millions of Chinese citizens. Through its targeted approaches, rural development strategies, job creation initiatives, social welfare programs, and investment in education, the CPC has successfully reduced poverty rates and improved living standards across the country. While challenges remain, China's commitment to eradicating poverty continues under the CPC's leadership. The remarkable progress achieved in poverty reduction serves as a testament to the CPC's vision, dedication, and effective governance in pursuing a more equitable and prosperous society for all Chinese citizens ■



China's poverty eradication and its implications for global human rights governance



Dr. Zhang Weiwei

With more than 40 years of reform and opening-up, China has eradicated extreme poverty, lifted about 800 million people out of poverty, and brought over 400 million people into the middle-income group. This is a miracle in the history of human civilization and has far-reaching implications for global human rights governance.

The United States has never considered poverty eradication a human rights issue, while Europe considers it an obstacle to the realization of human rights at most. However, China has politically recognized poverty eradication as not only a human right, but also a core one, and has put it into firm,

vigorous, and extensive practice. Therefore, China is at the forefront of poverty eradication in the world. It provides great inspiration for all developing countries since almost all of the biggest challenges facing developing countries are related to poverty eradication.

The achievements made in eradicating poverty in the course of Chinese modernization are much better than those achieved under the West-led development pattern. The main reason is the huge

difference in human rights awareness between the two patterns. Chinese civilization has never been disrupted in its continuity in the world. In its modernization drive, China continues to formulate policies based on the people's needs, national conditions, and cultural traditions.

As a Chinese saying goes, "The people are the foundation of a state. When the foundation is strong, the state will be secure." In other words, the people are the cornerstone of a country, and only by consolidating the cornerstone of the country can the country be peaceful, and how well people's livelihood issues are resolved will determine the future and destiny [▶▶▶ page 42](#)





««page 41 of a country. Furthermore, as another Chinese saying goes, "issues related to people's livelihoods are paramount." An important experience from China's reform and opening up in the past few decades is that people's livelihood is paramount. A developing country shall spare no effort to eradicate poverty and improve people's livelihood, which is the top priority of the government's work.

Now, it seems that China's philosophy that "people's livelihoods are paramount" has corrected a deviation that has been in existence for a long time in the Western philosophy of human rights governance, that is, importance is only attached to the political rights of citizens, but their rights to survival and development are ignored. Looking back, we can find that when European enlightenment thinkers in the 18th century proposed human rights such as freedom, equality, and private property rights, they represented the emerging proprietary classes at that time.

Today's world has entered the 21st century, but hundreds of millions of people still suffer from extreme poverty. Many developing countries that follow Western political systems have not yet solved the basic issue of people's livelihood. In this context, we may better understand the global significance of the Chinese path to modernization. The Chinese people, through their great practice of poverty eradication, are, in a sense, redefining modernization and modernity.

In contrast, the 20-year war waged by the United States in Afghanistan cost some 2.3 trillion U.S. dollars according to studies, and resulted in human rights violations, countless deaths, and innumerable displaced people. We can even make a theoretical hypothesis

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from this: If we followed the Chinese pattern, with 2.3 trillion U.S. dollars, we could almost eliminate extreme poverty in the whole world including the United States.

The U.S. political system has long been kidnapped by U.S. military-industrial interest groups. They have made a lot of money through wars, including the Afghanistan War, but they have brought crises and even disasters to the people of the world, including the American people. How can such a country be qualified to talk about human rights in today's world?

The China-proposed Global Development Initiative calls for staying committed to development as a priority and a people-centered approach. Only through development can poverty be eliminated and the root causes of many conflicts be removed.

Seen from the perspective of human rights protection, this initiative and China's complete set of philosophies and practices for poverty eradication have greatly enriched the philosophy and practice of global human rights governance ■

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