



Two herders in a husbandry cooperative in Lang county learn cattle care knowledge from a technician (centre) during an on-site training class. PALDEN NYIMA / FOR CHINA DAILY

# Targeted measures improve people's lives

Tibet autonomous region using multiple measures to lift residents out of poverty. **Palden Nyima** and **Yuan Shenggao** report

**R**ecent years saw steady progress in poverty alleviation in the Tibet autonomous region, with great achievements made in many areas.

Developing industries with local characteristics, moving residents to locations with better living conditions, and improving healthcare and education, as well as offering vocational training to rural residents and transferring surplus rural labor to various industries are Tibet's major targeted poverty-reduction measures.

Migmar is a community official in Layak village in Saga county. She said she is happy with the poverty-reduction measures launched by the local government.

"Our village had no proper roads or safe drinking water before 2016. But now, all the families have access to running water and the village is connected by paved roads," said the 49-year-old woman.

She said the newly built roads and pipelines have helped to lay the groundwork for a significant improvement in the villagers' lives.

Measures to boost villagers' incomes by helping their transition from traditional herding and farming have also reaped encouraging rewards, Migmar said.

"To make the shift, village officials organised a great deal of training for residents to help them learn different skills such as cooking, welding and operating excavators and loaders," she said. "That has also helped villagers change their views on work and income."

Dadron Lhazom is an e-commerce entrepreneur in Namling county. She

said she has received support from the government while operating her business targeting poverty alleviation.

She has a workshop in her home village in the county's Dana township that employs 12 local people, including five from formerly impoverished families and two college graduates.

Her company sells products all over the country via Taobao e-commerce platform. It also operates a business account on Douyin social media platform. It earned more than 420,000 yuan (\$87,570) from sales last year.

The county government of Namling has held up Dadron Lhazom's business as a model for poverty alleviation efforts.

Dadron Lhazom plans to further expand her business to benefit more villagers.

"I hope to encourage more villagers to learn skills to make carpets, tapestries and blankets," she said. "I hope more college graduates will get involved in entrepreneurship and e-commerce."

Tibet's authorities have also focused on moving communities to locations with better conditions to improve their lives.

Samdrub Tsering, from Kyilung village in Namling county in Shigatse city, said he and his fellow villagers moved to a new settlement with modern amenities and technology in 2016.

Before moving, villagers endured a harsh environment at an average altitude above 13,400 feet. Medical treatment, transportation and schools were inadequate, he said.

Thanks to the government's pov-

erty alleviation measures, livelihoods have improved tremendously over the years, Samdrub Tsering said.

"Before 2016, I did not plan to send my children to school because it was too far. I worried about their journey to school," he said, adding that everyone now wants to send their children to receive education "as early as possible" because the school is just in the vicinity.

"The local government also provides free vocational training courses to us as part of a poverty alleviation programme," Samdrub Tsering said. "We can learn different, useful skills that will help us get jobs."

He said three villagers who took 60-day cooking courses opened restaurants in Namling county in 2018.

"Over the past two years, their family income has been between 20,000 yuan and 40,000 yuan" Samdrub Tsering said.

He said he is learning to drive a truck at a local driving school, and has passed the first two levels of the four-level course.

"My plan is to get a driver's license as soon as possible so I can find a job driving trucks on a construction site. That way, I can get a better salary," he said.

The Tibet autonomous region has been a major venue for China's poverty reduction since the central government began an overall poverty-relief campaign in 2016.

During a news conference held in Lhasa on Oct 15, Wu Yingjie, Party secretary of the autonomous region, said a total of 628,000 people in 74 counties and districts in Tibet have been lifted out of impoverishment since 2016.

## More job opportunities offered with skill trainings

By **YUAN SHENGGAO**

Since it launched an overall poverty-reduction campaign in 2016, the Tibet autonomous region has been attaching great importance to vocational training and creating new jobs to help rural residents increase their incomes.

According to the Tibet Human Resources and Social Security Department, more than 336,000 rural residents in the autonomous region received professional training during the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-20). More than 550,000 people from rural Tibet collectively earned 15.9 billion yuan (\$3.31 billion) from their new jobs.

With more people engaged in jobs other than farming and herding, the disposable income of rural residents in Tibet is among the fastest-growing in China, according to the department.

Many rural residents have improved their livelihood thanks to these measures and their success stories have encouraged others to join in their ranks.

Norbu Dondrup, a resident of Gyashing township in Kongpo'gyada county, became impoverished in 2012-13 after his mother contracted a serious illness.

He tried to improve his livelihood but failed because of lacking the required skills.

Learning of his situation, officials at the poverty-reduction offices of Nyingchi city, which administrates Kongpo'gyada county, offered a helping hand. They sent him to Lhasa for training as a security guard.

When the training concluded, Norbu Dondrup found a job in the People's Hospital of Nyingchi.

"Thanks to the government, I found a good job and earned enough money to improve the financial situation for my family," Norbu Dondrup said.

Chogyal is a resident in Nyangdoi township in Gyalze county. He was a member of an impoverished family before 2016.

He learned from his fellow villagers that there were various

training courses organized by the government of Shigatse, which administrates Gyalze county, to help rural residents to master skills for new jobs.

Chogyal recognised this was a good opportunity to change his fate and improve his livelihood.

He joined a training class in Shigatse in 2017 and got a welder's license a few months ago.

He founded a small firm in 2018 offering welding services for local construction sites. Seeing revenue increase steadily for his firm, he encouraged more of his fellow villagers, especially those from impoverished families, to learn welding and join him.

Chogyal later put forward an application to the local government to take him off of the list of impoverished residents.

"The government helped me a lot several years ago when I was on the list. Now I have an adequate income to raise me high above the poverty line. It's my turn to help others," Chogyal said.

Namgya Tsering used to be an impoverished farmer in Nar township in Samdrubze district, Shigatse. With the help of the local government, he received training in operating construction machines.

Based on his experience in the industry for several years, he later established a construction company himself. Currently his annual net profit from the business is more than 250,000 yuan a year.

"Now that I am lifted out poverty, I'm planning to create more jobs for locals, help them improve their income," Namgya Tsering said.

To meet the demand of rural residents, local governments in Tibet have stepped up efforts in organizing training courses and helping to create job opportunities.

In Shigatse, for instance, the city's human resources and social security bureau has offered 115 training classes for residents from impoverished families. Nearly 3,000 people have received the trainings and more than 90 per cent of them have found new jobs.



Residents in Gar county work in a garment factory that was established to receive surplus rural labourers in the county and its neighbourhood. TIAN JINWEN / XINHUA