

Amity Outlook

No. 20
April-June, 2017

Fifteen years' cultivation with love



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ON THE COVER:

Xiaomeng is a diligent and filial Han ethnic girl. She always volunteers to help her aunt with farming whenever she is free. In 2017, Amity E-action Program came to its 15th birthday. Fifteen years' cultivation with love contributes to the smiling faces of thousands of "Amity E-action Children". Xiaomeng is one of them.

Published by the Amity Foundation
Printed by the Amity Printing Co., Ltd.

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Fifteen years' cultivation with love

By Zong He

Go beyond 10,000 dreams

The year of 2017 is the 15th year of Amity's "E-action" program since its debut. "E-action", one of Amity's star programs, focuses specially on supporting and fostering rural orphans. Over the years, the project has received strong support and trust from all walks of life and warmed the hearts of millions of rural orphans, making them no longer feel lonely. By the end of 2016, the program had funded more than 36,000 rural orphans and helped with their difficulties in life and study.

Support is mainly provided for orphans in poor areas of Jiangsu, Shandong, Henan, Hunan, Guangdong, Guangxi, Yunnan, Guizhou, Sichuan, Chongqing, Jiangxi, Ningxia, Hainan, Anhui and Hebei provinces. The orphans, missing love from their parents, struggle their lives with grandparents, relatives, neighbors or even having to face the challenges all by themselves. For these children, they are also longing for care and for a warm and loving environment in which they may grow up like the other children. However, the cruel reality has kept them from dreaming more but only to live in hardship.

Amity's "E-action" was conceived in late 2006. A group of Nanjing contributors of IT, sports, law, media and business profession spontaneously formed a volunteering team at the headquarters of Amity Foundation. The volunteering team consists of a few members with social influence including several celebrities, such as Sun Yue, a famous athlete and former captain of national women's volleyball team.



Children of E-action Program

Officially launched in the spring of 2007, the "E-action" program was established to provide each orphan under the program with RMB 1,485 every year for his/her tuition, expenses on stationery and clothing, and nutrition cost. The program aims to provide funds for 10,000 orphans globally through internet and call for more attention to the orphans.

Years together with Tencent

In 2007, Amity took the initiative to introduce “E-action” rural orphan support and fostering program to Tencent Charity Foundation and received welcome and cooperation from Tencent. After discussion, Amity and Tencent decided to put the program onto Tencent’s Internet platform, on which the online communication, promotion and fundraising would be processed. Soon, electronic versions of profiles and other information of orphans were uploaded online for donors to view and choose in the form of one-on-one support after offline applications, examinations and verifications by staff and volunteers. This became one of the first

charity programs that landed on the Internet platform.

With the consent from an orphan or his/her guardian, a potential donor can browse the website page on the child's information like gender, age, location and family information, as well as his/her funding progress. Transparency and openness won support and trust from potential donors. Many of them made donations and became long-term contributors.

Yet, while offering one-on-one donations, Amity Foundation was concerned about whether this form of fundraising was appropriate for orphans. When a child grows up, he/she finds his/her information in details on

the Internet, would he/she feel hurt?

In 2009, a bold and innovative idea - monthly donation – was created by Amity staff after research and discussion. As one of the earliest partner of Tencent Charity, Amity was the first to engage in the Tencent monthly donation platform. On this platform, Amity’s “E-action” program no longer exists in the form of one-on-one support, but an interactive experience with continued and petty donation was provided. Each donor donates RMB 10 to “E-action” every month and Amity uploads monthly report on the program income and expenditure, orphan’s regional distribution and project overview. Every donor who participates in the monthly donation will receive a feedback report from Amity every month.

Gradually, Tencent's monthly donation platform became known by more people and Amity “E-action” program also became one of the most popular brands on the platform. As of 2016, online fundraising of E-action exceeded 100 million and a total of 35,466 orphans had been supported.

Under the new era of “micro-charity”, this innovation helps people realize the dream of “doing good anywhere and at any time”, which brings people the opportunity to meet their philanthropic needs and realize their values. With this convenient, regular and small-amount donation, it is easy to form a donating habit, which will consequently have a positive influence on the whole society.

To be more transparent and open, Amity organizes regular visits to the project areas by donors. A combination of online and offline interaction has brought better experience to the donors.



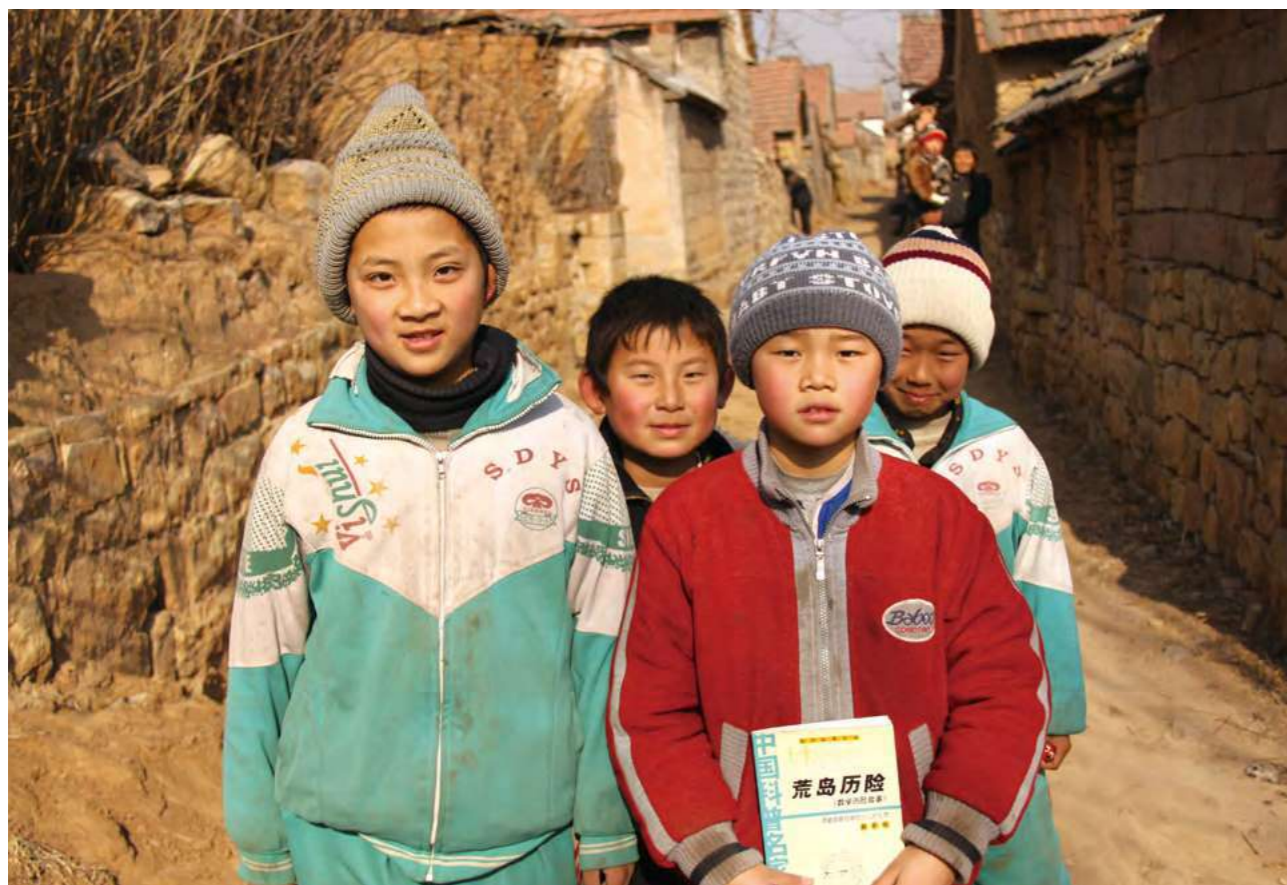
Children and their guardians supported by E-action Program

True care does much more than financial support

During a visit, I met a little girl. I took out a box of candies from my bag to show my friendliness. She politely took the box without any joy in her eyes. At this moment, there happened to be a woman dressed in plain clothes leading a 6 or 7-year-old kid passing by us. “Mom, shall we go home and cook now...” The kid asked her mom. The little girl raised her head, watching the mother and daughter walking away. I read out of her glittering eyes a longing for mother and for mum’s companionship. Yes, she is of the age yearning for love and care. A hug may be more comforting than some physical material. We believe it is urgent to pay more attention to the mental health of orphans.

Families, friends, schools and communities are four major elements that make up the growth environment for a kid. Orphans are a special group who are hurt by losing parents at an early age. How to help them walk out of the pain of losing parents, come back to their true living environments and enable them to grow up with less pain have always been a focus that “E-action” wants to explore.

Since 2009, multiple attempts have been made by “E-action” team, like organizing a “Happy Training



Children longing for books



Camp" which engages children in community activities, and involving college students with social work and psychology background in the community service as volunteers. The purpose of these attempts was to find out and meet the needs of those children and their guardians. During the process, we discovered that outcome of each program highly depends on the quality and experience of volunteers and the acceptance by children and their family of external intervention.

As human beings, we have the need to establish connections with others. This need seems to become urgent as to those orphans, left-behind children and children living in poverty, especially in rural areas. Being touched, the Amity "E-action" team conceived a supporting plan, which subsequently was given a name "Rainbow College". The program aims at the psychological development of the children in difficult circumstances, with the purpose to help them regain happiness and childhood. "Rainbow College" program is comprised of a number of sub-projects such as Rainbow Seed, Rainbow

Book Club, Rainbow Mentor Encouragement program. In Amity's long-term practice, Amity staff found that a teacher not only has the authority to supervise, but also the power to make a child to be taken care of. Bearing this in mind, Amity intends to select teachers with both professional advantages and sense of responsibility to serve as the "important others" of children to become the sowers for these "psychological rainbows". By supporting the teachers to coordinate resources, the program aims to enhance confidence, social skills and resilience of the children in difficult circumstances.

The Rainbow Mentor training program, based on the philosophy of acceptance and respect, introduces comprehensive knowledge (including child psychology, social work and children's creative thinking) to village teachers in a seven-day training with online guidance. Through the program, village teachers are equipped to have better understanding of the stories behind some specific behavior of a child, so as to establish better

connection with and give more targeted psychological guidance to a child. Village teachers who has attended the training will be hired as "Rainbow Mentors", who are expected to provide psychological assistance for children in difficult circumstances, as well as other students on campus. Some of them will even be involved in relevant social work and training of local teachers. Under the guidance of rainbow mentors, "good-neighbor teams" were set up on campus to improve the interaction between those children in difficult circumstances and their families, friends, schools and communities; help these children increase confidence, improve resilience and adapt to changing environment; and call for attentions from community members and launch "community support network" to allow more volunteers and social resources to be involved.

The "Our Childhood" summer camp is designed to provide children with opportunities to expand views and challenge themselves. Volunteers from developed areas like Hong Kong SAR were invited to participate in the activities to share positive energy to the children, encouraging them to adapt to the development of the society and become more committed to their future dreams.

A more creative E-action program

In Shuanglong Town, Huayuan County of Hunan Province, there is a family living in extreme poverty. Once upon a time, the family had seven members across three generations. Now, only the grandpa and two young grandchildren lived together in



A hard-working E-action Child with all kinds of awards on his wall



Interface of on-line crowd-funding for a new dwelling for the grandpa and his two grandchildren

a dilapidated old hut. The only income is made by the grandpa who is nearly ninety years old – he works on a small cropland with the help from the villagers to get some food. For years, his grandchildren had not had any piece of new clothing. They rely solely on relatives and neighbors for their daily necessities. Although life is so difficult, the grandpa insists that two grandchildren go to school. The two children, even with tattered schoolbags and broken stationery, keep their dream of continuing school.

After learning all these, Amity “E-action” started to provide support to them. With some fund from Amity, daily expense of the family was alleviated to a certain extent. However, grandpa was still worrying. Their old wooden hut was in disrepair, with broken roof tiles crumbling. When it comes to a rainy day, you stay in the rain no matter you are inside or outside the house. The waterproof cloth around the wall put up a few years ago was torn and that’s why the biting cold air of winter just

came into the room straight. The room was dark and there was a moldy smell in the air. No complete table or chair could be found in the empty room. After seeing all these, Amity “E-action” staff contacted Amity Way Fundraising team with a hope to join efforts to find more resources for the family through the way of crowdfunding. Later, to everyone’s delight, enough fund was raised and a relatively decent dwelling was provided for the grandpa and his two grandchildren.

The case was the first Amity “E-action” crowdfunding case, which represents a milestone for the team’s innovative thinking, active investigation and diversified management. Soon, more cases of the same nature would be developed. We believe, with the trend of internet charity, service scope will be expanded and the depth and breadth of the service will be furthered.

(Thanks to Liu Li and Cao Hui for additional contribution to this article)



I have a dream

By Wang Yuyan

Xiao Qian, a thirteen-year-old boy, has been living a hard life after his father died and mother suffered from mental illness.

I first met Xiao Qian in April. It was 5 o'clock in the morning when most of villagers were still in bed. Xiao Qian had already got up with his clothes on and turned on the only light in the room. He lifted a plastic bucket, preparing to pump water from a well one kilometer from home. After returning home, he grabbed a handful of rice from the rice basket and started to cook gruel with the electric rice cooker given by his neighbor. As the gruel was still boiling in the cooker, he took out his Chinese textbook and read under dim light. Every now and then, he would stir the gruel in case it was overcooked. The ladle he used, however, has a broken handle.

The second time I met him was in January, 2014. It was at noon when he just came back from school. He was on a pair of clumpy shoes and wore a light autumn coat and a pair of cotton trousers given by his classmates. Got off from the bike passed on from his father, Xiao Qian looked quite hot and sweaty. On entering the house, he started to wash Chinese chives given by his neighbors and cooked chive noodles in that old rice cooker. He ladled out a bowl of noodles for his mother and stood aside tending her until she finished eating. After all is done, he started to have lunch. Xiao Qian said: "I've lost my father. Our family would be devastated if my mother passes away. I don't envy others for their wealth. What I care most is the wellbeing of my mom. Some warm-hearted people suggest me send my mother to the elderly home, but I worry that my mother

cannot receive full-time care there when she gets sick. It doesn't matter when life gets too hard because you'll get through those hard times if you're diligent and positive enough."

He wrote as follows in a composition named "My Family" assigned by his teacher: "I have a miserable family in which my mother suffers from mental illness and poor health. I will study hard and make a mark in the future so that I can provide a good life for my mother and thank her for giving me life."

"When Dad were still with us, he cooked dinner for our family. But now since he was gone, I had to shoulder the responsibility of supporting the whole family. My mother cannot take care of herself. Sometimes she even pissed on the bed or got lost when she had a relapse. It's my deepest wish that my mother could have a better health." However, mother's lost can make Xiao Qian really exhausted. At 7 pm on the 20th of March, Xiao Qian found his mother lost again. He was quite worried and looked for his mother in several adjacent villages. Until the small hours in the morning did Xiao Qian found his mother.

After knowing the difficulties Xiao Qian and his mother face, Amity Foundation' "E-action" program started to sponsor him in 2014 and thus his life started to getting better and better. Though there is much work to be done, Xiao Qian still bears a dream in his heart, "I want my mom happy."

Blossom in harshness

By Pi Jingquan, Student Sponsor Center of Hezhang Education Bureau

Lu Jiali, born in Jiu Caiping Village, the plateau of Guizhou Province, is a Yi-ethnic girl. She is brave and sensible enough to earn the title of "Youth of Moral Standards" at her 12. Later in 2016, she won the provincial and national level awards. She is like a flower blooming in the plateau. Though beset with harsh wind and frost, she also grows sturdily and blossom beautifully in the wild.

Many others of her age have a happy family. However, Lu lost her father when she was at her babyhood. Subsequent to such tragedy, her mother left three kids to grandma and left home. After painful considerations, grandma sent the youngest sister to others and reared the rest two.

Throughout years, grandma, though aged, support the whole family despite hardships. And under grandma's teaching by precept and example, Lu is very sensible ever since her very young age. Every morning, when others kids are still in bed, Lu would lift the water from hill back home and get everything prepared before going to school. And every afternoon when she gets back from school, she would assist grandma in farm chores, like mowing grass, cutting firewood and preparing food for pigs. Although exhausted with a day's work, Lu would still find time for study. Her diligence and hard work win commendation from her teachers, students and her grandma as many certificates of merit can be a vivid witness.

However, with the aging of grandma, the family can hardly live up to subsistence even with 200 yuan monthly sent by

Lu's older brother. After knowing the difficulties of Lu's family, Amity Foundation decided to subsidize her with 1485 yuan on a yearly basis.

During a visit in June, Lu displayed her optimism towards future and her social responsibility. "I would like to be a doctor and go back to my hometown where people are in dire need of medical care." She said with a determined look.



Jiali in class

Thank you, mum

Narrated by Yu Xiao (Alias)
Recorded by Liu Li

I still remember the first time I met her, an affable-looking woman who I called “mum”. With a gleam of love and care in her eyes, she touched my head gently, took me in her arms and said: “I’ll take care of you just like your mum used to!” That moment, I felt the warmth and affection I haven’t had for a long time. Ever since, I put her deeply in my mind with heartfelt gratitude.



Thanks for her kind help, I finally got brand-new textbooks and new clothes to wear. Mum sends me pocket money every year and comes to see me every now and then. Her embrace warms me and makes me attached... oh, this is my mum, my beloved mum!

To live up to her expectations, I study hard to improve myself, trying to be as affectionate and kind to others as mum. In 2008, I got matriculated at a university, majoring in Telecommunication Engineering, and successfully found a job in a Shenzhen-based enterprise after graduation. Afterwards, I met my wife and now we’ve got a baby.

Life goes smoothly when I heard the horrible news from Henan province, hometown of mum, that her grandmother suffered fractures and was sent to hospital. Upon hearing this news, I didn’t hesitate to ask for leave and went to Henan to take care of my great-grandmother. As the saying goes, filial piety ranks top among all other etiquettes, it’s my responsibility to take care of the elderly. I think it’s the asset I get from my mum——gratefulness and kindness.

I still remember the speech I delivered as a graduate representative of Amity “E-Action” program——“Fellow students, strengthen your resolve in working hard no matter what obstacles you may encounter. We ought to work hard to pay back the kindness from all those once helped us or cared about us because excellence is its own reward!”

Aunt Lee, the volunteer

by Wang Yuyan

The Amity “E-action” program would not be able to serve so many people without contributions made by volunteers, Aunt Lee included. We have a great esteem for them in that they have demonstrated dedication as well as valuable and considerable efforts in their voluntary work. Aunt Lee is a warm-hearted lady from Hong Kong. In 2004, Aunt Lee took part in a charity dinner organized by a local church where she happened to know a fundraising program for HIV orphans in Henan Province. After the dinner, she made contacts with several other church members for the sponsorship and claimed that she would like to be the coordinator between Amity Foundation and sponsors. This is the first time E-action received fund in Hong Kong and also the start for Aunt Lee to contribute to mainland orphans through Amity Foundation.

Aunt Lee is a dedicated person whose daily routine includes making contacts with sponsors for fundraising and organizing group visit to sponsored kids. She works as a bridge, connecting Amity Foundation and sponsors. Though voluntary work occupies a lot of her time, she doesn't show a slight sign of impatience but declares that she's happy to contribute to charity.

Aunt Lee also visits orphans with other sponsors many times. She thinks that attending to everything personally is crucial in the work of E-action. She is keen in talking with those kids and encourages them to study harder and take good care of themselves. Those

sincere words warm the hearts of those kids. Once she had time, she would share with others the personal experience and feelings for E-action including the visits she paid together with those sponsored people.

“Many Hong Kong people do not have a great deal of trust in mainland-based foundations. With my work, they might change their idea.” Aunt Lee was determined. Her good deeds slowly pay off by making an influence on people around her. Now an increasing number of people joined the voluntary work or sponsorship of “E-action” program.

“The most important thing in volunteering work is good intention, with which you're willing to find time for good deeds and carry on.” Speaking of this, Aunt Lee clenched her fist to show her determination and smiled. She is optimistic about the future.



Aunt Lee (left) is discussing with social worker of Amity

Need for psychological support for orphans

By Anthony Tong Kai Hong, Director of Amity Hong Kong Office

I always want to do something for orphans, probably it's because I have been moved by movies like Great Expectations and The Orphans or it's because I've lived through the unrest brought about by the second world war in my younger ages, which left many children devastated by family separations. But I didn't truly realize the predicament until I joined Amity Foundation and got involved in the lives of those orphans.

During the Spring Festival of 2008, nine provinces in Southern China were stricken by a serious ice storm. I went along with my colleagues from Nanjing headquarters to visit people in disaster-stricken regions where I heard a sad life story of a little girl named Xiao Qu. She had lost both her parents at the time. In the house collapse caused

by the disaster, she lost her grandmother and she herself was critically injured. If it had not been for village cadre's help, carrying her on his back and running for miles to the hospital, she would've lost her life.

When we met her, we found that she seemed resolute though she looked frail and weak. She also displayed her eagerness for study and for a promising future during our conversation.

At Christmas of 2014, I had another opportunity to meet orphans, which left me deep impressions. Xiao Yu, a little boy from Sichuan Province, lost the care and support of both parents after his father killed his mother in a family quarrel and was imprisoned for life. The loss of his parents makes Xiao Yu very lonely and he wanted desperately to visit his father. But due to a shortage of money, he failed to make a trip. When we saw Xiao Yu, he didn't look happy with knitted brows. And his response was cool despite our every effort to cheer him up. But when we were about to leave, some of our members hugged him and he cried. The sight of him bursting into tears tugged at our heartstrings. We could begin to understand his loneliness for lacking company and care. With the volunteers' warm hug, he felt the warmth he had never felt before and was greatly touched.

In recent years, the government has done a lot in terms of subsidizing orphans. But those kids still need psychological support in going through the hard times of their young lives.



Anthony Tong Kai Hong (in the middle) is visiting orphans

Read "psychological words" of a child from paintings

By Xia Hongyu

Children, especially young children, are often unable to express and explain themselves in precise words and expressions. So, in a short period of time, in what way can an adult walk into a child's heart and understand their needs and feelings? The answer is painting. According to surveys, one of children's favorite activities is painting. Approximately 70% of the children under the survey loves painting. Painting serves as a child's inner expression, which is deemed by me as a kind of "psychological words". When a child is angry, sad or discontented, drawing can help him/her relax and change their mood.

In doing psychological work for children, it is important to observe and understand the needs of the children behind their certain behavior, and more importantly, we can analyze and understand the sub-consciousness of a child through his/her paintings. A child will project his/her disposition, inner needs, and psychological problems into his/her paintings. Adults, especially parents and guardians, may adjust their parenting style and understand kids' inner needs by observing and analyzing those paintings. In addition, any negative emotion may be alleviated during the process of listening to the interpretation of paintings. Painting can serve as a bridge between adults and children.



Xia Hongyu, Psychological Consultant (National Level II) and a child psychologist, is now studying at the Institute of Psychology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences for her PhD degree. Ms. Xia focuses on child psychological development, non-violent communication and emotional management, and has been offering related courses for more than 3 years. Ms. Xia's psychological consultation time accumulates to over 1,500 hours. Amity invited her to work as a psychological tutor for children in difficult circumstances in Anyue County, Sichuan Province.



Painting from a girl, 11 years old

A quarter of sun on the upper left corner shows the painter's yearning for the warmth from mother which is difficult to obtain in reality. The pine tree on the left bottom reflects the struggle of the painter despite all the obstacles during growing process. The straight truck shows the character of the painter, who is a little bit stubborn and lacking flexibility. The house depicted by ruler shows the painter's inner desire for some support. Both the house and the tree are cut down, which show the insufficient security inside the painter's heart. A carefully painted roof indicates a tendency of the painter to pursue perfection and the demand on himself/herself. The clock on the side wall indicates that the painter is eager for some success. The door of the house is small and closed in the lower right corner, which reflects a lack of interpersonal communication. The door has a black button, which indicates a defensive and anxious inside of the painter. The smoke on the roof demonstrates conflicts in the family.



Painting by a boy, 9 years old

The lines in the painting are heavily weighted, which shows that the painter is tend to be bad-tempered and impulsive. The lines on the two trees are messy, which shows some irritation inside; the blackening parts reflects anxiety. The smiling face of the sun on the top left indicates the desire for warmth from mother, while the rotating lights of the sun means the painter is hard to feel this warmth. The flat cloud shows that the painter feels some pressure and is depressed. Two trees, two people and all those flowers and plants shall mean the painter is eager to be accompanied. In this picture, people are fishing, which expresses the painter's desire to have a different life style, and the desire to be relaxed, but in real life, it is difficult to do this, so there is some anxiety. The figures on the picture are all cut down, which shows the painter's insecurity and pursuit of stability. The locked door indicates that the painter is defensive and lacks interpersonal communication.

Through this painting of house, trees and people, we can see that every child in difficult circumstances has internal backlog of some emotion. If these emotions are not effectively released and always go with these children, they could have a variety of deviant behavior later, e.g. becoming school-weary, being dilatory, fighting, lying, getting sick, interpersonal barriers, etc. More importantly, negative emotion will generate energy, the resulting consumption will affect the entire status of one's life.

In addition to speaking and writing, emotional guidance can also be portrayed in color. As adults, the best we can do is to be a listener. You may remind them of an impressive thing or event and ask them their emotions and feelings of the event. Then ask them to choose colors to represent their own emotions and describe in pictures. This method is used to guide the emotion for children in difficult circumstances. We can take the following work as an example:



Painting by a boy, 10 years old

The black on the top of the head indicates that the painter feels terrified and lonely. He/she may be terrified and embarrassed when the teacher commented on him or grandparents don't care about him/her. And he/she may feel lonely when nobody else is at home. The arms and body are colored yellow, indicating the painter's desire to be seen by others and he/she feels some warmth, especially when his/her little friends care about his/her injury (if any). The blue legs represent freedom and loneliness and indicate the painter wants to go across the sea to find mom and dad.

A person that plays an important role in the formation and development of a child's personality is called an "important other". Generally, the important others of a child are his/her parents. For children in difficult circumstances, they usually suffer special family environment and most of the parents are not around for certain reasons. According to our visits and surveys, many children in difficult circumstances can only meet their parents during the holidays of Chinese Spring Festival, which reflects the lack of family parenting. Through the interpretation of those paintings with houses, trees and people, we see that it is a general situation that these children lack sense of security and sense of worth. They want attention, want to be accepted and appreciated, and are longing for companion. These inner needs will not disappear automatically over time. If the needs are not met, they would have impacts on the children's study and even future life.

In daily life, children in difficulties often have more connections with their teachers and classmates. Teachers, by virtue of care and help distributed by them, are likely to become the important others of those children in difficult circumstances. Given the influence that teachers may have over the students, we believe the need for providing trainings and guidance for teachers are necessary and urgent. Through the study of psychological knowledge and methods, teachers will see the needs of each child and see the positive motivation behind each negative behavior of a child. By efforts, teachers can help children build senses of security, sense of value, ability to appreciate others, and ability to love themselves. None of us can choose our date, time or environment of birth, but every life comes to this world with its own resources and potentials. We, as adults, seeing all those resources and potentials brought with each child, shall trust and appreciate the lives as they are. With guidance and assistance, the child's inner potentials will be explored, and in doing so, the child then have limitless possibilities for the future and life itself will bloom like a flower.



Lovely twin girls

You won't be alone

By Li Tianyi

The Qin sisters were twins. Shortly after their birth, their father disappeared and mother left them. Before receiving support from Amity, the sisters and their brother were raised by their grandfather alone. Different from other children, they had never attended any early education classes, nor had they ever been to a Disneyland; they even had no choice to decide which park they would like to play in the weekend. At joyful moments, there was no dad to lift them high, while at gloomy moments, there was no mum to hold them tight. Their primary school is consisted of only one classroom, one teacher and three schoolmates of different grades.

At first, I wasn't sure from what aspect I should record and demonstrate the kids. "The purpose of philanthropy is not sympathy-winning, but to change lives and make hopes,"

Teacher Wang of Amity Foundation told me. Amity wants to record children's happiness. The "E-action" program provides orphans in underdeveloped areas with both economic and psychological aids, with the hope that they can grow happily like other children. So, recording their happiness is the best feedback to all donors. These pictures will also be one of the best and happiest memories of their childhood.

This visit was the warmest I've ever experienced. We played games with the kids, laughed together, and forget the difficulties, hardship and troubles in our lives.

In order to respect the kid's own willing, I will use aliases to replace their names.



The Lin sisters are triplets. Their father died of illness and their mother remarried but never came back to see them. They have a sick grandfather lying in bed all year long. The only supporter of the family is their grandmother. The grandmother, despite her old age, by income from three mu (1 mu = 0.0667 hectares) of corn field, government grant and fund from Amity, struggled to raise five people in her family.

The three sisters were very glad about the photo shooting. They also hoped to help more children through their efforts. However, we can see and understand that, when communicating with a group of strangers, girls in the fourth grade were not as out-going as they were in the first grade.

“What do you usually do at home?” I asked.

They were shy and shook their heads.

“Where do you like to play in the village?” I didn’t push them and changed a question.

They still kept silent.

“Well, so, can you take us to look at the corn field of your family?” I changed another question.

On our way to the corn field, when the second sister saw the honeysuckles on the road, she became happy. She rushed to the flowers, took off the vines, quickly made a garland and proudly put it onto her head. The other two sisters were encouraged. They joined her by taking a few roses outside the neighboring garden and added to the garland. The garland was colorful as the sisters added more flowers on it. They were happy making the garland, took turns to wear and teased each other. The atmosphere turned to be lovely and relaxed. I lifted my camera to record the moments of nature and beauty that belonged to the mountains and also the three sisters.



The triplet sisters



Wang, a girl that loves reading

Wang was the oldest of the children we visited during the trip. She was studying in junior high school. After losing her parents and grandmother, she huddled in a crowded apartment with her aunt’s family. The window sill that was used as her desk and bookshelf was her special space in the family. The bay window was covered with books she borrowed from the library.

The impact of the family's dramatic changes didn’t leave any impress upon her face. Ms. Liu of Amity Foundation told us, books she liked reading in recent days might tell us that she needed to find her position and find meaning in her life. Because, if I were her, in my age of junior high school, I might have read “The Three Body Problem”, but I certainly wouldn’t have read a self-report written by a surgeon with lung cancer in the last two years of his life.

About taking photos, I asked her to pick a place that would make her feel comfortable. She thought for a while and said, “let’s go to the river. There are fewer people.” She was already a big kid, she has her own thoughts. We can share ideas on reading and share the bright spots that we noticed in the books with her.

Ms. Liu talked with Wang for a long time. I didn’t know what they were talking about, but I caught Wang's happy smile in my camera.



A sister watching her brother eating

Back to Shanghai, I opened the donation page on WeChat for "E-action". To my surprise, I found that 16 of my friends had been supporting this program already. I know they are all very good-hearted people, but I never knew they have walked in front of me so early.

The story hasn’t ended here. Even you are careless, you can still find that the protagonists in this article are all girls. In fact, in all the orphans supported by the "E-action" program, girls indeed account for a higher proportion. In the underdeveloped areas of China, girls are more likely to be abandoned and the growth of these girls face greater challenges. I could not imagine before that, in the second decade of the 21st century, the traditional preference for sons is still deeply rooted in the country, especially in impoverished areas. The Han majority group is the case, and a lot of ethnic minority groups are also the case. There are many problems that need to be solved behind the economic gap between the east and west.

During the visit, a local government official who was responsible for poverty alleviation told us another phenomenon: the village they went to for targeted poverty alleviation has a registered population of over 200 people, but the actual living population was only eight people. To be accurate, there were only eight left-behind old people in the village. I asked this official that whether it meant the village was walking to its death? He said, “Not really. When Spring Festival comes, most of the villagers working in the eastern coastal cities will return to their homeland. Then, here will be busy again. After the Spring Festival, the village fall silent again.”

I think what I have seen is a rather tragic phenomenon in the process of urbanization in China, where the pattern of living in impoverished areas is changing dramatically, which is a dilemma. I hope these villages in the mountain could change less and slower, could keep their traditions, and more local people could live in their own special way. I don't expect those extremely ugly concrete houses that look exactly the same to replace all those black wooden houses with historical imprint. However, the establishment of

a community or a society that pays attention to girls, in which all children will be able to finish compulsory education without worrying about food and clothes, and that all the orphans receives both financial support and psychological console, requires all these dramatic and tragic changes. After all, only granaries can talk about culture.

Therefore, there are too many places that urban and rural areas are supposed to complement each other: big cities have lost their tradition, their individuality, and the blue sky; on the other hand, underdeveloped areas lack quality life guarantee and basic dignity of life while a vast tradition, essence or trash, are kept there. Anyway, I will continue to use my scanty and limited power to support the "E-action" program and strive to support those orphans who need help. At this moment, I want to gently ask all of the readers: would you like to help them? No matter what your answer is, at least I will!



Girl picking tea leaves for her family



Boy picking firewood for his grandma



Amity staff, volunteers, local partners and kids

This is an article carefully composed by one of our volunteering photographers, Li Tianyi, on his experience. He expressed his concern and worries, sincere and touching.

In May 2017, Amity Foundation recruited four professional photographers as volunteers (Mu Chuan, Li Tianyi, Wen Licheng, and Wang Pei) to take pictures for orphans supported under "E-action" program. The four of us spent one month to walk through the mountains, across the rivers, across the terraces, and through the trees to record the smiles and images of 20 children beyond their sadness. We had meetings every night to make the next day's shooting plan, and to estimate the difficulties and problems we might encounter. Sometimes, to get the best natural light, we even stayed in one place for more than two hours. In order to catch the natural performance of the children, we would be patient to communicate with the child or the family before we took any pictures, such as to know the child's preferences and life habits, and to listen to their hearts... During the trip, the professionalism and dedication of the photographers deeply moved every one of the travelers, including our "E-action" children.

Finally, I want to express my sincere gratitude towards this team of photographers who devoted to this job. It is your efforts that make us feel the charm of photography, which shows the truthfulness, the valuable moment, the story behind the photo and the thinking after the moment. It is you that demonstrated the sincerity and kindness beyond the lens, the compassion, the sympathy and the affection. As long as we have you on the way of charity work, we are not lonely.

International Workshop on the Implementation of China's Overseas NGO Law



Li Guohua (left) and Qiu Zhonghui (right) welcome the participants

On January 1, 2017, Law of the People's Republic of China on Administration of Activities of Overseas Nongovernmental Organizations in the Mainland of China (the "Overseas NGO Law") came into effect. On May 25 2017, the Amity Foundation hosted an international workshop in Nanjing to discuss implementation and further cooperation under the new legal framework. More than 70 participants attended the workshop, who were representing relevant Chinese government departments and partner organizations, academia and Chinese social organizations.

During the opening session, Mr. Li Guohua, Vice-Minister of the United Front Work Department and Director of the Religious Affairs Bureau in Jiangsu welcomed all participants and mentioned the positive impact and contribution of overseas NGOs in China during the last

decades. Mr. Qiu Zhonghui, Vice Executive Chair of the Board and General Secretary of the Amity Foundation pointed out the necessity to provide platforms to exchange ideas and discuss cooperation among all relevant actors to continue to advocate social development that benefits the people. "Cooperation and development is the buzzword of the time", said Mr. Qiu. He referred to a universal spirit, which coincided with the one of the Belt and Road Initiative stated by President Xi Jinping: international cooperation and exchange should promote peace, openness, tolerance, mutual learning and understanding and seek for win-win situations.

Mr. Zhao Jianming, Vice Director of the Administration Office of Overseas Nongovernmental Organizations of Jiangsu's Provincial Public Security Department, gave detailed information about application procedures,

required documents and other issues for the registration of representative offices and for the application of temporary activities by overseas NGOs. He also expressed on behalf of all administrative authorities their positive, sincere and open attitude towards any feedback and suggestions from the attendees.

Other keynote speakers were Huang Haoming, Director of CANGO, Wang Ming, Dean of Institute for Philanthropy of Tsinghua University, Ms. Chen Yimei from the Anna Chennault Foundation and Wang Le, Vice Country Representative of Save the Children. All participants appreciated the meeting and expressed the need for further consultation as well the hope that the new comprehensive legal framework will help to facilitate successfully a sustainable development in China and the world.

Toward the end of the workshop, the officers of relevant authorities responsible for the future implementation of the law, discussed with participants in detail about the requests and open questions of the law in Q&A sessions.



Zhao Jianming of Jiangsu's Provincial Public Security Department gave detailed information about the implementation of the law.



Huang Haoming gave an overview of the positive contribution of overseas NGOs over the last decades.



Representatives and practitioners of the third sector and authorities discussing issues of China's new Overseas NGO law.

The celebration of the 30th anniversary of the European Network of Amity Partners held in Hamburg, Germany

In June, 2017, celebration of the 30th anniversary of the European Network of Amity Partners (ENAP) was held in Hamburg, Germany's famous port city. The European Network of Amity Partners (ENAP) is a multilateral cooperation mechanism launched by Amity Foundation and its European partners in 1987 in Hamburg, Germany. The purpose of ENAP is to strengthen Amity Foundation's contact and cooperation with all partner organizations through the mechanism.

The day before the celebration, more than 30 representatives from 16 partners from Germany, the UK, Norway, the Netherlands, Finland and other countries held a special meeting. Mr. Qiu Zhonghui (Vice Executive Chair and

General Secretary of Amity Foundation), Dr. Thereasa Carino (Senior Research Consultant of Amity Foundation), Mr. Anthony Tong Kai Hong (Director of Amity Hong Kong Office), Ms. Xie Ying (Director of Amity International Office in Geneva) and Ms. Zheng Wei (Director of Amity Office in Africa) attended the special meeting.

The theme of this year's special conference is "the Review, Celebration and Outlook of the ENAP". The conference is co-chaired by Rev. Martin Krieg, ENAP convener, Director of the Asia/Pacific Desk of Association for Protestant Missions and Churches in Germany (EMW) and Ms. Christine Elliott, Director of International Programmes of the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI).



The conference is co-chaired by Rev. Martin Krieg, ENAP convener, Director of the Asia/Pacific Desk of Association for Protestant Missions and Churches in Germany (EMW) and Ms. Christine Elliott, Director of International Programmes of the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI).

Representative of Amity made a keynote speech at the meeting on the subject of "New Beginning". In the speech, the speaker summarized China's overall development in politics, economy, society and science and technology in recent years, and highlighted specially the vigorous development of the third sector in China, as well as the impact of new technological changes on people's daily life. All the progress and changes provides a platform for the public to participate in social service. It is also reported in detail on the development and future prospects of some innovative projects of Amity.

Then, representatives of Amity Geneva office, Hong Kong office and Africa office gave introductions on their major work and future plans. Stresses were made on Amity's work in religion and social development efforts. Delegates from partner organizations were amazed and delighted at the rapid growth and accomplishments of Amity. In addition, the attendees gave special confirmation and encouragement on the work of Amity office in Africa and offered to share their partner network resources in Africa with Amity. All participants in the meeting agreed to cooperate in more areas to carry out innovation and to further promote south-south exchanges and cooperation.

ENAP delegates in the meeting also reviewed those documents composed by all partners in 1987 about partnership and discussed the new circumstances faced by ENAP 30 years later and the changes to be made today. In the end, the attendees reached a consensus to "continue to uphold the principles of mutual respect, to strengthen communication, and deepen cooperation".

After the special meeting, the celebration of the 30th anniversary of ENAP was held. Mr. Qiu Zhonghui, the General Secretary of Amity Foundation, first gave his address. For 30 years, he says, Amity has been grateful and appreciates

all the friends present to walk together with Amity through thick and thin. We rejoice in the strong friendship and partnership that has been built through this accompaniment. China's Belt and Road Initiative opens up more opportunities for Chinese NGOs to participate in the debate and process of achieving sustainable development. Facing the challenges in the new era, Amity Foundation will establish bridges and platforms for the internationalization of Chinese civil society organizations by creating more programs, serve more people in need, and conduct more advocacy. We are looking forward to further cooperation with all partners in ENAP to create a better tomorrow.

Bishop Jan Janssen, Board Chairman of EMW, Dr. Klaus Schäfer, Director of ZMÖ, Rev. Claudia Ostarek and other 60 representatives took part in this ceremony.

The founders who took part in the formation of ENAP still remembered the initial faith and determination. European partners fully confirmed China's aspiration and efforts in constructing the country through modernization process. They thought that the partnership established with Amity Foundation was on the base of equality, reciprocity and trust, which benefitted all the members.

Bishop Jan Janssen recalled the first meeting of Amity partnership consultation called by EMW in 1987. The consensus document of the meeting summarized that with the establishment of Amity Foundation, the European partners gradually know the importance of cooperation between Christian and non-Christian in the development of the society. Besides, bishop Jan Janssen also emphasized the role of Amity Foundation in connecting organizations between Southern and Northern Hemispheres, among European partners and between the churches and the society. The history and vision of ENAP provides strong evidence for the ecumenical concept of "we are family".

Speech by Mr. Qiu Zhonghui at the celebration of the 30th anniversary of ENAP



We have impacted official thinking and policy on the need for a participatory and sustainable approach to development.

Amity's work has changed the mindsets of Chinese people towards Christianity and towards our overseas partners. Through our partnership, we have made Christianity better understood and accepted in China.

New Challenges

Today, China is an economic powerhouse. One effect of China's rise is that our partners feel it is no longer justifiable to have projects in China. From Amity's perspective, China's One Belt and One Road initiative opens up more opportunities for Chinese NGOs to participate in the debate and process of achieving sustainable development. And the context is not just China, but the whole world.

Amity will be a window in the internationalization of the NGO sector in China.

Scaling up for Amity means that it is not only supporting projects and providing services but consciously engaging in advocacy work, an area in which we are still weak. The rich-poor gap has grown and will continue to widen. There are at least 80 million people in China with disabilities. Many are still left behind in China's modernization and urban poor communities will grow rather than shrink.

At this level, there are many things we can do together with ENAP. There are many shared concerns about

gender justice, the environment, and promoting the rights of the disabled and the elderly. We need help in advocating social policies that can empower these vulnerable groups.

Amity is also giving much attention to the positive role that religion can play in attaining the SDGs 2030. Its link, especially to the local churches, is part of Amity's uniqueness in China. Given its work at ground level, it is in a position to promote diaconia in Chinese churches, using a bottom-up approach. It is also in a strong position to promote inter-faith cooperation. We are now a training center for social service development among the 5 major religions in Jiangsu.

As we celebrate the achievements of the past, I would like to share some ideas about how we can continue to cooperate for the next 30 years:

How can we strengthen ENAP?

1. By having a better communication network of information sharing about our concerns and our organizations. This will help in building N-S and S-S solidarity. Much of our present relations is bilateral. As Amity internationalizes, it will benefit from networks of solidarity linking the North and the South and the South with the South.

2. Sharing of resources including expertise and personnel. Amity's projects with Africa/Asia can be trilateral, not just bilateral. There can be mutual benefits from this form of cooperation since both Amity and ENAP partners have much expertise, experiences and resources to share in these areas.

We hope that ENAP can become a network where Amity can contribute more equally as a partner rather than a

"beneficiary". In its founding statement, ENAP affirmed that the setting up of Amity was

- 1) a practical way of developing relationships which do not impair the 3 Self principles.
- 2) It should be a relationship of partners. This involves reciprocity of giving and receiving.
- 3) Reciprocity involves equality, mutuality and trust.

We should commit ourselves to be open to one another as friends on the basis of common commitment, mutual trust, keeping one another informed of all plans and programs and submitting ourselves to mutual accountability and participation in decision making between the South and the North;

There are no absolute donors, or absolute recipients, but all have needs to be met and gifts to give.

In the same spirit, let us renew our friendship and mutual commitment for the next 30 years! May the good Lord continue to bless and guide us on our new ecumenical journey!

On behalf of Amity, I want to end by expressing our deep gratitude to EMW and ZMO for hosting this event! I want to say a big "thank you" to the convenor of ENAP, Rev. Martin Krieg, and Katrin Fiedler of ZMO, and their colleagues, for all the hard work they have put into organizing this historical celebration! Last but not least, a very big thank you to all our partners and members of ENAP for your faith, friendship and accompaniment throughout the years! CHEERS!

Advocating for access to water and sanitation

More than 550 participants and volunteers joined the Amity Walk for Living Water 2017 event in Hong Kong on 29 April 2017. In the 7th year of the Walk, HK\$ 220,000 were raised. The donations will be used in Amity's Living Water Project. Amity will support the construction of a solar shower room for a primary school in Qinghai Province. Those facilities will provide better personal hygiene conditions for local students and teachers.

Ensure access to water and sanitation for all is Goal 6 of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In response to the annual UN World Water Day on March 22, the Amity Foundation raised fund to provide clean water for remote areas in China, advocated to safe water and raises public awareness on the global water crisis. The theme for 2017 is 'Water and Wastewater'.



The Hong Kong Water Department, an enduring supporter of the Walk for Living Water provides entertaining and educational game booths for the participants



Volunteers and participants enjoy balloon twisting and gaming activities before and after the Walk

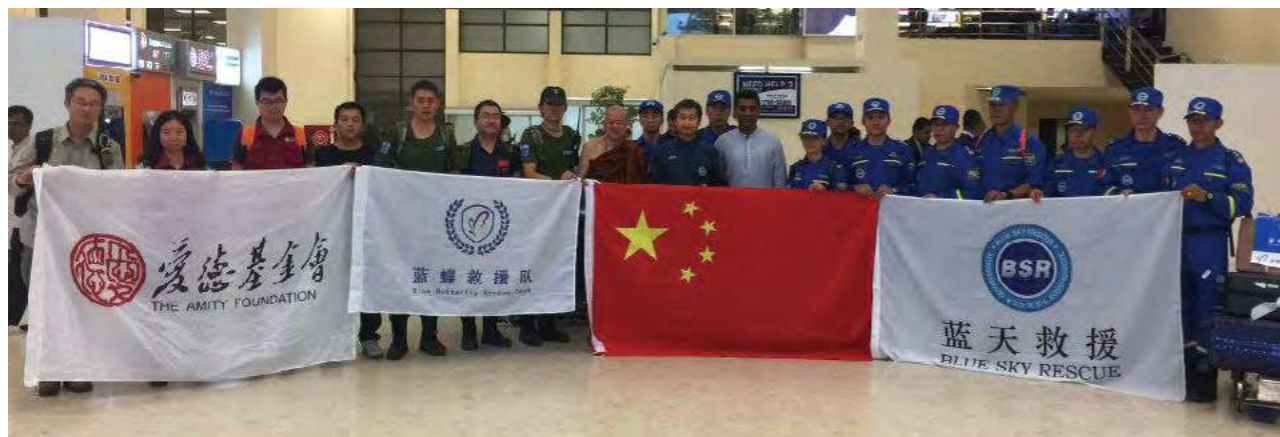


At the promenade of Ma On Shan, the participants are carrying buckets of water and advocate for SDG 6: Access to Water and Sanitation



Yi Ling (left), Amity's long time Water ambassador and Walk for Living Water volunteers (right) are supporting the Walk passionately

Amity responds to the Sri Lanka floods



Amity staff and Chinese disaster relief and rescue organizations have arrived in Sri Lanka

More than 200 people have been killed and 600,000 are displaced after the devastating flooding and mudslides hit Sri Lanka on 15 May 2017. The natural disaster is said to be the worst that hit the country in a decade, affecting 15 districts of the country. Almost 8,500 houses are reported to be destroyed or partially damaged on 30 May 2017.

On May 31, the Amity Foundation pledged to give 1 million RMB life-saving emergency aid to affected people of Sri Lanka. In that evening Amity sent a team of disaster relief officers to assess the relief work with local partners on the ground, especially with the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka. The Amity Foundation is a member of the international Christian relief network ACT Alliance and the Disaster Relief Committee of the China Charity Federation.

The government of Sri Lanka and its Disaster Management Center are coordinating the current response. Large parts of the logistic infrastructure have been flooded and there is a lack of relief supplies. Responding to the most immediate

needs of the communities a Humanitarian Country Team endorsed the international communities' immediate response and identified sectors to support, including water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH), emergency shelter and non-food items (NFIs), health, food and nutrition, protection and education.

According to the United Nations office for the coordination of humanitarian affairs (OCHA), many wells and sources of drinking water have been damaged. The access to clean water, suitable sanitation facilities and hygiene support is needed.

The United Nations are worried about the fact that heavy rain and strong winds are forecasted to continue in the coming days. It may worsen the current condition and the access to affected areas due to water inundation and landslides. There is the threat of outbreak of diseases. In particular dengue cases have been significantly increasing compared to annual data of the previous year.

Amity calls to fight the drought in Ethiopia

After two consecutive years of droughts, Eastern and Southern Ethiopia are in the grip of a new draught in 2017. The Amity Foundation is responding to the disaster by planning with the local partner Lutheran World Service (LWF) Ethiopia. The support includes life saving measures as tackling water supply and hygiene problems in seriously affected regions in Fafan Zone of Somali Regional State.

There is still a huge gap for all necessary relief work for drought affected people in Ethiopia. In general, financial gap for water trucking operation, and shortage of supplies, including water tankers and water treatment chemicals to meet requirements remain major problems for the WASH Cluster's drought response.

Back-to-back seasons of poor or non-existent rainfall in 2015, exacerbated by the strongest El Niño phenomenon on

record in the same year, led to the worst drought in decades in Ethiopia in 2016. While Ethiopia continues to battle with residual needs from the 2015 and 2016 El Niño-induced droughts, the "new" drought in 2017 of failed spring rains is putting millions Ethiopian in need of urgent humanitarian assistance

The new drought has scorched harvest, caused death of livestock and led to critical food shortage. Water in ponds dried up. People have to travel for hours and days in search of water. The "never-ending" water shortage results in forced reduction of water for drinking, cooking and essential hygiene.

Amity appeals to our friends for donations so that the much needed emergency supplies and services could be provided through the hands of Amity for people affected by the droughts in Ethiopia.



Trucks deliver water to regions heavily affected by the drought (by LWF)

Joint appeal to help 20 million people facing hunger in East Africa



Aid agencies Hong Kong Red Cross, Oxfam Hong Kong, Plan International Hong Kong, Save the Children Hong Kong and The Amity Foundation joined efforts today to garner greater support from the Hong Kong public to help millions of people suffering from hunger in East Africa.

Hunger on a massive scale is looming across East Africa. Droughts and conflicts have left nearly 20 million people on the brink of starvation and in urgent needs of assistance in the region. More than 800,000 children under the age of five are severely malnourished. People in South Sudan, Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia are in immediate need of assistance such as food, water and medical treatment. The total number of people who are food insecure in South Sudan, which declared a famine in February 2017, is expected to rise to 5.5 million in July if nothing is done to curb the severity and spread of the food crisis.

The five aid agencies and their local partners are already on the ground delivering life-saving aid, such as food, treatment for malnutrition, emergency medical services and clean drinking water. They are ready to scale-up their humanitarian support, but they need more funding to reach the millions of people in urgent need.

In June, members of the public can show their support by joining the five agencies' public campaign "A Meal for Meals". They can opt to eat simply and upload a photo or video of their meal on their own social media platforms, and donate the cost of a meal to any of the NGOs they would like to support, as well as to encourage their friends around to join and support this good deed.

In June, members of the public can show their support by joining the five agencies' public appeal campaign. The people in hunger in Africa cannot wait anymore. Unless we act now the number of deaths will drastically increase.

Meeting children's psychological needs

In March and May Amity conducted two training sessions for village school teachers in Sichuan Province. These workshops marked the beginning of a 3-year project funded by Versace. The project aims to provide sustainable and comprehensive support for at-risk children in the local communities of Anyue.



Participants are interpreting pictures drawn by at-risk children to grasp an idea about their psychological well-being

In a first step, the project staff and partners identified 20 teachers from 10 primary schools, who are responsible for on-campus children counseling work. Afterwards they participated in guided training modules designed by experts in the field of child care. By means of case studies, role-

play, observation, simulation, discussion and other group activities, the teachers learned many aspects of mental health theories for children, as well as practical skills. The workshops aim to impart those methods and skills and make the teachers understand children's psychological needs.



Trainer from Nanjing playing with a group of at-risk children recorded with a camera for demonstration purpose

Furthermore, trainers from Hong Kong and the Mainland trained the participants how to acknowledge and manage children's emotions and how to communicate with children in need of psychological help. "My son said he felt warmth and love like never before after our talk last night", told one teacher excitedly, when she shared how she used the new communication method. "Now, I have more confidence in understanding needy children in my school through proper dialogues in



Social worker from Nanjing share about their work

the future." Amity also engages local education and civil affair authorities in the 3-year project, as well as local NGOs, which are working in the field of child care. The participation of those partners on the ground will help the teachers to apply the knowledge into concrete activities, but also to maximize the impact of the training by forming a wider and more effective network of teachers, social workers and other persons responsible.

Subsequently, the second phase of the 3-year project is a training that will take place in 2018 and primarily focus on reflection and evaluation of the in 2017 applied skills. Consequently, some selected teachers will be trained to train a new group of teachers in the future. In doing so, the aspect of 'train the trainers' will be put into practice. The project is an extension and advancement of a similar project in Hunan that will end in 2017, funded by Bread for the World (BftW). Experiences and lessons learned from the project were taken into account.

Supported by the Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS), the Amity Foundation published a booklet with



Amity's case study booklet for at-risk children in China

case studies of ten children with psychological needs. This booklet will serve as practical support guide for teachers and social workers of how to take measures and meet the psychological needs of children professionally and effectively.

Complementing the so far implemented work, Amity is teaming up with Versace's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) staff and planning together the first Amity Summer Camp for At-risk Children in Anyue in early July.

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The Amity Foundation is an independent Chinese voluntary organization founded in 1985 on the initiative of Chinese Christians to promote education, social services, health, rural development, environmental protection, disaster relief, and poverty reduction in the underdeveloped areas of China. Amity projects have benefited more than ten million people both at home and abroad.

The Amity Foundation has more than 80 full-time staffers at its Nanjing headquarters. Hundreds of volunteers work with Amity all over China. The Amity Foundation receives funds from partners abroad as well as in Hong Kong and mainland China.