

# Jiangxi makes big strides in fighting poverty



A member of low-income household in Huichang County, Jiangxi Province, dries semi-finished bamboo products. The county has, in recent years, relied on the advantages of ecological resources to lead households in deep poverty to plant bamboos. The local authorities also urged enterprises engaged in the deep processing business in the county to expand the industry chain. Households that have just entered the bamboo industry have received funds from the government. ZHU HAIPENG/PHOTO PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

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China's southeastern Jiangxi Province, with a distinct heritage of the Chinese Revolution, had made tremendous achievements in alleviating poverty in 2017 by lifting nearly 530,000 people out of destitution, with six counties having been removed from the poverty list.

The province is the famous revolutionary base and the main battlefield in conquering poverty. Among the 100 counties, there are 25 impoverished counties and 269 seriously impoverished villages.

The policy set by the local government has confirmed its determination to get rid of poverty under the theme "Accuracy is the core, implementation is the key, sustainability is guarantee."

Since late 2013, the number of people deemed to be in poverty in Jiangxi had fallen from 3.46 million to about 880,000 last year. The poverty rate has now dropped from 9.21 percent to 2.37 percent, according to the Jiangxi Poverty Alleviation and Resettlement Office.

Special financial poverty alleviation funds in the province reached 6.6 billion yuan last year, with the government dedicated to support-

ing 269 villages in deep poverty, granting each village 10 million yuan.

In alleviating poverty, the focus has been on three major areas - education, healthcare and housing. Jiangxi has adopted critical measures in pushing poverty relief.

In education, children from poor families receive school funding, while college graduates get help in seeking employment. In 2017, the provincial government financed 350,500 students, while 370,000 students received financial aid this year, drastically reducing the drop-out rate arising from poverty.

In healthcare, the policy covers medical reimbursement with "one stop" settlement and "diagnosis first, pay later" schemes. Last year, 314,000 poor people in the province received medical support, and the proportion of those in poverty paid for medical care on their own is 8 percent.

In housing, old villages are being renovated, and old and dilapidated homes renewed. In 2017, the completion rate of housing resettlement for 70,000 people reached 92.2 percent - one of the highest in the country.

Jiangxi has adjusted its poverty alleviation policies to local conditions, making full use of

the advantages offered, such as new rural cooperatives and unofficial employment organizations.

Despite the achievements made in recent years in alleviating destitution, the Jiangxi Poverty Alleviation and Resettlement Office pointed out that some industries relating to poverty alleviation are operating on a small scale, and

their ability to withstand market risks is limited.

The idea of "targeted poverty alleviation" was first raised by President Xi Jinping during his inspection tour of Hunan province in 2013. To tackle the root problem of extensive poverty alleviation that didn't take the practical needs of the poor people into consideration,

"targeted poverty alleviation" was introduced and has been developing and promoted.

According to the State Council Leading Group of Poverty Alleviation and Development, China's population of living in poverty had declined sharply from 770 million in 1978 to 30.46 million late last year.



Xie Mingyang, a poor farmer, herding geese back to the field in Xingguo County, Jiangxi Province. To help farmers get out of poverty, the village set up geese cooperatives to help the farmers feed the birds. ZHANG SHENG/PHOTO PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY