



Situation in **China**: What you need to know about the PIP-Law

What is the situation?

In November 2021, the government of the People's Republic of China enacted a "Personal Information Protection Law" (PIP-Law). This law states that the data of Chinese citizens may not be stored outside the country.

As of January 2025, this law is still in effect, and applies particularly to information on children under 14. Transferring or sharing data outside China is subject to a data security check and special permission from the relevant authorities. However, sponsorship projects haven't been suspended, as project implementation doesn't relate to sensitive data collection and transmission.

The current status

The local government of the areas where Plan operates asked us to temporarily suspend the collection of data. This ensures that all our activities comply with the law.

Plan continues working closely with lawyers and government departments to obtain special permission to collect, store and transfer this data outside of China.

In the meantime, Plan's projects and programmes with children, youth and communities continue.



Girls' Education and Transition (GET) Project is my favourite. It offers training and support services to 12-16-year-old adolescents and equips them with life skills. The project provides continuous support and influence for youth in school and also cultivates the capacity of teachers and social workers to serve young people.

– Xiaoxiao, Plan Staff Member, Yunnan



Families of Sponsored Children affected:

10,381

What has been Plan's reaction?

Plan is working to positively impact the sponsored communities we work in and to benefit children, adolescents and young people.

In the past few months, the Plan International China team has been responding to the situation in a variety of ways. We are engaged in legal consultations to find the best way to get the permission needed for resuming the data collection-related work.

The management team has been negotiating with partners, proposing innovative sponsorship options, and discussing relevant issues with other non-profit organisations. Throughout the entire process, Plan maintains communication with local government partners.

Together with partners, we're making every effort to ensure that children and families are still able to access projects and participate in programmes.

Are sponsor letters reaching the affected areas?

No, not at this time. Due to the implementation of the PIP-Law, sponsored children are not able to receive letters. We know how happy children and sponsors are to receive and send correspondence, and we understand how disappointing this situation is.

Recently, we received positive response from supervision units that sponsorship area Shaanxi may be able to resume letter collection in 2026. This requires formal approval, which could be granted in 2025. Another location, Yunnan, is still unknown. We will continue to provide up-to-date information as the situation changes.



Students participating in a mental health quiz activity.



Thank you for your continued trust and support. We continue to work hard to create opportunities and possibilities for children in the community. We will work closely still with all parties to promote the development of the community and create a more beautiful and harmonious environment for children to grow up.

– Ren, Programme Area Manager, Yunnan



(Ren, Yunnan's Programme Area Manager)

What are Plan's focus areas?

The Plan China Team is making every effort to ensure that projects are implemented as planned, empowering children and their families in areas of:



Early Childhood Development



Child Protection



Education



Disaster Response