

WATER AND SANITATION

Overview

The Wenchuan earthquake destroyed over 34,000 water distribution facilities and damaged nearly 30,000 kilometres of the piped water network, affecting millions of people in Sichuan and neighbouring provinces. The earthquake also caused extensive damage to public and household sanitation infrastructure.

In the aftermath of the emergency, the Government of China and UNICEF worked to provide water for drinking and personal hygiene, but many gaps continue to exist and instability and variability in water supplies remain a concern, particularly in remote rural areas. Additionally, as millions of people continue to live under crowded conditions in prefabricated structures in settlement camps, enhanced community participation and better management are needed to ensure a sanitary living environment.



Students at Caochuan Primary School of Xihe County, Gansu Province, wash their hands at a temporary handwashing facility, constructed with support from UNICEF. Construction of sanitary latrines for boys and girls and a permanent handwashing facility is now underway at the school.

Meeting Emergency Water and Sanitation Needs

Immediately after the earthquake, UNICEF and its counterparts conducted field assessments to determine the water and sanitation needs of the earthquake-affected population. The assessments found that while there was access to water at many of the larger, more centrally located camps, there was a pressing need for clean drinking water in the smaller, more scattered settlement camps. UNICEF responded by delivering water purification tablets sufficient for the use of 2 million people for 3 months. UNICEF also procured 20 portable water treatment units to provide clean water for up to 200,000 people in temporary and transitional settlements and schools in the worst-hit counties of Beichuan, Mianzhu, Pengzhou, Qingchuan, and Tongjiang. UNICEF also supported the training of technicians on the installation, operation, and maintenance of the units, many of which are still in use, one year after the earthquake.

Support also went to maintaining the environmental sanitation of settlement camps. UNICEF provided portable toilets for use by 10,000 people in schools, as well as 200 tons of calcium hypochlorite to disinfect Early Childhood Development centres, schools, food preparation areas, and health clinics in the earthquake zone. UNICEF also helped draft plans for low-cost and rapidly-constructed latrines for use in emergencies. Throughout the emergency response, UNICEF has promoted a 3-in-1 approach to water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion, emphasizing that only a coordinated response in all three areas can effectively reduce disease transmission and public health risks.

Promoting Good Hygiene Practices

The earthquake displaced millions of people, many of whom are still living in cramped conditions

in temporary settlement camps. Under these conditions, enhanced community participation and informed management of the living environment are more important than ever. UNICEF has been working with counterparts to conduct social mobilization campaigns to educate earthquake-affected children and women on proper hygiene practices. UNICEF has also conducted several workshops with local health workers and water authorities on safe handling of food and drinking water, construction and use of emergency toilets, solid waste management, and proper handwashing technique.

UNICEF has been working with counterparts to assign health workers to rural communities to disseminate messages on sanitation and hygiene. To date, communication and social mobilization campaigns have been carried out in schools, shelters, and temporary settlement camps, covering 54 counties in Sichuan Province, 10 counties in Gansu Province, and 8 counties in Shaanxi Province. UNICEF has also provided hygiene kits for children and their families, benefiting 17,500 children and 35,000 adults. These activities are helping to keep communities clean and prevent the outbreak of infectious diseases.

Constructing Permanent Water and Sanitation Facilities

In collaboration with its counterparts, UNICEF has designed a three-year plan for its support to the construction of permanent water and sanitation facilities. The plan covers 120 rural communities in 9 earthquake-affected counties: Sichuan's Beichuan, Dujiangyan, Mianzhu, Pengzhou, and Qingchuan Counties; Gansu's Wenxian and Xihe Counties; and Shaanxi's Lueyang and Nanzheng Counties. In these rural communities, UNICEF is supporting the rehabilitation and construction of community water supply systems, as well as school handwashing facilities, giving children in rural areas access to clean water both at



Shui Qingping, an engineer with Qingchuan County Bureau of Water Resources, checks the water quality in a UNICEF-supported water supply system.

school and at home. UNICEF is also supporting the construction of public latrines and solid waste disposal facilities in schools, hospitals, community centres, and model rural households. These projects are helping to meet the water and sanitation needs of some 80,000 earthquake-affected people.


Within each of the project communities, UNICEF and local government counterparts have utilized a participatory approach to involve local residents in all planning and construction and to ensure locally appropriate assistance. UNICEF has also supported the capacity building of local water and sanitation officials, so that the newly constructed facilities and systems will be properly maintained and managed. Children are also learning to adopt best hygiene practices, through the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene in Schools project, established jointly by the Government of China and UNICEF.

Moving Forward

In the coming years of the reconstruction process, UNICEF will continue to support the education of earthquake-affected communities on the importance of sanitation and hygiene. UNICEF will also continue to work with counterparts to design and construct permanent water supply systems in rural earthquake-affected communities. These

expanded interventions will provide sustainable safe water to an additional 40,000 villagers and 10,000 schoolchildren in scattered mountainous communities throughout the earthquake zone.

UNICEF will continue to work with government counterparts to scale-up sanitation interventions throughout the earthquake-affected areas. UNICEF will support the construction of village drainage and solid waste disposal systems, handwashing facilities, and sanitary latrines to benefit thousands of villagers and schoolchildren. UNICEF will also work with counterparts to teach communities how to maintain and repair water and sanitation facilities. Training will also be provided to water and sanitation technicians, teachers, and peer educators at the county and township levels to equip them with the skills and techniques to provide hygiene education and support social mobilization throughout the three most seriously-affected provinces.

The water and sanitation interventions supported by UNICEF in the aftermath of the emergency are not only helping to meet the needs of the earthquake-affected population, but also offer valuable lessons learned, which are expected to contribute to policy development on water supply, sanitation, and hygiene. 



A new water supply system with UNICEF-provided water purification equipment at Guihua Village, Sichuan Province.



Luo Yiyun and her classmates wash their hands at their boarding school in Zhaizi Village. UNICEF has helped rebuild a water supply system to provide the school and neighbouring communities with safe water.

REAL LIVES

Bringing Safe Water to the Thirsty

Every Saturday morning after breakfast, 10-year-old Luo Yiyun would pick up a plastic bucket and fetch water from the dug well near her aunt's home.

"I had to squat beside the well. Normally, it would take half an hour to fill the bucket. But sometimes there would be very little water in the well and it would take longer. And you could see dirty dregs in the water." She frowned.

For months after the Wenchuan earthquake, this routine became part of Luo Yiyun's life. The earthquake destroyed the homes of Yiyun's family and their neighbours in Guihua Village, as well as the village's water pipeline network. The earthquake paralyzed water supply systems across Qingchuan County, one of the hardest-hit areas, affecting some 250,000 people.

In the weeks and months after the emergency,

the local Bureau of Water Resources managed to restore water supply to the larger settlement camps. But in remote mountainous communities like Guihua Village, people had to resort to collecting water from open streams and other unprotected water sources.

"There was more water in the well at night so my parents would stay up until midnight to get water," recalled Yiyun. "I used a basin of water to wash my face and then my feet. I could only take a bath once a week."

These days, Yiyun no longer has to fetch water from a well on the weekends. In October 2008, a UNICEF-provided water treatment unit and a new water distribution network were set up in Guihua Village. Now, getting clean water is as easy as turning on the faucet in the courtyard.



10-year-old Luo Yiyun of Guihua Village washes her face at home with a basin of clean piped water.



People living in makeshift communities in quake-hit Mianzhu of Sichuan Province have access to clean drinking water. In the emergency relief period, UNICEF provided water treatment units, purification tablets, and mobile toilets to the most devastated areas in the quake zone.

Restoring a lifeline

“Immediately after the earthquake, UNICEF provided us with water purification tablets and water treatment equipment for our emergency water supply. And since last October, UNICEF has been helping us to rehabilitate permanent water supply systems in ten villages,” said Ms. Jiang Xingbi, a programme officer and engineer with the Qingchuan County Bureau of Water Resources.

“As of March 2009, four villages with a total of 3,063 people, including 795 students and teachers, have access to safe piped water. This year we will start rebuilding permanent water supply systems in the other six villages,” she continued.

UNICEF is providing children like Yiyun with clean water, both at home and at school. According to

Mr. He Guoquan, Principal of Le’an Primary School, “Almost all of our students board in school as their homes are very far away. Without water, it is impossible for us to address the needs of 260 students and 24 teachers who need to drink, eat, and bathe at school.”

After the earthquake destroyed their school building, Yiyun and her classmates had to resume classes in prefabricated classrooms in an open farm field. UNICEF supported the local Bureau of Water Resources in rebuilding the damaged water supply system so that students would have access to clean water in the new school year. UNICEF helped to lay pipelines to send mountain spring water to the school and households, after first going through a sedimentation and disinfection process.



A woman passes by a dug well that families in Guihua Village had to use before the reconstruction of a safe water supply system.



Children from Zhaizi Village, Sichuan Province, play sports during recess. UNICEF has helped rebuild a water system to provide the community with safe water.

Reaching the neediest

“With the help of UNICEF, we are able to reach out to hard-to-access villages and schools not covered by the reconstruction projects targeting centralized water supply systems,” said Ms. Jiang. “Also, we are replacing the old rusted metal pipes with new polyethylene pipes, making the water safer than before the earthquake.”

UNICEF’s assistance in the reconstruction phase is focusing on schools and villages in remote rural areas in nine counties: Sichuan’s Beichuan, Dujiangyan, Mianzhu, Pengzhou, and Qingchuan Counties; Gansu’s Wenxian and Xihe Counties; and Shaanxi’s Lueyang and Nanzheng Counties.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT AND CHILD PROTECTION

Overview

The earthquake had a devastating impact on children and women, exposing them to increased risks and vulnerabilities. In the aftermath of the earthquake, young children were uprooted from their normal communities and family environments and forced to live under crowded conditions in temporary shelters. Experience from elsewhere shows that under such conditions, children and women are at heightened risk of violence, abuse and trafficking.

UNICEF found that compared to basic physical needs such as food, water, shelter, and health care, there was less expertise in addressing the psychosocial impact of the earthquake on children. From its experience in previous relief efforts in China, UNICEF has found that 90 – 95% of children and women are able to recover from psychosocial services alone, but 5 – 10% need more expert treatment. Failure to promptly and appropriately address the psychological and social needs of earthquake-affected children and communities can have long-term consequences on their capacity to recover. Certain groups, such as separated or unaccompanied children, parents who lost children in collapsed schools, the injured, the disabled, and the elderly are particularly affected.



Children play a game at a Child Friendly Space in Feishui Town, Anxian County, Sichuan Province.

Providing Psychosocial Support and Community-Based Services

Field missions by UNICEF and counterparts in the days following the Wenchuan earthquake found an urgent need for professional psychosocial support and community-based protection services for children affected by the earthquake. Many children had been displaced by the earthquake and were living in makeshift camps with limited supervision, thereby exposing them to a high risk of abuse, neglect and danger. While there was keen interest in providing psychosocial support to children, services were being provided in a sporadic and uncoordinated manner, often by unqualified volunteers or by professionals who had little or no experience in emergencies. Based on these findings, UNICEF and the National Working Committee on Children and Women decided to establish 34 Child Friendly Spaces in camps and temporary shelters to provide children with integrated psychosocial support and protection services in a safe and healing environment. When the Panzihua earthquake struck in August 2008, the decision was made to establish an additional 6 Child Friendly Spaces in the new earthquake zone, resulting in a total of 40 Child Friendly Spaces in 21 counties in Sichuan Province.

The Child Friendly Spaces are located within the most affected communities where the needs and risks are the greatest. UNICEF has provided the Child Friendly Spaces with toys, library books, sports equipment, furniture, and prefabricated structures. UNICEF has also worked with counterparts to provide extensive capacity building to the staff of the Child Friendly Spaces, helping them to deliver psychosocial support and implement structured play and recreation activities for earthquake-affected children. The security and continuity that Child Friendly Spaces

provide are critical to the long-term psychosocial recovery and well-being of children. As of the end of 2008, 42,000 children have received services at the Child Friendly Spaces, which offer day-care for pre-school-aged children, non-formal education for school-aged children, life-skills training for adolescents, and support for parents and caretakers. Through the Child Friendly Spaces, UNICEF is also reaching parents and communities on core issues such as health, immunization, injury prevention, and child protection.

Protecting the Most Vulnerable Children

Immediately after the devastating earthquake, the Ministry of Civil Affairs announced that it would use existing Child Welfare Institutes to provide shelter to the thousands of children thought to have been orphaned by the earthquake. Media attention to the plight of these children prompted more than 20,000 families to express interest in adopting children “orphaned” by the earthquake. UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Civil Affairs and local government, which issued clarifications that no adoptions would take place until order was restored, family members were traced, and children were confirmed to be orphans. Now, months after the earthquake, 624 children have been confirmed as orphaned. UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Civil Affairs to establish a tracking system to analyze their current situation, improve family- and community-based safety and protection services, and provide evidence-based recommendations to the government on the protection of orphans in the aftermath of emergencies.

UNICEF is also working to support special education schools for children with disabilities. In addition to providing educational and recreational

supplies to these schools to replace items damaged in the earthquake, UNICEF is training 130 teachers on child rights and is working with them to provide life-skills education to children with disabilities. The increased attention to children with disabilities in the aftermath of the earthquake has helped to facilitate UNICEF's dialogue with counterparts on inclusive education under the framework of the *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* as well as China's own revised laws on protection of people with disabilities.

Building Local Expertise

To help build local expertise on child protection, UNICEF and the National Working Committee on Children and Women have developed guidelines and service manuals and provided extensive training to more than 200 teachers, social workers, volunteers, and community leaders working in the Child Friendly Spaces. Training workshops have focused on exchanging experiences, reviewing lessons learned, and building the capacity of staff. The UNICEF-supported training helps staff adapt services to local needs and improve the quality of services. UNICEF and its counterparts are also working with teams of early childhood development and psychosocial support experts to provide guidance to the staff of the Child Friendly Spaces.

To create an environment in which children are protected from trafficking and violence, it is crucial to work both through the Child Friendly Spaces and in the communities where they operate. UNICEF has therefore supported counterparts in conducting intensive communication campaigns to draw awareness to the heightened risks of trafficking, abuse, and violence in the aftermath of the earthquake; and promote children's self-

protection skills. To date, 2,000 local residents in 6 counties have participated in communication workshops and events, while millions more have been reached through other media at local and national levels. Alongside the communication campaign, UNICEF is supporting life-skills education to help 20,000 children strengthen their self-protection skills. Additionally, UNICEF is supporting the training of police and community authorities to improve protection services for children and women. To date, 650 police officers, community leaders, government officials, and school principals and teachers have received training on child rights and child protection issues, and have since gone on to train others at the local level.

Modelling Child Protection Services

While the government and other actors were quick to recognize and respond to the education and health needs of affected children, it has taken time for a comprehensive and coordinated response to the protection needs of children to evolve and take shape. UNICEF and its partners have raised awareness at all levels on the need for and the comparative advantages of community-based child protection services. The tools developed and lessons learned in responding to the protection needs of children after the Wenchuan earthquake have been documented and can now be replicated in future emergencies.

This is the first time that the Child Friendly Space model has been applied in response to a natural disaster in China. The experience with this approach will help ensure that psychosocial support and community-based child protection services are included as an integral part of any emergency response. Additionally, the extensive



Children read picture books at a Child Friendly Space in Feishui Town, Anxian County, Sichuan Province.

training and capacity building that UNICEF has provided to community leaders and the staff of the Child Friendly Spaces are contributing to the development of a social work profession with expertise on child protection issues.

Another model child protection service to emerge from the earthquake response is the development of guidelines and working procedures on child registration and documentation. These guidelines, which are part of UNICEF's advocacy with the Sichuan Public Security Department, will help to keep children safe in emergencies and other situations where established social networks are dissolved. The guidelines will greatly improve the protection services provided by police authorities and child service providers, an especially critical issue in the reconstruction period, as children and their families continue to move around settlement camps, and eventually from camps to permanent

homes. Working with the Ministry of Civil Affairs, UNICEF is also supporting a tracking system of children orphaned by the earthquake so that this vulnerable group receives sufficient support and protection.

A third model child protection service to emerge from the earthquake response is enhanced coordination of different services for children. UNICEF is working with the Government of China to link psychosocial support, life-skills training, information management, and communication campaigns to protect vulnerable population groups.

Moving Forward

As children and families displaced by the earthquake gradually return to their original communities or relocate to new communities, UNICEF is working with local authorities to

continue to develop new communication strategies and expand capacity-building activities to protect children and women. In the coming year, UNICEF and its counterparts will continue to train schoolchildren in life-skills education and also train an additional 2,000 police officers and community staff to improve child registration and protection services. Meanwhile, the status of children orphaned by the earthquake will continue to be monitored, and UNICEF will work with counterparts to provide training on foster care and peer education.

In the coming years, UNICEF will continue to support long-term professional training for staff and volunteers working in the Child Friendly Spaces. Additionally, UNICEF will work to establish a monitoring and supervision

mechanism to further develop local management and professional service capacity. As earthquake survivors gradually move out of the settlement camps, UNICEF will work with counterparts to relocate the Child Friendly Spaces and ensure that they remain close to the communities they are intended to serve. The Child Friendly Spaces will continue to play a crucial role in the long-term reconstruction of communities by helping to rebuild cohesive social protection networks.

UNICEF and the National Working Committee on Children and Women are working to summarize the experience and lessons learned from the Child Friendly Spaces in the past year to contribute to the development of new social policies for children. 🌐



Happy pictures drawn by children in a Child Friendly Space show that they are on the road to recovery after receiving psychosocial support and participating in group activities.



On weekends, 12-year-old Zixuan of Leigu Town, Sichuan Province, likes to play ping pong in the local Child Friendly Space.

REAL LIVES

Reviving Hopes and Dreams for Children in China's Earthquake Zone

It is early March and spring has come to the Sichuan earthquake zone. Vast swathes of bright yellow rapeseed flowers stretch across farm fields dotted with newly built houses. Doudou, a 6-year-old girl, rides her new bicycle on a sunny day with a friend chasing after her in front of a UNICEF-supported Child Friendly Space in Beichuan County, one of the communities worst-hit by the Wenchuan earthquake last May.

Unlike other children who were accompanied by their parents, Doudou came to the centre with her 62-year-old grandfather. The earthquake had taken the lives of her parents in an instant, leaving her and her brother Xinxin, orphans.

Return of smiles

"In the first few months, the children would wake up in the middle of the night crying for their mother and father to come back," said Doudou's grandfather, surnamed Wang. "Doudou refused to talk to anyone and



Doudou (front left) plays a game with her peers in a UNICEF-supported Child Friendly Space in Beichuan County.

was sad for a very long time. I didn't know how to comfort them."

Doudou's parents were among the more than 10,000 residents of Beichuan County killed by the earthquake and subsequent landslides. The remains of the deceased could not be retrieved from under tons of earth and debris.

With the National Working Committee on Children and Women, UNICEF has set up 34 Child Friendly Spaces in the Wenchuan earthquake zone and another 6 in the Panzihua earthquake zone to provide long-term psychosocial support for children and their families.

The Child Friendly Space is a place where children can attend group activities such as singing, dancing, painting, and playing games. According to Kirsten Di Martino, UNICEF China Chief of Child Protection, these simple activities help children to bond with each other, to feel that they are safe and not alone.

Nearly one year on from the earthquake, Doudou and Xinxin are bouncing back with help from their regular visits to the Child Friendly Space in their resettlement camp. "After going to the Child Friendly Space and playing with the other kids, Doudou gradually started to laugh. Now she is a little girl with a sunny personality. She stays in the Child Friendly Space until the teachers are forced to ask her to go home and come back the next day," Doudou's grandfather said, as he smiled.

Doudou and her brother now receive government subsidies. "Doudou loves dancing and riding her bike. Her brother Xinxin dreams of becoming a scientist to invent a device to prevent earthquakes in the future," said the grandfather.

Stepping out from the shadow

According to attendance records, the UNICEF-supported Child Friendly Space initiative has so far provided psychosocial services to 42,000 children

in 40 earthquake-affected communities.

Xiaozhu, aged two, was buried with her mother for four hours in a collapsed supermarket in Beichuan County. When rescuers dug them out, the baby girl was covered with blood from her mother who was severely injured. But Xiaozhu was not hurt at all.

"She was so scared that she didn't say a word for a month," Xiaozhu's grandmother said. "I took her to the Child Friendly Space as soon as it opened. At first, she didn't speak or play with other children. She hit anyone who touched her toys. Now Xiaozhu is getting along well with other children and can speak."

Ms. Tang Xiaoping, the manager of the Child Friendly Space in Anxian County's Feishui Town, also observed the changes in the children. Four months after the earthquake, she and the other staff invited children to freely draw pictures to assess their psychological condition. Though most of the children painted beautiful flowers, dogs, and the sun, Tang found a few children still plagued by their earthquake experiences.

"A 12-year-old girl drew a picture of bricks falling from shaking buildings and people running for their lives in the streets. Another boy painted a sinking boat with people drowning in the river when the quake hit. A little girl drew a picture of herself and told me that she could barely stand on that day," Tang recalled.

"Early this year, we again invited children to paint pictures. Now all you can see are colourful balloons and smiling faces."

Road to recovery for students

Wang Mingying was a teacher with Feishui Town Primary School. Her school building was severely damaged in the earthquake, but no students were hurt or killed. However, it took the children a long time to cast off the shadow of their experience.

"After the quake the students had difficulty concentrating on their studies. Once a student's pencil box fell from the desk and hit the ground with a loud thud, and the whole class was scared and some screamed out 'Earthquake!'" she said. "In the first few months after the earthquake, there were frequent aftershocks. Although we had resumed class in tents, students still ran out in panic and the teachers had to calm them down saying that it was safe inside."

"After the Child Friendly Space opened last year, I often told my students to go there to play after school or on weekends. They love going and some of them have even become volunteers to help take care of the younger kids. They say that many volunteers came to support them and their families immediately after the quake. So they want to help others too," she said.

Zixuan, aged 12, was buried under the rubble along with her classmates, when her school building collapsed in the earthquake. "There are two Child Friendly Spaces near my home and I go to both sites on the weekends. I read books about drawing and I play ping pong with friends. The place makes me feel comfortable and at home because there are many friends I can play with," she said.

A long-term commitment

Ms. He Liping, chairwoman of the Women's Federation of Beichuan County's Leigu Town, lost her own daughter in the earthquake. Her daughter was one of more than 1,000 students who were killed when Beichuan Middle School collapsed. "I was devastated and lost all hope," said Ms. He.

Though the government waived the one-child policy for parents who lost their children in the earthquake, Ms. He, who is in her late 40s, was unable to have another child. "When UNICEF approached us for the purpose of setting up two Child Friendly Spaces in our town, I gathered

up myself and gave my full support to help our children step out of the shadow of the earthquake," she said. "Up to now, the Child Friendly Spaces in Leigu Town have received more than 6,000 visits from children and parents, according to daily attendance records."

"Through working with UNICEF in the Child Friendly Spaces, I myself became more optimistic, and I overcame the sorrow of losing my own daughter. When I look at them, I see my own daughter. I wish the Child Friendly Space project could run forever and bring more smiles to children," she said while playing with children. Ms. He and some 120 Child Friendly Space staff are now still working in the worst-affected communities for the recovery of children.

"UNICEF is committed to assisting the government in providing psychosocial support to children in the earthquake zone until 2011, in line with the Government of China's reconstruction plan," said Di Martino. "But we hope that through working with local counterparts, we will be able to sustain the support as long as possible."

**Pseudonyms are used in this story to protect the identities of children and their families.*



He Liping, chairwoman of the All-China Women's Federation in Leigu Town, checks registration records in a Child Friendly Space.



"WE HELP TAKE OUT THE CHAIRS AND TOYS"

Twelve-year-old Li Chao has been a volunteer in Feishui Town Child Friendly Space since October 2008.

"We help the teachers to take care of younger kids, tell them not to litter, and keep toys and books in the right place. When there are outdoor activities we help take out the chairs and toys," the sixth-grader said.

Li Chao and another five child volunteers in Feishui Town think it is a "great thing and an honourable job."

One year after the earthquake, many young people

continue to offer their time as volunteers in the worst-affected areas to help the recovery of children and their families. Their selfless contribution is inspiring children like Li Chao to do their bit.

"Many volunteers come all the way to help us and I want to help other people too," he said.

"Right after the earthquake, we didn't enjoy playing games or reading. We were mostly in bad moods," 11-year-old girl Li Xiaofeng said. "Two months after I came to this Child Friendly Space, I felt much better. Now I am a volunteer, and I feel happy that I can help the little kids."

EDUCATION

Overview

The Wenchuan earthquake struck during the early afternoon on a weekday, when effectively every school-aged child in Sichuan Province was in a classroom. The earthquake destroyed 12,000 school buildings in Sichuan Province and 6,500 school buildings in Gansu Province, disrupting the education of some 2.5 million children. In late August 2008, a second earthquake hit southern Sichuan's Panzhihua City, just days before the start of the school year.

Even before the emergency, educational standards in many of the affected areas in Sichuan and Gansu lagged behind national levels. While the retention rate for the five years of primary school was 99% nationwide in 2007, it was 96% in Sichuan and only 86% in Gansu.

Throughout the emergency response, UNICEF has worked in close collaboration with the Government of China to support relief and reconstruction efforts. UNICEF's emergency response has focused on three key areas: restoring access to education, making schools safer for children, and improving education quality.



Children study in a prefabricated classroom in Xihe County, Gansu Province, where UNICEF and its counterparts are working in 39 schools and communities to provide a package of interventions in education, water, and sanitation.

Restoring Access to Education

The earthquake damaged one out of every seven schools in Sichuan Province, making the restoration of access to education an urgent priority. Just days after the earthquake, UNICEF and its counterparts visited the worst-affected areas to assess children's educational needs. On the basis of those early assessments, UNICEF provided 1,200 classroom tents, 60,000 student kits, and 2,000 teacher kits, helping some 60,000 children in the worst-hit areas return to a safe schooling environment with basic teaching and learning materials. UNICEF subsequently delivered additional classroom supplies, teaching aids, sports equipment, and library books to other severely-affected areas of Sichuan and Gansu Provinces, benefiting another 220,000 students. UNICEF also provided educational supplies and classroom furniture to 22,000 students and teachers in areas of Sichuan and Yunnan that were affected by the Panzhihua earthquake.

Almost all earthquake-affected children in Sichuan Province were able to return to an educational setting in time for the new school year in September 2008, whether in repaired school buildings or prefabricated classrooms. However, in some of the more remote areas of the earthquake zone, children were left to resume school in unsafe buildings or temporarily borrowed spaces. UNICEF identified 39 such schools in Gansu Province's Xihe County where local reconstruction plans were not as comprehensive or well-developed as in Sichuan. UNICEF provided the 10,000 children of these schools with more than 100 prefabricated classroom units and is also supporting the construction of water supply systems and sanitary latrines. The schools in Xihe County now serve as model UNICEF Child-Friendly Schools, where students will have access

to both a quality classroom environment and hygienic sanitary facilities.

Making Schools Safer

Shortly after the earthquake, the Ministry of Education instructed local education authorities to review preparedness and security measures at all schools. UNICEF is supporting capacity-building and social policy initiatives on school safety and emergency preparedness as the Government's physical reconstruction of school buildings proceeds. On 1 September 2008, the first day of the new school year, China Central Television (CCTV), with technical inputs from UNICEF, aired a television programme on disaster prevention, readiness, and response. The Ministry of Education made the programme required viewing for all students.

Then, in October 2008, UNICEF supported a delegation from the Ministry of Education on a study tour to Japan to learn international best practices in emergency preparedness and risk reduction. The delegation, which included both policymakers and technical experts, studied how to assess the earthquake resistance of school buildings, retrofit vulnerable buildings, and develop safety standards for new construction. Lessons learned from that visit helped to inform the management guidelines on retrofitting and school safety being developed by the Ministry of Education. UNICEF is currently helping the Ministry of Education to conduct a nationwide survey on school safety; and establish a database to identify vulnerable buildings to be retrofitted. This support to the Ministry of Education in data collection, information management, and development of norms and standards has long-term implications for the future safety of schools and children.

UNICEF is also working with the Ministry of Education to increase safety awareness among children and their communities. The Ministry of Education, with technical inputs from UNICEF, developed educational materials on emergency preparedness and school safety. UNICEF is now supporting the distribution of these materials to 65 schools in Sichuan's Beichuan and Qingchuan Counties, where they will be incorporated into the school curriculum as a part of children's life skills education. UNICEF is also helping the Ministry of Education to provide an online training programme and certification process on school safety management and education to 25,000 teachers and principals in 45 high-risk counties in Sichuan, Gansu, and Shaanxi Provinces. This training will help schools in the project counties to implement safety procedures to better prepare for and respond to emergencies. This training is being integrated into the Government of China's own capacity-building programme on safety management, so communities will be better prepared to respond to future emergencies.

Improving Education Quality

UNICEF's support not only addressed the immediate education needs of children in the beneficiary communities, but also laid the foundation for the coming two years of the reconstruction process. UNICEF has been in discussion with the Ministry of Education and local education counterparts in Sichuan and Gansu to scale-up capacity-building activities on Child-Friendly Schools, early childhood development, and non-formal education throughout the earthquake zone. UNICEF's support to improving education quality is currently being piloted in 39 schools in Xihe County where, in the spirit of "Building Back Better," particular attention is being

paid to interactive learning, student participation, school management, and community involvement. UNICEF and the Ministry of Education will also provide this training to school principals and teachers in 65 schools in Sichuan's Beichuan and Qingchuan Counties.

UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education in the establishment of community-based early childhood development centres in Xihe, Beichuan, and Qingchuan Counties. UNICEF will support capacity-building activities to help teachers conduct individual and group play activities, encourage children's creative expression, and maintain a gender-friendly and hygienic environment. UNICEF will also help to support parenting education for parents and caretakers, focusing on child safety and social and emotional support.

UNICEF is also working with the China Association for Science and Technology to provide non-formal education to out-of-school children and adolescents in the earthquake zone. UNICEF is working with counterparts to establish three centres for non-formal education in Qingchuan County. In total, these centres benefit an estimated 500 children. The UNICEF-supported non-formal education centres have a range of activities to help out-of-school children learn how to stay healthy, gain life-skills, participate in sports activities, and develop leadership skills and confidence.

Moving Forward

In the coming years, UNICEF will continue to draw on international experience and best practices to support the government in reconstruction policies and programmes and increase the safety consciousness of students, teachers, and education authorities. As a follow-up to the



Prefabricated classrooms help students whose schools were severely damaged in Xihe County, Gansu Province return to a safe learning environment.

October 2008 study tour to Japan, in which educational authorities learned about retrofitting and reconstruction standards, UNICEF and the Ministry of Education will be holding a national seminar to further build capacity and promote best practices on safe school construction. Additionally, UNICEF will continue to support enhanced school safety management.

According to the Ministry of Education's reconstruction plan, new buildings to replace schools destroyed by the earthquake will mostly

be built by September 2009. In the coming months, UNICEF's interventions will continue to support children and teachers in the earthquake-affected areas as they transition into permanent school buildings. UNICEF will support the integration of models for quality education, management, and community involvement into the permanent school environment. 🌐

REAL LIVES

Getting Children Back on the Road to School

Like generations of children in Caoyang Village before her, Yang Mei, 13, attended class in the local wood-and-brick school building. All that changed when the May 2008 earthquake brought down the roof of the school building and left large cracks in the walls.

"We were having class when the quake hit. The classroom was shaking and many students rushed out to the door," the sixth-grader recalled.

The quake damaged some 300 schools in Xihe County, including Caoyang Primary School where Yang Mei studied. Elsewhere in Gansu Province, the earthquake damaged more than 6,000 other schools.

After the earthquake, Yang Mei and her classmates resumed class in tents, but "it was too hot and we were all wet with sweat after staying inside for more than ten minutes."

Then, in October 2008, Yang Mei and her classmates moved into UNICEF-provided prefabricated classrooms. "The new classroom is more spacious and has better light," she smiled.

"Everything is new. The chairs, desks, books, and schoolbags are new. Each of us also got a hygiene kit. Inside each kit is a toothbrush, a tube of toothpaste, shampoo, soap and towels," she said. "But I like the schoolbag best. It has a dictionary, pens and notebooks."



Children in Caochuan Primary School of Xihe County wait in line to register their use of UNICEF-provided sports kits, as other students read library books, also provided by UNICEF. Gansu is the second worst-hit province in the earthquake zone.

Sixth-grader Yang Mei listens attentively in class in a prefabricated classroom provided by UNICEF.





Tibetan students dressed in ethnic clothing head home for a lunch break in Tielou Tibetan Autonomous Village, Wenxian County, Gansu Province. The students now study in a prefabricated school that has been relocated to a farm field at the foot of the mountains after their classrooms were severely damaged by the earthquake.

Building a better life than before

Every morning, Yang Mei and her younger sister and brother use the UNICEF hygiene kits to brush their teeth and wash their faces. The children don't usually have breakfast before going to school. Their family, like most of their neighbours in the village, eat only lunch and dinner each day.

"Generally, we have potatoes for lunch and noodles for dinner. For eighty percent of the days in the year, we eat like this. It is only on holidays and Chinese New Year that we will celebrate by

having some meat," Yang Jianguo, the father said.

Xihe County, which has a population of 400,000 and is located in southeastern Gansu Province, is one of China's poorest counties. The average annual net income per capita as of 2008 is no more than RMB 2000, or around 300 US dollars, about one tenth of Beijing residents.

Yang Mei's father used to work in Qinghai Province as a construction worker, only returning home twice a year. Yang Mei has a congenital heart defect and had surgery last winter. The

operation cost the family RMB 33,000, about five to six years' worth of savings. The father didn't go back to his job after the surgery. The earthquake, which damaged their house and furniture, made life more difficult.

During class breaks, when all the children play with the new sports kits provided by UNICEF, Yang Mei stands aside quietly and watches. "We used to make our own skipping ropes and footbags so we would have something to play with at school. But now we can play badminton and a lot more games and sports," Yang Mei said. When she finishes her post-operation course of medicine in another six months, she will be able to run and play just like the other children.

Clean water

In addition to restoring access to quality education services, UNICEF is working to establish clean water and hygienic sanitation facilities at Caoyang Primary School.

The earthquake damaged water supply systems, leaving children and villagers to fetch water from unprotected valley streams, or collect rainwater from rooftops and plastic sheets. Most schools had no clean water before the earthquake and had never been equipped with sanitary latrines.

Now, a year after the earthquake, a new handwashing facility connected to a safe water supply is under construction near the prefabricated classrooms in Caoyang Primary School. Sanitary latrines for boys and girls are also under construction. The UNICEF-supported water and sanitation facilities are expected to be complete in the coming months.

Yang Mei is one of the 10,000 children in 39 schools in Gansu's Xihe County that UNICEF is reaching with its complete package of educational and water and sanitation interventions.

"I am happiest when I am in class or playing with my classmates," Yang Mei said. "I want to become a teacher when I grow up."



Boys and girls wash their hands during recess at Caochuan Primary School of Xihe County, Gansu Province. UNICEF and the local Bureau of Water Resources built a water supply system and pipeline network in the aftermath of the earthquake.

HIV/AIDS

Overview

Children and families affected by HIV/AIDS face the same shelter, food, and water and sanitation issues as other earthquake survivors, but they also face a number of special challenges. Damaged health facilities, poor road conditions, and lack of means of transportation have serious implications for access to drugs, medical testing, and regular follow-ups. Additionally, the shift of skilled health personnel to the emergency response can mean decreased support to children and families affected by HIV/AIDS, and can also affect the quality and reach of voluntary counselling and testing services.

Sichuan Province has the sixth largest number of reported HIV infections of any province in China. Of the areas affected by the Wenchuan and Panzhihua earthquakes, Chengdu and Liangshan report the highest rates of HIV infection. Children and women affected by HIV/AIDS need special support during the process of reconstructing lives and homes. No anti-discrimination message speaks louder than the one that declares people living with HIV have the same rights to quality services and interventions in a time of emergency.

Providing Medical Treatment and Psychosocial Support

UNICEF has been working with the Government of China in the earthquake zone to support outreach to people living with HIV in remote communities. Immediately after the earthquake, UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Health's Division of Infectious Disease Control at the local



level to locate people living with HIV, assess their needs, and address drug interruptions, livelihood concerns, and psychological well-being. Just two days after the earthquake, the Ministry of Civil Affairs, with support from UNICEF, delivered emergency supplies to the homes of children and women affected by HIV/AIDS. UNICEF has been working with local Centres for Disease Control to ensure that children and women living with HIV throughout the earthquake zone receive uninterrupted access to treatment and care. According to government policy, Chinese citizens typically access free antiretroviral treatment in their registered residence or place of long-term residence. Since the earthquake, UNICEF has supported case management, the timely transfer of personal data, and service referral so that people displaced by the earthquake continue to receive drug supplies, counselling, and testing services away from their typical residences.

To meet the ongoing needs of children and women affected by HIV/AIDS, UNICEF has provided vehicles and IT equipment to the earthquake zone. The vehicles are being used to help deliver drugs to homes, conduct group health education and counselling in remote communities, and transport HIV-positive pregnant women to health facilities with prevention of mother-to-child transmission services. The IT equipment is used to collect data and share information across a range of social service providers. By the end of March 2009, over 350 mothers and 200 children affected by HIV/AIDS in the earthquake zone received home-based care, and more than 800 pregnant women received HIV counselling and testing, with support from UNICEF and local counterparts.

UNICEF has helped to organize psychosocial support, art therapy, and sports and recreational activities for children affected by HIV/AIDS. UNICEF has also supported the provision of

psychosocial support to health workers, who have had to work long hours and under challenging conditions in the aftermath of a disaster the magnitude of the earthquake. This support to health workers has helped to improve the quality of counselling and support that they, in turn, offer to children and women affected by HIV/AIDS.

Sharing Information and Increasing Awareness

Throughout the emergency response, UNICEF has provided organizations and networks of people living with HIV/AIDS with tips on staying healthy, as well as information on access to antiretroviral drugs and proper care in case of interrupted services. UNICEF has shared this information on "how" and "where" to access medical and social services through newsletters and innovative communication channels, such as mobile messaging. Additionally, UNICEF has helped to identify local people living with HIV to serve as focal points in each of the earthquake-affected prefectures.

UNICEF has been working to increase awareness around HIV prevention, collaborating with the Ministry of Health and local Centres for Disease Control to draw up comprehensive plans for community-based primary prevention education throughout the earthquake zone. The plans cover all of Aba Prefecture, including Wenchuan County, the epicentre of the earthquake; all of Liangshan Prefecture, where the prevalence of HIV is among the highest in Sichuan Province; and seven other severely-affected counties and cities. To date, more than 50,000 young people in the earthquake zone have received community-based HIV prevention information and anti-discrimination education. A recent survey found that after initial interventions, 64% of rural female youth in Aba Prefecture now have correct knowledge on HIV prevention. This number will serve as a baseline

against which future education activities are evaluated.

In the aftermath of the earthquake, UNICEF has supported advocacy to increase awareness about HIV/AIDS. During the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, children affected by AIDS from hard-hit areas of the earthquake zone came to Beijing to participate in the UNICEF-supported Summer Camp for Children Affected by AIDS, and had the chance to share their hopes, dreams, and stories with an audience of officials and policymakers in the Great Hall of the People. This high-profile event helped to draw national attention to the rights of children affected by HIV/AIDS. During the Chinese New Year, children affected by HIV/AIDS from the earthquake areas came to Beijing to join an art camp, where they were able to promote awareness and interact with their peers in a child-friendly environment.

Involving Civil Society

Before the earthquake, women, children and families affected by AIDS could go to different government departments to receive cash assistance, free antiretroviral drugs, and testing services. After the earthquake, damage to infrastructure, family financial loss, and lack of means of transportation made it difficult for many vulnerable women and children to access services. UNICEF worked with local health and civil affairs authorities and the Committee for the Care of Children to reach out and meet the needs of the most vulnerable children and women who would not otherwise be able to access services. Under the leadership of local governments and with the support of community leaders, UNICEF helped to provide social support, drugs, and other needed resources. In the aftermath of the earthquake, UNICEF's strategy of facilitating and expanding civil society participation and support has helped to fill gaps in human resources and

has also empowered children and women to participate in service delivery and decision-making. UNICEF is also working with civil society to create a caring and supportive environment for children and women affected by HIV/AIDS in the earthquake zone.

Moving Forward

In the coming years, UNICEF will continue to work with government counterparts to support services for children and women affected by HIV/AIDS. UNICEF will assist in the linking up of medical care, psychosocial support, and community education so children and women affected by HIV/AIDS in the earthquake zone can live in a supportive environment. During the reconstruction phase, prevention education and protection of children affected by HIV/AIDS will remain a priority, especially as there is a massive inflow and outflow of workers and local residents. UNICEF's work in primary prevention and vulnerability reduction will continue to be based on needs assessments and interventions, with the participation of local communities. UNICEF will also continue to work as co-chair of the UN HIV/AIDS Emergency Task Team and collaborate with local government agencies, networks of people living with HIV, and civil society organizations to share data, coordinate interventions, and make the most efficient use of resources.

The response by UNICEF and its partners in the present emergency has provided viable solutions for people living with HIV through outreach, empowerment, and the participation of civil society. In the coming years, UNICEF will work with its counterparts to draw upon the experience gained and good practices learned in the last year to increase HIV/AIDS awareness among young people and better serve children, women, and families affected by HIV/AIDS throughout China.



UNICEF and its counterparts are reaching out to children and women affected by HIV/AIDS in remote areas of the earthquake zone.



REAL LIVES

Reaching Out to Children and Women Affected by HIV/AIDS

Editor's Note: The following is a transcript of a discussion conducted with Mr. Wang Shuguang, Chengdu-based UNICEF programme consultant; Dr. Zeng Kai, programme officer with the Aba Prefecture Bureau of Disease Control; and Ms. Bai Feng, an officer with the Zhaojue County Department of Civil Affairs of Liangshan Prefecture.

Q: How has the earthquake affected the lives of children and women affected by HIV/AIDS?

Dr. Zeng: In Aba Prefecture, where Wenchuan County, the epicentre of the earthquake is located, people living with HIV lost their homes and belongings. The earthquake caused landslides and buried cultivated land, depriving many of their means of livelihood. Also, their life-saving medicines couldn't be retrieved from the rubble.

About twenty days after the earthquake, although the roads were badly damaged, we carried medicines and walked in the mountains for two or three hours to visit families affected by HIV/AIDS in remote villages. Later, UNICEF provided us with an SUV vehicle. I can say that since the disaster, between walking and driving, we have not missed a single patient.

Mr. Wang: Before the earthquake, we were able to keep contact with people living with HIV. But after the disaster, some of them could not be reached by phone. I noticed that they had migrated to other provinces after their homes were destroyed. In some relocation communities, HIV/AIDS is considered a "dirty disease." The residents are afraid that the patients might have a bad influence on the children and youth. I am very concerned about whether the patients can receive timely treatment after relocating to other

places. UNICEF and other UN agencies have jointly developed a response plan on "HIV/AIDS Prevention in Emergencies" and are now looking into the issue of migration.

Q: What do you think the children and women need most?

Dr. Zeng: I would say they are more afraid of discrimination than the virus. In my prefecture, there is an HIV-positive couple with a child. The family is poor and according to government policy, they are qualified to receive living allowances. But the procedure, although confidential, requires that they use their real names, which they refuse to give for fear that other people will know about their disease. They would rather live in poverty than face the discrimination that might arise by being identified as HIV-positive.

Ms. Bai: During my home visits, I saw children orphaned by AIDS living in very harsh conditions, who told me that they could only eat meat once every one or two months. One girl said that her biggest wish for the Yi ethnic New Year was to have a pig for the festival so that she could have meat like the other children. Also, in many villages, children affected by AIDS are ignored by their peers, who don't want to play with them. So apart from financial support, they also need psychological support to escape from the shadow of being "HIV/AIDS children."

Q: What are the Government of China and UNICEF doing to help?

Mr. Wang: We are now piloting community-based care and support programmes in nine earthquake-affected project areas and disseminating key messages on HIV/AIDS prevention to children and



UNICEF and its counterparts are working in Qiang ethnic minority communities to train government, community, and religious leaders on HIV prevention and promote awareness.

youth, especially those living in remote ethnic villages. We are training key figures like tribal chieftains, village committee cadres, and religious leaders. For example, in Maoxian County, we spoke with spiritual leaders of the Qiang ethnic group, who have agreed to advocate for HIV/AIDS prevention.

Ms. Bai: After the earthquake, we invited children affected by HIV/AIDS to celebrate Children's Day with other students in the county. They sang songs and learned how to protect themselves during earthquakes and emergencies. Last August, three of the children went to Beijing during the Olympics and attended the UNICEF-supported summer camp for children affected by HIV/AIDS. In November, they attended a sports meeting among primary schools and enjoyed the fun of running and skipping rope with other children. Also, we visit their homes often to learn about their needs.

Q: Have you noticed any changes in children as a result of interventions from the Government of China and UNICEF?

Ms. Bai: I found that the children became more optimistic and outgoing. One 11-year-old girl, Ayi (a pseudonym), lost her father to AIDS. Her mother got remarried to a man living in a distant place and rarely comes home to see her and her little brother. Living with her grandmother, the girl was quite silent and felt inferior because other children would not play with her. Last August, she went to Beijing to attend the UNICEF-supported summer camp. We took the children to visit some universities. Ayi was quite impressed and told me that she would study hard so that one day she might be admitted to such a place.

The children told me that the happiest thing for them was sitting in the Olympic venue to watch a baseball game. Though they didn't know much about baseball, they felt so excited to feel the atmosphere with thousands of people. Although it was just eight days in Beijing, they received much love and care. After that, Ayi became happier and more devoted to her study. She is now a fourth-grader and a good student.

SOCIAL POLICY

Overview

Emergency recovery and reconstruction programmes for children and women will not be effective and sustainable without appropriate government strategies and policies in the medium to long-term. Thus, in the year after the earthquake, UNICEF has been working with the Government of China on the development of reconstruction strategies to ensure the delivery of essential public services to earthquake survivors. UNICEF and the Government of China have worked in partnership to turn the earthquake response and reconstruction into an opportunity to build back better social service delivery systems in earthquake-affected localities. Lessons learned in the emergency response are being used to accelerate social policy reforms that enhance the wellbeing of children and women across the country.

Supporting Reconstruction Policy

In July 2008, UNICEF submitted a policy note, entitled *Reconstructing Wellbeing: Bringing Public Services to Those Who Need Them Most After the Wenchuan Earthquake* to the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC). NDRC leads China's Post-Disaster Reconstruction Planning Group in formulating strategies and key policies in the reconstruction period. The policy note emphasized the functional, financing, and institutional issues that need to be addressed to make



reconstruction of public services truly contribute to the wellbeing of children and communities affected by the earthquake. The policy note highlighted that newly built schools, hospitals, and public services in general, will benefit those in need, only if:

- Citizens' rights and providers' obligations are clearly defined
- Essential services are adequately funded and resources are appropriately allocated and channelled
- Unfair charges that disqualify the poor from quality public services are abolished or appropriately regulated
- Adequate mechanisms are established to encourage quality, equity, and accountability in public service delivery
- Inadequacies in previous facilities and services are recognized and overcome
- Local governments work closely with citizens, including women and young people

The policy note also implied that, in some aspects, given the large amount of international and domestic support available, public service delivery and financing in earthquake-affected localities could be developed as a model for the entire country. The policy note received highly positive feedback from NDRC. Importantly, the policy note also received positive feedback directly from the State Council, which distributed it to line ministries for action.

In addition to the policy note, UNICEF has reviewed international best practices and identified urgent policy measures to restore essential social services for children and women. UNICEF has drawn upon its experience in responding to emergencies around the world

to inform the development of reconstruction policy in China in the aftermath of the Wenchuan earthquake. UNICEF has also supported studies to assess the impact of the earthquake on essential social services in the health, water, sanitation, education, and child protection sectors. UNICEF's analytical and policy outputs have made a strong policy impact. They have been found timely, valuable, and constructive and have positively influenced the development of China's reconstruction strategy.

Forming Strategic Partnerships

In the aftermath of the earthquake, UNICEF has fostered strong strategic partnerships that allow it to engage at the upstream policy level in a variety of social sectors. Joint research and consultations have strengthened the basis for the development and implementation of evidence-based pro-poor social policy to benefit children and women.

In collaboration with NDRC, UNICEF is currently working on and supporting a number of analytical policy studies to enhance the results of reconstruction and harmonize the policy approaches to reconstruction with nationwide social policy reforms. UNICEF is helping to identify gaps in social policy and make specific recommendations to ensure that no child or woman in the earthquake zone is left out from the coverage of essential social services. For example, UNICEF is supporting the establishment of a monitoring system to ensure the provision of quality primary and secondary education. UNICEF is also supporting an evaluation of post-earthquake essential public service delivery performance. The study is helping to establish a system to evaluate local governments and enhance accountability in public service delivery. This support to the evaluation system of

essential public service delivery performance will also contribute to nationwide reforms toward enhancing accountability of local governments in implementing national social policies.

UNICEF is also engaging in a number of important analytical and advisory activities with the Ministry of Finance. UNICEF is supporting analytical studies of public finance policies to identify and promote international best practices on social assistance to orphans. A recent study reviewed the current status of orphan policies in China, identified gaps and challenges, and proposed fiscal policies to support social assistance to orphans. According to officials at the Ministry of Finance, the study's findings and recommendations are serving as a basis for future policy adjustment on public finance support for orphan assistance. UNICEF is also helping the Ministry of Finance to develop a monitoring system on allocation, disbursement, and utilization of post-disaster reconstruction resources. In this way, UNICEF is supporting the holistic management of reconstruction funds and ensuring their effective use.

Moving Forward


In the coming years, UNICEF will continue to support NDRC on the development and implementation of social policy after the earthquake. This support will focus on reviewing reconstruction social policy and identifying international best practices from countries with experience in mid- and long-term reconstruction policy development and implementation. UNICEF will support the Ministry of Finance by delivering policy recommendations and building capacity in government financial policy to support post-disaster reconstruction. UNICEF will also support the State Council Leading Group on Poverty Alleviation in reconstruction planning and capacity-



Children smile for a photo in front of their prefabricated classroom in Wenxian County, Gansu Province.

building, particularly in the poorest earthquake-affected villages.

UNICEF will continue to work with strategic partners to support evidence-gathering, evidence-based policymaking, and successful policy implementation to facilitate the reconstruction process. This will contribute to the development and evaluation of social policies to support reconstruction efforts and build expertise at the national and subnational government levels. Work in this area will also help to develop the institutional frameworks and governance necessary to implement national reconstruction strategy, policies, and standards, with a focus on social protection and assistance to the poor.

UNICEF's contributions have not only made a difference in reconstruction policy, but have also laid the groundwork for future policy changes. In the aftermath of the emergency, UNICEF has expanded its cooperation framework with NDRC from post-earthquake reconstruction to the broader issue of the development of China's national 12th Five Year Plan. 

Policy Support to the Government of China to Build Back Better (2009-2011)

Output	Activities	Key Areas
Research and policy consultation programme to develop and evaluate social policies to support post-earthquake reconstruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies and workshops to assess the social impact of the earthquake and subsequent reconstruction policies • Surveys and survey analyses to gain first-hand data and evidence from earthquake-affected areas • Policy consultation roundtables and reports on the delivery of public services and in the context of policy reforms • Policy toolkit to draw lessons from studies, survey analyses, and policy evaluations • Policy studies and notes to address emerging challenges and urgent policy initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential healthcare • Early childhood development • Primary and secondary education • Social protection with emphasis on children and women • Child protection • Gender • Public finance
Research and technical assistance to develop frameworks and governance to implement reconstruction strategy and policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies and surveys to evaluate performance in public service delivery • Case study to evaluate and draw lessons from local governance in restoring public services • Review of international good practice in reconstruction policy development and implementation • Development of monitoring system of education quality in earthquake zone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public sector governance • Monitoring and evaluation • Performance evaluation and management • Citizens' participation
Capacity building in policy development at national and local government levels to facilitate reconstruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminars and training on evidence-based social policymaking, utilization of research in policy, and institutional innovation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social policy to benefit vulnerable groups • Disaster preparedness and management • Governance

CONSTRAINTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

Work in the aftermath of a disaster the magnitude of the Wenchuan earthquake has presented a number of constraints, but also a number of valuable lessons learned.

One of the greatest constraints in responding to the emergency has been the difficulty of finding quality, timely, and targeted data. Disaggregated data on children, women, and vulnerable population groups – whether in health and nutrition, water and sanitation, protection, or education – are often unavailable. The Government of China, with support from UNICEF, is addressing the issue of data quality by setting up and strengthening data collection and management systems in the aftermath of the emergency.

Another constraint in recovery and reconstruction efforts has been the challenge of covering large geographic areas, with many of the most vulnerable children and women in remote, rural communities that are difficult to access. For example, in areas like Gansu's Xihe County, difficult terrain and inclement weather initially delayed the installation of some prefabricated classrooms. In the reconstruction phase, snow, ice, and wintry weather have limited construction of water supply systems, drainage and solid waste systems, and sanitary latrines to seven months of the year.

A third constraint in responding to the earthquake has been the difficulty of keeping up with rapidly changing conditions and needs on the ground, which also vary markedly from region to region. Some amount of flexibility is needed to appropriately address evolving needs. Throughout the emergency response, the Government of China and UNICEF have maintained constant communication with local communities; and have worked in coordination with a multitude of actors on the ground.

Lessons learned from the emergency response are being incorporated into ongoing efforts in the reconstruction phase to build back better.

One important lesson learned is that it is in the less visible, more remote geographic areas where UNICEF can work with counterparts to make the greatest impact for vulnerable children and women. In the aftermath of the emergency, most of the relief efforts and media coverage



Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF Goodwill Ambassadors Louis Koo, Charlie Young, and Miriam Yeung (right to left); and special guest Astrid Chan (far left) with children in Beichuan County, Sichuan Province.

have concentrated on Sichuan Province, while neighbouring Gansu Province, which was also seriously affected, has received less attention. In the coming months, UNICEF will continue to work with counterparts to identify and target remote, rural communities to reach the most vulnerable children. UNICEF will work with its counterparts to focus on ways to complement the Government of China's capacity.

Another important lesson learned is that the emergency response has been an opportunity for the Government of China and UNICEF to work together to promote innovations that would take much longer to develop in a non-emergency context. The Government of China and UNICEF are not only addressing the immediate needs of earthquake survivors, but also laying the groundwork to better prepare for future

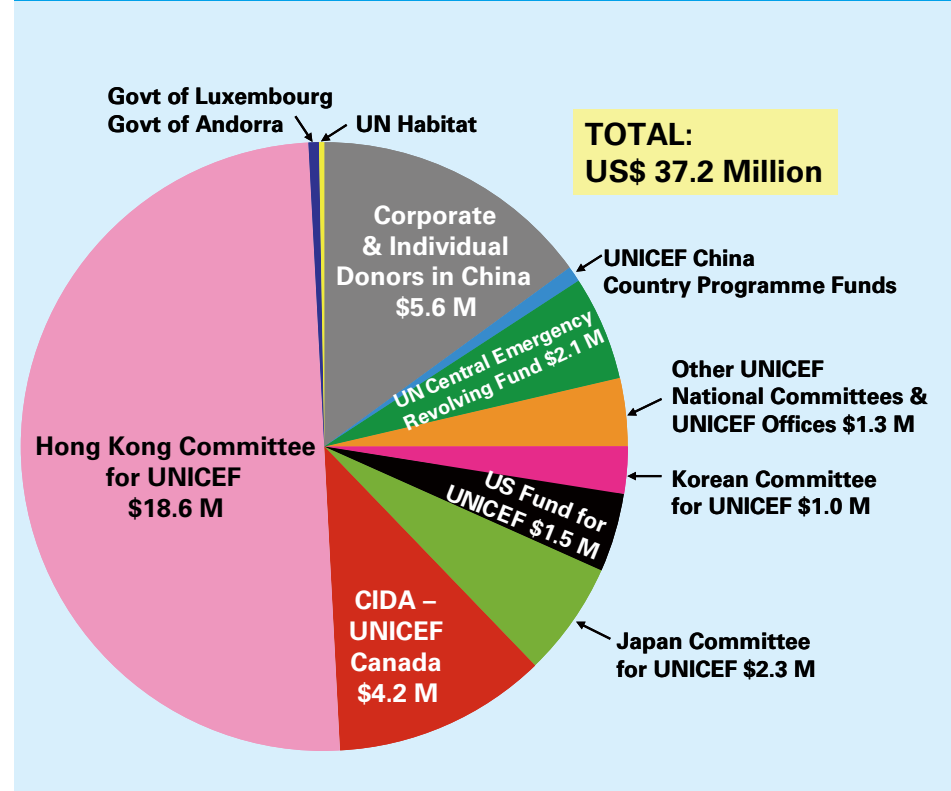
emergencies. Additionally, the Government of China and UNICEF are working to expand pilot projects developed in the earthquake zone, for the benefit of children and women across China.

A third important lesson learned in the emergency response is the enduring value of timely and targeted contributions in social policy. UNICEF's social policy contributions in the aftermath of the earthquake have led to the expansion of strategic partnerships at the upstream policy level. These partnerships will lead to enhanced opportunities for UNICEF to work with the Government of China to make significant, high-impact institutional and structural changes to benefit children and women.

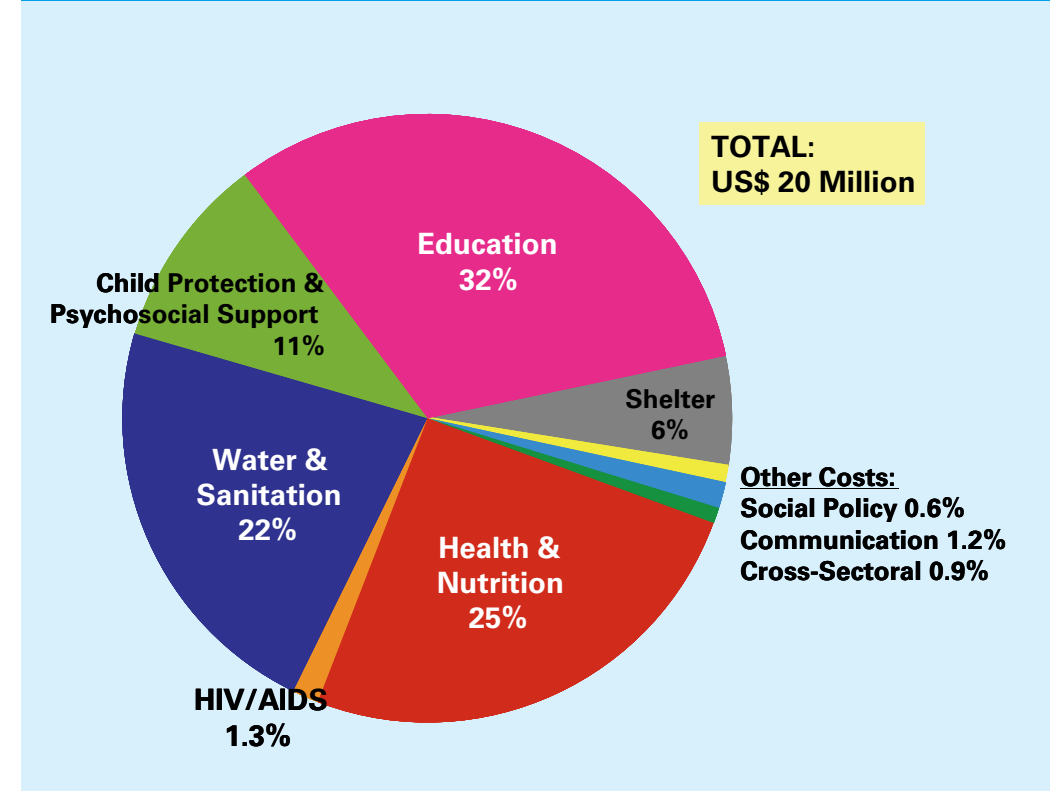


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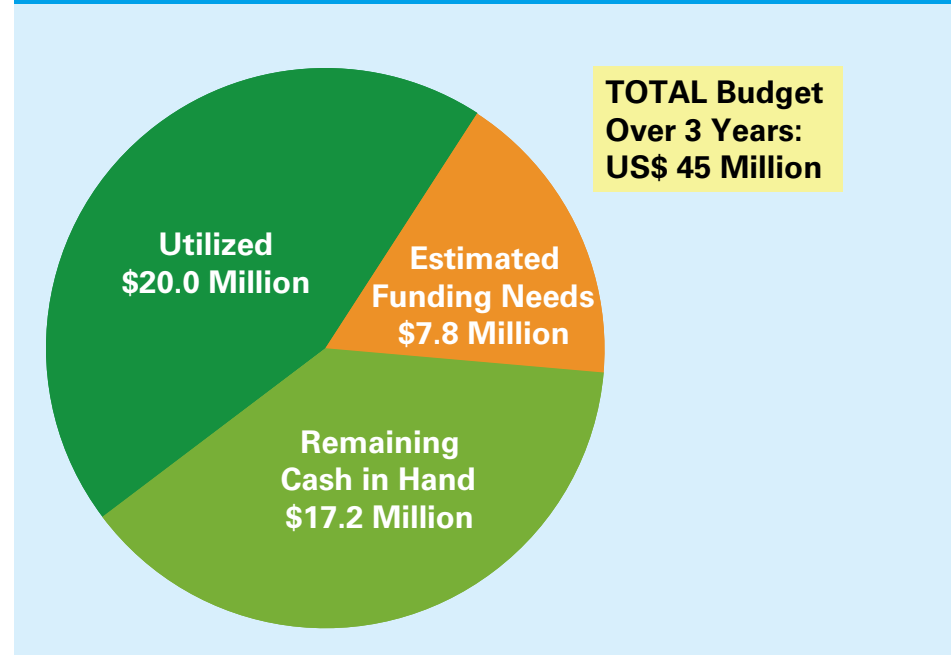
Funding Sources for UNICEF's Earthquake Response (as of 6 April 2009)



Utilization* of Funds by Sectors (as of 6 April 2009)



Funding Status and Estimated Funding Needs (as of 6 April 2009)



*Utilization figures provided are interim, based on the financial data currently available in UNICEF-China. Certified annual expenditure figures are issued by UNICEF Headquarters within six months of the end of the calendar year.

Funding Utilization	Utilization (US\$)
Item	
Health and Nutrition	5,065,870
Emergency health kits, equipment, and supplies for 1.4 million people for 3 months and nutrition supplements for 125,550 children and 41,150 women	1,429,486
20 ambulances to refer patients in Sichuan, Gansu, and Shaanxi to county hospitals	211,499
Medical equipment, including delivery beds, incubators, and scales to improve healthcare for children and pregnant women in 14 earthquake-affected counties	1,208,119
Equipment and training to conduct baseline survey of health and nutrition status of children and women in 36 counties in earthquake zone; support to Management Information System	309,875
Support to establishment of child immunization registration system	929,433
Training of 450 health workers; community education activities in 100 settlement camps; and communication for behavioural impact activities throughout earthquake zone	331,403
Health education to promote breastfeeding; activities to monitor/regulate breastmilk substitutes	113,756
Development of a nutrition security plan and guidelines on nutrition policy in emergencies	64,932
Field assessments and monitoring of health and nutrition conditions	20,774
Technical support on rehabilitation of health and nutrition services	117,192
Indirect programme support costs	329,401
Water and Sanitation	4,442,737
Water purification tablets to provide clean drinking water to 2 million people for 3 months	1,382,037
20 water purification units and 70 collapsible tanks to provide clean water to 270,000 people	738,459
100 mobile toilets for use by 10,000 people a day	71,275
200 tons of calcium hypochlorite to disinfect health facilities and community areas	192,780
Construction of safe water supply systems and infrastructure in 9 earthquake-affected counties	489,017
Construction of sanitary latrines in schools, hospitals, and model households	167,612
Vehicles to transport construction materials and enable supervision of construction sites	60,264
Training of 5,000 water and sanitation officials on hygiene and maintenance of public facilities	303,814
Hygiene kits with towels, soap, and other hygiene products for 20,000 children and their families	323,849
Communication campaigns throughout earthquake zone to promote hygiene and sanitation	267,326
Field assessments, design of construction projects, and monitoring	87,684
Technical support on water, sanitation, and hygiene	73,694
Indirect programme support costs	284,926
Education	6,364,586
1,200 classroom tents for 56,000 children	2,649,500
102 pre-fabricated classroom units to provide 5,000 children with a safe learning environment	763,173
Teaching and learning materials, including student kits, teacher kits, library kits, sports kits, blackboards, teaching aids, and classroom furniture for 250,000 children and their teachers	1,569,254
Schoolbags, sleeping bags, and household items for children in boarding schools	864,034
Development of guidelines on school reconstruction and retrofitting; support to school safety database; and provision of books/manuals on emergency preparedness and safety education	106,040
Field assessments and monitoring	55,722
Technical support on rehabilitation of quality education services	43,972
Indirect programme support costs	312,891

Funding Utilization	Utilization (US\$)
Item	
Child Protection and Psychosocial Support	2,092,009
Teaching and learning materials, sports equipment and toys, audiovisual and IT equipment, hygiene supplies, and prefabricated structures for 40 Child Friendly Spaces	722,024
Training/recruitment of managers, teachers, and social workers to staff Child Friendly Spaces	753,071
Development of guidelines to build capacity and ensure quality of Child Friendly Spaces	91,674
Media campaign, advocacy, and training of 650 police officers, teachers, principals, and community leaders on child protection and child rights	206,245
Development of training manuals on foster care and protection of orphans, as well as handbooks on child adoption, with nationwide distribution of 50,000 copies	79,450
Teaching and learning materials for disabled-friendly education in special education schools	39,550
Field assessments and monitoring	48,721
Technical assistance on child protection and psychosocial support	32,885
Indirect programme support costs	118,389
HIV/AIDS	250,156
Outreach support to conduct home visits to children and families affected by HIV/AIDS	210,264
Field assessments and monitoring	23,532
Indirect programme support costs	16,360
Social Policy	177,375
Studies and policy notes on reconstruction strategy, international best practices, protection of children and women, and the social impact of the earthquake	81,539
Technical support to reconstruction planning and implementation	86,250
Indirect programme support costs	9,586
Shelter and Non-Food Items	1,172,932
850 family tents for 4,750 people	245,994
20,000 quilts and 4,100 sleeping bags for at least 24,100 people	186,512
50,000 sets of children's clothing for 25,000 boys and 25,000 girls	560,875
Emergency non-food items, including mosquito nets, pans, bowls, and spoons	118,449
Field assessments and monitoring	1,900
Indirect programme support costs	59,202
Communication	241,727
Photo and video documentation	60,099
Printing of reports and other communication materials	8,254
Technical support on communication	160,856
Indirect programme support costs	12,518
Cross-Sectoral Coordination and Operational Support	178,260
Office supplies, IT equipment, and miscellaneous expenses	12,206
Field assessments and monitoring to inspect supply delivery systems and ensure quality control	26,589
Technical support, planning, and coordination of interventions in reconstruction phase	126,188
Indirect programme support costs	13,277
TOTAL	19,985,652

ACCOUNTABILITY

Overview

UNICEF's Cooperation Programme in China operates within a comprehensive set of rules, regulations, procedures, and controls. All procedures are conducted within the framework of UNICEF's Cooperation Agreement with the Government of China, and under the coordination of the Ministry of Commerce. This provides the legal framework for UNICEF's work.

UNICEF assistance is implemented through national, provincial and local authorities. UNICEF staff monitor the activities and projects. UNICEF has a financial management tracking system that monitors all income and expenditures at the country level. This system is continually accessible by UNICEF staff in New York headquarters, who also exercise financial oversight.

Preventive and Risk Control Measures

UNICEF disburses cash to local counterparts for agreed activities. All cash disbursement is made from UNICEF-Beijing's bank account, directly to the bank account of the implementing partner. UNICEF funds are normally advanced to cover three months' needs at a time. Further advances only take place if the previous advance has been satisfactorily accounted for.

Contracts to carry out specific tasks have to undergo a rigorous screening and selection process by an in-house Contract Review Committee. Depending on the service being rendered, there may also be a competitive bidding process.

Supply and printing functions are centrally controlled and managed by the UNICEF field office. Bidding processes are carried out under transparent selection procedures. Offshore supplies are ordered and managed by the UNICEF Supply Division in Copenhagen. All supplies are monitored by UNICEF to their delivery points.

Audits

UNICEF field offices are subject to two kinds of audit: internal and external. Internal audits are conducted by UNICEF's Office of Internal



Audit, which reports directly to the UNICEF Executive Director. The Institute of Internal Auditors, which sets professional standards for US internal auditors, conducted a quality assurance review and noted that UNICEF's Office of Internal Audit meets the standards for the practice of internal auditing. Each year, the Office of Internal Audit submits an annual report on audit findings with an oral presentation to UNICEF's Executive Board, composed of representatives of United Nations member states. External audits of UNICEF field offices are conducted by a team of auditors who have been elected by the

United Nations General Assembly from among the supreme audit institutions of member states. Audit Reports of the UN Board of Auditors are public, being tabled in the UN General Assembly.

Reporting

Following this One Year Report, UNICEF will be providing reports in 2010 and 2011. 

A NOTE OF THANKS

Since its earliest days in China, UNICEF has been focusing on the central and western provinces, where development has lagged behind the rest of the country. Many UNICEF programmes were therefore operating in Sichuan and Gansu well before the earthquake struck.

In the last year, UNICEF has been working with its government partners to develop and implement its medium to long-term support to the recovery and development of the region. In the reconstruction phase, UNICEF is focusing its efforts on helping children and their families benefit from adequate psychosocial support and healthcare services, quality schooling, sustainable supplies of clean water, and well-coordinated social policy. UNICEF is committed to sharing good practices and lessons learned from its extensive experience in helping nations and communities across the world recover from natural disasters.

In line with the government's Post-Earthquake Restoration and Reconstruction Plan, UNICEF will continue assisting in earthquake recovery and rehabilitation until at least 2011. Each year, UNICEF will fine-tune its medium to long-term plans in support of earthquake-affected children through planning sessions with its partners.

UNICEF wishes to thank its donors, whose continued generosity makes possible the provision of significant assistance to the children and communities affected by the earthquake. UNICEF undertakes to use these resources effectively and efficiently so as to make a positive difference for children and women in the years to come.



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