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Annual Activities Report January to December, 2019

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1. Project Summary

- The Leprosy Project is a registered as overseas NGO in China, as The Leprosy Project Limited (Hong Kong, China) Sichuan REP Office (清风福康计划有限公司 (中国香港) 四川办事处 with Health and Family Planning Commission of Sichuan Province and Administrative Office of Overseas NGOs of Sichuan Public Security Department as the supervisory units.
- In 2019, the project implemented works in 16 project sites in Liangshan and surrounding area, namely Butuo, Jinyang, Huili, Puge, Xide, Ganluo, Muli, Yuexi, Zhaojue, Yanyuan, Leibo, Meigu, Mianning Huidong, Luding in Ganzi Prefecture and Yanbian in Panzhihua Municipality. POD works are implemented in all of these locations, and regular POD visits were made to 7 new villages and 3 old villages. POD data was collected through phone calls and WeChat group of healthcare workers for those villages without regular POD visits.
- Livelihood programs and community hygiene and sanitation programs were implemented in 9 (6 new and 3 old) villages. Education programs were implemented in 6 (5 new and 1 old) villages. The project also organized 7 university student volunteers from Huidong, Yanyuan and Butuo to support volunteer activities for education and social awareness programs.
- After the ILC (International Leprosy Conference) held in Manila in September 2019, the project decided not to called persons affected by leprosy (PALs) to avoid labelling them, we shall call them persons affected by leprosy or old people (persons) instead.
- There were 4392 villagers, 614 of them were old people (persons affected by leprosy) and 907 of them were students at the end of the year of 2019. They were all direct beneficiaries from the project.
- Water project for Yanyuan was completed in 2019, and villagers in Yanyuan started trial in cultivating about 3 mu paddy fields in June and the rice was successfully harvested in September, 2019. Ceremony of the completion of the water project was held in November 2019 with the participation of Directors Mr. Nicholas Pirie and Mr. John Bowden together with local government officials such as deputy secretary of Yanyuan County, heads of township and the village. Another water project for the home in Huidong was implemented in the fall of 2019, and which was planned to complete during the first quarter of 2020. Water projects are usually implemented during the dry seasons. Both water projects irrigated about 700mus of arable land which covered 90% of all arable land in these 2 villages.
- Activities are updated in different social media, staff, PALs and villagers participated in the Xichang International Marathon for the fourth year in November, 2019.

- There were 10 staff in Xichang office at the beginning of the year, one of them resigned in June, 2019. The Project has been keeping 9 staff in Xichang office since then.
- Project staff paid 76 visits, including 68 (49 to new villages, 19 to old villagers) regular visits for POD and other program activities; and 8 trips for training and conference in Beijing and Manila.
- Project direct operational expenditures in both of the field office in Liangshan, Sichuan and HK office for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2019 was HKD2,296,460.28. Whereas the total donation income for the project during the same period was HKD2,799,661.31 and an interest income of HKD2,579.30 from the bank account of Xichang office.
- Please refer to Appendix 1 for the basic demographic info for all villages and homes.
- The following is a summary of key programme activities of the project year of 2019.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 Physical Rehabilitation (POD)

- Project staff paid 38 POD visits to old and new project villages and homes during the project year from January to December 2019.
- 91% of persons affected by leprosy in old villages were able to carry out self-care consistently. 53.8% of persons affected by leprosy in the new village carried out self-care.
- 10.6% PALs with ulcers in old villages and 8.1% in new villages.
- Staff conducted health education to persons affected by leprosy during every POD visit.
- Performance assessment of Healthcare workers carried out half yearly to ensure the quality of the services to persons affected by leprosy, 360 pairs of protective shoes and 7 prostheses were given to the old persons in need.
- Healthcare worker training was conducted in December, 2019.
- Timely distribution of POD tools and supplies.
- Regular maintenance of Prosthetic devices.
- 5 persons affected by leprosy received eye surgery.
- Monthly following up of special medical cases and referral to the hospital for relevant treatment if needed.

2.2 Education

- Assessment of the use of donated computers, printers and projects for the school in Meigu, Zhaojue and Mianning was conducted to ensure proper use of the donated goods.
- Assessment of bathroom facilities for school in Zhaojue also completed.
- Donation of 40 sets of student desks and chairs and 1 set of teaching table for the school in Meigu, benefiting 79 students from 2 classes.
- 7 parent-teacher associations organized in the schools of old and new villages. Meetings

were held, and the new system of bursary system and regulation was confirmed and the agreement was duly signed.

- A 40-day summer volunteer activities by 7 volunteer teachers was implemented in Yanyuan.
- 1-day summer camp activity was organized and held in Xichang with the participation of 14 students and 7 volunteers.
- Bursaries were disbursed to 21 students, amounting RMB68,200 for the year of 2019.

2.3 Public Awareness Education

- Newsletter on different activities were updated on website and public accounts on different social media.
- Volunteers assisted in editing and uploading newsletters on social media for the project.
- Volunteer activities implemented in Yanyuan and Mianning.
- 10 villagers participated in the Xichang International Marathon.
- 17 volunteers recruited at the beginning of the year and proper training was given in January, May and July.
- 13 volunteers from Medical Outreachers (medical students from two medical schools in Hong Kong), participated in the community service activities in Huidong and Xide.
- Ceremony of completion of water project in Yanyuan was held in November, with the participation of Mr. Nicholas Pirie, Mr. John Bowden and the Deputy Secretary of Yanyuan County with some other high rank officials from the township.
- Volunteer guidelines was reviewed and revised.

2.4 Livelihood

- Director Mr. Wiedemann visited Yanyuan for the implementation of water project and agricultural programs, he also visited the assessment of post water project in Butuo and Jinyang. Mr. Wiedemann also visited Zhaojue for possibilities and water project and agricultural status.
- Assessment for the needs of water project in Mianning and Huidong was conducted, and confirmed to implement water project in Huidong.
- Water project in Yanyuan completed, up to 80 mu of paddy fields shall be cultivated in 3 years; citrus trees and other fruit trees would be planted as economic crops as well as other economic crops and crops for food consumption.
- Huidong water project started in late July 2019 and planned to finish in the first quarter of 2020.
- Training in walnut tree grafting and other techniques and knowledge was conducted in Butuo, 15 villagers participated in the training
- 17 villagers from Yuexi, Jinyang and Yanyuan) participated in beekeeping training, they learned about moving bees from old style beehives to modern beehives.
- Two breeder bulls were delivered to Huidong, and cattle were successfully bred.
- Assessment of mini-loan in Zhaojue was conducted, new regulations and rules of the loan

shall be made and the second phase of the mini-loan shall be implemented in 2020.

- Villagers participated the intensive training in agriculture and management of community management teams in late November. 8 villagers and 7 project staff participated in the training.
- Cooking competitions were held in Yanyuan and Huidong, that was aimed to improve the variety of food so as to improve their nutrition intake.

2.5 Community Health, Hygiene and Sanitation

- Community health, hygiene and sanitation education events were launched in Mianning and Meigu with the participation of university student volunteers.
- 12 members from different village management teams attended the training in Xichang in June.
- The management team for water project in Huidong was formed.
- 12 representatives participated in the annual review and project planning meeting in Xichang at the end of November.
- Community clinic for Zhaojue was completed in March 2019.

3. Board Activities

3.1 Meetings and major resolutions

- The Board held 4 meetings for the period after the AGM of 2018.
- The 12th AGM of the Company was held on 25th October 2019.

3.2 Corporate Business

- The Board was grateful to the following professional services companies for their continued pro bono services to the company in 2019 as follows;
 - Accountants from Sapphire International Limited – Accounting services
 - Profectus & Co. Certified Public Accountant – Auditing services
 - Profectus Corporate Solutions Limited – Company Secretarial services

4. Project Overview

- The Project implemented programmes in 16 project sites – villages, namely Xide, Puge, Ganluo, Butuo, Jinyang, Muli, Luding, Yanyuan, Zhaojue, Mianning, Leibo, Yuexi and Huidong.
- As of 31st December 2019, there were total of 4392 villagers in these 16 project sites, among them where 614 were persons affected by leprosy.
- The Project focused programs on POD (prevention of disabilities) and healthcare works to the persons affected by leprosy, alongside with on-going education programs such as school facilities and equipment improvement; social awareness programs for eliminating

stigma against leprosy and volunteer programs; livelihood programs to improve the agricultural and infrastructure, such as water projects, of the communities for a sustainable development; community hygiene and sanitation programs to improve community hygiene through education and community hygiene infrastructure.

5. Project Partner and Field Staff

- The Project in China was under the supervision of Health and Family Planning Commission of Sichuan Province and Administrative Office of Overseas NGOs of Sichuan Public Security Bureau; and Handa in Guangzhou as Consultant.
- By the end of the period, there was a staff of 9 in Xichang office and 1 in Hong Kong office.

6. Project Monitoring

- Director Thomas Wiedemann paid visits to conduct survey for water projects and agricultural condition for Yanyuan and Zhaojue; he also visited Butuo and Jinyang for assessment of post water project and agricultural status for these 2 old villages. He also offered training in tree trimming and grafting in these villages.
- Director Tony Leung and Medical Director Dr. Joseph Kam, spent his first POD visit to some of the new and old villages, and offered advises to some of the special cases. One of the case in Xide agreed to receive amputation to avoid metastasis of skin cancer. Dr. Kam and Mr. Leung also visited the doctors in The First Prefecture Hospital in Xichang for future cooperation in referring persons affected by leprosy to the hospital for treatment if needed.
- Director Mr. John Bowden and Mr. Nicholas Pirie visited Yanyuan for the assessment of water projects which was completed earlier of the year and attended the ceremony of the completion of water project and visited some of other villages.

7. Finance Control

- Finance control was under supervision of Mr. Swee Hock CHEW, Director of Finance of the Board. Accountants provided accounting and auditing services pro bono from Ms. Grace Ho and Profectus & Company respectively. The Account in Xichang was audited by 凉山州精信联合会计师事务所.

8. Project Implementation

8.1 POD and Physical Rehabilitation

➤ Village POD visits and family-based self-care

Implementations:

- ◆ 38 POD visits were made for the year of 2019. 24 visits to new villages and 14 to old villages. The visits included data collection of persons affected by leprosy, training and assessment of healthcare workers, POD treatment and wound care and dressing. Topics on self-care and correct use of eye-drops, hazard of drug abuse, hyper-tension and prevention and treatment of Tuberculosis of health education were conducted during each POD visit.
- ◆ All healthcare workers sent pictures of the status of ulcers every week when they performed POD care to the persons affected by leprosy so that staff could offer timely advice to the HCWs and the persons affected by leprosy.

Achievements and Impacts:

- ◆ There were totally 595 persons affected by leprosy (260 in old villages and 335 in new villages). The project registered another 34 persons affected by leprosy during the year as they either moved back to the villages or not registered at the beginning, so that the project served totally 629 persons affected by leprosy during the year. There were 15 of them past away in 2019, there were totally 614 persons affected by leprosy at the end of the year.
- ◆ The self-care rate in the old village was 91.3% at the end of 2019, that was similar to the result as of end of 2018 which was 91.1% which reached our target of 90%. Since there were newly registered persons affected by leprosy in new villages and homes, the rate of self-care dropped to 53.8% from 57%; as many of the persons affected by leprosy lived outside of the homes of Huidong, Education in self-care is a long journey for both staff and the persons affected by leprosy, we need to repeat and repeat the same process again, and especially difficult for the elderly, as it is difficult for them to change their habits. We need to be extra patient in dealing with this issue.
- ◆ The project also started pilot treatment on severe chronic ulcers by using Kadermin (silver ion powder spray), with part of the silver ion spray donated by the manufacturer in Italy. 24 persons with 41 ulcers participated in the treatment. And 4 ulcers fully recovered that was 9.6% and 25 ulcers improved (area of ulcers became smaller), which was 61%; so that the satisfactory rate of using silver ion powder spray was about 70%.
- ◆ Through constant and regular POD and healthcare works to the persons affected by leprosy, staff gradually gained trust from the beneficiaries from new villages, and some of the severe ulcers improved gradually with the consistent POD treatment done by the village healthcare workers and health education from the project. There was an old

person in Mianning who did not report that she had ulcer when we discovered the case, it was already badly infected and amputation was recommended, but her family did not agree with the suggestion. After the care from HCW and guidance from the project the condition of her ulcers on the foot was improved and there has not been any infection. There was another similar case in Yanyuan, but that old person insisted not letting the healthcare worker offer POD care on his wound, after talking to him, staff and the healthcare worker taught him how to clean and dress the wound by himself, and we provide all the POD supplies and tools to him, and we also taught him how to send the pictures of his ulcers to us, so that we can still monitor closely. After talking with the person in Yanyuan for many times by project staff and the healthcare worker, he finally accepted the treatment done by project staff and the healthcare worker. The one in Mianning can guide other persons in the village to do self-care of their ulcers.

Issues and Suggested Solutions:

- ◆ We conducted health education in 4 topics on self-care and the correct use of eye-drops, knowledge and prevention of hyper-tension, hazard of drug abuse and prevention and treatment of tuberculosis last year. We found out that when the persons affected by leprosy and their families were not keen on certain topics, the participate rate could be low for that topic, as they seemed that they did not care about that very much, especially the use of eye-drops. Also they were mostly elderly and could not comprehend the content of the education easily. We should try to simplify the contents and to conduct the health education in a vivid and interactive way by using more visual teaching materials, such as pictures, posters and videos. Many of them have hearing issues, which made them even more difficult to understand the training. We plan to conduct hearing test to them, we had two pilot test in Huidong and Xide with the support from the volunteers from Hong Kong, and seek support in provision of hearing aid when the survey of hearing test is completed. We also planned to set up self-help teams of persons affected by leprosy and team leaders elected by the villagers themselves to help the project promote health education in self-care and status of self-care of each person. This is also a platform for them to encourage each other.
- ◆ There were still some persons affected by leprosy who did not allow project staff and healthcare workers to visit them and offer POD treatment due to self-esteem or other reasons. When they reach us, the status of their ulcers might be already very bad, or even hyperplasia found on the ulcer, or even metastasis of skin cancer. We suggest to seek help and support from their families and the community to make them understand the importance of POD and self-care, also use similar cases in other villages or same villages as examples and let them gradually receive our service. Once they receive our services, we must set up individual special cases to follow up closely and encourage them to receive suitable treatment in the hospital, especially for those cases with hyperplasia.

- ◆ Some of the persons may live outside of the village, some of their family members may be working outside, so that there was no one to monitor their self-care performance. We suggest that we should prolong the time of village visits and try our best to visit all of them and offer health education one by one and the reporting system by using WeChat to send us the latest condition of their ulcers so that we can monitor the status of these persons even they live outside of the village; and staff can give suitable advice or visit him during next trip if needed.

➤ Healthcare worker management and training

Implementations:

- ◆ 9 healthcare workers together with 5 representatives of persons affected by leprosy participated in the 3-day healthcare worker training in Xichang in December 2019.
- ◆ Performance assessment of healthcare workers were conducted in September and December 2019.

Achievements and Impacts

- ◆ First aid was added to the training for the first time, the training was given by qualified local rescue team in Liangshan. All of the participants learned CPR, rescue and first aid for drowning cases, basic wound treatment of different kinds of accidents and burn injuries. They also learned how to handle the cases of animal bites such as dog, snake; and the rescue of children when choked by food. There were also case studies during the training and experience sharing after each session.
- ◆ Healthcare workers and representatives of the persons affected by leprosy concluded that the main focus of the community POD works was that we should initiate the healthcare workers in discovering the value of the elderly, and to change the negative perceptions towards these old persons. Both project staff and the healthcare workers must work patiently and meticulously to gain the trust from them. Never use top-down approach when working with them, everyone is equal. After experience sharing from the representatives from Yanyuan that we planned to set up self-help groups to help the healthcare worker in promoting health education, members of the group can also help monitor and encourage themselves in self-care.
- ◆ Proper use of glutaraldehyde (disinfecting solution), was conducted to all of the participants, as well as the importance of the validity of the medicines and POD supplies for better management of the stock of the clinics. Hazard of drug abuse or misuse was also the main focus of the training, we found out that many of the persons affected by leprosy or even villagers are medicine dependent, and many of them have the stomach pain due to misuse of pain killers, and some of the old persons are still taking dapsone, which is part of the MDT for healing leprosy, and some of them sequelae such as liver diseases and other complications as a result. Therefore, we must continuously conduct health education in drug misuse or abuse in the future. The situation was quite bad in

the new villages, and much better in the old villages which told us that it takes time to educate these old persons about proper use of medicines.

- ◆ All participants also reinforced their knowledge in the importance of measuring the size of each ulcer, and the steps of measuring the sizes.
- ◆ Through the setting up of the WeChat group for the healthcare workers, they can share their experiences, seeking help and support from staff or other healthcare workers. They also send pictures of each ulcer to project staff at least once a week, so that staff can give timely response when there is need.

Issues and Suggested Solutions:

- ◆ Changing of roles of the healthcare workers (from service recipients to service provider) was a big subject; as some of the HCWs are also the recipients of the services. They need to change their mindset to be the service provider from the receiver of the services. The training did not talk much about it during the training; we must set specific trainings in this topics in helping the healthcare workers to perform their works more professionally.
- ◆ We found out that healthcare workers had different approaches in on-site sterile operation, we need to reinforced the standard on-site sterile operation procedure, and offer specific training to these healthcare workers.
- ◆ Due to time constraint, some of the healthcare workers did not participate in the training, we plan to have 2 trainings per year; 1 in the first half of the year, and the other in the second half, to ensure all of them receive annual training.
- ◆ Some of the healthcare workers still did not know how to use WeChat, we could try to seek help from younger villagers or their families to help send pictures and messages to the office and to the WeChat group of all health-care workers and project staff.

➤ Amputation, production of prostheses and orthopedic devices

Implementations:

- ◆ Through the coordination of project staff with the hospital in Xichang, the old person in Xide whose ulcers were severely infected and hyperplasia was found on the ulcer, who also had osteomyelitis received amputation in the hospital in Xichang.
- ◆ 360 pairs of protective shoes, 77 pairs of protective gloves, 6 clutches, 7 prostheses and other protective devices were dispatched to the old persons in need. Maintenance of old prostheses was also provided.
- ◆ The project purchased 1500 pairs of newly designed protective shoes to improve the shortcomings of the shoes we bought in the past.

Achievements and Impacts:

- ◆ When we discovered the case in Xide, his ulcers were already badly infected and there was hyperplasia found, as he did not let staff check on his ulcers at the beginning. He was seriously ill by then. He did not want to go to the hospital at the beginning as he was afraid of stigma, also worried his ulcer might scare other patients in the patients'

ward. After communication with the hospital, we got a single room from the hospital. After three surgeries, the amputation was successfully executed and he was sent to the compound in Meigu, as he is a single elderly, no one took care of him after the surgery at home. He was properly taken care in the compound of Meigu for 3 months. He is now fully recovered, and staff has been teaching and monitoring his post-surgical rehabilitation and exercise for preparation of wearing new prosthesis.

- ◆ The old persons wearing the new shoes which is RMB20 higher than the old ones, told staff that, the sole of the shoes are softer and they were not as slippery as the old ones. It was convenient for them to wear the shoes when doing chores at home.

Issues and Suggested Solutions:

- ◆ The store room in the office was not big enough to store all the shoes, we may need to distribute some of the shoes to keep at the clinics of each village.
- ◆ The staff joined the team earlier in 2019 told the staff that he could not handle the POD works independently after working for the project for almost a year, and received intensive training he submitted letter of resignation at the end of the year, and shall leave in January 2020. We have started the process of recruitment of new staff and only those with nursing or healthcare experience shall be considered.

➤ Eye Surgery

Implementations:

- ◆ 5 persons affected by leprosy, 3 from Puge and 2 from Mianning, received eye surgeries on cataracts and trichiasis in 2019. Staff offered health education on eye protection and post-surgical care to each of them individually. After following up with each case, that they did not have any adverse feelings or complications from the surgery. All of them recovered well from the surgeries.

Achievements and Impacts:

- ◆ When they came to Xichang for the eye surgery, they needed their family members or the healthcare workers to hold them when they walked, they needed them to take care of daily life. After the surgery, they all told us that they could see clearly what were outside the windows of the hospital, the one who had trichiasis told us that he no longer felt pain or itchiness in his eyes.

Issues and Suggested Solutions:

- ◆ As the persons for the eye surgeries were mostly elderly, who might not be able to use the medicines prescribed by the hospital after the surgery properly; we then decided to let the healthcare workers manage the medicines carefully to avoid overdose.
- ◆ Some of the old persons told us that they did not hear about the implementation of the eye surgery. The HCW might not have notified all the old persons or the villagers about the eye surgery program. We must make sure that all of the old persons receive the notification of eye surgeries in each village during each POD visits, to the villagers and then let them convey to the persons affected by leprosy at home.

➤ Data collection and individual files of PALs health information

Implementations:

- ◆ Staff handled 8 special medical cases in 2019, (1 from Xide, 3 from Meigu, 2 from Mianning, 1 from Huidong and 1 from Yanbian). Monthly follow-up was recorded for each case, and seek advices from medical director when there is need, and coordination with local township hospital, county hospital or prefectural hospital for relevant treatment if needed.

Achievements and Impacts:

- ◆ 4 cases were recovered after the treatment in hospital, and two of them passed away due to complications. We are still following two special cases with sever ulcers with squamous cell cancer in Huidong and Mianning who are recommended for palliative treatment from the hospital.

Issues and Suggested Solutions:

- ◆ Some of the cases were very complicated, and there was hyperplasia found on the wounds and turned into cancer eventually, there were even cases of metastasis of cancer with some cases. We also take some of the cases as examples, that we can share with other villagers. We should also strengthen monitoring of ulcers and those old persons who did not let us check or offer treatment on their ulcers, to avoid deterioration of ulcers.
- ◆ Most of these cases had bad ulcers, and most of them suffered from inferiority complex and did not wish to receive treatment or go to the hospital because of stigma towards them. We must try our best to coordinate with hospitals and relieve the psychological barriers of these old people for receiving treatment in hospitals.

8.2 Community Education Programme

➤ Teaching and environmental improvement of schools:

Implementations:

- ◆ Assessment for the use of the donation of computers, printers and projectors to 3 schools in Meigu, Mianning and Zhaojue was conducted. All of the donated equipment was in good hands and properly used for teaching. More than 330 students benefited from the program.
- ◆ Assessment for the shower room in Zhaojue was completed and teachers set up a bathing schedule for all students. 160 students and teachers benefited from the facility.
- ◆ The school in Meigu applied for the renewal of 40 sets of student desks and chairs and 1 set of teaching desk for the classrooms, as the old ones were all worn out. All the chairs and desks were delivered to the school in August, so that they could have new ones for the new school year in September. This benefited 79 students from 2 classes.

Achievements and Impacts:

- ◆ Teachers from 3 village school told us that they no longer have to go to the nearest township for printing teaching materials, and exam papers for the students. They could also save all the teaching materials in the computer for future use. The computer equipment not only saved their time in preparation for teaching, they could also teach efficiently. Teachers could also use the projector for showing video teaching material to the students; which encouraged the initials for the children to go to school.
- ◆ With the bathroom and solar heater installed, the hygiene of the students was much improved.
- ◆ The old desks and chairs in the classrooms of the school in Meigu were all worn out, and students were easily hurt from the scratch of the broken desks and chairs, which was also not good for writing on the rough surface of the desks. Teachers from the school told us that they students no longer needed to squeeze themselves in the classrooms as there were not enough desks in the past, and the children could concentrate their studies in the class.

Issues and Suggested Solutions:

- ◆ With the new policies of rural development, most of the hardware, such as toilets and lighting was improved; there was not much need for us to improve such facilities. We would like to ask for permission from foundations that we can swap the fund in improving software of the schools, for example, promotion in reading, summer camp activities to broaden the views of the students, etc.
- ◆ Teachers might not fully understand the principles of this program, they might ask for support which was not within the scope of the program. Project staff must repeat the principle and scope of this program to the teachers. The library for the school in Zhaojue was also not fully utilized, students were not keen on borrowing books. The project planned to launch promotion of reading program to the village schools with the participation of university student volunteers, and to collect the interest in reading what kind of books from the students, then we can replenish the books for the library accordingly.

➤ Volunteer teaching and establishment of parent-teacher association in schools:

Implementations:

- ◆ 7 parent-teacher associations (PTAs) were organized for the schools in Xide, Puge, Jinyang, Butuo, Zhaojue, Yanyuan and Huidong. Staff confirmed the new systems for bursaries with all of the members of the PTAs, that bursaries for the students under the 9-year compulsory education would be cancelled and we should focus on the support for higher education such as senior high school, college and university students. Receivers of the bursaries can join the volunteer schemes to compensate the repayment of the bursaries. The proposal was agreed by all members of the PTAs, and the agreement was duly signed after the meeting.

- ◆ 7 volunteer university students (recipients of the bursaries), organized a 40-day volunteer teaching in Yanyuan. 20 students successfully completed all their summer homework from schools and the extra homework from volunteer teachers successfully, they also learned some of the contents for their new school year, so that they could be well prepared for the new school year. Volunteers and students in the village also organized entertainment activity for more than 30 persons affected by leprosy in the village, and other community service activities. Summer camp in Xichang was also organized by them during the summer teaching program.
- ◆ A villager was elected to support the daily life of the boarding students, also to take care of the night study activities after school each evening for the school in Butuo.

Achievements and Impacts:

- ◆ Students became more discipline, they handed in their assignment on time. Parents told us that they did not have extra money for their children to join summer classes in town, as it was very expensive, they could enjoy the same for free now. All parents and villagers fully supported the program, and wished the project could implement similar activities in the future.
- ◆ All volunteer teachers were the university students from our villagers and the recipients of the bursaries. They could accumulate points by participating in the volunteer activities to waive the repayment of the bursaries. They attended for an intensive training in the office before implementing the teaching program. With the training and on-site practice, they were more confident in expressing their thought and communicating with the students and staff. The most satisfactory factor for these volunteers was that they could contribute to their own communities.
- ◆ The project has coordinated with external volunteer teaching organization, and the results of the students have been improved greatly. The rate of going to junior high school was 100% in 2019, the school was ranked No. 2 in the entire county of Butuo. 100% of the 23 Primary 6 students pursued their junior high education, and it was the first time that there was student accepted by the highest ranking secondary school in Liangshan, and 4 of them were accepted by high ranking school in Meishan County. All of the villagers were proud of the performance of their children. An agreement was signed for next 7 years for volunteer teaching in the school to ensure the quality of teaching.

Issues and Suggested Solutions:

- ◆ Since the period of summer volunteer teaching program was long, some of the students might be busy with family chores. We suggest to shorten the period of the volunteer teaching, and to avoid implementing the program during farming seasons, as the students might need to help for the farming. We can eye on the entire year and spread the activities into smaller chunks, so that student volunteers can implement this volunteer teaching program or tuition to the students in their own villages during long holidays when they are back to the village throughout the year.

- ◆ To strengthen the promotion of volunteer teaching programs, and collect needs for student volunteer activities in different communities. We need to have the support from the parents to let their children to join the activities during holidays.

➤ To organise volunteer teams for education programmes to participate in activities in all schools

Implementations:

- ◆ 14 village students, guided by 7 volunteers, participated in the 1-day summer camp activity in Xichang. Students visited Xichang College, Museum of Yi History, zoo and other locations. A sharing session was implemented for them to share their feelings and expectations for the future.

Achievements and Impacts:

- ◆ Students told us that when they visited Xichang in the past was merely for visiting hospital or other family matters, they had never been to Xichang for sight-seeing and learning. At the beginning some of the children were very shy and spoke in low voice, after the activity they could all share their experience loudly.
- ◆ The children went home and shared their experience with their parents and other family members, all parents recognized the changes of their children made after the activities. Other children told staff that they would love to join this activity in the future.

Issues and Suggested Solutions:

- ◆ Due to the limitation of resources, and the timing was too tight for all the activities as it was only a day trip. We planned to let the parents to input some of the resources in the future and to design the program as a 2-day summer camp activity. The children shall be accompanied by project staff throughout the activity, and volunteer senior of the children from the village can also help to keep the safety of the children during the activity, and we also had experience in launching this 2-day activities of the students in the past.

➤ Bursaries and scholarship

Implementations:

- ◆ Bursaries was given to 11 students (6 senior high students, 4 college students and 1 university degree student) amounting RMB16,200 in March for the second term of the school year 2018-019.
- ◆ After the confirmation of new system and regulation for the bursaries, the Project received 10 applications for the bursaries (3 from Butuo, 1 from Huidong, 6 from Yanyuan), 9 of them were university degree student, and 1 college student. According to the family economic condition of the families, 7 of them received the bursaries of RMB4,000 and 3 students with special family issues, each received RMB8,000. A total amount of RMB52,000 was disbursed to the students for the first term of 2019-2020.

Achievements and Impacts:

- ◆ The program greatly relieved the economic burden of the villagers, especially families with special economic issues, as their parents were either disabled or other special reasons that they did not have economic income other than the subsidies from the Government. Staff and the members of PTAs had also to confirm with the recipients of the bursaries that the money was used for paying school fees by showing the receipts issued by the schools.
- ◆ 7 of the recipients participated in the volunteer team this year, who helped the project implement summer volunteer teaching program, ceremony of the completion of water project in Yanyuan, community hygiene and sanitation program and other volunteer activities. This program not only let the volunteer to contribute to their own communities, but also act as a platform for them to have the chance to learn planning, implementation and management of different activities, which would be much helpful for them when they work in the society.

Issues and Suggested Solutions:

- ◆ Due to staff turnover, the collection of application disbursement of the bursaries was delayed for the first half of the year, with the adjustment of work distribution of staff, the program was on track again.
- ◆ All volunteers study outside of the village, some of them even study in Chengdu, they could only participate during their holidays. Staff can plan all volunteer activities forward and let all volunteers know the schedule of the dates of implementation of the programs, so that they can manage their time to participate in the volunteer activities.

8.3 Publicity and Social Awareness Programmes

➤ Public and Media Publicity

Implementations:

- ◆ Website in China of the project (<http://www.lsrdc.cn/>) was updated.
- ◆ Articles and reports were uploaded to Weibo such as the report of the visits of Project Chairman and Medical to Health and Family Planning Commission and Administrative Office of Overseas NGOs, Sichuan Provincial Public Security Department.
- ◆ 662 fans recorded at the WeiBo account of the project with up to 2535 followers. And 161 friends from the WeChat friends circle, with 1676 viewers of the uploads of the project activities in WeChat.
- ◆ 18 activities updates were uploaded to all of the electronic media.
- ◆ 6 electronic news letters were published during last twelve months.

Achievements and Impacts:

- ◆ Due to staff turnover, the publicity in social media was not active, and volunteers have helped public publicity programs since June 2019, the uploads of activities of the activities was much improved fans and followers of the public accounts in Weibo was increased and the number for WeChat account was about the same as last year.

Summary of changes in figure of WeChat Public Account.

	Person liking the page	No. of messages and article uploaded
Number recorded at the end of Dec 2018	167	59
Number recorded at the end of Dec 2019	160	87
Changes in number as of end of Dec 2019 Comparing to end of Dec 2018	-7	28

Summary of changes in figure of Weibo Public Account.

	Fans of the page	Followers
Number recorded at the end of Dec 2018	551	2328
Number recorded at the end of Dec 2019	622	2535
Changes in number as of end of Dec 2019 Comparing to end of Dec 2018	71	207

Issues and Suggested Solutions:

- ◆ The quality and structure of the messages uploaded to the media must be improved, and due to the resignation of the staff which made the implementation more difficult. We planned to set up community student reporters team, and to train these reporters to collect news and news of activities, so that the messages and news can be reported in first voice. Relevant training in writing, editing, and use of computer from project staff in charge of the social awareness program shall be offered to the reporters.
- ◆ The interaction between villagers, volunteers and the project was inadequate, we shall set up different groups on WeChat to encourage interaction between volunteers, villagers and staff, some activities can also be organized as on-line interactive activities such as community hygiene assessment, which can also be organized as inter-village hygiene assessment.

➤ **Social Integration**

Implementations:

- ◆ 31 volunteers (8 university student volunteers from our village, 10 volunteer performing artists from Xichang, and 13 medical school students from Hong Kong) participated and organized volunteer visit activities in Meigu, Mianning, Yanyuan, Huidong and Xide. More than 400 villagers, most of them were elderly and children, participated in the activities.
- ◆ 10 villagers from the old and new villages participated in the annual Xichang International Marathon, they joined the mini marathon with 2 of project staff.

Achievements and Impacts:

- ◆ Elderly in the community were very keen on participating in the games designed by the project and volunteers, and the participants of health education also increased as a result. Villagers were also keen on helping staff and volunteer for the settings of the

activities. With the interaction between villagers, persons affected by leprosy and the project helped increase self-esteem of the persons affected by leprosy and the villagers, they had the feeling that they were no different from other people, and they were accepted by the people outside the village.

- ◆ Villagers were shocked by the atmosphere that they were participating the event with tens of thousands people, they never thought that they were attending such international event, and they were also interviewed by the news and TV after the marathon. They felt that they were no different with other athletes, which gave them much confidence that they would ne hesitate to participate in any public activities.

Issues and Suggested Solutions:

- ◆ The event of Leprosy Day activity was planned to be implemented together with the ceremony of completion of water project in Yanyuan.
- ◆ The number of members of the volunteer teams was too small, they were students from the village and the performing group in Xichang, and the network of volunteers was too narrow, we suggest to contact other volunteer organizations for possibilities of cooperation for a long-term basis.
- ◆ We should encourage persons affected by leprosy to participate in the marathon, as which could directly improve their self-confidence and regain their self-esteem, as they would feel that they were allowed to join activities organized by overseas NGO, which they would never have thought about.

➤ Public publicity activities:

Implementations:

- ◆ The ceremony of the completion of the Yanyuan water project was held on the 25 November, some of the high rank county and township attended and gave speech at the event, with the participation of the performing volunteer group from Xichang and the village students performing at the ceremony. Directors Nick Pirie and John Bowden also attended the event and gave speech. The event was hosted by to university students from Yanyuan, and it was their first time to host such a big event. Facing the deputy secretary of Yanyuan County (second highest ranking) of the county and the head of the township and the village. The event was also reported by Yanyuan On-line. More than 200 villagers from the village and surrounding villages participated in the event.

Achievements and Impacts:

- ◆ All villagers were highly keen on participated in planning, implementation of the event, they shared their experience through participatory approach with the project. The event was mainly planned and implemented by the villagers themselves with the support and guidance from project staff, so that they could feel the ownership of the activity and the water project, when the deputy secretary of Yanyuan County was

amazed when he heard that the villagers organized the activity and the entire water project was completed with the labor input by themselves.

Issues and Suggested Solutions:

- ◆ As the event was held in the middle of the school term, and most of the students did not have any performing experience on the stage, they were not confident. We need to make better plans of the run-down of the programs to avoid being too long and boring. We must also need to double check the equipment, as there was a failure of the audio equipment in the middle of the programs, we must make sure all them equipment are in well condition.

➤ Volunteer Team

Implementations:

- ◆ 17 student volunteers were recruited at the beginning of the year; training was given in January, May and July to all volunteers. 9 volunteers participated in the volunteer visits activities in Yanyuan and Mianning; 9 of them assisted in planning, organizing and implementing the ceremony of completion of water project in Yanyuan; 7 of them participated in the summer volunteer teaching program and summer camp activity. 13 volunteers from medical schools in two universities in Hong Kong, participated in the community service program in Huidong and Xide.
- ◆ An experienced volunteer from Xichang helped the training of volunteers.
- ◆ Guidebook of volunteers was reviewed and revised, a credit mechanism was confirmed, so that volunteers could accumulate credit points for waiving the repayment of the bursaries.

Achievements and Impacts:

- ◆ After the training, volunteers improved greatly in program planning, implementation and communication skills. They could apply all the experience gained to their studies in schools, and other trainings. Through the implementation, they could understand their advantages and shortcomings, as well as their interests. They could apply these experiences for their future planning.
- ◆ One of long-term volunteer, Ms. Bi, who is a renowned photographer in China; who has been joining in our volunteer activities for more than 10 years. She told others the reason she's been working with us for so long was because of the persistence of our project, our staff and of course the persons affected by leprosy and the villagers.

Issues and Suggested Solutions:

- ◆ Since we could not launch promotion and recruitment in school due to the status as Overseas NGO as officials of these schools did not want to get involved with any overseas organization; and most of the student volunteers were studying in other cities, which directly affected the schedule of implementation of volunteer activities. We suggest to seek cooperate with local organizations or government in Liangshan or locally in the county or the village to launch volunteer activities.

- ◆ Staff's capability and experience in organizing and training of the volunteer was insufficient, they could not comprehend the concept of participatory approach well enough and the communication between the project and the volunteer team must be strengthened and tightened. Relevant training in volunteer management is needed for the person in charge of the program. Every staff from the project as well as the villagers must be clear of the objective of the participatory approach, why do we apply the participatory approach and everyone must buy into it, to avoid the participatory approach to be merely an empty slogan.

8.4 Livelihood

➤ Water Project

Implementations:

- ◆ Assessment of water project was conducted in Zhaojue, Mianning and Huidong. There has been poverty alleviation program going on in the village of Zhaojue, village head could not confirm if the Government should provide water system for the village, and villagers in Mianning have been pending for the confirmed policies from local Government; in order not to duplicate any resources, we discussed with the villagers in both Zhaojue and Mianning that we shall postpone the water project for these two villages until there is confirmed news from the Government. Villagers in Huidong has been short of water, especially irrigation water as the old system was damaged and could not be repaired, after confirming with the villagers and local Government that there will not be any water related project for the home, we then held a general meeting with the villagers in July and confirmed the implementation of the water project, agreement of voluntary labor input was also signed at the meeting.
- ◆ Director Mr. Wiedemann visited Yanyuan for the assessment of implementation of the water project, also visited Jinyang and Butuo for the agricultural status of the post water project in those 2 villages. Who also visited Zhaojue for assessment of prospects of agricultural development as well as feasibility of water project.
- ◆ Main water pipe was connected to the main tanks in Yanyuan on 12 March, 2019; and the entire water system, including irrigation pipes and household pipes were all installed before August, 2019. Ceremony of completion of water project in Yanyuan was held on 25 November 2019.

Please refer to the tables below for information of the water project in Yanyuan and Huidong:

- Water tanks for Yanyuan

Serial	Dimension	Volume (m ³)	Qty	Function
1	6 * 5 * 2	60	2	Distribution and Storage
2	4 * 3 * 2	24	2	Irrigation, drinking, household, vegetable gardens
3	3 * 2 * 2	12	2	

- Functions and length of water pipes for Yanyuan

Serial	Description	Length / M	Function
1.	140mm PE Pipe	10338	Connect water from the main water source in the mountain to the first distribution and storage tank on the top of the mountain.
2.	110mm PE Pipe	3138	Pipes from secondary source to the paddy fields along Yalong River.
3.	63mm PE Pipe	200	Extension for paddy fields
4.	50mm PE Pipe	2000	Distribution pipes from water pipes to village
5.	40mm PE Pipe	800	Divisional pipes for irrigation
6.	32mm PE Pipe	7400	For irrigation of economic trees and other crops
7.	25mm PE Pipe	2000	Pipes to households
8.	Irrigation Pipe	8000	For drip irrigation system of vegetable gardens

- Details of the construction of water project in Huidong

No.	Items	Length / Quantity	Distribution and Function
1	Main water pipes	4000m	50mm PE pipes to connect water from the water source to the main water tanks in the village
2	Distribution pipes	3800m	25mm PE pipes to the households, the center of the persons affected by leprosy and irrigation for all fields
3	GRP Sectional Tanks	2	Two 6m * 5m * 2m (60m ³)GRP sectional tanks as main water storage
4	Concrete platform	2	Two 7m * 6m concrete platform for GRP tanks

- ◆ A team of 4 members for the management and maintenance of the water project was elected at the General Villager Meeting in July. The management team was to coordinate, manage and record voluntary labor input for the project; to record the ins and outs of all material and equipment during construction period. There was also one member in charge of the quality control and provide technical guidance of the connection of pipes and installation of tanks. Experienced villagers from Yanyuan also went to Huidong for technical support in installation of the tanks and connection of water pipes.

Achievements and Impacts:

- ◆ With the completion of water project in Yanyuan. villagers cultivated 2-3 mu of paddy field simultaneously with the construction of the water project, they sowed saplings of rice in June, and they got their first harvest of 4,400 cattles of rice in September. They planned to cultivate up to 80 mu of paddy fields in 3 years, so that the villagers can be self-sufficient in provision of rice. They no longer need to spend at least RMB80 on

transportation to buy rice in towns. They could even sell the extra rice to the market as economic income.

The income from growing green Sichuan Pepper corns was RMB30,000 in average in the past in Yanyuan, which was increased to RMB50,000 in 2019. With the early harvest of the green Sichuan pepper corns, they have an extra income of RMB20,000. They expected the pepper corn trees can generate more income for them. And the harvest of walnuts and corns was also increased in 2019 due to early plantation of corns and sufficient water for walnut trees.

Drip irrigation was introduced to the villagers in Yanyuan, every household shall spare 0.2-0.3 mu of land as vegetable gardens for self-consumption. They could only have 1 harvest of vegetables in the past, now they are able to grow any kind of seasonal vegetables in their own garden all year round.

They planned to plant 150 mu of citrus trees, and 50 mu of citrus sapling shall be arrived in March 2020, and have plans to market the fruits to Xichang or Chengdu.

The drinking water was polluted in the past, many villagers, which directly affected the health of the villagers, especially the elderly and children. With the new water system, we seldom heard that there is bowel problem or diarrhea cases in the village.

Both community and personal hygiene has been improved significantly as villagers can use the water to clean their home, and themselves. Which was impossible in the past, as they did not even have sufficient water for drinking and irrigation, they did not want to waste water on cleaning. With the improvement of the hygiene status, which also helps improve health status of all villagers.

- ◆ The management team of the water project in Huidong worked efficiently to coordinate with local government and villager representatives of the surrounding villages that use the same water source, and the size of the water source was determined by the government so that diameter of pipes not exceeding 50mm was allowed for all villages. 80 villagers including persons affected by leprosy, that ensured the irrigation of 40 mu of land. Villagers also planned to plant Konjac and high mountain peach trees in the coming year.
- ◆ After the implementation of water project, villagers from both communities were able to participate in the planning, implementing and management of the entire water project. Some of the villagers learnt techniques in installation of water tanks, connecting water pipes, welding techniques which was helpful for the future development of the community as well as the maintenance of the water system. Since the project was implemented under participatory approach, where the villages have implemented water project, they shall share their experience and provide technical support to other villages for similar projects.

Issues and Solutions:

- ◆ The capability in management of the team members of the management teams of water project was weak, as they have never had such experience in the past. They could not

execute the regulations set for the water project in place, and avoid upsetting other the villagers, when someone was violating the rules of use of the water. We shall have meetings to review the shortfalls of the management system, and revise the regulation and strengthen the execution, to ensure the rules are properly executed; proper training to the management team shall also be given during the training of village management teams.

- ◆ As all of the members of the management team are volunteers who were elected by the villagers and provide free services to all villagers, it was impractical to ask them to provide long-term service to the villagers. We could try to let the communities to collect and seek resources themselves to support the sustainable operation of the management teams.
- ◆ We suggest to implement infra-structure during the first half of the year to avoid raining season, and the survey must be conducted and plans must be confirmed before the end or previous year.

➤ Agricultural and Animal Husbandry Training

Implementation:

- ◆ 15 villager representatives from participated in the 3-day training of grafting, braches pulling, pruning, prevention of pest and fertilization of walnut trees in Butuo. And on-site practice was also conducted during the training. All the participants learned and comprehended the theory and techniques in all 5 topics during the training.
- ◆ 17 villagers participated the bee-keeping training in Yanyuan, and participants learned the techniques of moving bees from old style beehives to modern beehives. A mutual help team of the beekeepers was formed on the WeChat platform, so that they can share experience and seek help with members in other villages.
- ◆ As applied from the villagers from Huidong, two breeder bulls were sent to Huidong, and persons in charge of the care of the breeder bulls were elected. The breeding service is free for the villagers, and a small charge is collected for the breeding of cows outside of the village, the fund collected shall be used as the fund for keeping the breeder bull.

Achievements and Impacts:

- ◆ Villagers attending the training of grafting of the walnut tees reported that 75% - 80% of the grafted trees survived, though some of the grafted saplings were eaten by goats in Butuo.
- ◆ After the beekeeping training, participants 32 boxes of bees were moved from old style beehives to modern beehives. The production of honey was 100 catties more than the previous year though the weather was dry and hot last summer, which directly affected the yield of honey from each beehive.
- ◆ The breeder bulls provided free services to the cow in the village, and which encouraged the villagers' interest in keeping cows, villagers bought another 7 cows for breeding

cattle, and now there are 20 cows in the village. And RMB200 was collected for providing breeding service to cows outside of the village.

Issues and Solutions:

- ◆ Though villagers have comprehended techniques in grafting of walnut trees and related knowledge very well, and the survival rate was high, the post-planting management of the trees was not up to standard. There were saplings eaten by goats or damaged by strong wind. Management in plantation must be strengthened, villagers shall have meetings in setting up management regulations for fruit tree plantation to improve post plantation management.
- ◆ Some of the bees flew away from the beehives, that discouraged the villagers from keeping bees. The project shall seek training from professional bee farms, and we shall promote the beekeeping program when the rate of bees being kept improved.

➤ Mini loan in Zhaojue

Implementation:

- ◆ Assessment of the Mini-loan program was conducted at the end of October, and collected repayments from 6 households, and 5 of the borrowers were out of the village, and they repaid the funds within 5 days. All the repayment was collected.

Achievements and Impacts:

- ◆ The first phase of the fund was RMB20,000 which benefited 11 households. Two of the households used the fund to keep goats for breeding to generate economic income. And the rest of the fund was used on education or urgent needs such as medical issues.
- ◆ RMB720 of interest income was generated from the mini-loan for 2018-2019, the interest shall be pooled in the community fund for benefiting the elderly persons affected by leprosy, especially for those from the Five-Guaranteed households.

Issues and Solutions:

- ◆ Villagers reflected that the mini-loan did help a lot when they really needed money, and some of the borrowers did not use the fund in buying livestock (used for school fees), and they could not generate profit or advantage from the loan, except those who bought goats for breeding, which can be a good economic income. There should be a meeting to discuss and refine the regulation of the loan that must be used on agricultural or animal husbandry purposes.
- ◆ The capability of the management team of the mini-loan was weak as most of them were illiterate and did not have such experience in the past, we needed to provide extra training and guidance to them, and monitor well. Some of the villagers did not understand the purpose of the loan well, we must make a clear definition of the use of the funds, so that they can use the fund in agriculture and animal husbandry to improve their livelihood. We must also add extra members to the management team to help monitor the borrowing and repayment of the loans.

➤ Training of community management team

Implementations:

- ◆ On-site agricultural training was implemented in November, representatives from 8 villager representatives participated in the another NGO that has had more than 20 years of experiences in agricultural and rural development in Sichuan, based in Hanyuan, Ya-An.

Achievements and Impacts:

- ◆ Villagers and staff learned experiences in launching agricultural programs in rural area, especially in Sichuan. They then visited two model villages in rural development in Xiaojin County. The training included keeping the consistency of the village management teams, and we learned that during the first 3 years in new village, that frequent village and home visit was the key to success, as it was very important to get to know the villagers well. We could have someone reliable to help set up the community team and to elect the members (all decisions made by the villagers themselves).

It is also crucial the team members can manage and implement community works by themselves with confidence. Let the team members have enough space and independence in planning, implementing and managing every program implemented in the community. The project shall offer relevant guidance whenever needed.

They also learned that the importance of cooperation with the Government, and the villagers must also input part of the funds, so that they can feel the ownership of the program. And last but not the least is to build trust between villagers and the project; without trust, nothing can be done.

Issues and Solutions:

- ◆ It always takes time for people to comprehend and modify new ideas and knowledge, participatory approach is a quite new concept to the villagers of new villages, as they have been used to top-down management or as recipients from direct services; it has been taken long time for them to understand and accept the concept of the participatory approach, especially when we launch such programs in new villages. We needed much longer time than expected to let the villagers understand and accept such approach before we can implement the program, and this might delay the implementation or prolong the time of implementation time. We shall also let the villagers to visit some of our flagship village with successful programs implemented through participatory approach, such as Butuo, Yanyuan and Jinyang, so that the villagers from these villages can share their experiences in participatory approach to villagers of new villages. We can only implement the program unless the agreement with the villagers is met.
- ◆ Some of the villagers had language issues, after all they are mostly Yi people, Han Chinese is not their mother tongue, so that it is very important that staff must also participate and to explain and translate during the training. This training not only

benefited the villagers, but also project staff, which opened doors of their mind-sets in project management and implementations of community works in rural areas.

- ◆ Some villagers were not keen on raising questions, and were quite passive at the training. We suggested the participating villagers and staff draft relevant questions and record the problems and issues during the day to day management and operation after the summary meeting of the training of the first day and let them be more proactive during the rest of the training, so that they can seek help and support for the issues they met directly at the training. Staff drafted some questions to guide the villagers to express their thoughts and needs at the training, which was quite effective as they gradually became more proactive and learned how to express themselves through the guidance from staff and encourage from villagers of old villages.

➤ Improvement of nutrition of the villagers

Implementations:

- ◆ Cooking competitions were implemented in Huidong and Yanyuan, two villagers with water projects. There were 8 competing units in each village during the competition, and each unit could buy any food they want or use the crops from their fields with a small budget, they could reimburse after buying the food from the market. Competitors in Huidong were asked to make two dishes and 3 dishes for those in Yanyuan. Project staff and members of the village management team, women representatives of the village were the judges of the competition. They voted for three winners for each village and prizes were awarded to them. The competitors needed to prepare the food according to the principles of food pyramid.

Achievements and Impacts:

- ◆ Staff also conducted dietary health education and the concept of food pyramid to the villagers, especially the children in the villages and the hazard of malnutrition and talked about our experiences in launching nutrition programs in other old villages.
- ◆ Each family in Yanyuan has already cultivated 0.2-0.4 of home vegetable gardens, and each of them has 7 or 8 different kind of vegetables, and they would like to try different vegetables in the future.
- ◆ And the management of the home for the persons affected by leprosy also agreed with the villagers that the home shall purchase the vegetables grown in the village at market price for the old persons living in the home, which was subsidized by the Government; so that they don't have to go to the town to purchase vegetables every day.

Issues and Suggested Solutions:

- ◆ Monotonous diet has been the main cause of children acute malnutrition and the irreversible chronic malnutrition, which not only affect the growth of children from 0 to 6, but also caused stunning of children. Malnutrition also affect the health of adults, especially women. Through the agricultural improvement and water project programs,

villagers are able to diversify their crops, and able to grow different kind of vegetables to improve their nutrition intake.

- ◆ There are always new species of crops or vegetables, as well as knowledge in nutrition. Staff shall keep on learning and receiving training to update so as to convey the latest information to the villagers.

8.5 Community Health, Hygiene and Sanitation

➤ Hygiene and Sanitation Education

Implementations:

- ◆ Project staff and 4 university student volunteers from Yanyuan launched community health, hygiene and sanitation promotion activities in Mianning and Meigu. 50 villagers attended the activity in Mianning, and the target group of the activity in Meigu was the students. 48 students in the school participated in the event. The activities focused on the education of the hazard of pollution of animal stool, junk food and pollution from food packages. There was also a sharing session of the parents about their children and junk food. Education of personal hygiene was also conducted, children and the villagers were taught how to wash their hands properly by using the 20-second hand washing procedure. There shall be an assessment for the result of the education planned in February, 2020.

Achievements and Impacts:

- ◆ Parents shared with staff and other villagers about the bad habit of eating junk food every day, and the children did not eat much at their regular meals as a result, which affect the nutrition intake. Through the education about junk food, children agreed that they shall control themselves from eating junk food.
- ◆ All 48 students completed the entire health, hygiene and sanitation education in Meigu. There was also an Q & A session about hazard of junk food and personal hygiene at the end of the activity, all of them could answer correctly.

Issues and Suggested Solutions:

- ◆ Some of the villagers in Mianning did not have the patience to complete the entire session in health and hygiene education, and some of them came for the sake of prizes of the Q & A session. The training content and the way that staff conducted the education might be too dull, and the villagers found it boring. We can try to add pictures and videos in the education, and include games in between to promote the atmosphere of the education session.
- ◆ Project staff must also be more creative in planning and designing programs, so as to attract participants. We can try to seek specialists in hygiene and sanitation as volunteer to help design or implement the program in the village; to design and set up a systematic training material according to the actual condition of the villages.

➤ Setting and management of community management team

Implementations:

- ◆ 12 members of the village management teams from new and old villages participated a 3-day training in Xichang in June. Beginning with the debate titled with “Does village need village management team”, and there was experience sharing session then to summarize the results of the programs implemented in the villages to conclude the importance of the roles of the village management team. Operation principles, method and procedure was also conducted during the training as well as assessment procedure for each program implemented.
- ◆ A management team with 4 members was elected for the water project in Huidong.
- ◆ 12 village representatives participated in the meeting for program planning for the next year and conclusion of the programs implemented for the year. Staff also shared the policies and guidelines of revitalization of rural area, and the direction of the development of the villages which was recognized by all participants. And there was a performance assessment of all village management teams.

Achievements and Impacts:

- ◆ Representatives from some old villages and new villages of Yanyuan and Huidong were keen on participating in the training and meetings, they have not missed any meetings. And we could see the improvements of the villagers from Yuexi and Mianning, they have become more active in project activities, meetings and trainings.
- ◆ Water project and the breeder bulls program were smoothly implemented with the support of the management team, villagers would benefit from the improvement of agriculture and animal husbandry from the programs implemented.
- ◆ Through the experience sharing and the results of the infrastructures of other villages, village representatives from Mianning and Yuexi understood the principles of the project; and they also raised issues of their village, especially shortage of water, and they promised to convey the message to their fellow villagers and ask for comments from them.
- ◆ Village representatives offered positive feedback to project staff that, they felt the difference working and meeting with the project. They could feel equality, they felt that they were the same as project staff, it was not a top-down operation or meeting. And Project staff were willing to listen to their needs patiently and implement programs that they needed. They could feel the atmosphere of harmony with the project.

Issues and Suggested Solutions:

- ◆ The capability in communication technique of the villagers was not good, sometimes group interview could become personal interview. We shall organize training in communication and sharing sessions for letting them have the chance to practice their communication skills.
- ◆ They were still very new to participatory approach, we can try to seek support from the teams of old villages and share the experience and learning by doing is also the best

way to let them accumulate experiences in participatory approach, that could be the topic of the training for then management team next year.

- ◆ Members' ability in execution was low, one of the reason was that shortfalls in the management system, and the coordination from the project was not in place. We shall conduct assessment frequently and to refine the system whenever needed.
- ◆ There might be no progress for the programs that were implemented independently by the members of the manage team, project staff shall monitor closely and let the members understand that they could seek for guidance and support from the project anytime, and staff should offer timely support whenever needed

➤ Village Hygiene and Sanitation Infrastructure

Implementations:

- ◆ Construction of clinic was completed in March 2019, material was purchased and delivered to the village at the end of December 2018 when the construction of the main road was completed.

Achievements and Impacts:

- ◆ With the completion of the clinic, healthcare worker is able to implement POD work and cleaning and dressing of ulcer indoors. The clinic is also the best place for launching health education, meetings of the village management team, and the activity room for the villagers, especially for the persons affected by leprosy.

9. Staff Capacity Building

Implementations:

- ◆ Staff Jisha participated in the third training offered by Chengdu Shuguang Community Development Capacity-Building Centre (Shuguang), the training was tailored for Jisha in order to suit the target of our project implementations. And an on-site practice field trip training was implemented in Yushu Qinghai.
- ◆ Staff Chen Meng and Yang Shunwen also participated the fourth training by Shuguang targeting on participatory approach and project assessment in communities.
- ◆ Under the support and guidance from the teachers of Shuguang, the "seedling foundation" was formed for the village in Butuo, teachers also visited the village in June 2019 to conduct survey and confirm the needs from the villagers, that they confirmed the plan of plantation of Leibo Orange trees. Relevant systems and plans were also confirmed; the agreement was signed in September.

Achievements and Impacts:

- ◆ Participants fully recognised the content of the training, and believed that professionalism is the key of the success for the project.
- ◆ The capability of Jisha was improved, and he also shared what he has learned with all project staff.

- ◆ The questions and issues for the communities discussed were very comprehensive, which could also guide the targeted-thinking of the villagers and staff.
- ◆ Every issues raised by the villagers must be discussed thoroughly with the villagers in the village.
- ◆ We must not push the villagers to answer any questions raised by the project immediately, we must let them have time to think and discuss about the questions themselves, before they can give a proper answer.
- ◆ Staff must dig out the risks on any programs and systems and let the villagers take all risks into account before making any decision and agreement.
- ◆ We should let the villagers to implement and manage by their own, let them have the chance to be independent, we only need to offer support and guidance when needed.
- ◆ We may always receive unexpected issues and feedbacks from the villagers during our visits, we must have a daily review session at the end of each day to summarise all these issues and seek solution for them.
- ◆ Plans and budgets concluded by the project might be not detail enough, we need to fine tune every program together with the villagers / beneficiaries for the programs to be implemented the ensuing year.
- ◆ Project staff shall apply the knowledge learned from the training to the programs to be implemented in 2020.
- ◆ Staff's performance and attitude at the trainings was praised by the teachers, so that we were able to add another staff to the training in the middle, as the training was for free.

Issues and Suggested Solutions:

- ◆ Staff have different viewpoints towards participatory approach, staff might argue over different point of views during discussion and meetings. And the staff team was not professionals, it takes years for staff to gain experience and implement programs in professional way. It would be good that we can introduce professional guidance either from the board or staff member to bring promote professionalism in project implementation. Director Liza Yu and consultant Mr. Denis Chang agreed to help the project manager and staff to sort out the issues and solve the issues one by one through regular call meetings with all project staff.
- ◆ It is also to have the knowledge in risk management of each program to be implemented The ability of the team was not able to properly handle this issue. It takes much relevant training and accumulation of experience.

10.Conferences

Implementations:

- ◆ Immediate Past Medical Director, and currently consult to the project, Dr. Theresia Liem, Director Ms. Liza Yu, Project Manager Ms. Kelly Xu and Consultant Mr. Denis Chang participated in the Twenty-third International Leprosy Conference, with the topic

“Global Partnership – Zero Transmission, Zero Disability, Zero Discrimination” held in Manila in September 2019. Dr. Theresia Liem shared her speech on the topic "SOME RESULTS CONCERNING THE HEALING OF NEUROPATHIC ULCERS AND THE SELF-CARE PROGRAMME AS PART OF OUR PREVENTION OF DISABILITY (POD) WORK IN NINE LEPROSY REHABILITATION VILLAGES, 2011 - 2018" and Ms. Kelly Xu and Ms. Liza Yu shared their speech on the topic of "ELIMINATION OF SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION AND REBUILDING PEOPLE AFFECTED BY LEPROSY (PALS) CONFIDENCE BASED ON “PATIENT-ORIENTED APPROACH” – SOME EXPERIENCES OF THE LEPROSY PROJECT".

- ◆ Project Manager, Kelly Xu, participated in the one-day conference of “Registered Overseas NGOs in Beijing in November with more than one hundred of overseas NGOs. The conference discussed and about legal requirement and execution of project activities, space for the development of overseas NGOs in China, setting cooperation relationship with the Government and issues of human resources of the industry in China.

Achievements and Impacts:

- ◆ Two topics we shared at the International Leprosy Conference let other colleagues worldwide understand the results that The Leprosy Project has acquired in the past, and our works were highly recognized by the colleagues from different countries and areas, which improved the confidence of project staff.
- ◆ Staff also learned about professional and meticulous way in data collection and data analysis.
- ◆ They also learned about how to produce protective devices more precisely by using latest computer technology.
- ◆ During the conference, participants understood that the word “PAL” could not be used anymore as it might label the persons affected by leprosy. Elimination of Discrimination was one of the main focus of the conference, and it shall be one of the global strategy of WHO.
- ◆ From the conference in Beijing, overseas NGOs were encouraged to implement and promote programs according to the development of the country and worldwide, such as the “Rural Revitalization” strategy for rural development, and “One Belt One Road” worldwide development strategy. Project manager also shared what she has learned from the conference with all project staff.
- ◆ NGOs must build up concrete relationship with the supervisory units from the Government through reports and communications, it is important that the NGO can build up mutual trust with the Government for better and smoother project implementation.

Issues and Suggested Solutions:

- ◆ There have been rooms for the project to catch up with international standard, this pressure can be turned into motivation for project staff to improve themselves together with relevant training.

- ◆ Due to limitation in language, it was difficult for project staff in China to communicate deeper with other colleagues worldwide; we have got support from the board to participate in the international Leprosy Conference held in Manila in September and joined the membership of “Zero Leprosy”.
- ◆ The project must strengthen and systemize the reporting schedule and procedure to improve communication between the project with different Government departments, as well as the board and donors of the project. A systematic reportage procedure from weekly, monthly, quarterly, half yearly and annual report was confirmed, as well as reports on specific programs to specific directors or donors shall also be submitted according to the timeline confirmed by all staff.

Appendix 1: Demographic info of communities: Data collected at Q4 of 2019 (Oct to Dec).

No.	Community	No. of Households	No. of Villagers	No. of Old Persons	No. of Students
1	Butuo	61	258	32	60
2	Ganluo	33	122	11	26
3	Huili	22	48	25	2
4	Jinyang	33	170	24	78
5	Luding	16	56	16	6
6	Muli	33	137	16	--
7	Puge	144	641	43	236
8	Xide	158	387	76	109
9	Yanbian	9	12	12	--
Total of Old Villages		509	1831	255	517
10	Huidong	43	84	54	5
11	Leibo	50	78	78	--
12	Meigu	105	333	43	112
13	Mianning	78	293	34	61
14	Yanyuan	62	168	50	52
15	Zhaojue	92	441	43	160
16	Yuxi	258	1164	57	--
Total of New Villages		688	2561	359	390
Total of All Villages		1197	4392	614	907

Remarks:

- Only work on old persons in the entire Leibo County, so that total number of villagers is not available.
- Demographic data shall be changed every year, as there might be newly-wed families, and some families move out of the village.