



**EVERY
CHILD
SHOULD BE
GIVEN THE
SAME GIFT
OF SIGHT**

Despite China's growing economic prosperity, there is a big divide between the urban and rural areas in eye care, with major challenges being ethnic diversity and remoteness of communities. 20% of the world's blind live in China.

80% of China's blind population live in the rural areas.

75% of China's 28,000 eye doctors live in urban areas.

BETTER VISION LEADING TO BETTER OPPORTUNITIES

The Esquel-Y.L. Yang Education Foundation organized its first vision screening in rural Xinjiang in 2012. Since then, we have also come to better understand how the restoration of sight can help children and teenagers learn better and excel, leading to better opportunities in life. In this newsletter, we would like to share with our donors and friends about our journey.



SCREENING DATA AT A GLANCE

Xinjiang Autonomous Region (2012-2017)

6099

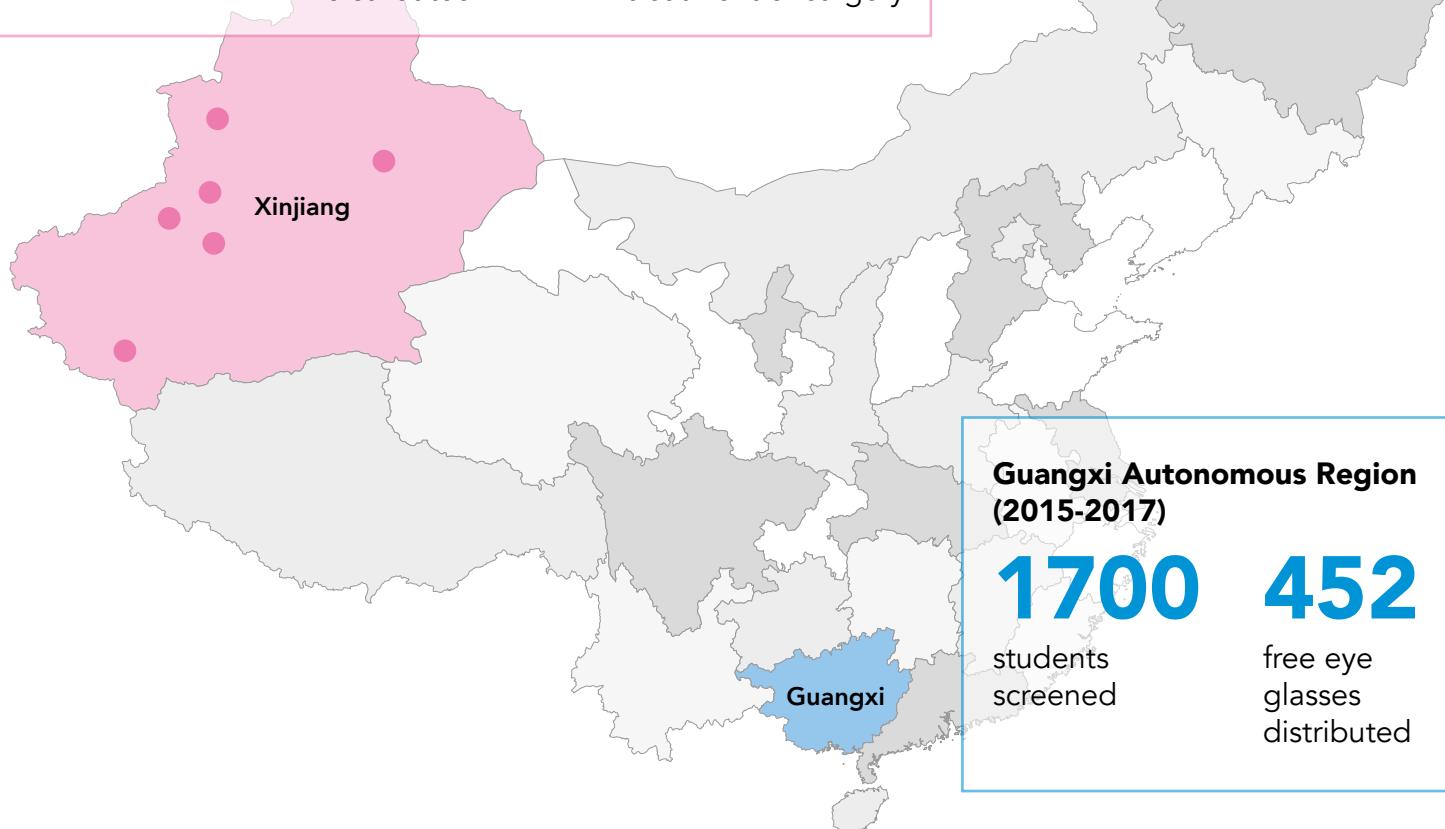
students screened

1645

free eye glasses distributed

290

children receiving treatment or surgery



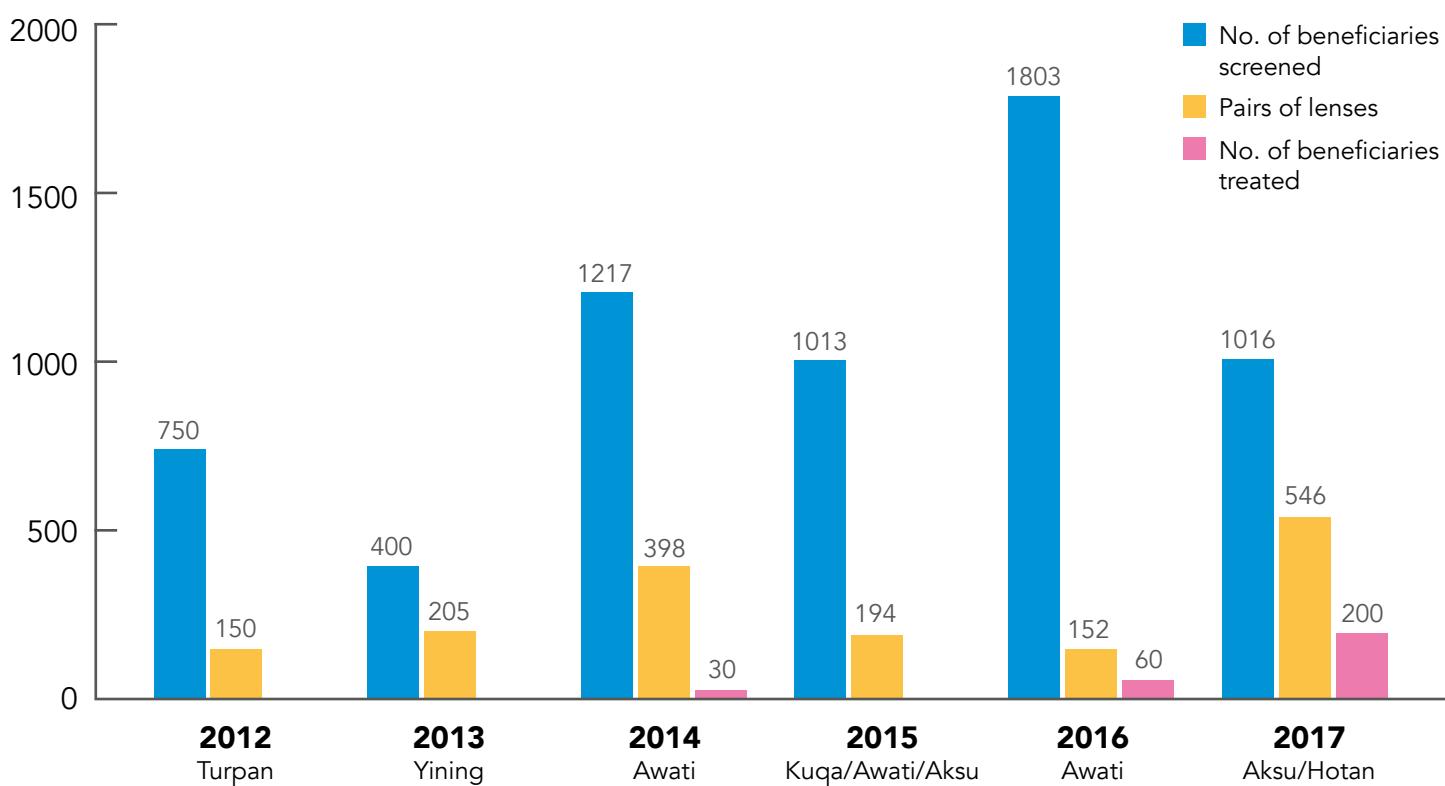
Guangxi Autonomous Region (2015-2017)

1700

students screened

452

free eye glasses distributed





PREVALENCE OF POOR VISION IN RURAL CHINA

In 2012, Stanford University's Rural Education Action Program (REAP) carried out the largest vision care research in China to measure the prevalence of poor vision in rural China and the impact of poor vision on children's education.

Of the 30,000 children interviewed,

22%

surveyed had never had a vision exam.

Only **1 in 7** children needing glasses actually has them.

IT IS MORE ABOUT RESOURCES AND DELIVERY

Through learning from our implementation partners, we have come to better understand the problems of vision impairment in the rural areas of China and its relationship with education. More importantly, most of the appropriate solutions are already there and do not require substantial research breakthrough. It is more about resources and delivery.

The distribution of eye glasses can speed up learning by **3 months**. Every **US\$1** spent on vision care generates **US\$4** return.



THE STORIES



HOPING THAT YOU CAN SEE THE LETTER "E" ON THE CHART

Pasha, a little boy was pointing his finger in different directions to indicate how much he could see. Sadly, he started to get the answers wrong, indicating that his range of vision was quite limited. For many students in Southern Xinjiang, it was their first time receiving screening. At first they did not even understand what the letter "E" was or what it meant.

COMBINING EDUCATION EXCHANGE, INNOVATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Over the years, our partners have brought their professional skills and passion to serving the underprivileged communities. Some have even brought extra value and innovation to our programme. HK PolyU students have developed a software programme, improving the efficiency of data collection, as well as providing one-on-one post-screening to students on eye care awareness.



DON'T TAKE GOOD VISION FOR GRANTED

We have met many children who contracted infections in one eye when they were very young. Due to lack of education, awareness and lack of treatment, the infections eventually led to white lesions and eventually blindness.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

In 2017, the Esquel-Y.L. Yang Education Foundation will launch its China Rural Eye Care Fund, aspiring to bring together the right partnerships and resources to expand on our work in rural underprivileged areas, with a key focus in Xinjiang and Guangxi autonomous regions. Our partners have well-established track records in providing quality vision care in rural China, long term partnerships with government bureaux and leading research institutions. In addition to Xinjiang and Guangxi, the Fund also aims at contributing to education and training of eye care professionals in Yunnan and Shaanxi province.

TRACK RECORD

	Esquel-Y.L. Yang Education Foundation	Fred Hollows Foundation	Smart Focus Vision
Geographical focus	Xinjiang, Guangxi autonomous regions	Yunnan province	Shaanxi province
Experience	2012- present	2006- present	2012- present
Community and school screening	5,000 children (2012-2016)	1.6 million including both children and adults (2006-2016)	220,000 children (2012-2016)
Prescription of lenses	2,000		25,000
Treatment or surgery	200	780,000 cases	



A FOUR-YEAR PLAN

The China Rural Eye Care Fund focusses on building a sustainable and holistic eye care systems in rural underprivileged communities, with a particular focus on **early education, screening and treatment**:

Sustainable eye care systems in rural unprivileged communities

Disease control and prevention

Providing free screening to 5,000 school children annually

Provision of free eye glasses

Financial support for low vision treatment and surgery

Capacity Building

Supporting the training of medical professionals including ophthalmologists, clinicians, community health workers

Supporting the training of teachers on eye health awareness

Infrastructure Development

Supporting the renovation of vision centres

Donation of medical equipment



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Supporting Us

We would like to invite you to join us as a partner in helping to improve vision care and change lives. If you are interested in knowing more about this programme or possible collaboration, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@esquelyangfoundation.org.

OUR PARTNERS



The **Fred Hollows**
Foundation

FRED HOLLOWS FOUNDATION

The Fred Hollows Foundation is an international development organization working towards a clear goal to end avoidable blindness. Established in 1992, the Foundation is inspired by the work of the late Professor Fred Hollows, renowned ophthalmologist who dedicated life to bringing affordable, quality eye care to developing countries. The Foundation works in over 25 countries and has supported over 2 million sight-restoring or sight-improvement treatments in the past 5 years alone. The Fred Hollows Foundation has been working in China since 1998 to support partners in rural areas in delivering sustainable and high quality eye care services.

SMART FOCUS VISION

Smart Focus, an eye care social enterprise spun-out of Stanford's Rural Education Action Program (REAP), has provided vision screenings to over 200,000 school children in rural China. Starting in 2012 to now, REAP conducted the largest eye care research program in rural China on a range of topics including the prevalence and impact of poor vision. Smart Focus is the key field partner to Luxottica Onesight, running its charitable Global Clinics in rural China since 2012.

Based on the lessons of REAP's research, Smart Focus has since established vision centers to operate sustainable eye care models, providing high quality vision care for rural primary school children for free while also making a profit for the county hospital by providing care for urban children in the county seat.



HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY



The School of Optometry has been established in the Hong Kong Polytechnic University for more than three decades. A partner of the Foundation since 2012, The PolyU SO team has conducted screening in rural Xinjiang and Guangxi in the past few years. The programme provides exposure to students under its Service Learning programme, which aims at serving communities which have difficulties accessing vision and eye health care services. It provides the opportunity for optometry students to consolidate their clinical skills and enhance their clinical exposure, enhance their problem solving ability, and develop a sense of social responsibility.

ABOUT THE ESQUEL-Y.L. YANG EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Esquel Group established the Esquel-Y.L. Yang Education Foundation in 2003 and launched its charitable programs first in the rural areas of Xinjiang, China. Since then, the Foundation's programmes have expanded to Guangdong and Guangxi province, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

The mission of the Foundation is "To Encourage the Spirit of Learning" as knowledge can bring vitality to life and change destiny. The Foundation hopes to support and promote an effective and continuous learning opportunity so that children may grow to become responsible and successful members of their communities.

The Esquel-Y.L. Yang Education Foundation is a registered charitable organization in Hong Kong, and registered not-for-profit foundation in the Xinjiang and Guangxi Autonomous Regions of China. The Foundation's overheads sponsored by the Esquel Group and 100% of donations received are channeled into the Foundation's programmes.