



# China

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For further information on voluntary return and reintegration, please visit the information portal [www.ReturningfromGermany.de](http://www.ReturningfromGermany.de), or contact your local return and reintegration office.

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# 1 Health Care

## General information on health care

A relatively affordable publicly financed health insurance system is in place to reimburse partial medical costs (both in-patient and out-patient) spent in public hospitals for the enrolled population. Returnees should consult local social security offices for enrollment criteria and procedures, as it is subject to local administration. In general, two kinds of programs are available depending on the returnee's status:

- **Basic Medical Insurance for Urban Employees:** Covers all employees, including employees of enterprises, institutes, and NGOs etc. However, employees' non-employed family members are not covered under the scheme. Generally, employees are required to enroll through their employers, where the employer pays 8 per cent of the monthly salary and the employee pays 2 per cent to finance the scheme and its benefits. The retired are not required to pay. The reimbursement rate under this scheme can be higher than 90 per cent.
- **Urban and Rural Resident Basic Medical Insurance:** Covers all non-urban employees, students, children, the unemployed, and rural residents. Local governments set reasonable premium policies based on local economic conditions. In some areas, the reimbursement rate can reach up to 80%.
- **Note:** Since the public medical insurance system aims to provide basic medical subsidies, it does not cover all expenses and includes a

minimum reimbursement threshold and a cap. Due to variation in provincial economic conditions, returnees are recommended to visit local social security offices and consult for the suitable insurance plans.

## Availability of medical facilities and doctors

Hospitals are widely established from small towns to big cities and can provide treatment to most common diseases.

## Admission to medical facilities

Returnees should go to the appointed hospital which is under the medical insurance system. To obtain the list, one can either go to the local Social Security Office or call/check on the website. The medication market is relatively well developed in China. Generally, medicines are available in the country.

# 1 Health Care

## Access for returnees

**Eligibility and requirements:** All Chinese citizens are eligible to enroll in the basic medical insurance program. If the returnees are employed, they should first consult about enrollment with their employers (preferably prior to contract signing). If unemployed or self-employed, they should approach local social security offices or community committees for enrollment options.

**Registration procedure:** Returnees may be asked to submit a written application to the respective community or villagers' committee. The specifics are subject to guidance provided by the local responsible bodies.

**Required documents:** One may be asked to fill out the application form and provide supporting documentation such as ID cards, medical certificates etc.



Photo: IOM Benjamin Suojamaa, 2017

## 2 Labour Market

### General information on labour market

In 2023, the total number of employed individuals nationwide reached 740.41 million. Among them, the urban employment increased by 12.44 million throughout the year. The average disposable income per capita for residents across the country in 2023 was CNY 39,218, marking a 6.3% growth compared to the previous year. Adjusted for inflation, the real growth was 6.1%%.

In 2023, the average disposable income per capita for urban residents was CNY 51,821, while for rural residents, it was CNY 21,691. Throughout the year, the average surveyed urban unemployment rate in China was 5.2%. By the end of the year, the urban surveyed unemployment rate decreased to 5.1%.

### Finding employment

Recruitment is generally organized on the local level. Employment agencies can also provide assistance but might charge for their services. They are divided into two types: non-profit and for-profit employment agencies. These agencies provide information on and policy consultation about the labour market to employers and employees; administration and maintaining the record of employment; unemployment registration, etc. entrusted by the administrative department of the labour and social security bureau; vocational trainings and guidance to the unemployed and the disabled.

Employment information in different cities can be easily obtained from the websites below:

- [www.zhaopin.com](http://www.zhaopin.com) [www.dajie.com](http://www.dajie.com)
- [www.58.com](http://www.58.com) [www.ganji.com](http://www.ganji.com)

There are also dozens of job-hunting apps available online, such as Lagouwang or Qianchengwuyou.

### Unemployment assistance

There is only unemployment insurance available. For registration, it is necessary to visit the local Labour and Social Security bureau.

Required documents are:

- ID card
- certificate of termination and dissolution of employment relation issued by their work units

Generally, both workers and employers pay into the unemployment insurance fund, originally at rates of one per cent and 2 per cent respectively. However, many provincial and municipal governments have cut contribution rates. For example, in Beijing, the current unemployment insurance contribution of the employee amounts approximately to 0.2 per cent, while the employer's contribution is around 1 per cent. Unemployment benefits are about 70 to 90 percent of the region's minimum wage.

### Further education and training

Graduates from junior or high school seeking employment and training can undertake preparatory training. People who find it difficult to find employment and rural labourers entering the city to

## 2 Labour Market

work (if approved) are then assessed to identify basic vocational skills. Local communities sometimes can provide opportunities of vocational training or some low-skill jobs. They also provide relevant employment information for the residents.

### Technology and communication

China has made significant advancements in technology and infrastructure in recent years. The penetration rate of smartphones and mobile payments has exceeded 85%, and the public transportation system is increasingly improving. To help returnees better adapt to life in homeland and understand and comply with relevant regulations, it is recommended to prepare in the following areas.

#### *Obtaining a SIM Card*

Returnees can apply for a SIM card at local telecom operator service offices with their ID cards. It is essential to understand and select suitable service plans, which typically include call time and data.

Links to telecom operators for more information:

- China Mobile: [<https://www.10086.cn>]
- China Telecom: [<https://www.189.cn>]

#### *Bank Card and Mobile Payment*

Returnees need to bring their ID cards and a domestic mobile phone number to a local commercial bank to apply for

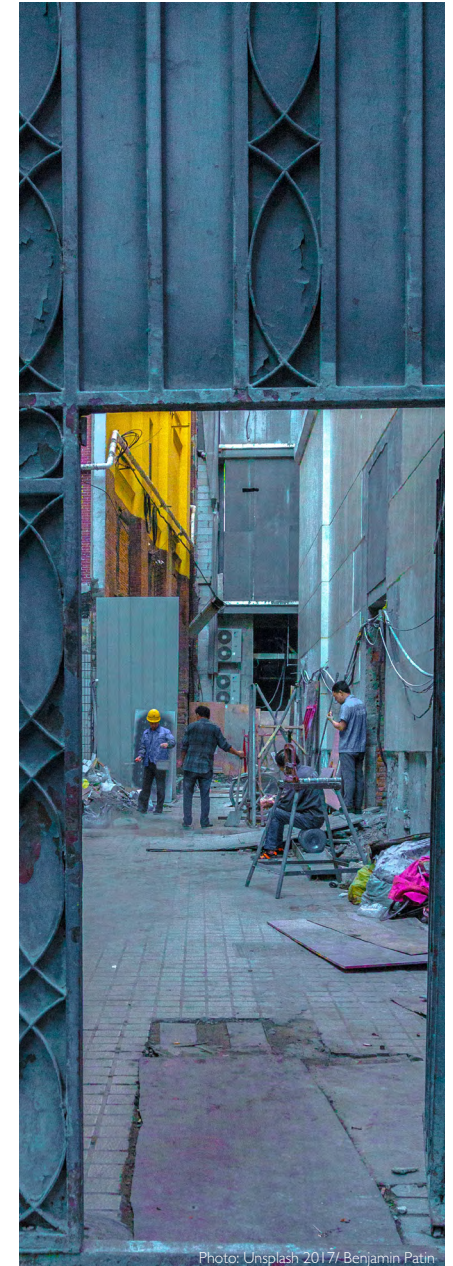


Photo: Unsplash 2017/ Benjamin Patin

## 2 Labour Market

a bank card (requirements may vary by bank, so consult the bank manager for details). Download and install WeChat or Alipay apps on your phone. Follow the instructions to register, entering your domestic phone number and other information. You can bind the app to a UnionPay card or international bank cards (such as Mastercard, Visa, JCB) after obtaining authorization from the issuing bank. Some banks may reject binding requests. For daily transactions, scan the merchant's QR code or show your payment QR code.

### *Foreign Currency Exchange*

According to regulations, individuals can carry up to 20,000 CNY in cash per entry or exit. If carrying more, it must be declared to customs. After arrival, returnees can exchange foreign currencies at local commercial bank branches, money changers, and self-service exchange machines at international airports and other entry points.

### *Notes:*

1. Exchange rates may vary between banks and exchange points; compare rates to get the best deal.
2. Exchange transactions may incur fees, which differ among banks.

### *Personal Income Tax*

Returnees must comply with China's tax regulations. If they have overseas income, they need to understand the tax implications and ensure proper reporting and payment of individual income tax. Since October 1, 2018, the monthly personal income tax threshold in China has been 5,000 CNY.

### *Steps for Filing:*

1. Confirm Filing Obligation: Determine if you need to file personal income tax, including domestic and overseas income.
2. Prepare Filing Materials: Such as income statements, bank statements, etc.
3. File: Go to the tax bureau or use the State Taxation Administration's website to file.
4. Pay Tax: Pay the tax according to the tax bureau's requirements and keep the payment receipts.

By preparing in these areas, returnees can ensure a smooth transition and integration into life in China.

### **Access for returnees**

**Eligibility and requirements:** The unemployment insurance allows the workers to pay into the insurance while working to retrieve benefits in case of unemployment. The assistance is available for those who are unemployed involuntarily, register for their unemployed status and have paid in the insurance for more than one year together with their employer.

**Registration procedure:** Individuals shall consult with the local labour and social security bureau for registration procedures.

**Required documents:** Generally, the required documents are ID card, certificate of termination and dissolution of employment relation to complete their unemployment registration to retrieve the benefit.

## 2 Labour Market

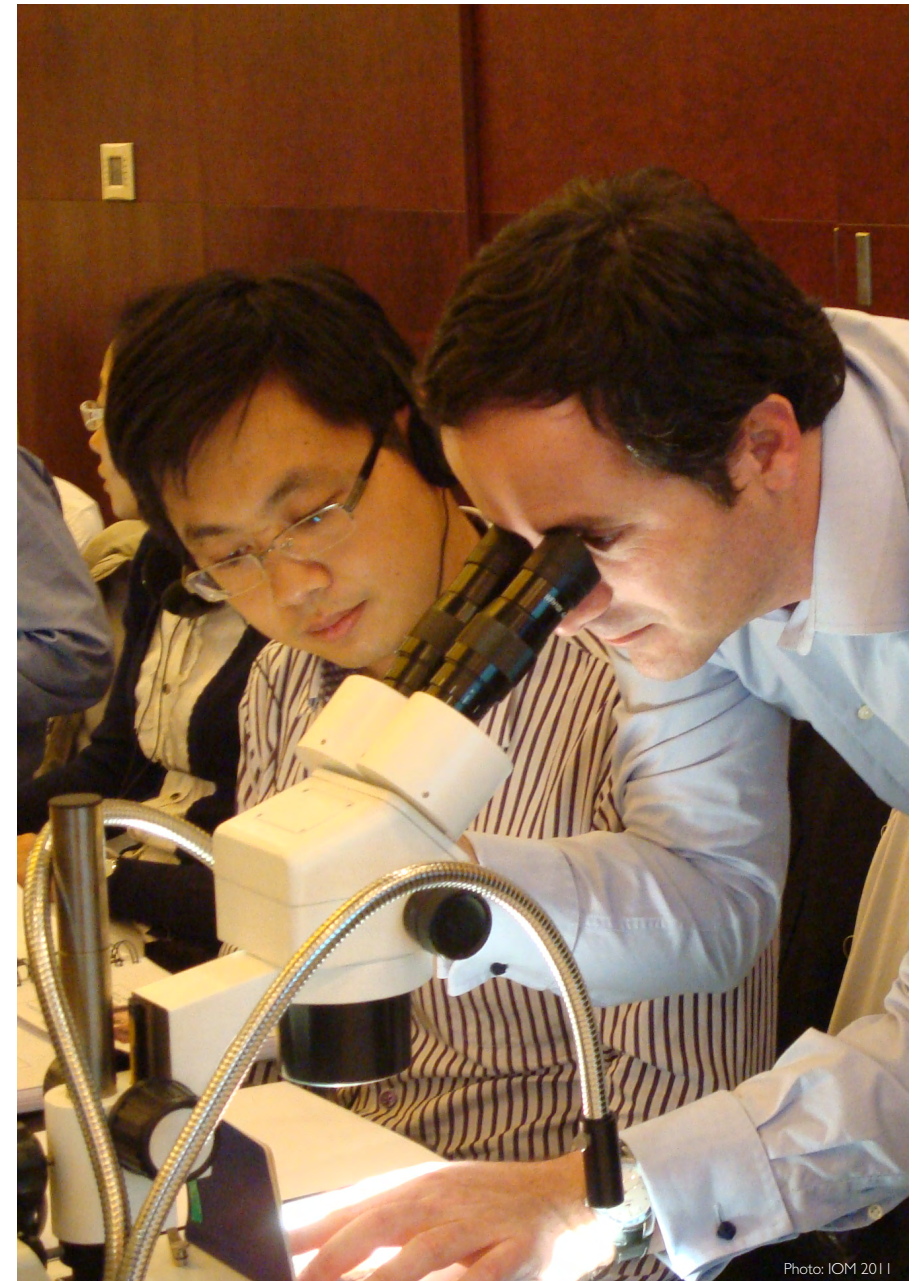


Photo: IOM 2011

## 3 Housing

### General information on housing

According to the data from the seventh national population census conducted in 2020, the average living space per person in urban households in China is 36.52 square meters. Rental prices vary across different provinces, cities, and regions in China. Taking Beijing as an example, the monthly rent for a well-equipped small apartment in the central area is around 6,000 yuan (please note that rental prices on housing platforms can fluctuate significantly, so there might be changes). Renting a property in China is generally not difficult, although rental prices in major cities are noticeably higher than in smaller cities.

### Finding accommodation

Real estate agencies are located everywhere and are very efficient in finding a temporary accommodation. People will need to pay the commission for the service (normally one month rent). The house information on the websites below is very comprehensive and helpful for finding accommodations. People can deal with the landlord directly over such platforms. But it is important to be aware that there are illegal agencies which may bring property damage.

- [www.58.com](http://www.58.com)
- [www.ganji.com](http://www.ganji.com)

### Social grants for housing

Low-rent housing program: Under the low-rent housing scheme, the government may provide a house as a form of social security to families who find themselves in housing difficulties. The subsidy is funded by the central government. In order to apply, the householder

can submit a written application to the local residential community office or the people's government at the town level of government administration. The application requires the following documents:

- proof of family income status
- explanation of family housing status
- ID cards and the residence documents of family members
- references requested by municipal and county authorities.

**Economically Affordable Housing System:** This refers to the houses included in national plans wherein the government arranges the real estate enterprise or units to organize collecting funds for housebuilding. Then it sells the houses to urban low-income families at a low-profit price. The following documents are necessary:

- local and urban permanent residence permit or permission by the municipal or county authorities;
- domestic income in accordance with the income standards;
- household registration;
- income certificate;
- house and property titles.

## 3 Housing

### Access for returnees

**Eligibility and requirements:** There are shelters supervised by Ministry of Civil Affairs which provide temporary assistance to homeless people around the city. Once approved, the displaced people can stay in the shelter no more than 10 days. There is no specific assistance for returnees or VOTs. Others cannot be assisted: Homeless people who have family or relatives to rely on; homeless refuse to explain his/her situation; homeless diagnosed with illnesses or mental/infectious diseases. Contact details of shelters can be found on the official website of the Ministry of Civil Affairs at [www.mca.gov.cn](http://www.mca.gov.cn). Returnees can also contact the local police station and the local policeman will either share the contact details of shelters with them or send them there directly. Different kind of NGOs registered can be found on below website at <http://cishan.chinanpo.gov.cn/biz/ma/csmh/a/csmhaindex.html>. Returnees may be eligible for the Low Rent Housing Program and Economically Affordable Housing System.

**Required documents:** Please contact the corresponding sections.



Photo: Unsplash 2018/ ORIENTO

## 4 Social Welfare

### Social welfare system

Welfare objectives are aimed at:

- senior citizens over 60 years of age who are unable to work, have no source of income, no alimony or allowance or whose dependents have no capacity to support them;
- orphans whose parents are dead and who have no other relatives capable of raising them;
- abandoned babies and children whose biological parents cannot be found by the public security agencies and may come under the care of child welfare agencies.

### Pension system

China's basic medical insurance scheme is composed of two Pension Plan (the Rural Pension Plan & the Basic Pension Plan) which can be supplemented by commercial insurance. Only some areas with financial capability have launched a Rural Pension Plan, which is shared by the local government, collective economy and individuals. The Basic Pension Plan covers all employees under the following criteria:

- self-employed and freelancers can directly approach the local social insurance agencies to approve their participation in the pension insurance scheme;
- they are required to pay the cost of pension insurance from their own personal financial resources.

Employers shall pay 20 per cent; whereas the employees shall contribute 80 per cent of the premium. Basically, they can get their pension every month once retired. (Specific amount varies from

place to place). To reach the national retirement conditions, including normal retirement and early retirement due to illnesses or specific jobs, a continuing payment of 15 years is necessary. Individuals seeking to apply for or withdrawals of the pension scheme must present a national identity card and their personal account pension insurance book at their local social security institutions.

#### Access for returnees

**Registration procedure:** Returnees need to consult with the local social security office on the exact registration procedure that varies from city to city. After the registration, the person has to pay into their account every month.

#### Required documents:

- ID copy
- One-inch color photo (x2)
- Residence booklet copy

### Vulnerable groups

The Minimum Subsistence Allowance (dibao) is a program targeting households whose per capital income is below a defined minimum level. This may be due to family members' inability to work as a result from disabilities or severe diseases. The qualified households are entitled to receive a minimum subsistence allowance to cover some basic living costs. In the fourth quarter of 2023, the average value of the urban subsistence allowance in China increased to CNY 779 per person per month, equivalent to 28% of the average monthly expenditure of urban residents. The average value of the rural subsistence allowance was CNY 615 per

## 4 Social Welfare

person per month, equivalent to 40% of the expenditure of rural residents.

However, the threshold and allowance amount in different regions can vary significantly due to differences in local economic status and average income. Since 2022, both rural and urban Dibao households in Beijing receive more than CNY 1,000 per person monthly, while the rural households in some provinces only receive about CNY 400 per person monthly. By November 2023, approximately 40.449 million people were covered by program country wide. Local Dibao thresholds and enrollment procedures are subject to local administration and policies. Anyone who intends to enroll in the program should approach local social security offices for information.

### Community Social Organizations

Community Social Organizations are voluntary organizations established by community organizations or individuals within the community (town, street) to meet the various needs of community residents. As of the end of 2022, there are over 1.75 million community social organizations in China, including 590,000 community comprehensive service institutions and facilities. Nationwide, community social organizations have conducted over 263,000 community service activities, benefiting approximately 93.36 million people. These service activities cover public welfare, cultural and sports events, and daily convenience services, including psychological counseling, legal aid, and employment assistance. For instance, the «Neighbor Watch (邻里守望)» care action, provide services to vulnerable groups like the disabled, elderly living alone, and children in distress.

Since approximately 90% of these organizations are guided and managed with the participation of grass-roots government organizations and grassroots mass self-governing organizations, returnees are advised to visit the following common grass-roots organizations for consultation on the functions of local community social organizations and the welfare for residents:

1. Sub-district office (街道办事处) Serve as grassroots government institutions responsible for managing and delivering community services. Coordinate social organizations to implement local policies and provide support to residents. As of the fourth quarter of 2023, there are 9,045 sub-district offices nationwide.
2. Community Committees (社区委员会) Serve as primary interface between government and residents. Organize community activities, provide social services, and address local issues.
3. Resident Committees (居民委员会) Operate at the neighborhood level, offering direct assistance and support to residents. Involve residents in community management and development of activities.

To access services provided by community social organizations, returnees typically need:

1. Identification: Such as an ID card or household registration book.
2. Service Application: Submit a service application at the local community service center or relevant institutions.
3. Qualification Review: Depending on the type of service, additional documents may be required, such as income proof or health status certificates.

## 5 Education

### General information on education

In China there is a compulsory education period of nine years.

For the registration procedure, the following documents are needed:

- Residence booklet and copy
- Property ownership certificate and copy

### Cost, loans, and stipends

Tuition fees for urban and rural areas during the 9-year compulsory education period are exempt nationwide. Access and requirements to stipends and/or loans for covering tuition: National student loans are mainly for students to meet the cost of tuition fees and accommodation. Applicants have to submit a loan application in person; complete the student loan application forms (in triplicate) and the parents' employer or the district/countryside people's government have to sign. National student grants are awarded to support full-time college students if their family has financial problems.

### Approval and verification of foreign diplomas

Overseas degree certificates that have been obtained by studying formal curricula in higher educational institutions in foreign countries are awarded by the Sino-foreign Cooperation institute. For information on the process of certifying the overseas certificates, visit: <http://zwfw.cscse.edu.cn/>

### Access for returnees

**Registration procedure:** The returnees shall consult with the schools for specific procedures.

**Required documents:** Generally, the beneficiary shall bring the residence booklet, the property ownership certificate and corresponding copies. Other documents are subject to the individual school's requirements.

## 5 Education



## 6 children

### General situation of children and infants

According to the data from the Seventh National Population Census, the population of children aged 0-17 in China in 2020 was 298 million, accounting for 21.1% of the total population. Among them, there were 158 million boys and 139 million girls. China has the second-largest population of children in the world, accounting for 12.7% of the global child population. The Government of China has been paying increasing attention to child poverty and is working hard to address the issue through relevant policy measures. In 2014, the Government endorsed the Child Development Plan in National Poverty Areas (2014–2020) to ensure services and interventions in health and education for children in 'poverty blocks', covering the period from birth to the compulsory education stage. From the perspective of monetary poverty, the incidence of rural poverty in China was 3.1 per cent in 2017, whereas the poverty rate among children aged 0–17 in the same year was 3.9 per cent. The incidence of child poverty being higher than that of adults indicates a greater impact of poverty on children. Through the introduction of relevant policies and measures as well as financial investment, the accessibility of public services was increased and coverage to include more vulnerable children was expanded. Besides the Minimum Subsistence Allowance as mentioned above, the basic public services cover many aspects including education, health and child protection. For example, since the autumn semester of 2011, China has been providing nutritional subsidies to students at the compulsory education stage in rural areas. China is also

actively promoting 0–3 early childhood development (ECD) through a series of policies and measures, such as the First 1,000 Days Campaign on nutrition and health, and Nutrition Improvement for Children in Poverty Areas, which provides free nutrition supplementation packages to children aged 6–23 months. One of the most prominent efforts in child protection concerns in immunization. China achieved universal childhood immunization in 1990, which means that all provinces and counties in the country reached 85 per cent coverage of the Bacilli Calmette-Guérin vaccine (BCG), oral polio vaccine (OPV), diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus vaccine (DPT) and measles vaccine for 1-year-old children. In November 2012, WHO affirmed China's polio-free status. In 2012, WHO declared that maternal and newborn tetanus had been eliminated in China. There has been a dramatic fall in hepatitis B infection rates among young children since the addition of the hepatitis B vaccine to the immunization programme in 2002. As a result of high immunization coverage, the incidence of and mortality from vaccine-preventable diseases has dropped.

### (Non-) governmental actors dealing with children's well-being and rights

There is no governmental agency designated for processing child protection or welfare issues. It is deemed as a collective responsibility shared by governments, communities, schools and families. However, the State Council has stressed the importance of child protection, and particularly orphans. According to the directions issued by the State Council, local governments should

## 6 children

make proper arrangements for orphans to enjoy protection and corresponding benefits in all social aspects. These measures include but not limited to: civil affairs administrations should establish child welfare institutes to host orphans without close relatives or legal guardians; public security administrations should facilitate orphans' residence documentation processing; healthcare administrations should provide guidance to the clinics and healthcare facilities in

child welfare institutes; social security departments should provide orphans with basic allowance; orphans should be given priority in allocating national funding for schooling. With the overall supervision on the state level, local implementations are highly subject to respective administrations. Therefore, information regarding specific programs on the ground shall be sought from community committees or local social security offices.



## 7 Contacts

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(010) 58123114  
www.mca.gov.cn

All China Women Federation  
*Empowering women's rights*  
+86 1085326020  
womenofchina@163.com  
www.women.org.cn

## 8 At a glance

### Measures to be undertaken before return

- **Documents:** Make sure you have the following documents before departure: valid passport; degree certificate(s) and diploma awarded abroad (certified originals); certificate of study abroad issued by the local Embassy; resident certificate.
- **Travel information:** Get information concerning the arrival at the airport and the onward journey.
- **Vaccination:** Keep your vaccination record even though no vaccinations are required to (re-)enter China. Vaccination record obtained abroad should be brought back for the reference of the local doctor.

### Measures to be undertaken immediately upon arrival

- **Travel documents:** Make sure your ID is still valid. Go to the local police station to get a new ID card, if the old one is expired or lost.
- **Social welfare:** Enroll into national social insurance schemes. Visit local social security administrations to learn about your options and enroll into schemes including basic medical insurance and others.
- **Housing and labour:** Contact services assisting with the search for jobs and housing.
- **Education:** Apply for child care, schools, or other educational institutions.
- **Support:** Contact the IOM Office in China for AVRR assistance (if applicable).