UNICEF CHINA – SITUATION REPORT 1
YUNNAN EARTHQUAKE
3 August 2014

BACKGROUND
UN China Situation Report - Key facts on earthquake in Ludian, Yunnan Province

- On 3 August 2014, a 6.5 magnitude earthquake struck Yunnan Province in southwest China at 4:30 p.m. With a depth of 12 km, the epicenter was initially determined to be 27.1 degree north latitude and 103.3 degree east longitude, which was located 40 miles away from the center of Longtoushan Township.

- Less than 6 hours since the quake struck, the area has been shaken by 191 strong aftershocks. On 4 August, as of 8:00 am, 411 aftershocks were detected in the quake zone.

- Experts from the China Earthquake Networks declared it was felt strongly in Kunming and other neighbouring major cities, and the cell phone service was severely affected across Ludian County.


Casualties, damage and losses

- On 3 August, as of 8:00 p.m. more than 12,000 houses collapsed and over 30,000 were damaged within the quake zone. The lifelines such as transportation, electricity and communication were seriously destroyed.

- On 4 August, according to preliminary statistics as at 8:40 a.m., the death toll rose to 381 in total (302 in Ludian County, 66 in Qiaojia County, 1 in Zhaoyang County, 12 in Huize County), 1,801 people were injured, and 3 were still missing. According to the government press conference in the morning of 4 August, the earthquake affected more than 980,000 people.
National and international responses

- The National Committee for Disaster Reduction and the Ministry of Civil Affairs have declared a level-III emergency response, and the Yunnan Provincial Government has declared a level-II response.

- President Xi Jinping announced that the top priority was to save people’s lives, proper shelter should be provided for the victims, and post-disaster reconstruction should be emphasized.

- On 4 August, Premier Li Keqiang and other top leaders arrived at quake zone at 12:40 p.m. to lend support to the emergency response efforts.

- More than 4,000 soldiers were sent to affected areas, and 6 helicopters dispatched for relief operations.

- On 3 August, as of 20:40 p.m. the Department of Civil Affairs of Yunnan Province appropriated relief materials and funds, which included 4,000 emergency relief tents, 8,000 foldout beds, 5,000 cotton quilts, and 5,000 coats.

- The Red Cross in Yunnan Province has allocated 500 blankets and 500 quilts, and 100 relief tents; the Red Cross Society of China supplied 2,000 cotton quilts, 2,000 jackets and 200 relief tents. The Red Cross in Hong Kong distributed 1,000 emergency kits.

- China Foundation of Poverty Alleviation donated 2 million RMB for rescue purposes.

- Local non-government organizations have formed rescue teams, and started to search for survivors and victims.

- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a statement offering his condolences to the people affected by the earthquake, and expressed that UN stands ready to lend its assistance to efforts to respond to humanitarian needs and to mobilize any international support needed.

- The Government of China is very unlikely to issue any appeals for international assistance

SITUATION FOR CHILDREN

Ludian country, is located in the northeast of Yunnan province, in the south part of Zhaotong prefecture. It comprised of 12 town/townships. One third of the population of 400,000 people, or an estimated 140,000, are children.

Ludian is in a mountainous and densely populated area, made up predominately of ethnic minority groups. As one of the nationally designated poverty countries, located in one of the poorest blocks of the Province (Wumeng mountainous area), it is an area where many children are living in poor families. Ludian’s per capita GDP is only one third that of Yunnan province (Yunnan RMB 22,195 per person in 2012).

In addition to being a poor part of the country, Yunnan province also is home to many left behind children, whose parents are migrant workers.
UNICEF RESPONSE

As part of its work for the poorest children in China, UNICEF has been working in Yunnan Province and in particular two of the affected counties (Ludian and Zhaoyang) in health, nutrition, water and sanitation, education and child protection.

UNICEF is in contact with our partners on the ground to see what support they need to maintain and expand services. UNICEF is preparing to provide emergency health supplies and further support for Child Friendly Spaces.

CHILD SURVIVAL (MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH, WASH, NUTRITION)

Reports indicate that the city hospital is overwhelmed by cases, especially in the pediatric ward. The threat of safe water shortages and good hygiene and sanitation also potentially pose a threat to water borne disease outbreak and other health-related issues for children in the affected area.

Reports from local partners indicate that UNICEF programmes to support pregnant mothers, to provide integrated early childhood services and also to provide water, sanitation and hygiene in the town have all been seriously affected. Local partners have indicated they will be requesting extra assistance from UNICEF to maintain and accelerate ongoing programme interventions.

CHILD PROTECTION

With many children traumatized by the shock of the earthquake and also the fear of aftershocks, there is an urgent need to provide safe places for them to play, be able to get counselling and also seek out social welfare support.

Since 2011, UNICEF has been supporting child friendly spaces through its partnership with the National Working Commission on Children Women (NWCCW) in Yunnan. These safe spaces for children provide a place to play, have access to emotional care and support and also referral to social welfare services.

Reports from counterparts indicate that the 3 UNICEF supported CFS in the earthquake zone remain operational and are continuing to provide care and support to children. Local partners indicate they will be requesting extra assistance from UNICEF to maintain and accelerate ongoing programme interventions.

MAP OF CHILD FRIENDLY SPACES
Basic statistics about Yunnan Province:

- Yunnan Province is located in the southwest China and shares land boarders with Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam. Large areas of Yunnan are featured as “remote, poor, ethnic minority and mountainous”.

- Yunnan Province is composed of 16 prefecture level and 129 county level units. 88 counties are nationally designated poverty counties, of which 73 are located in “poverty blocks”. In Yunnan, 20 poverty counties are piloting government’s Ying Yang Bao (nutrition supplement) programme (national pilot in 300 poverty counties). By province, Yunnan has the largest number of poverty counties in China (total 832 counties).

- With a total population of 46.6 million, Yunnan Province has a large ethnic minority population with one-third belonging to ethnic minority groups (compared to 8% nationally).

- Child population in Yunnan Province is 12 million and accounts for 26% of the total population, 5 percentage points higher than the national average. Yunnan has 2 million left-behind and 1 million migrant children.

- Yunnan lags behind as measured by many social and economic indicators. Its per capita GDP is 60% of the national average, and ranked third from the last in all 31 mainland provinces. Urbanization process is relatively slow with 39% of the population urban compared to 53% nationally. Life expectancy is 7 years less than the national average.