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The Response to the Sichuan Earthquake: 2008–2010

In May 2008, the most devastating natural disaster in China in decades struck the country’s southwestern Sichuan Province. The earthquake affected the lives of millions of people, as 88,000 people were killed, 400,000 were injured and 5 million were left homeless.

The Sichuan earthquake triggered, for the first time in recent history, a request by the Government of China for international assistance. In the first year of the emergency response, UNICEF provided support in the form of shelter and non-food items, medical equipment and nutrition supplements, pre-fabricated classrooms and learning materials, water and sanitation facilities, the establishment of Child Friendly Spaces, extensive training and capacity-building, and policy recommendations in the development of the government reconstruction plan. In the second year of the emergency response, UNICEF built on the results achieved in the first year, helping children and their families benefit from adequate psychosocial support and health care services, quality schooling, sustainable supplies of clean water, and well-coordinated policy.

In the two years since the earthquake, reconstruction in the earthquake zone has proceeded at a remarkably swift rate. However, because of the magnitude of the earthquake and the millions affected by the emergency, even a small percent of earthquake survivors not reached in the ongoing restoration and reconstruction phase translates into a large absolute number of people. UNICEF is therefore working with counterparts to ensure that all earthquake-affected children and women, including those in the most remote and isolated communities of the earthquake zone, benefit from rebuilt social services that are of a higher standard than those that existed before the earthquake.

Throughout the earthquake response, UNICEF has worked with its counterparts to support the Government of China’s overall restoration and reconstruction plan. UNICEF has supported the government in “Building Back Better,” building on and improving existing programmes for children, identifying areas hitherto lacking attention and supporting the establishment of new public service delivery systems that reach the poorest.
A Historical Perspective
The Sichuan earthquake is not the first emergency in China to which UNICEF has responded. Indeed, over the three decades that it has worked in China, UNICEF has supported a number of emergency responses, including relief and rehabilitation efforts in the aftermath of the 1988 Lancang earthquake; severe floods in eastern and central China in 1991; the 1996 Lijiang earthquake; the 2007 Pu’er earthquake; and severe snowstorms in southern and central China in 2008.

However, among all the emergencies to which UNICEF has responded in China, the Sichuan earthquake stands out, not only in terms of the magnitude of the disaster and its impact on communities, but also in terms of the size of the UNICEF response, the number of children and women reached and the number of programmatic innovations introduced.

The 2010 Qinghai Earthquake
Over the past two years, UNICEF’s response in the recovery and reconstruction phases of the Sichuan earthquake has led to a number of best practices and lessons learned. Most recently, these best practices and lessons learned were applied to the Yushu earthquake, which struck Qinghai Province on 14 April 2010.

Drawing upon its experience in procuring classroom tents for the Sichuan earthquake zone, UNICEF was able to rapidly respond to the education needs of children in Yushu. Within days after the earthquake, children in Qinghai were back in school in UNICEF classroom tents, with minimal disruption to schooling.

UNICEF has also drawn upon its support to a pilot micronutrient intervention in the Sichuan earthquake zone to respond to nutrition needs in the Qinghai earthquake zone, where it is now providing micronutrient sachets to 1,800 infants and young children.

In the aftermath of the Sichuan earthquake, UNICEF introduced Child Friendly Spaces to China for the first time. Today, UNICEF is drawing upon that experience and working with counterparts to set up Child Friendly Spaces in the Qinghai earthquake zone and provide children in Yushu with psychosocial support and community-based services.

What Lies Ahead
As part of its ongoing support to “Building Back Better” in the Sichuan earthquake zone, UNICEF continues to work to increase knowledge and awareness of disaster risk reduction among children and communities. Such measures will help to keep children and communities safer in future emergencies. While UNICEF continues to prioritize disaster risk reduction to protect children and women before emergencies and mitigate risks during emergencies, UNICEF also recognizes that not all emergencies are predictable and preventable.

Strengthened by the experiences gained from the Sichuan earthquake response, UNICEF stands ready to respond quickly and effectively in future emergencies and protect the rights and wellbeing of the most vulnerable children and women in China.
INTRODUCTION

Two years ago, on 12 May 2008, a massive earthquake measuring 8.0 on the Richter scale struck Sichuan Province’s Wenchuan County. The earthquake left 88,000 people dead or missing and nearly 400,000 injured. The earthquake damaged or destroyed millions of homes, leaving five million people homeless. The earthquake also caused extensive damage to basic infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, roads and water systems.

On 30 August 2008, a second earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale struck Sichuan and Yunnan Provinces, leaving dozens dead and hundreds injured. This earthquake struck near the same fault line as the Wenchuan earthquake, but was located further south, with its epicentre in southernmost Sichuan’s Panzhihua City.

Both earthquakes hit children especially hard. The Wenchuan earthquake, which damaged or destroyed more than 12,000 schools in Sichuan and 6,500 schools in Gansu, struck during the early afternoon when effectively every school-aged child was in a classroom. Meanwhile, the Panzhihua earthquake struck two days before the start of the school year, keeping students in the new earthquake zone from returning to school as planned.

Two years after the Wenchuan earthquake, survivors have made remarkable progress in rebuilding their lives and communities. In the coming months, more significant developments are expected to take place. All rural residents whose homes were damaged or destroyed in the earthquake are expected to move into new homes later this year, by October 2010.

Recovery and reconstruction programmes in the earthquake zone are to continue for another year. Throughout this period of time, UNICEF will continue to work with counterparts to address the needs of earthquake-affected children and women.
## UNICEF Assistance in Sichuan Earthquake Zone: Target Areas

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**KEY**: Psy & CP: Psychosocial Support & Child Protection; Edu: Education
MAPS

Earthquake-Affected Provinces

Severely-Affected Regions in Sichuan and Gansu
KEY PRINCIPLES

In the two years since the earthquake struck, UNICEF has been working with counterparts to:

1. **Support the goals outlined in the Government of China’s Overall Plan for Post-Wenchuan Earthquake Restoration and Reconstruction, including:**
   - Enhance awareness of disaster prevention and mitigation
   - Restore the basic medical and public health service systems of cities, counties and villages
   - Guarantee the safety of drinking water and restore and reconstruct water supply pipeline networks to meet long-term needs
   - Restore and reconstruct primary and secondary schools with high quality
   - Enhance support to the training of primary and secondary school teachers, including teachers of special education schools
   - Support education on psychological guidance in primary and secondary schools
   - Organize and train professional medical workers, social workers and volunteers serving in communities to provide psychological guidance
   - Create a social atmosphere of caring for and offering help to orphans, the elderly, the handicapped and other vulnerable populations

2. **“Build Back Better” for children and women.** Specifically, UNICEF is helping to:
   - Build on and improve existing programmes for children
   - Identify areas hitherto lacking attention
   - Support the establishment of new public service delivery systems that reach the poorest
   - Provide technical assistance on the financing of basic social services

UNICEF’s support to recovery efforts will continue up to 2011, in line with the government’s three-year Restoration and Reconstruction Plan.
A child plays at a Child Friendly Space, one of 40 that UNICEF and the National Working Committee on Children and Women have set up in the earthquake zone.
HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Overview

The earthquake struck areas that are predominantly poor, where the health and nutrition conditions of children and women were below national averages even before the emergency. UNICEF-supported surveys in 2006 found that in the poorest rural areas of Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi Provinces, less than 60% of surveyed mothers received adequate antenatal care, nearly 50% of babies were delivered outside of a hospital setting, and less than 40% of infants were exclusively breastfed during the first six months of life. The survey also found that vaccination coverage in the earthquake-affected areas was far below national averages, with only 32–55% of surveyed children having received all necessary vaccines.

A UNICEF-supported nutrition survey in Sichuan Province’s Beichuan and Lixian Counties, completed in August 2008, found that the prevalence of anaemia among children aged 6-24 months was 63%, nearly double the national average in rural areas. The survey also found that the prevalence of stunting among infants and young children was 13.9% and the prevalence of underweight was 9.1%. The survey underscored the vulnerable pre-existing nutritional status of the population and its probable deterioration after the earthquake.

During the reconstruction phase, the Government of China has prioritized the reconstruction of hospitals and other public service facilities. To date, 60% of the health facilities to be rebuilt at prefecture, county, township and village levels have been completed in Sichuan and Gansu Provinces, and 76% have been completed in Shaanxi Province. Throughout the emergency response, UNICEF has worked with the Ministry of Health and the Centre for Disease Control to ensure that the newly constructed health facilities in the earthquake zone are matched by high-quality health and nutrition services for children and women in the earthquake-affected counties.

Restoring and Improving MCH Services

Within days after the earthquake, UNICEF delivered medical equipment and supplies to meet the routine and emergency health needs of some 1.4 million people in Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi Provinces. These supplies, which went to temporary clinics set up to replace collapsed or damaged health facilities and to
health facilities where survivors were referred for care previously available locally, played a critical role in re-establishing maternal and child health services in the earthquake zone.

In the medium-term response to the earthquake, UNICEF has worked with the Ministry of Health to support the reestablishment and recovery of maternal and child health (MCH) services in 14 county and 318 township-level health facilities, and to improve uptake of MCH services and household practices among pregnant women and caregivers. UNICEF provided essential medical equipment to 90% of prefecture, county and township-level hospitals in the 14 counties (shown in the table on page six of this report), benefiting up to 240,000 under-five children.

In addition to the hardware supplies, UNICEF supported training on basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care, reaching 90% of county and 95% of township MCH workers. Additionally, all village doctors were trained on child growth monitoring. MCH services in project areas were standardized using national guidelines, training materials and tools developed by UNICEF’s ongoing Mother-Baby Package project. As a result, 260,000 under-five children and 100,000 pregnant women in the earthquake zone benefited from better access to and quality of MCH services.

Recovering Immunization Services
The earthquake caused extensive damage to clinics and hospitals, destroying parts of the cold chain system and resulting in the destruction or loss of paper immunization records. In the two years since the earthquake, UNICEF has supported the Ministry of Health and the China Centre for Disease Control in the recovery of immunization services and the successful establishment of a Child Immunization Registry Information System (CIRIS) in 842 township clinics in 36 counties, covering 20 counties in Sichuan Province, 8 counties in Gansu Province and 8 counties in Shaanxi Province.

The improved recording system, which involves use of computer technology, bar-coding of parent-held information records, and electronic storage of information, allows public health authorities to continuously monitor immunization coverage and adequately plan immunization campaigns. With accurate information readily available to both health personnel and families, the 770,000
children aged 0–6 covered by CIRIS are less likely to miss immunizations and both patient follow-up and routine immunization campaigns can be better targeted and more effective. As a result of these interventions, routine immunization in emergency-affected areas, which had decreased an estimated 20–70% in the two months after the earthquake, is now around 90% in UNICEF-supported areas.

In addition to providing the hardware components of the immunization registry system, UNICEF has supported the development of guidelines and the training of health staff on its use and management. UNICEF has supported the training of 40 key staff at the provincial, prefectural and county levels, who have since gone on to train 2,300 county and township-level immunization staff on vaccine administration, service management and health education and communication. Health staff at all levels have also been trained on the updated national immunization schedule and the organization of immunization campaigns.

Piloting Nutrition Interventions

In the months after the earthquake, UNICEF supported the monitoring and evaluation of a pilot micronutrient intervention in two earthquake-affected counties in Sichuan. The intervention led to a dramatic decrease in the rate of anaemia among children aged 6–24 months from 63% to 29%. The evidence-based demonstration of the benefit of supplements in addressing micronutrient supplements facilitated the Ministry of Health’s approval of standards for micronutrient-fortified complementary food supplements for infants and young children, effective March 2009.

With the procurement of a locally produced, fortified complementary food supplement approved by the Ministry of Health and by UNICEF’s Supply Division after appropriate inspection in 2009, UNICEF is now expanding the micronutrient intervention to eight earthquake-affected counties: five counties in Sichuan, two counties in Shaanxi and one county in Gansu, covering 23,000 young children. In addition to providing the daily complementary food supplements, UNICEF is working with health authorities and parents and caregivers to increase their knowledge and skills on infant and young child nutrition.

Moving Forward

In the coming year, UNICEF will work with counterparts to support improvements in the quality of MCH services in 354 medical institutions in the earthquake zone, as well as initiatives to ensure that 80% of families in project areas have access to a package of cost-effective and high-impact essential MCH services. UNICEF will continue to strengthen the capacity of county and township hospitals through short-term and long-term training. Selected MCH staff at county and township level will be seconded to higher-level teaching hospitals for advanced clinical study to improve their capacity and skills in basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care. UNICEF will also further its work to improve the uptake of services and quality of household practices by continuing to support communication activities in Sichuan. Community education will continue to be conducted to promote basic health
knowledge and skills in 100 sites for displaced persons in 10 counties. UNICEF will continue to support the development and implementation of national policy, notably emergency relief guidelines for child health, as well as death audit guidelines to improve quality of care in quake-hit areas. Through these activities, the health and nutrition conditions of children and women should further improve.

In EPI, UNICEF will continue to build on the support provided in the first phase of the relief period. Now that the hardware components of the immunization system are in place, work in the next stage of the recovery phase will focus on building capacity in management and service delivery and increasing awareness among parents and caregivers to ensure sustainability. UNICEF will support the training of local health staff on national immunization guidelines and the use of the Child Immunization Registry Information System, including data input, reporting and analysis.

UNICEF will support training of township and village doctors to conduct outreach to identify unvaccinated children, provide them with vaccinations and monitor their health status. UNICEF will also continue to raise community awareness, especially among vulnerable groups in which children are not routinely vaccinated or have incomplete vaccination histories.
Welcoming New Life in the Earthquake Zone

Anxian County, Sichuan Province, 13 May 2009 – Liu Xingjie, a healthy 2.9 kilogram boy, entered the world exactly one day after the one-year anniversary of the May 2008 Sichuan earthquake.

As his 42-year-old mother Gou Xingbi held him, she whispered to her husband, “Our family is complete again!” Just one year ago, the couple had lost their only child in the earthquake. “We were devastated,” said Gou Xingbi. “We decided to have another child, not to replace our son, but because we have so much love to give.”

In the two years since the earthquake, more than 2,000 women who lost their children in the earthquake have safely given birth again. For these women, all medical expenses, from prenatal care to hospital delivery to postnatal visits, are being covered by the government.

After learning that she was pregnant, Gou Xingbi went to Anxian Maternal and Child Health Hospital to receive antenatal checkups. She learned that because of her age, she was classified as a high-risk case. The hospital provided her with antenatal screening, checkups and systematic management and follow-up. The hospital also provided psychological counselling for her and her husband.

The birth of Liu Xingjie was cause for celebration, not only for Gou Xingbi and her husband, but also the staff of Anxian MCH Hospital, who congratulated the couple and presented them with 200 RMB and complimentary products for the mother and baby to express their blessings.

“The one-year anniversary was a solemn occasion, as we remembered all those lost in the earthquake. But as we watched Gou Xingbi give birth to a healthy child the next day, we realized that while we must continue to honour the memory of those lost, we must also work to protect the lives of the living,” said Dr. Wang Ping, the director of the Anxian MCH Hospital.

Anxian MCH Hospital is one of the 14 county-level hospitals in the earthquake zone in which UNICEF is supporting safe motherhood by providing emergency health kits and medical equipment and supporting training for health staff.
In June 2009, UNICEF supported the first-ever training workshop on communication for behavioural impact (COMBI) for provincial and county maternal and child health workers in China. Held in Chengdu, Sichuan, the workshop brought together 41 participants from the earthquake zone to develop and implement a COMBI plan.

In the months since they received the training, local health staff in 10 of the most severely-affected counties in the earthquake zone have conducted home checkups for children living in remote areas, and health promoters have undertaken home visits to provide face-to-face communication with new and expectant mothers on exclusive breastfeeding and infant and young child nutrition.

According to Dr. Guo Sufang, UNICEF Maternal and Child Health Specialist, “The adoption of the COMBI approach by UNICEF and the Ministry of Health truly represents a revolution in the way health communication and education is conducted. The 17,500 households that have been reached to date by COMBI represent nearly 75% of the 24,000 target households with infants suffering from inappropriate infant nutrition practices.”

As a result of the COMBI intervention, between August 2009 and March 2010, the rate of exclusive breastfeeding for six months increased dramatically in project areas, from 18% to 51%. Antenatal care visits to health facilities also increased, with the proportion of pregnant women seeking quality antenatal care rising from 43% in 2008 to 77% in 2009. A number of other health-related behaviour indicators, such as use of sanitary latrines and timely introduction of appropriate complementary foods, also increased dramatically.

“The long-term use of COMBI promises to deliver many more significant results. In the future, UNICEF plans on expanding the COMBI approach from the earthquake zone to other areas of the country where exclusive breastfeeding and other key health-related behavioural indicators lag behind,” said Dr. Guo Sufang.
A doctor in Shifang shows a new mother how to breastfeed. The mother has been taught the importance of exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life.
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Overview

The 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.

Throughout the emergency response, UNICEF has promoted a three-in-one 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.

A Three-in-One Approach

Immediately after the earthquake, UNICEF and its counterparts conducted field assessments to determine the water, sanitation and hygiene needs of the earthquake-affected population. On the basis of those assessments, UNICEF provided 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.

Since then, UNICEF has supported the construction of small-scale but sustainable WASH facilities in the most needy communities, including 76 safe water supply systems; 274 latrines in schools, health clinics and model households; and 14 community drainage and solid waste management systems in 123 villages in 9 counties in Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi Provinces. In total, 135,000 people (including 49,500 schoolchildren) are benefiting from these sustainable facilities.

Within each of these communities, UNICEF and local government counterparts have utilized a participatory approach to involve local residents in planning and construction and to ensure locally appropriate assistance. UNICEF has supported the reorganization and strengthening of rural water supply associations. Each rural water supply association is a participatory
management mechanism responsible for establishing water usage policy, negotiating and signing a contract with the water supply company, and collecting water fees from villagers. These associations have proven to be useful and effective mechanisms in the management of water resources and water systems, contributing to improved water usage efficiency, convenient water fee collection and reduced pressure on women and children during irrigation season. The rural water supply associations that have been set up to manage the new water systems in the earthquake zone have since been adopted by the Government of China and will subsequently be broadly rolled out throughout rural China.

To ensure the sustainability of the newly constructed facilities, and to promote hygiene knowledge and technical capacity, UNICEF has held trainings for health workers from the Patriotic Health Campaign Committee Office and water authority staff from the Ministry of Water Resources. To date, nearly 5,000 technical staff have been trained on WASH facility management and promotion of good hygiene practices. UNICEF also launched a massive hygiene campaign and peer education in schools and communities, reaching an estimated 3 million people.

Moving Forward
In the coming months, construction of the remaining water and sanitation facilities will be completed with high quality and in accordance with national standards. Projects currently in progress include the construction of water supply systems in 10 schools and villages, latrines in 27 schools and 950 households and 5 waste disposal systems. WASH technical training, health education and hygiene campaigns will continue to be conducted at province, county and village level, and international best practices on WASH will be introduced and shared within the three project provinces. The Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation approach will continue to be promoted in the project provinces.
Now that a UNICEF-supported sanitary latrine (opposite page) has been constructed at his school, 12-year-old Zhipeng and his classmates no longer have to use an unsanitary latrine (inset, far left) or empty excreta tanks at the end of the school day.
In Gansu Province’s earthquake-affected Xihe County, UNICEF is supporting the construction of sanitary latrines in 39 schools.

Gutang Primary School is one of the project schools in Xihe County. Prior to the completion of the school latrine in September 2009, students here had to use an unsafe, unsanitary latrine. “The younger students were scared to use the old latrine because the squat seat was too wide for them and it would get really slippery on rainy days,” said 12-year-old Zhipeng, a sixth-grader.

Meanwhile, older students like Zhipeng were tasked with emptying and cleaning the excreta tank every day after school. According to Zhipeng, “Sometimes, the road would be very muddy, and we’d have to be extra careful with the tank, or else the excreta would splash on to our clothes.”

The completion of the latrine was exciting news for 8-year-old student Yuanyuan, a second-grader. “With the new school latrine, I don’t need to worry about falling down again or getting wet when it rains. And there are even sinks where we can wash our hands!” she said.

The new school latrine provides a more sanitary environment, as it is connected to the water system and flushes on its own. For older students like Zhipeng, the newly constructed latrine also means that instead of having to empty the excreta tank after school, he can think about running home to play with his friends or start his homework.
In addition to supporting the construction and rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities in Shaanxi Province’s earthquake-affected Lueyang County, UNICEF has worked to increase children’s awareness of hygiene as part of the 3-in-1 approach to water, sanitation and hygiene.
Building Back Better in Shaanxi Province

“The earthquake damaged 1,284 water supply systems in our province,” said Du Xiaozhou.

The province to which Du Xiaozhou refers is not Sichuan Province, but Shaanxi Province, where he serves as the Water Supply Division Chief in the Provincial Bureau of Water Resources.

In the two years since the earthquake, UNICEF has supported the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities and worked to increase hygiene knowledge and awareness throughout the earthquake zone, including in Shaanxi Province, where the earthquake caused extensive damage, but children and women have received much less attention and assistance than in Sichuan.

Shaanxi Province’s southwestern Hanzhong Prefecture, which borders Sichuan Province, was the most seriously affected by the earthquake. UNICEF has responded by supporting the construction of 34 community water supply systems and 20 school latrines in the prefecture’s severely-affected Lueyang and Nanzheng Counties.

All construction in the two project counties was completed by the end of 2009, benefiting 64,177 people, including 25,017 students and teachers.
Overview
The Sichuan 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.

UNICEF found that compared to basic physical needs such as food, water, shelter and health care, there was less expertise in addressing the earthquake’s psychosocial impact on children and women. Failure to appropriately address the psychological and social needs of earthquake-affected children and communities can have long-term consequences on their capacity to recover. Throughout the reconstruction phase, certain groups, such as orphaned children, parents who lost children in collapsed schools, the injured, the disabled and the elderly are particularly affected.

A Safe and Stimulating Environment for Children
Field missions by UNICEF and counterparts in the days following the earthquake found an urgent need for professional psychosocial support and community-based protection services for children affected by the earthquake. In response, UNICEF and the National Working Committee on Children and Women (NWCCW) established 40 Child Friendly Spaces.

The first Child Friendly Spaces were set up in July 2008 and equipped with toys, library books, sports equipment, furniture and other supplies. Since then, UNICEF and NWCCW have focused on increasing coverage, further enhancing quality of service and developing a strategy for the sustainable development of the Child Friendly Spaces.

In the two years since the earthquake, the Child Friendly Spaces have delivered a package of community-based services, including psychosocial
support, social work and structured play and recreation activities to support the long-term recovery and well-being of earthquake-affected children and women. To date, over 100,000 children and 5,000 parents have received services through the Child Friendly Spaces.

**Support to Social Work Development**

Each Child Friendly Space is staffed by four core professionals: a manager, a psychologist/social worker, an educator/mentor, and a day-care/pre-school teacher. Through a series of capacity-building activities for the staff of the Child Friendly Spaces and the provision of on-site technical support from expert teams, UNICEF is helping to create a safe and stimulating environment for children in the earthquake zone, while also contributing to the development of a social work profession.

In December 2009, UNICEF and the Ministry of Civil Affairs jointly hosted the National Seminar on Social Work in Emergencies in Chengdu, the first national-level seminar to focus specifically on social work for children in the relief and reconstruction phases of the earthquake emergency. At the seminar, attended by 200 national and local-level civil affairs officials and social work experts, participants reviewed the ongoing role of social workers in the earthquake response.

Following the national seminar, UNICEF supported workshops for 40 local civil affairs
officials overseeing emergency relief and reconstruction and 60 social workers from earthquake-affected areas in Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi Provinces. Together, these seminars and workshops served to acknowledge the importance of social work in emergencies and further contribute to its development by increasing the service ability of social workers. A training manual on Social Work in Emergencies is now being finalized, drawing on the experiences of the Sichuan earthquake. Once completed, the manual will serve as a seminal reference in future emergencies.

**Child Protection System Building**

In the two years since the earthquake, UNICEF has been working with the All-China Women’s Federation to build a community-based child protection coordination mechanism in the earthquake zone. This coordination mechanism, which is linked to both the UNICEF-supported Child Friendly Spaces and the Public Security Bureau, features multi-departmental and multi-sectoral cooperation.

Additionally, UNICEF and the Sichuan Working Committee on Children and Women are currently working with the Sichuan Public Security Bureau to develop a registration system for children in the 40 communities with Child Friendly Spaces. The system collects basic information on earthquake-affected children, as well as data and information relating to risk factors, and provides critical information for policy analysis and recommendations on child protection decisions and actions.

UNICEF is working with the Sichuan Working Committee on Children and Women to provide family education to thousands of parents in the 40 communities where the Child Friendly Spaces operate. UNICEF has also supported a series of trainings for 200 teachers in secondary schools in the 10 counties in the earthquake zone with Child Friendly Spaces to increase the awareness and capacity of schoolteachers on prevention of and response to violence against children. Along with workshops, a training manual on prevention of
violence through life skills has been developed. As a result of these interventions, the awareness and capacity of parents and community members on child protection, in particular protection of children from violence, has increased.

**Protection of Vulnerable Children**

Media attention to the plight of the thousands of children thought to have been orphaned in the days immediately after the earthquake prompted more than 20,000 families to express interest in adoption. In response, 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.

Since then, the Ministry of Civil Affairs has confirmed 634 children were orphaned in the earthquake. The majority of children (78%) have been placed with extended family members under guardianship/kinship arrangements. UNICEF has helped to develop training manuals, guidelines and standards to ensure and improve the quality of care provided by these adoptive or foster families, who have typically never received formal training. Through workshops, caregivers’ awareness of children’s rights and capacity to provide rights-based care for children orphaned by the earthquake have been enhanced.

UNICEF has supported the development and use of a tracking system to monitor the wellbeing of orphaned children. The tracking system has helped the Ministry of Civil Affairs, with support from UNICEF, conduct research on the situation of children orphaned by the earthquake and develop policy and practice recommendations.

UNICEF is also working with the China Disabled Persons’ Federation to support eight special education schools in Sichuan Province. These eight schools, which provide services to some 600 children with visual, auditory and intellectual disabilities, were all severely affected by the earthquake, but received much less attention in the reconstruction phase than mainstream schools. In response, UNICEF provided teaching and learning materials, Sports Kits, and televisions and computers with disabled-friendly technologies. UNICEF has also helped to train the 120 teachers and administrators in these schools on the rights of children with disabilities, and the provision of psychosocial support and life skills education. Staff are now better able to deliver rights-based educational and psychological support to children with disabilities in the earthquake zone.

Working with the Ministry of Civil Affairs and other partners, UNICEF is helping to support community-based services for children with disabilities and share international best practices.

**Moving Forward**

In the coming year, UNICEF will continue to work with counterparts to strengthen the meaningful participation of children in the development and service delivery of the 40 UNICEF-supported
Child Friendly Spaces. UNICEF will work with the staff of the Child Friendly Spaces so that inputs from children guide the development of activities, and will also identify and establish mentoring opportunities for older children.

UNICEF will also continue to support on-the-job professional supervision and refresher training to the staff and volunteers working in the Child Friendly Spaces, to maintain a high quality of service and to ensure that the Child Friendly Spaces adapt to the evolving needs of the community. One priority area is the integration of early childhood development and education, social work and psychological support services.

Throughout, UNICEF will ensure that there is monitoring and quality control in the provision of services.

UNICEF will also continue to work with the Ministry of Civil Affairs to develop emergency-related policies and mechanisms; strengthen the capacity of caregivers, Civil Affairs authorities and Social Welfare/Child Welfare Institutes; and further develop the tracking and support system for children orphaned by the earthquake. UNICEF will continue to work to substantially enhance the quality of care and support provided to orphaned and other vulnerable children in the earthquake zone.
Shortly after the Wenchuan earthquake struck, UNICEF and the National Working Committee on Children and Women set up 34 Child Friendly Spaces in the earthquake zone. When, a few weeks later, the Panzhihua earthquake struck in August 2008, severely affecting the lives of women and children in southern Sichuan’s Panzhihua City, UNICEF and its counterparts quickly decided to set up an additional 6 Child Friendly Spaces in the new earthquake zone.

Today, the 6 Child Friendly Spaces in the Panzhihua earthquake zone continue to deliver services and organize activities to support children’s psychosocial recovery, develop their creativity and promote community and friendship.

At the Child Friendly Space in Dalongtan Township, the children recently staged a drama entitled “Maomao’s World.” Using a mat as a stage and locally available materials as props, the children performed under the shade of a large tree that serves as a gathering place for key community events.

The play, which centres around a little girl named Maomao and her friends, featured vivid performances by the boys and girls of the Child Friendly Space. At the end of the play, the children reminded their audience of the importance of friendship and how all of us—children and adults alike—need to make efforts to nurture and maintain friendships.
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 damaged or 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.

In the aftermath of the earthquake, the Government of China introduced a comprehensive school reconstruction plan. Of the 4,380 primary and middle schools to be constructed in Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi Provinces, fully 75% have been completed as of the two year anniversary of the earthquake.

Restoring Access to Education
The earthquake damaged one out of every seven school 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 assessments, UNICEF provided 1,200 classroom tents, 60,000 Student Kits and 2,000 Teacher Kits, helping 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 as in Sichuan. UNICEF responded by providing the 10,000 children of these schools with prefabricated classroom units.

Joyful and Interactive Schooling

In the two years since the earthquake, UNICEF has worked with the Ministry of Education to implement the “Build Back Better” initiative in five seriously affected counties in Sichuan Province and in Xihe County, Gansu Province. In each of these six counties, UNICEF and its counterparts introduced an integrated series of interventions to cover all children in the 0–12 age range, helping 0–6 year olds access quality Early Childhood Development services and 6–12 year olds benefit from a joyful and interactive schooling environment with skilled teachers and supportive parents.

UNICEF has helped to improve early childhood care for 25,000 children aged 0–3 by providing communities with growth monitoring equipment and supporting outreach to parents. UNICEF also helped to improve the quality of early childhood education for 15,000 children aged 4–6 by providing 55 kindergartens and 70 preschools in Sichuan Province with furniture, equipment and teaching and learning materials. In Gansu Province’s Xihe County, UNICEF has provided teaching and learning materials to preschools in 40 communities. These supplies, and subsequent teacher trainings, are helping children to access culturally sensitive and cognitively rich early childhood education.

In the aftermath of the earthquake, UNICEF has also worked to improve the quality of primary education in 200 project schools in Sichuan and Gansu Provinces, introducing a distance education strategy to train 5,000 teachers and support them in developing classroom implementation plans. In addition to support to the quality of classroom teaching and learning, teacher training on psychosocial intervention has continued to receive special attention.
Two innovative interventions recently launched include the construction of school playgrounds in 10 schools of Xihe County and the introduction of mobile education training and resource units in four counties of Sichuan and Gansu. The latter intervention will have a significant impact in the quality of teaching and learning through provision of onsite support to teachers in the most remote schools of the earthquake zone.

School Safety: A Top Priority

In the aftermath of the Sichuan earthquake, UNICEF has worked with counterparts to make school safety and safety awareness among students and teachers a top priority.

UNICEF has supported a series of national-level interventions that have resulted in nationwide policies, guidelines and increased capacity to improve school safety. In October 2008, UNICEF supported a delegation from the Ministry of Education to go 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.

Following this, the Ministry of Education identified two priorities for school reconstruction: school construction management, and technical knowledge and experience in school building retrofitting. To support these priorities, UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Education on the development of National Management Guidelines on Safe School Construction, which include elements on safety in school construction, routine maintenance of facilities, and equipping schools to make them disaster resistant. The guidelines were developed so that non-technical staff in charge of school construction would have an understanding of and reference materials on how to reduce future risk and make schools safe places.

UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Education in data collection and the development of a nationwide database on the safety status of school buildings. The database will serve as a significant reference to aid decision-making in the allocation of funds for school retrofitting and construction, and therefore has long-term implications for the future safety of schools and children.

In August 2009, UNICEF supported the development and rollout of an online training programme on school safety management for teachers and principals. The one-week course, which featured virtual classrooms led by skilled facilitators, trained 22,000 teachers and principals throughout the earthquake zone and other disaster-prone areas.

Since the training, UNICEF has continued to support the development of disaster preparedness, emergency response and school safety education within the national school curriculum. UNICEF-supported modules on school safety education were made available on the Ministry of Education’s website in autumn 2009, and all schools in the country were instructed to download the material for student learning. Classroom instruction has been complemented with school safety mappings, evacuation drills and other exercises that will help to keep children safer.
Moving Forward

In the coming year, UNICEF will continue to support quality learning for children aged 0–12 in the earthquake zone. UNICEF will work with counterparts to improve Early Childhood Development and Education for 47,000 children aged 0–6 years in the most severely affected areas of the earthquake zone. In communities with formal kindergartens and/or preschools, UNICEF will improve the quality of institution-based school readiness programmes. In communities without formal Early Childhood Education programmes, UNICEF will support school readiness programmes featuring parent-to-child methods for 5–6 year olds. In this way, all children will benefit from a school readiness curriculum, whether through a school or community-based programme.

UNICEF will also continue to support quality primary school education for children in the earthquake zone. A distance education strategy featuring a “whole school” training strategy will be introduced in 200 project schools in Sichuan and Gansu to train 5,000 primary school teachers on developing and implementing classroom plans to create active, interactive and joyful learning.

UNICEF will continue to support children’s access to psychosocial support to help them recover from the ongoing psychological and emotional impact of the emergency. Teachers and principals in Sichuan’s Beichuan, Qingchuan and Shifang Counties are being trained to recognize signs of distress or impaired daily functioning among their students and provide appropriate psychosocial support. By May 2011, all 60,000 children aged 6–12 in the three project counties will benefit from regular access to psychosocial support.

UNICEF will also continue to work with counterparts to support knowledge exchange on school reconstruction and safety education and management. UNICEF will also promote school-based safety education for children and teachers and work to integrate it into the school curriculum.
The start of a new school year is always a mix of anxiety and excitement for students. In Sichuan Province, however, September 2009 was an especially emotional time, as many children entered for the first time new school buildings constructed in the aftermath of the May 2008 Sichuan earthquake.

Happily for the students in the earthquake zone, the new school year got off to a safe start. During the summer recess in August 2009, UNICEF and the Ministry of Education conducted a series of workshops to train teachers and principals on how to reduce risk and protect students in emergencies. In total, 21,000 teachers and principals in 11 provinces in western China, including Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi, the provinces most severely affected by the earthquake, were trained.

The workshops contained modules on school safety regulations, emergency preparedness and response, and safety education and skills. UNICEF supported the development of the modules by drawing upon international best practices and lessons learned from past emergencies. UNICEF also supported monitoring and implementation of the training, which was conducted via distance education.

The use of a distance training method allowed UNICEF and the Ministry of Education to reach a much greater number of teachers and principals than would otherwise be possible.

According to one teacher from earthquake-affected Shaanxi Province, “This was my first time attending an online training workshop. I appreciated that it was flexible and that I could learn at my own pace. I am now better prepared for and better able to respond to emergencies.”

Another teacher said, “This training really emphasized that school safety is a top educational priority. So long as schools are safe, teachers can be safe and students can be safe. Only in a safe environment can schools carry on quality education without any barriers.”

In addition to supporting the summer training, UNICEF helped to set up an interactive website for teachers to offer feedback and share experiences. The website, launched during the training, has since continued to serve as a platform for teachers in China to exchange ideas on school safety management and education. Many participants have posted their schools’ emergency preparedness plans online, either to serve as a reference for other schools or to receive feedback.

One principal from Sichuan Province who posted on the website wrote, “We will be emphasizing emergency preparedness skills and knowledge this school year. We are making safety education class mandatory, because we want students to understand the role that they play in contributing to school safety.”
Beichuan County, Sichuan Province – When the earthquake struck two years ago, Li Chenghou was just 10 months old. The earthquake took the lives of both of his parents, leaving the young boy one of the children orphaned by the earthquake.

Today, Li Chenghou, about to turn three years old, lives with his grandparents in the Yongxin settlement area, where 1,000 people displaced by the earthquake continue to live in a cluster of prefabricated housing. In the two years since the earthquake, the Yongxin settlement area has become a lively community of residential units, shops and, since December 2009, a kindergarten.
Two years ago, Qushan Township Kindergarten was one of three public kindergartens in Beichuan County. The earthquake collapsed the building in which Qushan Township Kindergarten was housed, and the kindergarten was disbanded for a year and a half. “The earthquake was devastating. So many of our teachers lost their families,” said Liu Xia, the principal of the kindergarten. Liu Xia herself lost both her parents and her young son during the earthquake.

In December 2009, Liu Xia made the decision to reopen Qushan Township Kindergarten, as a community early childhood development centre servicing the children living in the Yongxin settlement area. “We decided to reopen the kindergarten here, because we felt that the children living in this prefabricated district really needed us. After the disaster, many adults have become busier than ever, working to find opportunities to earn money and rebuild their families. They don’t have enough time to take care of their children,” said Liu Xia.

In its current incarnation, Qushan Township Kindergarten is a two-room kindergarten housed in a prefabricated unit, with brightly coloured artwork inside and brightly coloured playground equipment outside. Chenghou’s grandparents enrolled him in the kindergarten as soon as they found out that it had opened. According to Chenghou’s grandparents, “We were so happy when we found out that a kindergarten had opened here. Now, Chenghou gets to play with other children his age. He is learning a lot, and he is not as lonely as he used to be, when it was just us at home.”

Today, Chenghou and the 47 other young children enrolled in Qushan Township Kindergarten study and play under the guidance of five teachers. Like Chenghou, many of the children lost parents, siblings or other family members in the earthquake. “Sometimes, when I look at these children, I can’t keep the tears from my eyes. Nobody can prevent an earthquake from happening, but what I can do is provide children with a good preschool education in a safe and happy environment. The teachers here and I all hope that through our efforts, we can provide a good future to these children,” said Liu Xia, tearing up as she spoke.

Qushan Kindergarten is one of the 159 kindergartens and preschools in the earthquake zone where UNICEF is working with local communities to improve the quality of Early Childhood Education programmes for children aged 4–6.

UNICEF has provided kindergartens and preschools in the earthquake zone with classroom furniture, blackboards, storybooks, musical instruments, outdoor play equipment, tricycles and Early Childhood Development Kits. UNICEF has also provided equipment and trained teachers to monitor the growth and development of young children. In collaboration with the Sichuan Province Education Commission, UNICEF is supporting the training of parents and teachers to give young children the best start in life and prepare them for educational success at the primary school level and beyond.
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.

Family and Community-Based Care

In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake and in the two years since, UNICEF has worked with the Ministry of Health in a number of earthquake-affected counties in Sichuan Province to provide comprehensive prevention and care services for children and women affected by HIV/AIDS. To date, 50,000 young people, 800 pregnant women, 30,000 migrant construction workers and over 130 sex workers have been reached with prevention and testing services, and around 350 women and children have benefited from medical care and drug delivery services. An estimated 5,500 children affected by AIDS in the earthquake zone have benefited from home visits and financial support.

In the two years since the earthquake, UNICEF has expanded its existing HIV/AIDS programme of comprehensive services, including development
of a network and a corresponding working
mechanism for community and family-based care
for women and children affected by HIV. As co-
chair of the UN Task Force, UNICEF has worked
with other members of the task force to
mainstream HIV/AIDS into emergency response
and recovery with activities such as the drafting of
guidelines, dissemination of global best practices,
and training seminars.

Moving Forward
In the coming year, UNICEF will continue its work
with the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the Ministry of
Health to strengthen family and community-based
care for women and children affected by AIDS.
UNICEF will provide a minimum package of family
and community-based care to 6,000 orphans and
children affected by AIDS and ensure that 100
women and children living with HIV receive
appropriate treatment and social support. UNICEF
will provide 2,000 pregnant women with HIV
counselling and testing for prevention of mother-to-
child transmission. UNICEF will also educate
60,000 young people and migrants with correct HIV
knowledge for reducing stigma and vulnerability of
HIV infection.

UNICEF will work with counterparts to strengthen
local capacity in family and community care and
increase quality in the delivery of services. It is
expected that through additional capacity
building in the coming year, provincial and local-
level counterparts in Sichuan Province will be
technically and financially proficient to continue
the community-based care system by
themselves. This model of family and
community-based services at local level will be
documented as a “best practice” to be scaled
up as part of a strategy to benefit more children
and women nationwide.
Care for Families Affected by HIV/AIDS

Maoxian County, Sichuan Province, July 2009 – A single sunflower was in bloom outside the pitched tarpaulin where Grandfather Yang* and his family live, 14 months after the devastating Sichuan earthquake of May 2008.

As Dr. Wang Shuguang of UNICEF and Dr. Zeng Kai of the local Centre for Disease Control (CDC) approached the residence, they saw 72-year-old Grandfather Yang, who excitedly waved them over to report on the progress that he and his family have made in recent months.
Grandfather Yang has been caring for his two grandchildren for 10 years now, ever since their parents left home to work as migrant workers in other parts of Sichuan Province. At the time, the children were 3 and 7 years old. The children’s father went to Chengdu to work as a construction worker, while their mother went to Zigong to work as a waitress. Like many other families in Maoxian County, the parents saw each other and their children only a few times a year.

Two years ago, the children’s father became very sick. He had to quit his job in the city and come back home for medical treatment. Grandfather Yang could not take care of both his son and his two grandchildren, so his daughter-in-law quit her job and came back home as well. Suddenly, the family had no income. To support the family, the elder grandchild, Jia,* then just 15 years old, dropped out of secondary school to work odd jobs.

The family spent all their savings on medical treatment. It turned out that the father had visited sex workers during his time in the city, and that he was now HIV-positive. The father had also unknowingly transmitted the virus to his wife during one of their visits home.

With support from UNICEF, local CDC staff began delivering drugs to the couple in late 2008. In addition to helping the family receive the necessary medical treatment, the local CDC helped the family apply for and receive a monthly stipend for minimum livelihood from the Sichuan Province Bureau of Civil Affairs. In March 2009, the family received UNICEF-supported training on animal husbandry and farming, as well as two small pigs and fertilizer to support income generation. Meanwhile, the CDC facilitated meetings with the family to encourage Jia to return to school.

During a recent home visit, Grandfather Yang was able to proudly report, “Our family’s living conditions have improved dramatically. My son and my daughter-in-law have been receiving treatment, and they are strong enough to work on the farm again. With the income that we have received from raising the piglets, we have been able to supplement our minimum livelihood subsidy. Now, my grandson has returned to school and he is doing quite well.”

Grandfather Yang’s family is just one of the families that UNICEF is supporting in the earthquake zone. In the two years since the Sichuan earthquake, UNICEF has expanded its existing HIV/AIDS programme of comprehensive services and supported the development of a network to provide community and family-based care for women and children affected by HIV/AIDS. To date, UNICEF has supported local CDCs in providing medical care and drug delivery services for 350 women and children; vocational training and income generation for 500 poor families affected by AIDS; and home visits and financial support to 5,500 children affected by AIDS.

* Pseudonyms are used in this story to protect the identities of individuals and their families.
The first time that Dr. Zeng Kai came to Hu Village in Maoxian County, Sichuan Province after the earthquake to deliver antiretroviral drugs to Li,* she refused to see him.

Dr. Zeng Kai, programme officer with the Aba Prefecture Centre for Disease Control, had travelled for six hours in a UNICEF-provided vehicle along mountainous roads, dangerous even before the earthquake, but as he stood outside Li’s home, he realized that the journey was not yet complete.

Li needed the drugs to avoid prolonged drug interruption, but she was afraid that her neighbours would discriminate against her if they suspected her health status, so she refused to let him in. Dr. Zeng stood outside Li’s home, before an idea came to him. He slowly retreated from the home and went to the village leader, pretending that his boss had sent him to the village to bring presents to a relative named Li. In this way, Li began to receive the drugs regularly, with Dr. Zeng visiting once a month.

Yet, even as Li was receiving her drugs and feeling physically healthy, she continued to worry about her neighbours discovering her status. Knowledge and awareness of HIV transmission are still low among the public in China. The percentage of young women and men aged 15–24 who correctly identified ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV and rejected major misconceptions about HIV transmission was about 41% at the end of 2007. Knowledge and awareness are even lower among the general population, especially in remote, rural villages. In Hu Village, where Li has lived all her life, most villagers thought that HIV could be transmitted through daily interaction and communication.

In March 2009, with support from UNICEF, Dr. Zeng began to work with the village shibi, the cultural leader of the community, to conduct communication events to raise awareness and prevent the spread of infectious diseases. These activities are important, not only for Li, but also because of the ongoing reconstruction work that has led to greater flows of migrant construction workers and other people in and out of communities in the earthquake zone.
After five communication events, people in Hu Village now understand how to prevent the transmission of different infectious diseases, including HIV. Children in the village have since expressed that they would support any people living with HIV.

Li’s status is still not known to people in her village, but she is starting to feel more hope that one day, she will receive the support of her community. In the meantime, she can look forward to the monthly visits of Dr. Zeng.

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

In the two years since 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.

Engaging with Policymakers

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). 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 received highly positive feedback from both NDRC and the State Council, which distributed it to line ministries for action.

In 2009, UNICEF continued to contribute to policy debate both within the government and in the expert community and civil society, influencing specific approaches for restoring social services after the earthquake and establishing strategies to be deployed in future emergencies. In partnership with NDRC, UNICEF conducted studies to review the implementation of social policies during the first year of reconstruction and highlight international best practices to maximize the wellbeing of children and women in the aftermath of the earthquake, as well as in future emergencies.

UNICEF’s work has also contributed to harmonizing the policy approaches to reconstruction with nationwide social policy reforms, such as reconstructing health services in the context of the national health system reform. To
influence a broader range of decision makers and benefit the expert community and civil society, UNICEF has widely disseminated and published several outputs in top Chinese policy magazines and academic journals.

**Essential Public Service Delivery After an Emergency: Key Elements**
- Financing and provider payment mechanisms
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Human resource management
- Information management
- Accountability relationships

Additionally, in partnership with the Ministry of Finance, and on the basis of UNICEF-supported analysis and costing, a solid orphan assistance policy framework has been introduced and funded by the government. UNICEF has also supported the Ministry of Finance in developing a well-designed financial monitoring system to ensure efficient and effective use of the over one trillion RMB of reconstruction funds.

**Moving Forward**
In the coming year, UNICEF will continue to expand its engagement at the upstream policy level 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 sub-national government levels for future emergencies. 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.

In partnership with NDRC, UNICEF will continue to support the overall evaluation of social policy implementation after the earthquake and develop policy recommendations on national planning for disaster preparedness, response and management. UNICEF will also support surveys on education quality monitoring and human resource needs in essential social service delivery to provide evidence-based policy recommendations.

UNICEF will continue to support the Ministry of Finance in the development of public finance policies for reconstruction, as well as evaluation on the utilization of reconstruction funds.

UNICEF will also continue to support the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development in building capacity in reconstruction management, and piloting child poverty alleviation schemes in poor villages in Sichuan. Additionally, in partnership with the Ministry of Civil Affairs, UNICEF will support research and the development of national disaster risk reduction planning with a focus on children and women.
Promoting Child and Gender-Sensitive Reconstruction in Earthquake-Affected Communities

In December 2009, UNICEF and the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development (LGOP) held a reconstruction planning and capacity-building workshop in Chengdu, Sichuan Province. At the workshop, over 140 LGOP officials working at the community level in the poorest earthquake-affected villages received training on responding to earthquakes and other emergencies, with a particular focus on child and gender-sensitive components.

The UNICEF-supported workshop was the first such training for local officials to enhance their knowledge and awareness of the needs of children and women. After learning how to conduct a capacity and vulnerability analysis, the local officials drew upon their particular village situations to discuss their vision of a community that is disaster-resilient and considers the voices and needs of children and women.

Through UNICEF’s support, child and gender-sensitive components are being incorporated, not only in the ongoing reconstruction work in the Sichuan earthquake zone, but also in the government’s rural poverty reduction programmes, ensuring that such attention is sustained into the future, and in both emergency and non-emergency settings.
CONSTRANITS AND LESSONS LEARNED

In the two years since the May 2008 earthquake, a review of emergency relief interventions has yielded a number of lessons learned. The lessons learned from the emergency response are being incorporated into ongoing efforts in the reconstruction phase to build back better.

Lessons Learned

One lesson learned in the course of project implementation is the need for a long-term and consistent strategy for improving service quality and capacity building. The usual method of training service providers—whether health staff or primary school teachers or social workers—in cascade mode as a one-time intervention is not sufficient. In recognition of this, UNICEF is employing in its reconstruction programme a series of trainings, with support for cost-effective modes of distance education. Through its Child Friendly School initiative, for example, UNICEF is introducing a "whole school" teacher training programme that will reach all teachers in 200 schools in project counties. UNICEF’s innovative and effective use of distance education has already achieved great results. For example, in August 2009, UNICEF supported a weeklong online training programme on school safety management for 22,000 teachers and principals. After the training, 85% of participants reported being more prepared to reduce risk and protect students in emergencies.

A second lesson learned is the importance of aligning the emergency response programme with upstream policy initiatives. This approach has proven to be valuable in increasing the impact of UNICEF’s interventions. For example, UNICEF’s emergency health programme, aligned with the country’s ongoing health reform process, is not only supporting the reestablishment of essential health services in the earthquake zone, but is also supporting the development and pilot implementation of national policy and guidelines that can be replicated in other poor areas of China and in future emergencies. Similarly, through its Child Friendly Space intervention,
UNICEF is contributing to the recognition and ongoing clarification of the role of social work in emergencies, as well as the development of the social work profession more generally. These programmatic strategies and innovations have been made possible because of the influx of donor funds during the reconstruction phase of the earthquake.

A third lesson learned has been the value of contributing to the knowledge base and the use of evidence-based advocacy, which have great potential to improve the wellbeing of children in the earthquake zone and around the country. For example, the UNICEF-supported survey on schools’ level of preparedness and the management of safety education found that nearly half of the schools surveyed had never organized any kind of safety education for their students. When the final results of the survey are made available later in the year, they will contribute to the government’s understanding of potential safety problems in schools, and will form the basis for future policy and capacity development initiatives to strengthen school safety management.

In a similar manner, the UNICEF-supported survey on the nutritional status of children and women in the earthquake zone, which found high
rates of iron, zinc and vitamins A and D deficiency, is helping to guide both emergency nutrition interventions and the development of the standard for multiple micronutrients for women in China.

A number of challenges remain in the reconstruction process. The magnitude of the Sichuan earthquake was such that dozens of counties in Sichuan Province and neighbouring Gansu and Shaanxi Provinces were all severely affected. Covering large geographic areas, with many of the most vulnerable children and women in remote, rural communities, poses substantial difficulties. For example, monitoring the situation of the children orphaned by the earthquake is logistically challenging, as they are spread across a broad geographic range, some in communities where there is limited counterpart staffing and capacity. To address this challenge, UNICEF has worked with counterparts, local government and community organizations to enhance inter-sectoral coordination at all levels and provide additional support to more isolated communities.

In the two years since the earthquake, remarkable progress has been made in emergency-affected areas, but local health facilities, schools and community centres have yet to be rebuilt in some areas. In these areas, significant constraints remain in the timely delivery of services, relative to the pre-earthquake situation. As reconstruction efforts proceed in the earthquake zone and communities continue to move into permanent settlements, UNICEF’s interventions will have to be adjusted accordingly. For example, four of the Child Friendly Spaces have already been relocated, moving from pre-fabricated structures to permanent buildings in schools and communities. An additional 16 Child Friendly Spaces face relocation plans later this year. Relocation is a potential challenge to the continuity and stability of service delivery, but is also an opportunity for the Child Friendly Spaces to be included in the post-reconstruction planning of local townships and counties, paving the way for their sustainable development as community hubs of child protection services.

In the coming year, UNICEF will continue to work in coordination with a multitude of actors on the ground, and maintain constant communication with local communities to appropriately address the evolving needs of the most vulnerable children and women in the earthquake zone.
FINANCIAL REPORT

Funding Sources for UNICEF’s Earthquake Response (as of 30 April 2010)

- Govt of Luxembourg: $1.0 M
- Govt of Andorra
- UN Habitat
- Corporate & Individual Donors in China: $4.7 M
- UNICEF China Country Programme Funds
- Other UNICEF National Committees: $1.3 M
- Korean Committee for UNICEF: $1.0 M
- US Fund for UNICEF: $2.0 M
- Japan Committee for UNICEF: $3.3 M
- CIDA – UNICEF Canada: $4.3 M
- Swedish Committee for UNICEF: $6.1 M
- Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF: $18.9 M

**TOTAL Funding:** US $45.3 Million

Funding Status and Estimated Funding Needs (as of 30 April 2010)

- $32.7 Million Utilized
- $12.6 Million Remaining

**TOTAL Budget over 3 Years:** US $45 Million
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.

UNICEF would like to acknowledge the generosity of the corporate donors who contributed to the UNICEF earthquake response. These donors include Audi, Goodyear, HSBC, Ikea, ING and Porsche.
## Funding Utilization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Utilization (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health and Nutrition</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency health kits, equipment and supplies for 1.4 million people for 3 months and nutrition supplements for 125,500 children and 41,150 women</td>
<td>7,003,707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 ambulances to refer patients in Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi to county hospitals</td>
<td>1,429,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical equipment, including delivery beds, incubators and scales to improve healthcare for children and pregnant women in 14 earthquake-affected counties</td>
<td>1,208,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>309,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training of health workers on basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care</td>
<td>672,744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development and implementation of Communication for Behavioural Impact activities and community education in earthquake zone</td>
<td>157,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health education to promote breastfeeding; activities to monitor/regulate breastfeeding substitutes</td>
<td>113,756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of a nutrition security plan and guidelines on nutrition policy in emergencies</td>
<td>64,932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to micronutrient intervention to reduce anaemia and improve early childhood nutrition, including provision of supplement, monitoring, development of education materials and parent counselling</td>
<td>439,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to establishment of child immunization registry information system and re-establishment of routine vaccination services in earthquake zone</td>
<td>1,640,787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field assessments, studies and monitoring of health and nutrition conditions</td>
<td>144,888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical support on rehabilitation of health and nutrition services</td>
<td>204,857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect programme support costs</td>
<td>405,151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</strong></td>
<td>7,756,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water purification tablets to provide clean drinking water to 2 million people for 3 months</td>
<td>1,382,037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 water purification units and 70 collapsible tanks to provide clean water to 270,000 people</td>
<td>738,459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 mobile toilets for use by 10,000 people a day</td>
<td>71,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 tons of calcium hypochlorite to disinfect health facilities and community areas</td>
<td>192,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction of safe water supply systems and infrastructure in 9 earthquake-affected counties</td>
<td>2,108,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction of sanitary latrines in schools, hospitals and model households</td>
<td>1,196,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicles to transport construction materials and enable supervision of construction sites</td>
<td>60,264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygiene kits with towels, soap and other hygiene products for 20,000 children and their families</td>
<td>355,374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training of water and sanitation officials on hygiene, maintenance of public facilities and Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST)</td>
<td>494,332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication campaigns throughout earthquake zone to promote hygiene and sanitation</td>
<td>456,958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field assessments, studies, design of construction projects and monitoring</td>
<td>150,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical support on water, sanitation and hygiene</td>
<td>100,405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect programme support costs</td>
<td>448,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td>10,300,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,200 classroom tents for 56,000 children</td>
<td>2,649,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102 pre-fabricated classroom units to provide 5,000 children with a safe learning environment</td>
<td>763,173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching and learning materials, including student kits, teacher kits, library kits, sports kits, blackboards, teaching aids, classroom furniture and playground equipment for 250,000 children and their teachers</td>
<td>2,061,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schoolbags, sleeping bags, and household items for children in boarding schools</td>
<td>864,034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood Development Kits, storybooks and supplies for 159 kindergartens and preschools</td>
<td>1,234,114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training of teachers and principals on Child Friendly School guidelines to improve teaching and learning quality, increase student participation and introduce participatory management</td>
<td>359,598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment of mobile educational training and resource units to provide training and supervision to teachers in the most remote schools in the earthquake zone</td>
<td>440,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction of ICT-enhanced learning and establishment of e-learning communities in earthquake zone</td>
<td>217,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training for teachers, awareness-raising among parents and establishment of parent networks to support both institution-based and community-based preschools and kindergartens</td>
<td>106,304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training of teachers and principals on safety in schools; provision of educational materials on emergency preparedness and safety education; and support to school safety database for monitoring/retrofitting</td>
<td>714,283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field assessments, baseline studies and monitoring</td>
<td>187,189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical support on rehabilitation of quality education services</td>
<td>107,182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect programme support costs</td>
<td>595,846</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Funding Utilization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Utilization (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Child Protection and Psychosocial Support</strong></td>
<td>4,233,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching and learning materials, sports equipment and toys, audiovisual and IT equipment, hygiene supplies and furniture for Child Friendly Spaces</td>
<td>915,719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training and recruitment of managers, teachers and social workers to staff Child Friendly Spaces</td>
<td>1,319,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of guidelines and documentation of best practices to build capacity and ensure quality of Child Friendly Spaces</td>
<td>204,349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development and printing of newsletters and communication materials to increase community awareness, share information, and exchange experiences among Child Friendly Space network</td>
<td>90,612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Day activities at Child Friendly Spaces</td>
<td>29,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media campaign, advocacy, and training of police officers, teachers, principals and community leaders on child protection and child rights; support to the establishment of a community-based protection system</td>
<td>588,781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to the development of social work in emergencies</td>
<td>130,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to children with disabilities in special education schools, including trainings for teachers, development of materials and provision of appropriate school supplies</td>
<td>124,847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of training manuals on foster care and protection of orphans, as well as handbooks on child adoption; establishment of registration system for orphans and their caretakers</td>
<td>89,509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field assessments and monitoring</td>
<td>296,047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical support, studies and guidance on child protection in emergencies</td>
<td>199,433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect programme support costs</td>
<td>244,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HIV/AIDS</strong></td>
<td>1,058,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach support to conduct home visits to children and families affected by HIV/AIDS, and development of community and family-based support system</td>
<td>972,324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field assessments and monitoring</td>
<td>24,953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect programme support costs</td>
<td>61,233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social Policy</strong></td>
<td>590,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studies and policy notes on reconstruction strategy, implementation and coordination; education quality of schools in the earthquake zone; and evaluation of the post-earthquake restoration of public services</td>
<td>327,964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity building on fiscal policy supporting reconstruction</td>
<td>132,991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical support to reconstruction planning and implementation</td>
<td>95,097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect programme support costs</td>
<td>34,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shelter and Non-Food Items</strong></td>
<td>1,172,932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>850 family tents for 4,750 people</td>
<td>245,994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20,000 quilts and 4,100 sleeping bags for at least 24,100 people</td>
<td>186,512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 sets of children’s clothing for 25,000 boys and 25,000 girls</td>
<td>560,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency non-food items, including mosquito nets, pans, bowls and spoons</td>
<td>118,449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field assessments and monitoring</td>
<td>1,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect programme support costs</td>
<td>59,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Communication</strong></td>
<td>321,274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo and video documentation</td>
<td>67,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing of reports and other communication materials</td>
<td>36,538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical support on communication</td>
<td>198,405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect programme support costs</td>
<td>18,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cross-Sectoral Coordination and Operational Support</strong></td>
<td>290,573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office supplies, IT equipment and miscellaneous expenses</td>
<td>37,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field assessments and monitoring to inspect supply delivery systems and ensure quality control</td>
<td>26,589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical support, planning and coordination of interventions in reconstruction phase</td>
<td>210,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect programme support costs</td>
<td>16,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>32,727,123</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 Two Year Report, UNICEF will be providing a Three Year Report in 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, Gansu and Shaanxi well before the earthquake struck.

In the two years since the earthquake, 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. In the coming year, UNICEF will continue to 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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