



# SICHUAN EARTHQUAKE

THREE YEAR REPORT  
MAY 2011

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The first tranche of UNICEF's emergency relief items contained 86 tonnes of health and nutritional supplies for children and pregnant women.





## OVERVIEW

Three years ago, on 12 May 2008, the most devastating natural disaster in China in decades struck the country's southwestern Sichuan Province. The 8.0-magnitude earthquake affected the lives of millions of people, killing 88,000, injuring 400,000 and leaving 5 million homeless.

Immediately after the earthquake, the Government of China led a remarkable disaster response and relief programme. Today, life in the affected communities has resumed. Rebirth, reconstruction and renewed hope have come to replace the death, destruction and despair of the earthquake. On this third anniversary, UNICEF remembers what was lost three years ago, celebrates what has been achieved since, and reaffirms our commitment to children and women in the Sichuan earthquake zone.

The magnitude of the earthquake triggered, for the first time in recent history, a request by the Government of China for international assistance. The generosity of donors in the days, weeks, months and years after the earthquake allowed UNICEF to support the government's response by providing emergency supplies, making policy recommendations, building capacity and improving systems and services for children. Over the course of the last three years, UNICEF has, in collaboration with partners and local communities, been able to make an important and lasting contribution to recovery and to the lives of hundreds of thousands of children and their families.

**Rebirth, reconstruction and renewed hope have come to replace the death, destruction and despair of the earthquake.**

UNICEF and its partners have introduced the Child Friendly School approach to provide joyful, interactive schooling to students at Leigu Town Central Primary School



UNICEF and its partners have helped to rehabilitate basic health services; improve water supply systems, sanitation facilities and hygiene practices; support equity and quality in education; provide psychosocial support in schools and communities; create a more protective environment for the most vulnerable children; and support disaster risk reduction to keep children and women safe. Throughout the earthquake reconstruction process, UNICEF has emphasized the importance of building back better, not on finding quick solutions that may ultimately prove to be unsustainable.

By taking full advantage of the unique opportunities offered by the emergency response, UNICEF and its partners have helped to build capacities that did not exist before the earthquake, advancing development objectives alongside humanitarian objectives. The new concepts and programmes introduced over the last three years have reached pockets of former exclusion and helped to influence local and national policy, with implications for children and women in the earthquake zone, as well as throughout the country.

While the Sichuan earthquake is not the first emergency in China to which UNICEF has responded, it 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 programmatic innovations and policy developments introduced. The Sichuan earthquake response amply demonstrated that reconstruction is an opportunity to reduce pre-existing vulnerabilities and promote greater equity. It is an opportunity for transformation.

The transformation that has taken place in the earthquake zone with the support of UNICEF is widely recognized by both communities and government partners. UNICEF's actions over the last three years have proven that when emergencies strike, UNICEF possesses the capacity and commitment to make a major contribution to the lives of children and women.

UNICEF stands ready to respond quickly and effectively in future emergencies to protect and promote the rights and wellbeing of the most vulnerable children and women in China.

**The Sichuan earthquake response demonstrated that reconstruction is an opportunity to reduce vulnerabilities and promote greater equity. It is an opportunity for transformation.**



# 2008–2011 KEY RESULTS

On this third anniversary, **UNICEF remembers** what was lost three years ago, **acknowledges** what has been achieved since, and **reaffirms** our **commitment to children and women** affected by emergencies.



Young children at the preschool attached to Beichuan County's Chenjiaba Town Primary School play on the grounds of the newly constructed school.

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE: 2008

- **Emergency health kits and medical supplies** provided to meet the needs of **1.4 million people** for three months.
- **Cold chain equipment** provided to support vaccine storage and transportation, contributing to the **prevention of communicable disease transmission**.
- **Vitamin A capsules and nutritional supplements** provided to **150,000 children and women**, helping to combat the risk of acute undernutrition.
- **Water treatment units and purification tablets** supplied to provide clean drinking water to **630,000 people**. **Portable toilets** provided to meet the sanitation needs of **10,000 people**, and **hygiene kits** provided to **17,500 children and their families**.
- **Classroom tents and prefabricated units** provided to help **60,000 students** return to school, and **teaching, learning and recreational materials** provided for more than **250,000 students**.
- **Technical support** provided to protect **children separated or orphaned** in the earthquake.
- **40 Child Friendly Spaces** established to provide emergency-affected children a **safe and supportive environment** for recovery.
- A **policy note**, entitled "Reconstructing Wellbeing: Bringing Public Services to Those Who Need Them Most After the Wenchuan Earthquake," submitted to the national Reconstruction Planning Group, contributing to the **development of China's post-earthquake reconstruction strategies**.



## RECONSTRUCTION: 2009, 2010, 2011

- Essential **medical supplies** and **capacity building** provided to restore the basic medical and public health service systems in 14 counties, covering a population of 5 million, including **300,000 infants and under-five children**.
- **Communication for Behavioural Impact** reached **20,000 households**, leading to improved rates of exclusive breastfeeding for six months.
- **Child Immunization Registry Information System** established in 36 counties, leading to the creation of digitized immunization records for **780,000 children**.
- 7 million sachets of **micronutrient supplements** and **training** on infant and young child nutrition provided to benefit **29,000 infants and young children**, leading to a 50% decrease in the prevalence of anaemia.
- **Water systems** and **sanitation facilities** constructed in rural earthquake-affected communities and schools, providing **150,000 people** with sustainable drinking water and **40,000 people** with access to sanitary latrines.
- **3,000,000 people** reached through a massive **hygiene campaign** and **peer education** in schools.
- **Child Friendly School** and **Child Friendly Kindergarten** curricula and guidelines introduced to improve preschool and primary education quality for **120,000 children**. Age-appropriate **educational supplies** accompanied by **capacity-building** for teachers in schools, preschools and kindergartens supported interactive and joyful learning.
- **60,000 teachers and school administrators** trained on **school safety education** and management.
- **332,000 children and their parents** received community-based services through **40 Child Friendly Spaces**.
- **Development of social work** supported and **capacity-building** for social service providers strengthened.
- **350 women and 200 children living with HIV/AIDS** received continuous medical care, drug delivery and counselling services through the establishment of an effective **post-earthquake AIDS response mechanism**. The development of a **network for community and family-based care** supported home visits and case management for **20,000 vulnerable children, including children affected by AIDS**.
- **50,000 young people** and **30,000 migrant workers** reached with **HIV/AIDS prevention education**.
- **Analytic and advisory activities** influenced the **restoration of social services** after the earthquake and the establishment of strategies to be deployed in future emergencies.

## RISK REDUCTION AND PREPAREDNESS

- **National Guidelines on Emergency Health Relief for Children** developed by the Ministry of Health with support from UNICEF.
- **National nutrition security plan** developed with support from UNICEF, ensuring that nutrition considerations will be a central element of future emergency operations in China.
- **Basic Technical Guidelines on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Emergencies** developed with support from UNICEF.
- **Disaster preparedness** integrated into the **national school curriculum**. **National Management Guideline on Safe School Construction and Management** issued and implemented by the Ministry of Education, with support from UNICEF.
- **Child Friendly Space model** to be included in the new **National Plan of Action for Child Development (2011-2020)**, China's development framework for children.
- **Working Procedures for Placement and Care of Separated Children in Emergencies** and **Five-Year Plan on Social Work in Disaster Reconstruction** developed by the Ministry of Civil Affairs with support from UNICEF.
- **HIV prevention and care** integrated into the Sichuan Province **emergency health preparedness plan**.
- **Child-and gender-sensitive elements** integrated into **national disaster risk reduction planning**.

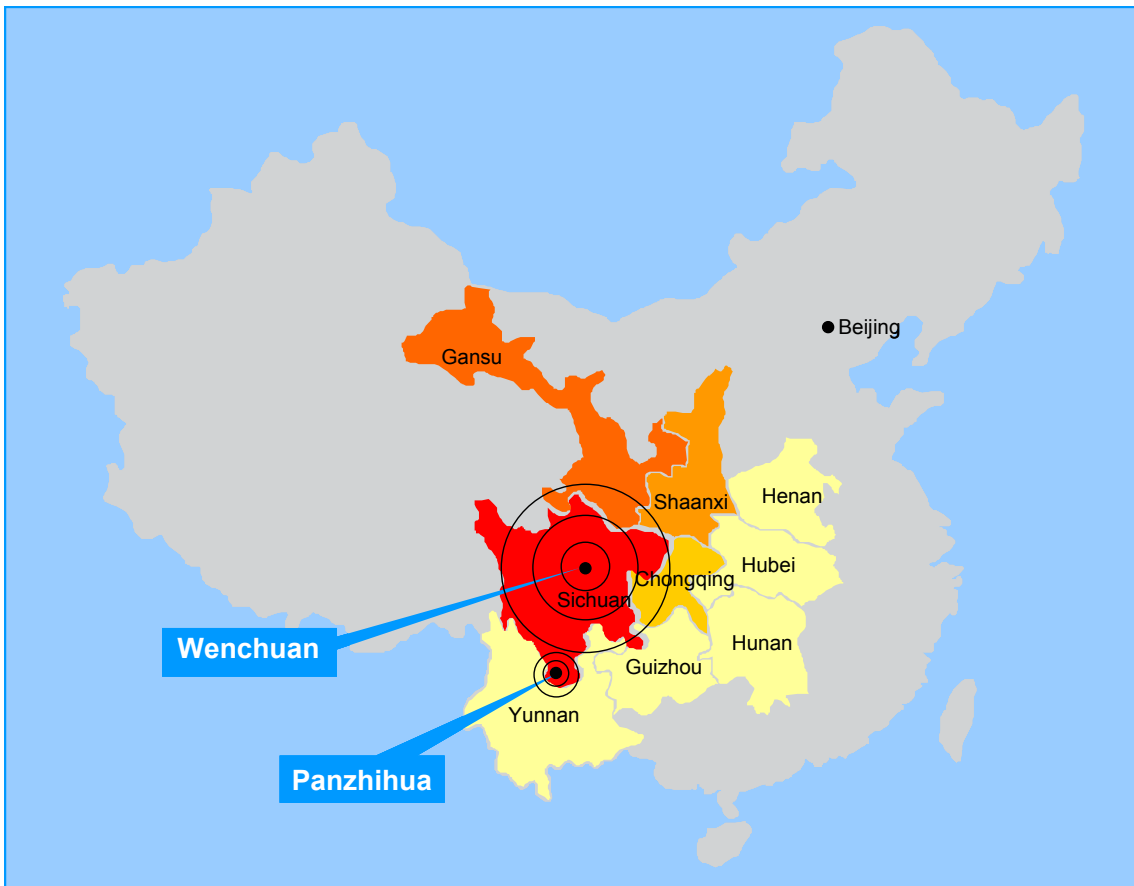
## UNICEF Assistance in Sichuan Earthquake Zone: Target Areas

	PREFECTURE	COUNTY/CITY/DISTRICT	Health	WES	Psy & CP	Edu	HIV/AIDS	Shelter
Sichuan	Aba	Jiuzhaigou County (JZG)						
	Aba	Lixian County (LX)						
	Aba	Maoxian County (MX)						
	Aba	Wenchuan County (WC)						
	Aba	Xiaojin County (XJ)						
	Chengdu	Chongzhou City (CZ)						
	Chengdu	Dayi County (DY)						
	Chengdu	Dujiangyan City (DJY)						
	Chengdu	Pengzhou County (PZ)						
	Deyang	Mianzhu City (MZ)						
	Deyang	Shifang City (SF)						
	Guangyuan	Chaotian District (CT)						
	Guangyuan	Lizhou District (LZ)						
	Guangyuan	Qingchuan County (QC)						
	Guangyuan	Yuanba District (YB)						
	Liangshan	Huili County (HL)						
	Mianyang	Anxian County (AX)						
	Mianyang	Beichuan County (BC)						
	Mianyang	Jiangyou City (JY)						
	Mianyang	Pingwu County (PW)						
Panzhihua	Panzhihua City District (PZH)							
Panzhihua	Yanbian County (YB)							
Ya'an	Lushan County (LS)							
Ya'an	Tianquan County (TQ)							
Gansu	Gannan	Zhouqu County (ZQ)						
	Longnan	Lixian County (LC)						
	Longnan	Wenxian County (WX)						
	Longnan	Wudu District (WD)						
	Longnan	Xihe County (XH)						
Shaanxi	Hanzhong	Lueyang County (LY)						
	Hanzhong	Nanzheng County (NZ)						
	Hanzhong	Ningqiang County (NQ)						

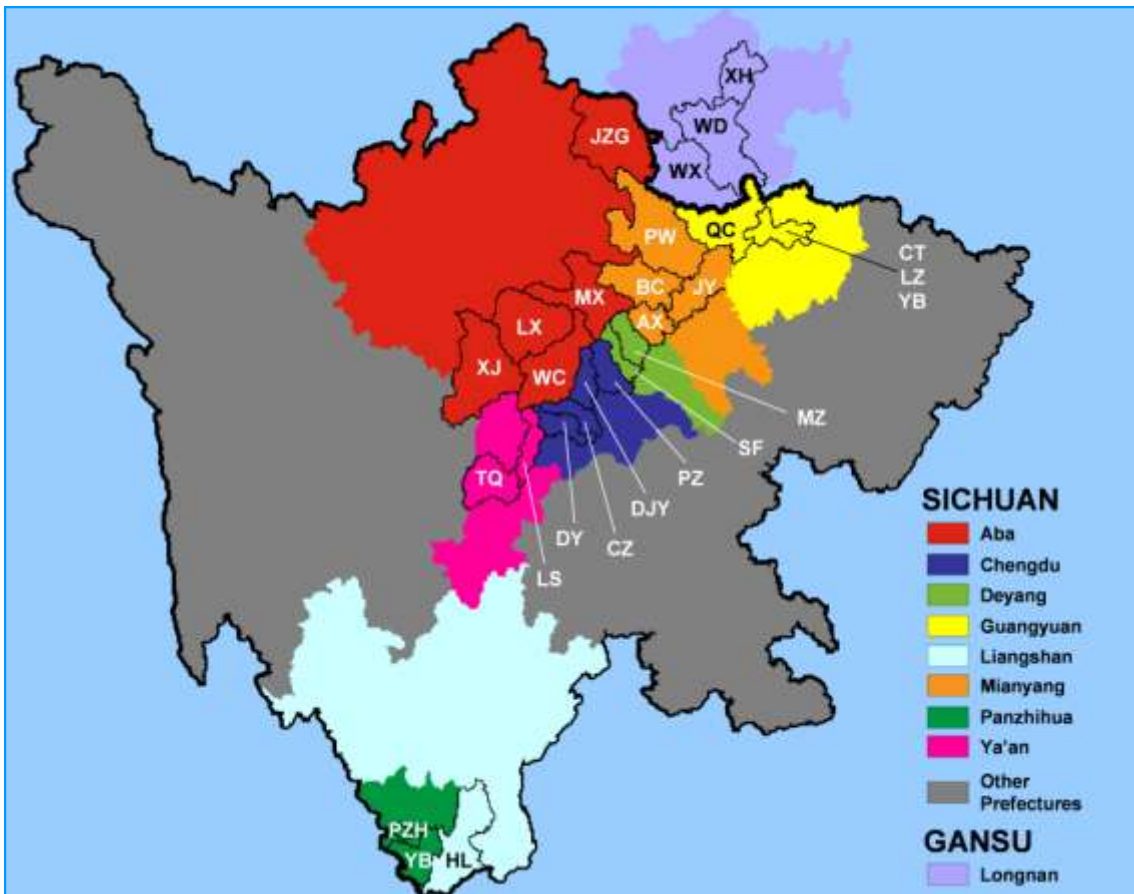
KEY: Psy & CP: Psychosocial Support & Child Protection; Edu: Education

# MAPS

## Earthquake-Affected Provinces



## Severely-Affected Regions in Sichuan and Gansu



A mother breastfeeds her newborn under the supervision of a nurse at Shifang County Maternal and Child Health Hospital. During the reconstruction period, UNICEF and its partners have worked to increase the rate of exclusive breastfeeding.



As a result of the health infrastructure and capacity-building components of the reconstruction programme, the poor and other vulnerable population subgroups now have improved access to healthcare.

## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

The Sichuan earthquake damaged or destroyed hospitals and health facilities throughout Sichuan Province. Even before the earthquake, health and nutrition conditions among children and women in many of the most severely affected communities were below national averages, and the health sector was relatively ill-equipped to deal with the emergency.

Over the past three years, UNICEF has worked in collaboration with partners to strengthen the public health system, to save lives in the emergency response and preserve them for tomorrow.

As a result of the health infrastructure and capacity-building components of the reconstruction programme, the poor and other vulnerable population subgroups in the earthquake zone now have improved access to healthcare, as verified by an increase from 87% hospital delivery rate in 2007 to near-universal hospital delivery in 2010. UNICEF assessments have also found that the capacity of health providers has improved compared to the pre-earthquake period, especially in management of neonatal resuscitation and pregnancy-related complications.

A recent UNICEF evaluation found that compared with the pre-earthquake period, women and children's health in the earthquake zone has improved, with a 38% reduction in maternal mortality ratio and a 37% reduction in under-five mortality rate, well above the national average reduction of 18% and 9% respectively. Routine immunization services have been fully recovered and with the UNICEF-supported introduction of digitized immunization records, are now better targeted and monitored than they were before the earthquake. Infant and young child feeding practices have also improved, and with the pioneering introduction of complementary food supplements, anaemia and micronutrient deficiencies among children are now better treated.

**Within days after the earthquake, UNICEF delivered the most urgently needed supplies to support emergency and routine health care for infants, young children and women of reproductive age.**

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

In the weeks after the earthquake, most MCH services, including child delivery, were provided in tents and other temporary facilities, in makeshift circumstances by unfamiliar staff. Many patients requiring advanced treatment were forced to travel long distances for care previously available locally.

Within days, UNICEF delivered the most urgently needed supplies to support emergency and routine health care for infants, young children and women of reproductive age. The health kits provided by UNICEF, sufficient to meet the needs of some 1.4 million people for 3 months, were delivered to temporary clinics set up to replace collapsed or damaged health facilities, and to facilities where survivors were referred for care previously available locally. UNICEF also supported training for health workers on the correct application of the health supplies, as well as community education to improve the uptake of services in 100 settlement camps.

The earthquake caused extensive damage to the cold chain system, disrupting routine vaccination services. UNICEF helped to support the rehabilitation of routine vaccination by providing cold chain equipment, including refrigerators and cold boxes for vaccine storage and transportation. This contributed to there being no major outbreaks of communicable diseases after the earthquake.

In the weeks after the earthquake, survivors subsisted on instant noodles and other emergency food provisions, with limited access to fresh food, meat and eggs. Children were provided the same food as adults, with little consideration to their particular dietary needs. On the basis of assessments that identified a great need for micronutrient supplementation, UNICEF provided Vitamin A capsules for 114,000 children and three months of nutritional supplements for 13,868 children and 41,150 women of reproductive age immediately after the earthquake, and supported community education on child feeding and nutrition. These actions helped to combat the risk of acute undernutrition among children and women.



In the weeks after the earthquake, MCH services moved from tents (*top*) to prefabricated units (*middle*). Today, new hospitals and health facilities have been constructed, and improved hospital delivery rates suggest increased access to institution-based healthcare.

A nurse at Shifang County MCH Hospital measures a baby's length using equipment provided by UNICEF during the reconstruction period.





## CAPACITY BUILDING for Standardized, Quality Care

As the earthquake response continued, health care and preventative services for children and women moved, first from tented facilities into prefabricated structures, and then from prefabricated structures into newly built health facilities. During the transition period, UNICEF provided hardware and software support to upgrade MCH services in 10 counties in Sichuan, 2 counties in Gansu and 2 counties in Shaanxi. This support helped to establish basic obstetric and newborn services at 318 township health facilities and comprehensive services at 14 county health facilities, covering a total population of 5 million, including 300,000 infants and young children under the age of 5.

Much of UNICEF's work in the reconstruction phase focused on ensuring that the newly built health facilities were accompanied by equally significant improvements in the quality of health services and knowledge of maternal and child health. UNICEF-supported studies in the early reconstruction phase found that while new health facilities were quickly built and equipped with advanced equipment, there was a shortage of health staff with the skills and knowledge required to operate the equipment and provide high-quality care.

To address this issue and to support the delivery of more standardized care, UNICEF introduced the Mother Baby Package, a set of guidelines on the package of services and the minimum levels of care that all pregnant women and newborns should receive. The Mother Baby Package includes technical guidelines on MCH care for county health workers, manuals for village doctors, and a handbook for pregnant women and mothers with under-five children.

UNICEF and its partners also supported extensive training on basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care, reaching 95% of county and 98% of township MCH workers by the end of 2010. In the last year of the reconstruction period, through a UNICEF-supported innovation to improve the quality of community-level health care, more than 500 MCH staff from the earthquake zone were temporarily seconded to higher-level health facilities and/or teaching hospitals for three months of advanced clinical study.

As a result of the national guidelines, training materials and tools included in the Mother Baby Package and the extensive capacity-building of health staff, today, MCH services in the earthquake zone are more standardized and of higher quality than they were before the earthquake. A recent evaluation found that in the 14 UNICEF-supported counties, the proportion of pregnant women receiving the four key components of antenatal care (haemoglobin and urine analysis and weight and height measurements) increased from 47.8% in 2007 to 80.2% in 2010. The proportion of under-five children receiving the recommended number of routine health checks increased from 39.0% in 2008 to 64.6% in 2010.

**UNICEF-supported training on obstetric and neonatal care reached 95% of county and 98% of township MCH workers in 14 counties and 318 townships in the earthquake zone.**

Today, maternal and child health services in the earthquake zone are more standardized and of higher quality than they were before the earthquake.

Another area of capacity building for health staff in the three years since the earthquake has been in improving data collection, data management and data recording. Data surveillance tools at county, township and village health facilities have been updated and standardized to streamline both local and national-level reporting and analysis.

## **SOCIAL MOBILIZATION** for Healthier Children and Women

In the three years since the earthquake, UNICEF has supported systematic health education to improve caregivers' knowledge and practices related to MCH. Peer education, household counselling, group sessions with health staff, mobile phone text messaging, and knowledge contests with a specific focus on interpersonal health communication have been employed to disseminate key MCH messages. As of the end of 2010, more than 200,000 health promotion materials have been distributed, and nearly 300 health promotion activities have been carried out.

As a result, knowledge and adoption of healthy behaviours among community members, caregivers and students in the 14 UNICEF-supported project counties has increased. According to a recent survey in project counties in Gansu, the proportion of local residents aware of seeking out at least five antenatal care visits during pregnancy has risen from 21.9% in 2008 to 64.0% in 2010, while the proportion of students who do not wash their hands with soap has decreased from 20.9% to 8.5%.

A particular focus of UNICEF's health communication has been advocating for best practices in infant and young child feeding. The final evaluation has found that the exclusive breastfeeding rate in the 14 UNICEF-supported counties has increased from 5.1% in 2008 to 23.1% in 2010. The proportion of children aged 6–23 months receiving at least four types of complementary food has increased from 55.8% to 64.9%.

The improvements in infant and young child feeding practices are mainly due to the UNICEF-supported Communication for Behavioural Impact (COMBI) approach, which stresses specific and precise behavioural outcomes rather than simple awareness-raising. UNICEF support to COMBI has also been coupled with training on breastfeeding management for health staff in Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi.

## INNOVATION: Digital Immunization Records

The Sichuan earthquake led to the destruction or loss of handwritten immunization records, highlighting the inefficiencies and vulnerability of the paper-based registration system. With the displacement of millions of people, tracking of child vaccination history was made only more difficult.

In the reconstruction phase, UNICEF and its partners introduced the Child Immunization Registry and Information System (CIRIS), a system of digitized immunization records. In the three years since the earthquake, CIRIS has been set up in 842 township clinics in 36 counties in Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi. Along with the provision of IT equipment, UNICEF has worked to ensure the standardization of reporting content and forms, including disease surveillance and adverse event reporting.

While CIRIS is a powerful tool, a database is only as good as the information put in it. UNICEF has therefore supported extensive training for immunization staff on regular and consistent input of high-quality data. Currently, project counties in Sichuan and Shaanxi Provinces have achieved a 95% recoding rate of child immunization data for children born since 2005. Gansu Province is also on track to achieve near-universal coverage of CIRIS.

With accurate information readily available to both families and health personnel, the 780,000 children aged 0–6 covered by CIRIS are less likely to miss immunization, and both patient follow-up and routine immunization campaigns can be better targeted and more effective in the future. Today, public health authorities in Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi are able to better plan vaccination campaigns, continuously monitor and evaluate immunization coverage, and report higher quality data than before the earthquake.

CIRIS is an important innovation introduced in the earthquake zone, and serves as a model for other parts of China, as well as for many countries, both developed and undeveloped.



Immunization clinics were damaged or destroyed in the earthquake, leading to the loss of records and the provision of services under makeshift circumstances.



In the reconstruction period, immunization services moved from prefabricated units (*above*) into newly constructed buildings (*below*).



**The pioneering use of micronutrient supplements in the Sichuan earthquake zone has the potential to be scaled up across the country.**

## **SCIENTIFIC APPROACH** to Improved Nutrition

In the three years since the earthquake, UNICEF and its partners have capitalized on increased awareness of the importance of nutrition to push for significant developments in combating micronutrient deficiencies. Shortly after the earthquake, on the basis of UNICEF advocacy, the Ministry of Health approved Ying Yang Bao, a locally produced, soy-based multiple-micronutrient supplement for use by infants and young children in earthquake-affected areas.

Ying Yang Bao was first provided to 4,000 infants in two pilot counties in Sichuan, where a UNICEF-supported baseline nutrition survey 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 was 13.9% and underweight 9.1%. The survey underscored the vulnerable pre-existing nutritional status of the population and its probable deterioration after the earthquake.

After four months, there was a 50% decrease in the prevalence of anaemia among children who received Ying Yang Bao. The pilot intervention demonstrated the benefit of supplements in addressing micronutrient deficiencies, facilitating and ultimately leading to the Government of China's approval of General Standards for Fortified Complementary Food Supplements, effective March 2009. These standards allowed the wider production and distribution of complementary food supplements in China for the first time.

With the approval of the standards, UNICEF was able to support the expansion of the micronutrient supplementation intervention to 25,000 infants in 8 earthquake-affected counties. To date, more than 6.77 million sachets of Ying Yang Bao have been distributed and the expanded intervention has achieved similar results, with preliminary data showing more than 80% compliance with the product, and a decrease in anaemia from 52.2% to 28.2% during the first six months of project implementation. The intervention will continue through November 2011, at which time an endline survey will be conducted.

The pioneering use of Ying Yang Bao in the Sichuan earthquake zone has not only benefited children affected by the emergency, but also has the potential to be scaled up across the country. The Ministry of Health recently announced its intention to replicate the use of complementary food supplements to address vitamin and mineral deficiencies among children in poor rural areas nationwide. In late 2010, the Ministry of Health submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Finance for funding for complementary food supplements in over 500 poor rural areas, potentially providing massive leverage for UNICEF's work in the earthquake zone.

The UNICEF-supported provision of micronutrient sachets has been accompanied by extensive health education to ensure adherence and improve infant and young child feeding practices.



## A SAFER TOMORROW

During the reconstruction phase, UNICEF has helped to support the development of emergency guidelines to protect the health of children and women in future emergencies.

Broadly covering emergency medical rescue, prevention and control of infectious diseases, child health care in emergencies, management of common childhood diseases, and psychological assistance to children, the guidelines play a critical role in helping the public health system to better prepare for future emergencies. The guidelines are being distributed both in the Sichuan earthquake zone and more broadly.

The increased awareness of and focus on nutrition after the earthquake also allowed UNICEF and its partners to push for greater discussion of nutrition security in emergency operations. In early 2009, UNICEF supported a training workshop on nutrition emergency, the first ever in China, to share and discuss national and international experience.

The China Centre for Disease Control subsequently developed a national nutrition security plan, ensuring that nutrition considerations will be a central element of future emergency operations in China, and that the particular dietary needs of children and women will be better considered, starting from the relief phase.

## REAL LIVES:

### Maternal and Child Health

#### “Blessed to have such a healthy girl”

Chen Yilin has just turned a year old. Rosy-cheeked and always smiling, Yilin is adored by her neighbours, but no one is happier or prouder than her mother, Hu Xiangrong.

Ms. Hu, who decided to have a second child after the earthquake, is especially grateful that Yilin is healthy and strong. “I’m 40 years now. I feel really blessed to have such a healthy girl,” she said.

In the three years since the earthquake, UNICEF has worked with health authorities to rehabilitate and improve maternal and child health (MCH) services. One area in which UNICEF has been working is infant and young child nutrition, and support to exclusive breastfeeding for babies in their first six months of life.

Health staff at Yinghua Town Central Hospital in Sichuan Province’s Shifang County, where Ms. Hu gave birth, received UNICEF-supported training on providing breastfeeding counselling to new mothers. While breastfeeding is a natural act, it is also a learned behaviour, and new mothers require active support for establishing and sustaining appropriate breastfeeding practices. As a result of the training, today, even families living in remote mountainous villages of the earthquake zone are able to access scientific breastfeeding knowledge and approaches.

For Ms. Hu, who exclusively breastfed Yilin for the first six months, the increased awareness and promotion of breastfeeding in the three years since the earthquake are especially noticeable. When Ms. Hu gave birth to her first child, “I knew little about breastfeeding. I fed my baby milk powder because I thought my breastmilk was not good enough,” she said. With her first baby, Ms. Hu also began to introduce supplementary food items, including adult food, to the baby’s diet at three months of age.



“I didn’t know that breastmilk is actually the best food for babies until I attended a breastfeeding education session. I also learned that I should feed my baby when she gets hungry, not only at fixed intervals,” Ms. Hu said. “The doctors told us that breastfeeding has many benefits. It not only boosts the immunity of the child, but is also cheap and convenient.”

UNICEF has also helped to support the timely and appropriate introduction of complementary foods for babies after their first six months of life. In the three years since the earthquake, township hospitals throughout the earthquake zone have conducted a series of advocacy activities to promote improved feeding knowledge and behaviour among parents and caregivers.

Ms. Hu has taken all the knowledge that she has gained from the doctors at the hospital to provide her baby with the best possible start in life. “Yilin eats a lot. Every day, I feed her five times. She

likes all the food that I give her, including egg and tofu gruel and bits of vegetable, fruit and meat.” Ms. Hu added, “Yilin is my hope and my happiness. I will do everything that I can to raise her well.”

“Many people here live in mountainous areas, and it used to be very difficult for them to access scientific feeding knowledge and practice. Before the earthquake, the incidence of anaemia, stunting and low birth weight here was very high. More than half of the children here between the ages of 6 and 24 months were anaemic. Today, the situation has changed greatly and babies are healthier,” said Dr. Fang Lunju, the director of the gynaecology and obstetrics department at Yinghua Town Central Hospital.

### **“Our work has touched people’s lives”**

During the earthquake reconstruction period, UNICEF has worked to build MCH capacity at both the township and county levels. At the township level, support focused on the establishment of basic obstetric and newborn services, while at the county level, it focused on the establishment of comprehensive services.

Li Xiaohan, a 29-year-old doctor in the gynaecology and obstetrics department at Yinghua Town Central Hospital, feels very happy that she has been able to care for and help so many pregnant women and new mothers in the last few years. The mother of a four-year-old girl herself, Dr. Li said, “Even though I am a health worker, I used to not know a lot about infant and young child nutrition. I only breastfed my own daughter for four months. I wish that I could have benefited from UNICEF’s training earlier!”

Over at Huilan Town Central Hospital, Dr. Qin Xiaohuan has benefited from UNICEF-supported training since the very beginning of her career. Since receiving her medical degree in 2008, Qin Xiaohuan has participated in many rounds of training organized with UNICEF support. Earlier

this year, she was seconded to Shifang County MCH Hospital for three months. The extended hands-on training helped her greatly, in both theoretical understanding and practice.

That training has been put to good use during Dr. Qin’s frequent home visits to check up on pregnant women and new mothers. Through her work, she has become well-known in Huilan Town and has won the respect of the community. “A lot of people come up to me in the street to say hello, just like old friends. This makes me feel proud. I see how much our work has touched people’s lives,” she said.

Another doctor who has benefited from UNICEF-supported secondment training is Feng Xuemei from Yinfeng Town Hospital. “Before the training, I didn’t know how to make a partogram to monitor and manage the process of labour. Last year, I was seconded to Shifang County MCH Hospital for several months and learned a lot. With the training, I am now better able to detect any delay or deviation from normal labour and treat it accordingly. I’ve also learned how to prevent and respond to post-partum haemorrhage,” she said.

At the county level, UNICEF-supported trainings have also been positively received. According to Zeng Ying, the Director of the Outpatient Department at Shifang County MCH Hospital, “The UNICEF-supported trainings helped to improve the capacity of our staff and strengthen prenatal monitoring and screening.” Since participating in the training, Dr. Zeng has standardized the package of prenatal check-up services provided at Shifang County MCH Hospital.

Today, Shifang County MCH Hospital is located in a newly constructed building and supplied with updated medical equipment. With infrastructural advances complemented by UNICEF-supported guidelines and trainings, children and women in Shifang and other parts of the earthquake zone are now able to access higher quality, more standardized service.

In the reconstruction period, UNICEF supported the construction of handwashing facilities at Yangzui Primary School in Xihe County and other schools in the earthquake zone.





Today, there is increased community participation in the management of water and sanitation facilities.

## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

The Sichuan earthquake damaged or destroyed water distribution systems and sanitation facilities throughout the earthquake zone. In the weeks after the earthquake, it was difficult for children and women to reliably access clean water and maintain personal hygiene in the congested temporary settlements. There was also an increase in the open disposal of waste.

Throughout the emergency response, UNICEF has promoted a 3-in-1 approach to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), emphasizing that only a coordinated response can effectively reduce disease transmission and public health risks. Over the last three years, UNICEF support to the 3-in-1 approach has helped to bring about closer cooperation among water resource, sanitation, and hygiene technicians and authorities. UNICEF has also worked with schools and communities to encourage public participation, ownership and the sustainable management of community water and sanitation facilities.

Today, the 3-in-1 concept has been broadly adopted by local governments, and there is increased community participation in the management of water and sanitation facilities. The result is better, more integrated results in the WASH sector for children.

Throughout the emergency response and reconstruction period, UNICEF has promoted a 3-in-1 approach to water, sanitation and hygiene, emphasizing that only a coordinated response can effectively reduce public health risks.

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Immediately after the earthquake, UNICEF provided and helped its partners to set up 20 portable water treatment units in temporary settlements, health facilities and schools to provide 270,000 people with clean water. Water disinfection tablets were distributed to provide clean drinking water to 360,000 people living in smaller, more scattered settlement camps. UNICEF also supported the provision of 100 portable toilets to meet the needs of 10,000 people a day, as well as hygiene kits for 17,500 children and their families. These interventions helped to maintain hygiene in temporary settlement camps and remote rural communities, preventing the outbreak of infectious diseases.

## WASH for REMOTE, RURAL COMMUNITIES

In the reconstruction phase, UNICEF supported the construction or extension of small-scale but sustainable water distribution networks in 123 rural communities in 8 counties, increasing the supply of clean, sustainable drinking water to 150,000 people, a quarter of them schoolchildren. Today, all households in UNICEF-supported project communities have access to piped water, and water metres have been installed. The newly constructed community water networks have been extended to schools, where handwashing facilities have also been built, ensuring that children have access to clean water, both at home and school.

UNICEF also supported the construction of latrines in 96 schools and hospitals and 1,480 model households in rural communities of the earthquake zone, benefiting 40,000 people, of which more than half are schoolchildren.

Immediately after the earthquake and throughout the reconstruction period, UNICEF has worked with partners to increase knowledge and build capacity. Over the last three years, UNICEF has trained over 5,000 water and sanitation officials, community technicians, health workers and village doctors, school teachers and peer educators. Training has covered health education techniques, water quality testing, maintenance of water and sanitation facilities and waste management.

UNICEF has also recognized the centrality of changes in attitudes and behaviours among end-users to the optimal use and maintenance of the newly constructed facilities. UNICEF and its partners utilized a participatory approach to involve local residents in all planning and construction. As a result of UNICEF-supported trainings, engineers and technicians encouraged public participation during the construction of water supply systems and latrines. This helped to ensure locally



During the emergency phase, UNICEF helped to set up **portable water treatment units** in temporary settlement camps, health facilities and schools to provide **270,000 people** with **clean drinking water**.

In the reconstruction period, UNICEF has supported the construction of small-scale but sustainable water supply systems in rural communities, bringing clean drinking water to 150,000 people.



UNICEF supported the construction of a new water supply system with water purification equipment in Guihua Village, Sichuan Province.



A water technician monitors water quality at the community water supply system in Qingchuan County's Zhaizi Village.

Households in Xihe County's Yangzui Village have been connected (white structure in the background) to the newly-constructed water supply system.



Water metres have been installed in households in rural communities where UNICEF supported the construction or extension of water supply systems.

In the reconstruction period, UNICEF supported the construction of school handwashing facilities and extensive hygiene education to protect the health of children in the earthquake zone.



appropriate assistance and also encouraged community empowerment and ownership. Today, the new water and sanitation infrastructure in rural communities is well used, managed and maintained.

In a number of UNICEF-supported project communities, water-user associations have been established or strengthened. Rural water-user associations are participatory management mechanisms responsible for establishing water usage policy, negotiating with water supply companies and collecting water fees from villagers. The establishment of water-user associations has helped to cultivate awareness and increase self-management ability in rural communities, leading to improved water usage efficiency and more effective management of water resources in the earthquake zone.

The improvements in water security, basic sanitation and hygiene that have taken place during the earthquake reconstruction period are remarkable. Three years ago, none of the UNICEF-supported schools in Xihe County had water-points or sanitary latrines. Today, all of the schools have clean water, and boys and girls are able to access sanitary latrines. UNICEF's support to remote, rural communities in the earthquake zone has helped to provide models for water and sanitation infrastructure and community management practices appropriate for villages in other poor areas of China.

**UNICEF's support to remote, rural communities in the earthquake zone has helped to provide models for water and sanitation infrastructure and community management practices appropriate for other poor areas of China.**



During the emergency response, UNICEF provided 100 mobile toilets to meet the needs of 10,000 people a day.



Now that UNICEF-supported latrines have been constructed at 39 schools in Xihe County, students no longer have to use unsanitary latrines (left) or empty excreta tanks (bottom left corner) at the end of the school day.



Girls and boys at Zhaohe Primary School now have access to clean water and improved sanitation facilities.



## A SAFER TOMORROW

Immediately after the earthquake, UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Health and introduced international best practices on emergency water supply options and hygiene and sanitation.

Building on that early work, in the reconstruction phase, UNICEF supported the development of Basic Technical Guidelines on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Emergencies. The Guidelines cover disinfection, management of temporary drinking water facilities, water quality testing, construction and management of latrines, waste collection and hygiene education in temporary settlements.

The experiences gained and lessons learned from responding to the Sichuan earthquake informed the development of the standards and procedures set out in the Guidelines.

When emergencies strike in the future, health authorities will be able to draw upon the Guidelines to better address the water, sanitation and hygiene needs of children and women.

## SOCIAL MOBILIZATION for Improved Hygiene

In the three years since the earthquake, UNICEF has supported hygiene education in schools, temporary settlement camps and reconstructed communities to ensure that newly built water and sanitation facilities are accompanied by increased knowledge and improved behaviours, jointly leading to improved health.

In 2009, UNICEF introduced Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) to China for the first time. PHAST has proven to be an effective training technique for improving participatory management and maintenance of sanitation facilities, and knowledge of environmental health. To date, PHAST has reached more than 11,000 people in rural communities of the earthquake zone and is now being scaled up in other parts of the country.

UNICEF has also used Global Handwashing Day, an annual event inaugurated in 2008, the International Year of Sanitation, to raise awareness of handwashing with soap as a key approach to disease prevention. In October 2008, during the first-ever Global Handwashing Day, UNICEF focused its social mobilization efforts in hardest-hit Beichuan, targeting the vulnerable displaced population living in temporary shelters. UNICEF support to social mobilization continued during the second and third Global Handwashing Days held in 2009 and 2010, with hygiene messages and public service advertisements on handwashing with soap reaching an estimated 3 million people.

## REAL LIVES:

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Xihe County, Gansu Province

#### “The school has changed so much”

“My name is Yang Mei. I am a middle school student.” This is how 15-year-old Yang Mei introduces herself in perfectly-accented English.

When the Sichuan earthquake hit in May 2008, Yang Mei was a fifth-grade student at Caoyang Primary School in Gansu Province’s Xihe County.

Today, she is in the eighth grade, attending Xihe County No. 2 Secondary School, 30 kilometres away from her hometown. As a boarding student, Yang Mei is only able to return to her hometown once every two weeks, and seldom returns to Caoyang Primary School.

But in April 2011, just a few weeks shy of the three-year anniversary of the Sichuan earthquake, Yang Mei had a chance to revisit her primary school. “When I graduated from here in June 2009, the latrines and water facilities were still being constructed. Today, that construction has been completed. And there’s even a new playground. The school has changed so much!” said Yang Mei.

While the dramatic changes that Yang Mei saw at Caoyang Primary School after nearly two years away were eye-opening for her, they are a part of everyday life for her brother, Yang Zhen. Two years younger than his sister, Yang Zhen still studies at Caoyang Primary School and has witnessed UNICEF’s support to the school as part of its Build Back Better programme, from start to finish.



Yang Mei and her younger brother Yang Zhen stand outside Caoyang Primary School, where prefabricated classrooms provided by UNICEF continue to be used.

“To have clean water to drink, a sanitary latrine to use... my classmates and I are all so happy and excited. I hope that we will always have this access,” he said.

During the reconstruction period, UNICEF supported the construction of clean water facilities and septic tank latrines in 39 schools in Xihe County. Today, these facilities are being sustainably used in all of the schools.

“In the past, we had two washbasins in the back of every classroom. Whenever we needed water, the boys in the class would have to go draw water from a nearby well. But now, it’s so convenient,” Yang Mei said, upon seeing the sinks in the UNICEF-supported school water house.

The principal of Caoyang Primary School, Mr. He Baohui added, “It’s not only convenient; the construction of the water facilities and latrines has also had a huge impact on student health.”



## **“New hygiene concepts will continue into the future”**

Less obviously visible but perhaps even more important than the water and sanitation facilities built during reconstruction is the adoption of healthy and hygienic behaviours by children in the earthquake zone. Over the course of the last three years, UNICEF’s support to water and sanitation infrastructure has been accompanied by hygiene education and social mobilization among 10,000 students in Xihe County.

As a result of UNICEF-supported hygiene education, today, everybody at Yangzui Primary School knows about the six-step handwashing method. According to fifth-grader Lu Ruixue, in the past, she very rarely washed her hands. Now, she always washes her hands before meals and after going to the bathroom. Students have also become agents of change, actively sharing hygiene practices with their families. According to sixth-grader Yang Jiangjiang, it was through him that his parents and his elder sister learned about proper handwashing technique.

The big changes that have been brought about at Yangzui Primary School can be attributed in large part to Mr. Yang Shulin. After participating in UNICEF-supported training on health education, Mr. Yang returned to his school, where he trained both the principal and his fellow teachers. The teachers in turn shared hygiene knowledge with their students, covering topics such as handwashing with soap, use and maintenance of sanitary latrines, and personal hygiene practices.

One way in which the school has helped to spread awareness is through peer education, with older students guiding younger students, and students learning from one another.

The environment at Yangzui Primary School today is quite different from how it was before the earthquake. According to UNICEF-supported studies conducted in Xihe County in May 2009, nearly half of the students surveyed had experienced at least one episode of diarrhoea in the three months prior to the study.

“Since then, we’ve found that the incidence of diarrhoea, common colds and other illnesses has decreased markedly,” said Mr. Yang. “I know that the increased awareness and the new hygiene practices that have been introduced since the earthquake will continue into the future,” he said.





Before the UNICEF-supported construction of model household latrines, families in Xihe County used unsanitary latrines (left).

### “One of the happiest moments in my life”

For generations, the people of Gansu Province’s mountainous Longnan Prefecture, where Xihe County is located, have lived with water shortage. The difficulty in accessing sufficient quantities of water has affected local hygiene practices.

In the three years since the earthquake, UNICEF’s support to hardware and software interventions in schools in Xihe County has also extended to the rural communities in which they are situated, ensuring reliable access to improved water and sanitation for children at both school and home. With UNICEF support, clean water sources have been identified and pipe networks have been constructed or extended. In places with variable water availability, UNICEF supported the construction of water cellars for rainwater collection and worked with local communities to better manage water resources.

UNICEF also supported the construction of double-urn sanitary latrines in 780 model households with children studying at UNICEF-supported schools. Today, these household latrines, painted a bright white colour, stand out among the earth-coloured homes made of mud and brick.

Su Biwa, 43 years old, is a resident of Yangzui Village. For many years now, he has travelled between Xihe County and neighbouring Chengxian County. It was in Chengxian County several years ago that he saw a hygienic latrine for the first time,

and hoped that he would one day be able to provide one for his own family of five people. Mr. Su was delighted when, with UNICEF support, a sanitary latrine was constructed in his household in December 2009. The double-urn latrines supported by UNICEF dispose of waste harmlessly and ward off intestinal infections, but are also water-efficient, inexpensive and easy to maintain. This makes them appropriate for the local context and suitable for scaling up.

In 2010, on the basis of the positive experience with the UNICEF-supported model household latrines, Xihe County successfully applied for funding support from the central government for the construction of an additional 2,000 household latrines. In 2011, Xihe County applied for provincial funding support for the construction of an additional 2,000 sanitary household latrines. In the three years since the earthquake, UNICEF’s support has had a catalytic effect, increasing demand for sanitation by raising awareness among both rural households and local government decision makers.

Momentous changes have taken place in Yangzui Village since the earthquake. “Now that we have access to clean drinking water from our household taps, we no longer have to fetch unclean water from the river dyke. The latrine is also much cleaner. This is one of the happiest moments in my life,” said 63-year-old villager Han Daimei.





Today, children in the earthquake zone are able to access more joyful and more interactive schooling in newly-constructed buildings with skilled teachers and supportive parents.

## EDUCATION

The Sichuan earthquake struck during the early afternoon on a school day, when effectively every school-aged child in Sichuan was in a classroom. With 12,000 schools in Sichuan and 6,500 schools in Gansu damaged, the earthquake affected the education of millions of students.

The earthquake also had a devastating impact on younger children. Quality early childhood education plays a crucial role in children's development and has long-term implications for children's well-being, but even before the earthquake, preschool facilities in the Sichuan earthquake zone were under-equipped and teachers lacked professional training.

As a result of the concerted efforts of all partners, today, children in the earthquake zone are able to access more joyful and more interactive schooling in newly-constructed buildings with skilled teachers and supportive parents. UNICEF support in the three years since the earthquake has also helped to enhance the accessibility, quality, and equity of early childhood development services for the most vulnerable children.

**CORE COMMITMENTS FOR  
CHILDREN IN EMERGENCIES:**  
Restoring Access to Education



The earthquake damaged one out of every seven schools in Sichuan Province, making the restoration of access to education an urgent priority.

Classroom tents provided by UNICEF helped to provide children with a safe temporary learning space, reduce the risk of student falling behind in their studies, and restore a sense of normalcy and routine.



**The Child Friendly School approach has helped to ensure that new, state-of-the-art school buildings are matched by child-centred teaching and learning, with a renewed emphasis on quality, inclusiveness, safety and children's participation.**

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Immediately after the earthquake, the Ministry of Education announced that returning all children to school by 1 September 2008, the start of the new school year, was a priority. With support from the private sector and others, education authorities set up temporary learning spaces in tents, prefabricated structures and buildings that were not affected by the earthquake. UNICEF supported these efforts by providing 1,000 classroom tents to 50,000 children. UNICEF also provided desks, chairs, student kits, teacher kits, library kits and sports kits to an estimated 250,000 children to meet the high demand for classroom furniture and teaching and learning materials as students moved into temporary learning spaces.

During the emergency response phase, UNICEF also provided Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits to preschools and kindergartens in the most seriously affected counties of the earthquake zone to support the reestablishment of age-appropriate education for children aged 3–6.

## CAPACITY BUILDING for Joyful, Interactive Schooling

The construction of schools and other public facilities was prioritized in the government's reconstruction programme, which meant that nearly all students in Sichuan were able to move from prefabricated classrooms into newly built school buildings in September 2009, less than one and a half years after the earthquake. The mass-scale reconstruction of school buildings helped to reduce physical disparities between urban and rural schools, as many dilapidated rural school buildings that had not been renovated in decades were transformed into modern buildings with the influx of reconstruction funds.

During the reconstruction phase, UNICEF's support focused on improving the quality of education in five seriously affected counties in Sichuan Province and in Xihe County, Gansu Province. UNICEF introduced the Child Friendly School approach to 200 schools to ensure that the new state-of-the-art edifices were matched by state-of-the-art, child-centred teaching and learning, with a renewed emphasis on quality, inclusiveness, safety and children's participation. UNICEF and its partners worked to ensure that educators, including those working at isolated school sites in rural villages, benefited from updated teacher training opportunities. In the reconstruction response, that has included the introduction of mobile educational training and resource units to reach the most difficult to reach areas.

Emphasis on classroom instruction has been accompanied by work to improve school management. This was particularly relevant in the context of the reconstruction process, which saw the consolidation and merging of many schools, and the movement of teachers and students to unfamiliar settings.





**“Since the earthquake, we have gained much from other countries’ experience in school safety, post-disaster reconstruction of schools and school retrofitting. Now, the Government of China hopes to share its experience with the international community.”**

**– Chen Feng, DDG,  
Ministry of Education**

## **EXPERIENCE EXCHANGE** for Safer Schools

During the reconstruction period, UNICEF has worked closely with education authorities to support the development of child-friendly and earthquake-resistant construction standards for schools in the Sichuan earthquake zone. UNICEF’s work in this highly technical area has relied on strategic linkages with international bodies, an example of how experience exchange and supportive partnerships can support the wellbeing of children.

In the months after the earthquake, all school buildings in the Sichuan earthquake zone and around the country were assessed for safety. Preliminary assessments found that thousands of schools in Sichuan would have to be rebuilt or retrofitted. However, no national standards existed for retrofitting.

In October 2008, UNICEF supported a delegation of education policymakers and technical experts to visit Japan to learn global best practices on school reconstruction. During the visit, the delegation learned how to assess the earthquake resistance of school buildings, retrofit vulnerable buildings, and develop safety standards for new construction. Lessons learned from that visit helped to inform the development of management guidelines on retrofitting and school safety. In late 2008, the Ministry of Education released its Guidelines on Post-Earthquake New School Construction and Design, laying the foundation for the construction of 3,300 schools and retrofitting of 1,500 schools.

With experience gained from the trip to Japan and follow-up consultations with the world’s leading technical experts, UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Education in conducting nationwide school safety assessments and establishing a database to identify vulnerable buildings to be retrofitted. Today, all 31 provinces maintain a school safety database, reflecting increased awareness of and commitment to keeping children safe in school. The provincial-level databases serve as a significant reference to aid decision-making in the allocation of funds for school retrofitting and construction, and will have long-term implications for the safety of schools and children.

In May 2011, Chen Feng, a Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of Education, will represent China at the World Reconstruction Conference in Geneva, the first large-scale global conference focused on natural disaster recovery and reconstruction. At the meeting, China will share its experiences and good practices on the post-emergency rehabilitation of education services and school risk reduction. Strengthened by the experiences gained from the Sichuan earthquake response, China is now playing its part to promote policy dialogue for an effective international disaster recovery and reconstruction framework.



In October 2008, UNICEF supported a delegation of education policymakers and technical experts to visit Japan to learn global best practices on school reconstruction, which fed into the development of China's Guidelines on Post-Earthquake New School Construction and Design.

## EQUITY: Reaching Remote Communities

UNICEF's experience in the Sichuan earthquake zone has found that sometimes, it is in reaching out to the less visible, more remote geographic areas that UNICEF can best realize its equity mandate and make the largest impact on the most vulnerable children and women.

In the aftermath of the earthquake, most of the relief efforts and media coverage concentrated on

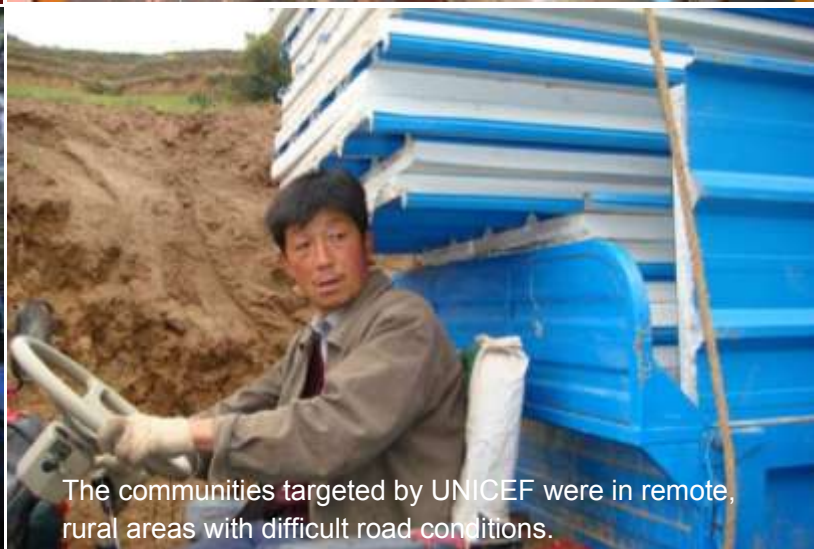
Sichuan Province, while neighbouring Gansu Province, which was also seriously affected, received much less attention.

In the three years since the earthquake, UNICEF and its partners have implemented a comprehensive "Build Back Better" programme in Gansu Province's Xihe County, reaching 10,000 children in 39 schools and communities.



Some children in the earthquake zone had to resume their studies outdoors (*left*) or in borrowed spaces.

UNICEF supported the provision of 100 prefabricated classroom units to schools.



The communities targeted by UNICEF were in remote, rural areas with difficult road conditions.





With the installation of the prefabricated classrooms complete, 10,000 children were able to resume their studies in a safe, comfortable and well-lit space.



The transformation that has taken place in schools in remote, rural communities in the three years since the earthquake is remarkable.



UNICEF also supported the construction of playgrounds at the schools and provided sports equipment.



## REAL LIVES:

### School-Based Psychosocial Support

Schools were rebuilt quickly after the earthquake, but psychological wounds take longer to heal.

UNICEF assessments conducted during the reconstruction period found that many children and teachers continued to suffer symptoms of psychosocial stress, with symptoms including withdrawal, anxiousness, fear, denial and depression. With schools consolidated and reorganized after the earthquake, and students moved around, often to schools where teachers were not familiar with them, the needs for psychosocial support were enormous.

Recognizing that schools are both a place for learning and a place for children to overcome the psychosocial stress of emergencies, UNICEF supported training for teachers and principals to help them recognize signs of distress or impaired daily functioning among their students. Today, all 60,000 children aged 6–12 in Beichuan, Qingchuan and Shifang, three of the most severely affected counties, are able to regularly access psychosocial support.

According to Xiong Tingjun, the principal of Leigu Central Primary School, “It was chaos after the earthquake. I was so busy at that time, and didn’t really understand psychosocial support, so I thought it was of secondary importance. After participating in UNICEF-supported training, I realize now that psychosocial rehabilitation is crucial to the reconstruction of a society. It is especially important for children.”

More than 100 students in Leigu Central Primary School were identified as exhibiting signs of psychological distress. In order to help these children recover, a room was set up at the school for trained teachers to provide the children with psychosocial support and counselling. Today, most of the students have recovered.

At Yongchang Primary School, fifth-grade teacher Dong Jing said, “Before receiving the UNICEF training, I didn’t know how to provide psychosocial support to my students. With the training, I’ve learned to improve my listening and communication skills and help students to deal with the pressures that they feel after the earthquake. The training helped me to help the children.”



## TRANSFORMATION in Early Childhood Development

UNICEF's ECD support is reaching 27,000 children aged 4–6 in 5 counties in Sichuan and one county in Gansu. Many of the communities in which UNICEF is working are in hard-to-reach mountainous villages and townships, where preschools and kindergartens desperately lacked age-appropriate facilities, furniture, toys and books.

In the reconstruction phase of the earthquake, UNICEF helped to upgrade early education facilities in 180 preschools and kindergartens. With the enrichment of furniture, equipment and teaching and learning materials provided by UNICEF, preschools and kindergartens were able to set up functional areas such as reading, handicrafts, construction and drama corners. Children now have the freedom to follow their individual interests and be creative in exploring the environment. The classrooms have been made more child-friendly and safe in design, standards and practice.

UNICEF also supported capacity-building activities, including both training workshops and on-site support, and introduced the Child Friendly Kindergarten curriculum to help teachers conduct individual and group play activities and encourage children's creative expression. As a result of UNICEF's support to ECD, preschool teachers' mindsets and habits have transformed in the three years since the earthquake. Before 2008, early education in much of the earthquake zone was basically a duplication of the primary school first grade curriculum, with an emphasis on rote learning which hindered young children's development in multiple domains, particularly their interest in learning and creativity. Today, preschool teachers benefit from greater training and support and have developed professional skills, becoming more competent in observing children's behaviours and

**In the three years since the earthquake, preschool teachers' mindsets and habits have been transformed.**

Many preschools and kindergartens in the earthquake zone desperately lacked age-appropriate, child-friendly furniture and equipment.



Today, early education has been transformed, with radically improved infrastructure accompanied by equally significant changes in classroom environments and teaching approaches.





designing activities based on children's interests and developmental needs. With the training, teachers in the earthquake zone have been empowered to transform the quality of early education by designing age-appropriate activities to foster children's physical abilities, cognitive development, language skills, and social and emotional adaptability.

In addition to improvements in the quality of ECD, the reconstruction phase has seen increased equity, with increasing access to ECD opportunities among under-served children. In just three years, the ECD enrolment rate in UNICEF-supported project counties has increased by nearly 20 percentage points. In Beichuan, the percentage of 3–6 year olds enrolled in kindergarten or preschool increased from 36% to 54%, while in Qingchuan, the early education enrolment rate increased from 45% to 62%. In Gansu Province's Xihe County, only 48% of first-graders had at least one year of preschool education at the time the UNICEF-supported ECD reconstruction programme began. By the fall of 2010, the rate had increased to 77%. Among parents of young children in the earthquake zone, early education is increasingly becoming recognized as crucial to children's healthy development.

This increased recognition of the importance of ECD is also seen among local education authorities, who had previously not prioritized preschool education, as it is not a part of China's nine years of compulsory education. Today, the situation is quite different. In some village schools in the earthquake zone, principals have turned the largest room in the school, such as the conference room, into the preschool space so that there is enough space for various functional areas to be set up for children to explore. With UNICEF's advocacy, the Sichuan Province Education Commission provided matching funds for the UNICEF-supported project counties, and senior provincial officials took part in field monitoring trips. Similarly, in Xihe, the Education Bureau committed to hiring more early education teachers to reduce the child-teacher ratio.

In late 2010, the State Council issued its "Opinions about Developing Preschool Education," announcing the central government's intention to set up special funds to universalize preschool education. With the new policy, it is expected that coverage of ECD around the country will expand dramatically, helping to better prepare children in China for success in primary school and beyond. The earthquake reconstruction programme provides a firm basis for further ECD improvements in the years to come. As ECD services grow rapidly around the country, many will be looking to the remarkable improvements that have taken place in the earthquake zone.

Currently, there are no national guidelines on the construction of preschools. Just as UNICEF supported ECD policy improvements and the development of regulations and standards for the construction of primary schools after the earthquake, UNICEF is now collaborating with the Ministry of Education to develop safe construction standards for preschool and kindergarten facilities. With a large number of preschool facilities expected to be built in the coming years as the result of increased government attention and investment, UNICEF's support to this area is both timely and critical.



Training for preschool and kindergarten teachers on UNICEF's Child Friendly Kindergarten approach has helped to increase their competence in observing children's behaviours and providing appropriate support, based on individual children's developmental needs.

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守师德 讲良心 尽责任

请与书交朋友，一书  
好书就是一个好朋友  
它会让你的爱在一辈子

勿以恶小而为之



In the three years since the earthquake, UNICEF has worked with the Ministry of Education to integrate safety education into the school curriculum and support regular evacuation drills and other disaster risk reduction exercises.

## REAL LIVES: School Safety

A UNICEF-supported survey on safety education and preparedness conducted after the earthquake found that nearly half of the schools surveyed had never organized any kind of safety education for their students. In the three years since the earthquake, UNICEF has supported efforts to make schools in the earthquake zone and throughout the country more resilient and better prepared in the face of future disasters.

In September 2008, on the first day of the new school year after the earthquake, China Central Television (CCTV) aired a television programme on disaster prevention, readiness and response. The groundbreaking programme, which was produced with technical support and expertise from UNICEF, was made required viewing for all students by the Ministry of Education.

Since then, UNICEF has, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, helped to develop and rollout a national training programme on safety education and management. UNICEF supported the development of educational materials on emergency preparedness and school safety, which have been distributed to schools throughout the earthquake zone. Today, school safety has been successfully integrated into the national primary school curriculum, helping to reduce the vulnerability of children all around the country. Classroom instruction has been complemented with school safety mapping, evacuation drills and other exercises that help to keep children safe.

According to Zeng Jialin, a fifth-grade student at Leigu Central Primary School in Beichuan County, many rounds of training on safety education, including fire safety and earthquake preparedness, have been conducted at her school. Evacuation drills have been conducted frequently, and Jialin and her classmates all know where the emergency exits in their newly built school building are.

In Beichuan County's Yongchang Primary School, even the youngest students have good basic knowledge of safety. "In the event of fire, my classmates and I will evacuate the building and

head for the playground," said 8-year-old Zhang Zhengyi, a second-grade student, pointing at the nearest emergency exit. According to Zhengyi, just one week ago, the school had conducted a fire drill.

UNICEF has also supported the development and rollout of an online training programme and certification process to help teachers and principals implement safety procedures to better prepare for and respond to emergencies. The training, which was initially introduced in 45 high-risk counties in Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi Provinces, was very positively received, with more than 80% of participants reporting that they were better prepared to reduce risk and protect students in emergencies.

On the basis of the strong positive feedback, the programme has since been expanded to other schools around the country, an example of how an innovation introduced in the earthquake zone is now being scaled-up to benefit more children. To date, 60,000 teachers and principals from 20 central and western provinces have been trained through the online training model.



Zhang Zhengyi



## REAL LIVES:

### Child Friendly Schools

#### “My classmates and I are very excited about the changes”

Children are often the most astute observers of change. For 15-year-old Yang Xiang'ai, a student at Caoyang Primary School in Gansu Province's Xihe County, the most significant change to take place at her school in the past few years is obvious.

“I like to sing and perform. A few weeks ago, we were studying the text of ‘Wusong Fights the Tiger’ [from the Chinese literary classic *Outlaws of the Marsh*] in Chinese class, and our teacher asked us to act it out. I got to perform the lead role!” She playfully made the hand motions of the heroic Wusong defeating a man-eating tiger.

“In the past, whenever we had Chinese class, we were always in our seats. At most, our teacher might assign us different parts of the text to read. To tell you the truth, our lessons were not that interesting. But now, we are given the chance to perform in front of the class. All of my classmates and I are very excited about the change. I hope that I have the chance to perform more roles in the coming months!” Xiang'ai said.

In the three years since the 2008 Sichuan earthquake, UNICEF has supported a comprehensive “Build Back Better” education programme in the most seriously-affected counties. Big changes have taken place during this time, as freshly trained teachers have been able to introduce new, child-centred teaching methods to the classroom.

The changes brought about by the UNICEF-supported Child Friendly School approach have been thoroughly integrated into the education reconstruction plan, bringing lasting changes to schools throughout the earthquake zone.



#### “Providing opportunities for students to think critically”

“In the past, we relied entirely on traditional teaching approaches. Teachers stood in front of the classroom and lectured, while students took notes. Every question had a standardized answer, and students were expected to memorize that one answer. Now, the situation is totally different. I'll ask questions, but I don't give a standardized answer immediately,” said Nan Lu, a Chinese teacher at Gutang Primary School in Xihe County.

“In fact, many of the questions that I ask don't have a single correct answer anymore. Instead, I'm trying to provide opportunities for my students to think critically and participate in discussion,” Ms. Nan said. Since the earthquake, UNICEF has supported training for Ms. Nan and her colleagues on interactive teaching, a key component of the Child Friendly School approach.

The Child Friendly School approach aims to replace the rote teaching methods in place before the earthquake with more inspiring pedagogy and provide young children with a stimulating, rewarding time in the classroom. “Through the training, we learned about the importance of child participation and student-teacher and student-student interaction. I’ve found that the approach works very well in practice,” said Ms. Nan.

One way that the Child Friendly School approach encourages student participation in the classroom is through “effective questioning.” At Leigu Central Primary School in Beichuan County, Ms. Yang, a fifth-grade teacher with 13 years of experience teaching Chinese said, “I’ve been teaching the text ‘Marie Curie Discovers Radium’ for many years now. In the past, I’d have students open their textbooks to that lesson, and I’d begin lecturing. Now, I’ll let them first preview the lesson, then allow time for them to have a discussion and pose questions. The students are asked to keep their questions as we study the text. This way, students

are actively engaged throughout the learning process. I’ve found that this helps them to understand the text better.”

The changes that have been brought about with the introduction of the Child Friendly School approach are apparent, not only in teaching methodology, but even in the physical layout of classrooms. In many schools, the traditional rows of desks and chairs have been replaced with clusters of four or five desks, which facilitates student discussion and interaction. “Ever since the layout of the classroom changed, I’ve become less afraid of my teachers and brave enough to speak up in class,” said Yang Yupeng, a fifth-grader at Yangzui Primary School in Xihe County.

### “My son is an active learner”

Today, Zhaohe Primary School is located in a sturdily built building, newly constructed after the earthquake, with a brick-lined path, a beautiful flowerbed and a UNICEF-supported playground. During recess, all the students gather at the



Jiang Xiongbang



playground and play basketball, volleyball and table tennis. For them, the playground and the sports facilities provided with UNICEF support will likely remain a part of their happiest childhood memories. “I love the playground. I come here every day, and hope that I’ll still be able to play here after I go to middle school,” said fourth-grader Jiang Xiongbang.

Three years ago, it would have been impossible to imagine that Zhaohe Primary School would ever undergo such a transformation. According to Principal Guo Shoucheng, the school sustained serious damage in the earthquake.

With the collapse of several mud and earth buildings in the area, dust was everywhere in the months after the earthquake. Whenever it rained, the entire ground became mud. Inside the school, facilities were equally poor, especially for the preschool-aged children, whose classrooms were devoid of age-appropriate supplies. Even the youngest children used the same chairs and desks as the fifth and sixth-graders, their feet not quite reaching the floor.

Today, however, the scene is totally different. The preschool classroom is filled with age-appropriate toys, and colourful children’s drawings adorn the walls. Preschool teaching methodology has also changed completely. “In the past, we focused on teaching pinyin [the romanization system for Chinese characters] to preschool students. Since the training, the focus has shifted to games for young children that help them develop cognitive, emotional and other skills,” Principal Guo said.

In the primary grade classrooms, big changes are afoot as well. Through the UNICEF-supported training on Child Friendly School development plans and school management, Principal Guo learned about curriculum planning, new classroom teaching approaches and supportive school management practices. This has led to a revolution in school management at Zhaohe Primary School.

With all the changes in school management and classroom instruction, however, also came some discomfort from parents, who were more familiar with the traditional way of teaching. “How can children learn unless they’re given more books?” was a common complaint raised by parents. In response, Principal Guo held a meeting at the school and invited parents and community residents to attend. At the meeting, Principal Guo explained the concept of Child Friendly Schools and showed parents the positive learning outcomes achieved for children.

Jiang Bizhan, the father of fourth-grader Jiang Xiongbang, was present at the meeting. “Huge changes have taken place at Zhaohe Primary School. I see now that my son Xiongbang is an active learner, not a passive recipient of education. He has gained creative problem-solving skills. I’ve also just found out that my son has artistic talents that I never noticed before,” he said.

Today the school, family and community work together to provide the students of Zhaohe Primary School and other schools in the earthquake zone with a supportive, child friendly learning environment.



Principal Guo Shoucheng





Today, the child protection network in newly-built communities is stronger than it was before the earthquake.

## CHILD PROTECTION

The Sichuan earthquake had a devastating impact on the lives of children and women, exposing them to increased risks and vulnerabilities. Even before the earthquake, there were many gaps in services for vulnerable children, especially those in rural areas. Thus, from the very beginning, UNICEF has viewed the emergency response as an unparalleled opportunity to build upon under-developed elements of the child protection sector and invest in the community systems needed to keep children safe and support their development and participation in social life.

In the three years since the earthquake, the most vulnerable children in the earthquake zone have benefited from psychosocial support and community-based services provided through UNICEF-supported Child Friendly Spaces and a burgeoning social work field. Today, the child protection network in newly-built communities is stronger than it was before the earthquake.

**“From our experiences, we have seen that the Child Friendly Spaces are effective and worthy of further replication and promotion.”**

**– Mr. Huang Xiaoqiang,  
Vice Governor of  
Sichuan Province**

## Protection of **VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, thousands of children were reported to be separated or orphaned, prompting more than 20,000 families to contact civil affairs authorities to express their interest in adopting children “orphaned” by the earthquake. Guided by policy guidelines for children without caregivers developed with UNICEF support before the earthquake, the Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA) announced that adoption would not be allowed until order was restored, family identification and tracing efforts were conducted, and children were confirmed as orphans.

The Sichuan earthquake was significant, as it was the first large-scale emergency to strike in the years since the UNICEF-supported policy guidelines for children without caregivers were developed, and therefore an opportunity for UNICEF to work with MCA to educate the public. To respond to the overwhelming emotional appeals being made by those who expressed interest in adoption, UNICEF and MCA produced communication materials to explain the rules and procedures that need to be followed in any adoption, to respect the best interests of children.

As the weeks progressed, and the government continued to make progress in tracing efforts, 624 children were finally determined to have been orphaned by the earthquake. Nearly 80% of the children were eventually placed with extended family members under guardianship/kinship arrangements. UNICEF supported the establishment of a tracking mechanism and a longitudinal study to monitor the situation of children orphaned by the earthquake, improve family and community-based protection services, and provide recommendations to the government for use in future emergencies. UNICEF also conducted an analytical study with the Ministry of Finance and MCA to identify and promote international best practices on social assistance to orphans, so that the children orphaned by the earthquake receive sufficient government support and protection. Additionally, a resource book and training manual were developed to help caregivers improve the quality of care provided to the orphaned children.

During the reconstruction period, UNICEF has also worked with the China Disabled Person’s Federation to train 120 teachers and administrators in 8 special education schools in Sichuan 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.

## **SUSTAINABLE** Community-Based Children’s Services

Immediately after the earthquake, UNICEF conducted a rapid assessment of the protection and psychosocial needs of children in the earthquake zone. The assessment found that children and families

displaced by the earthquake lived under crowded conditions in temporary shelters, with little supervision and with limited access to safe play spaces. Even before the earthquake, there was a lack of community-based services catering to children's protection needs. The emergency situation only increased children's need for care and social support.

In response, UNICEF and the National Working Committee on Children and Women (NWCCW) established 40 Child Friendly Spaces in the most severely-affected areas, marking the introduction of the UNICEF-supported Child Friendly Spaces model to China for the first time. UNICEF's global experience in providing a safe and supportive environment for children in post-emergency settings has found that Child Friendly Spaces offer a social protection network that would otherwise be missing after emergencies.

With so many children uprooted from their normal environments by the Sichuan earthquake, the Child Friendly Spaces played a critical role in building cohesion and a sense of community. In the three years since the earthquake, the Child Friendly Spaces have offered community-based services to more than 332,000 children, providing psychosocial support and equipping them with the skills and confidence to recover from the emergency.

The Child Friendly Spaces were initially set up in tents and equipped with toys and equipment. As displaced communities began to move into prefabricated settlement camps, the Child Friendly Spaces moved with them. During the early reconstruction phase, the Child Friendly Spaces were critical in providing parents with a place where their children could play safely and with appropriate supervision. This gave parents the time to undertake essential tasks that arose during the demanding process of relocation and resettlement.

As earthquake survivors gradually moved out of settlement camps, UNICEF worked with local partners to relocate the Child Friendly Spaces and ensure that they remained close to the communities they served. The search for suitable locations in the newly built communities received a huge boost when, in July 2010, the Sichuan Government issued a policy document, confirming government support to the sustainable development of the Child Friendly Spaces beyond May 2011, the end of the formal reconstruction period.



In the three years since the earthquake, the Child Friendly Spaces have moved from temporary settlement camps into rebuilt communities, and have evolved from safe spaces introduced in a post-emergency context to an integral part of the child protection network.

**“The experiences gained in the Sichuan earthquake response have strongly enriched localized social work theories and practices in China and rapidly increased the recognition and influence of social work. This points to the critical role played by social workers in the construction of a harmonious society.”**

**– Mr. Sun Jianwu,  
Director General,  
Social Work  
Department, MCA**

Today, the Child Friendly Spaces have gained a strong foothold in reconstructed communities, and have evolved from safe spaces introduced in an emergency context into full-fledged community-based children’s service providers. Three years after the earthquake, the 40 Child Friendly Spaces have become fully integrated into the new communities, and serve as resource centres for children, adopted and supported by local governments and members of the community.

The sustainability of the Child Friendly Spaces and the strong sense of local ownership in the post-reconstruction period is due to UNICEF’s close partnership and consultations with national, provincial and local Women’s Federations and communities. It is also due to the dedicated corps of Child Friendly Space staff trained by UNICEF. Over the course of three years, UNICEF supported extensive training for the staff of the Child Friendly Spaces to build their capacity in providing psychosocial support and conducting educational, recreational and community activities. As community-based children’s services are still a relatively new phenomenon in China, capacity building for the 160 staff members of the Child Friendly Spaces represents an investment in the delivery of rights-based, community-based children’s services for years to come.

The Child Friendly Spaces have served as a catalyst for developing community-based child protection systems, increasing awareness of the importance of psychosocial support and community-based protection services in both emergency responses and everyday contexts. Already, the Child Friendly Space model has been introduced in the 2010 Yushu earthquake zone, as well as in areas around the county with large migrant children populations.

## **Child Protection SYSTEMS BUILDING**

In the three years since the earthquake, UNICEF has worked with the All-China Women’s Federation to build a community-based child protection coordination mechanism in the earthquake zone. The coordination mechanism, which is linked to both the UNICEF-supported Child Friendly Spaces and the Public Security Bureau, has led to the development of enhanced working procedures for multi-departmental and multi-sectoral cooperation in child protection.

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 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.

A child protection system approach dictates that community prevention and intervention go hand in hand. In the three years since the

earthquake, family education has been conducted among thousands of parents and caretakers to raise awareness of children's rights and promote enhanced knowledge and skills on child care. Communication campaigns at provincial, county and township levels, accompanied by child and parent-led communication activities in neighbourhoods and homes, have increased general social awareness on child protection and supportive childrearing practices.

## Emergence of SOCIAL WORK

International experience shows that social workers play a critical role in the promotion of children's rights, especially the right to be protected from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. Vulnerable children and families require a dedicated workforce of qualified social workers who can identify persons in need of support and special protection, help and refer them to welfare services and ensure that they have access to social benefits. In order to give this support, however, social workers need to have certain values, knowledge and skills, and they need an enabling environment, with an appropriate policy framework in place.

Since 2006, UNICEF has worked with MCA's Social Work Department to develop the social work profession in China. In December 2009, UNICEF and MCA jointly hosted the first-ever national-level seminar on social work for children after emergencies. At the seminar, attended by 200 national and local-level civil affairs officials and social work experts, participants reviewed and debated the role of social workers in the earthquake response. A training manual on Social Work in Emergencies, developed with UNICEF support and now considered a seminal reference for social work in emergencies, was launched after the seminar.

The three years since the Sichuan earthquake have marked a turning point for the development of social work in China, with a corps of professional social service staff emerging during the reconstruction period. Since the landmark seminar, and as a result of increased recognition and training opportunities after the earthquake, including many supported by UNICEF, a number of specialized social work agencies have been registered in the earthquake zone. In 2009, Wenchuan County's first-ever Social Work Association was established.

Today, the Social Work Association, with support from UNICEF, is providing services to children from single parent families, as well as to ethnic minority children living in the mountainous areas of Wenchuan. Through their hard work and their increasing professional capability, the contributions of social work professionals to the wellbeing of children and communities are becoming increasingly recognized. The building up of the social work sector in the earthquake zone is a development as important as the construction of new schools and new homes.

## A SAFER TOMORROW

Based on the experiences gained from responding to the Sichuan earthquake, and informed by international best practices, UNICEF recently supported MCA in the development of a Working Procedure for Placement and Care of Separated Children in Emergencies. The standardization of placement procedures and associated training helps MCA and other relevant authorities better respond to the needs of separated children in emergencies.

NWCCW has been working to include the Child Friendly Space model in the new National Plan of Action for Child Development (2011-2020), China's development framework for children. UNICEF's government counterparts are advocating for the inclusion of the Child Friendly Space model as a key part of the work to build up China's child protection system. It is therefore expected that the Child Friendly Space model, while developed and refined in the Sichuan earthquake zone, will benefit more and more children all over the country.

With UNICEF support, MCA recently developed a Five-Year Plan of Action on Social Work in Disaster Reconstruction, underscoring the growing recognition of the importance of social work in protecting the rights of the most vulnerable children.

## REAL LIVES:

### Child Friendly Spaces

“The total population of Hongbai Town in Shifang County is 6,485, of which 3,286 are female and 1,127 are children. In the 2008 Sichuan earthquake, 159 children were killed and 226 were injured or disabled,” said Lian Shengqiong, as she presented an overview of the situation of children and women in Hongbai Town.

In the three years since the earthquake, Ms. Lian, the 40-year-old manager of the UNICEF-supported Child Friendly Space in Hongbai Town, has seen a lot and changed a lot. In 2008, when the Child Friendly Space was first set up in Xinghe, the largest temporary settlement camp in Hongbai Town, Ms. Lian was hesitant and somewhat intimidated about the idea of delivering community-based child services. Today, the Child Friendly Space is located in the newly-built Hongbai Town Culture and Activity Centre, and is a recognized provider of children’s services among the 1,244 households in the community.

Thinking back on all the people she has met and the huge changes that have taken place during the past three years, Ms. Lian is overwhelmed with emotions. These are some of their stories.

#### “Children First’ in everything we do”

Little Hao Dong was just four years old when he was badly injured in the earthquake. In the weeks afterward, Hao Dong became bad-tempered and was frequently withdrawn, refusing to communicate with those around him.

Today, a deep scar is still visible along the back of Hao Dong’s head, but the 7-year-old is a changed boy. Ever since the Hongbai Child Friendly Space opened in the months after the earthquake, Hao Dong has been a frequent visitor. “There are lots of toys here. And books. And other children.” Hao Dong said. While he can still be a shy boy, Hao



Dong has become more outgoing and more cheerful, said his grandmother.

Ms. Lian is proud of the progress that Hao Dong has made. Last summer, the Hongbai Child Friendly Space organized summer activities for children in the community, and Hao Dong helped her to keep the Child Friendly Space neat and clean. Since then, Hao Dong has become a regular volunteer. He has made many friends this way.

“The Child Friendly Space has given children the opportunity to learn about and exercise their rights to participation and protection. It has also given children like Hao Dong the opportunity to help others. The principle of ‘Children First’ guides everything that we do here,” said Ms. Lian.

Hongbai Town Child Friendly Space regularly organizes community events for the children, including sports days, arts days, and drawing and calligraphy exhibitions. Unlike traditional events for children that are decided by adults, however, these

activities are organized, from the beginning, with the participation of children. During a community-wide event held last summer, 10-year-old Zhou Fanghan served as Master of Ceremonies, even writing her own script. “Before, I was always timid and reluctant to express myself because I was afraid of being criticized by others. Now, I’ve learned to accept people’s feedback and take their suggestions for improvement positively. I’m excited about having more opportunities to express myself,” little Fanghan said, with a glowing smile.

### **“Respect children and listen to them”**

On any given day at the Hongbai Child Friendly Space, there are many preschool-aged children, accompanied by their parents and caregivers. The Child Friendly Spaces are not only a space for children to play, but also a place for young parents and old grandparents alike to learn about child health, nutrition and early child development. The staff of the Child Friendly Spaces supervise

parents as they engage in structured, supportive games with their children. In this way, the Child Friendly Spaces are supporting the development of a new childrearing culture in rebuilt communities in the earthquake zone.

One little girl who is a regular visitor to the Child Friendly Space is two-year-old Zhou Xiaocan, who has been coming since she was only six weeks old. The Child Friendly Space has become the window through which the little girl has come to experience the world, explained Xiaocan’s grandmother. For Xiaocan’s grandmother, the Child Friendly Space has equally been a place for new perspectives and experiences. “In the past, when we were raising our children and they were not obedient, we would get angry and sometimes even physically discipline them. Since coming to the Child Friendly Space, I’ve become more patient. I’ve learned to respect children and to listen to them more. This has made it easier to raise them,” Xiaocan’s grandmother said.





## **“I’ve watched the children grow, but I am learning so much”**

The Hongbai Child Friendly Space is managed by Ms. Lian and her team of three staff. In the three years since the earthquake, the team has received extensive training from UNICEF, and has learned to provide high-quality services to children.

One member of the team is 25-year-old Liu Qing. Ever since she was young, Liu Qing has had a passion for drawing and making handicrafts. “I never imagined that my childhood passions would be so useful in my current work for children. Working at the Child Friendly Space has been a wonderful experience for me... I’ve watched the children grow, but I am learning so much myself,” she said.

Since participating in UNICEF-supported training, Liu has become familiar with the principles of gender equality and “children first,” and has learned to integrate these concepts into her work, and share them with parents. According to Liu, “We help to take care of children at the Child Friendly

Space, but our responsibility is not to ‘babysit’ children. We also work with parents so that they can provide higher-quality care and raise their children in a more child-friendly and supportive environment. Depending on the situation of each child’s family, we will provide different trainings,” Liu Qing said.

## **“As happy as before”**

Hongbai Child Friendly Space has played a critical role in providing earthquake-affected children and women with psychosocial services and a strong support network, helping them regain confidence and reintegrate into society.

Before the earthquake, Chang Li was a cheerful boy who loved to play sports. After losing his right arm in the earthquake, Chang Li became very introverted, seldom leaving home. While his parents worried about the physical change in their son, they were more worried about the emotional change. They did not know how to help him.



One day, Chang Li happened upon the Child Friendly Space by himself. The volunteers there treated him as an equal, and this helped him to feel comfortable in a new environment.

Since then, Chang Li has come to the Child Friendly Space frequently. He has learned to gain confidence and today, the 12-year-old boy uses his left hand to type on the computer and to play badminton and table tennis. Thanks to the support of his parents and the staff and volunteers of the Child Friendly Space, Chang Li has become happier and more self-confident. "I am so glad to see him as happy as before," the boy's mother said, with a big smile on her face.

### A sustainable model

In the three years since the earthquake, the Hongbai Child Friendly Space has become fully integrated into community life. By providing psychosocial support, early childhood development and social work services, it has become an integral part of the local landscape for protecting children.

In line with the Government's three-year reconstruction plan, UNICEF's formal support to earthquake reconstruction programmes will continue through May 2011, but the sustainability of the Child Friendly Space model is assured, as the Shifang County Government has recently decided to allocate 100,000 RMB (US \$15,000) every year from the local government budget to ensure its continued operation.

According to Lu Zongyin, the Chairwoman of the Shifang County Women's Federation, "The Shifang County Government places a high degree of importance on the work of the Child Friendly Space. We will continue to support the Child Friendly Space model and replicate it in other parts of the county."

In the coming year, the Hongbai Child Friendly Space will continue to reach out to left-behind children in rural areas, and children living in especially difficult circumstances, including orphans and children with disabilities.

Chang Li



Today, the Hongbai Child Friendly Space has moved into a permanent space in the newly-built Hongbai Town Culture and Activity Centre.

In the three years since the earthquake, UNICEF-supported HIV prevention education has reached 50,000 young people and 30,000 construction workers.



People living with HIV have the same rights as other survivors to quality services and interventions in a time of emergency.

## HIV/AIDS

Among the hundreds of thousands of people displaced in the emergency, there were at least 540 children and women in the most severely-affected parts of the earthquake zone reported to be HIV-positive.

People living with HIV in the Sichuan earthquake zone faced the same shelter, food and water and sanitation issues as other earthquake survivors. However, they also faced a number of special challenges, as the earthquake disrupted support networks, and poor road conditions and limited means of transportation raised concerns about the possible interruption of regular follow-up tests and treatment. The shift of skilled medical personnel to the emergency response was also a concern, as it could have potentially affected voluntary counselling and testing services and HIV/AIDS care and treatment.

People living with HIV have the same rights as other survivors to quality services and interventions in a time of emergency. In the three years since the earthquake, UNICEF has worked to fulfil their rights.

**UNICEF and its partners have used culturally sensitive approaches to build community capacity to provide prevention, care and support services to women and children affected by AIDS.**

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

Immediately after the earthquake, UNICEF worked with local health authorities to locate people living with HIV, assess their needs and address drug interruptions, livelihood concerns and psychological well-being. Just two days after the earthquake, the Ministry of Civil Affairs, with support from UNICEF, delivered emergency supplies to the homes of children and women affected by HIV/AIDS. At that time, the civil affairs staff also took the opportunity to conduct a registration and baseline needs assessment of over 20,000 children and develop the content of child welfare services in earthquake-affected areas.

## **SERVICE DELIVERY: Family and Community Care**

In the reconstruction phase, UNICEF support has helped to recover health and welfare services for children and families affected by HIV/AIDS, preventing vertical transmission from mothers to children, offering paediatric drugs and further strengthening education and prevention programmes. In partnership with national and local Centres for Disease Control, UNICEF has helped to ensure the continuous provision of home visits, medical care, drug delivery services and group counselling for over 350 mothers and 200 children affected by HIV/AIDS. UNICEF also supported the provision of HIV counselling and testing to more than 800 pregnant women.

UNICEF and its partners have used culturally sensitive approaches to help build community capacity to provide prevention, care and support services to women and children affected by AIDS and vulnerable youth. In Aba Prefecture, HIV prevention and care information was delivered through ethnic minority religious leaders. In Mianning County of Liangshan Prefecture, women's self-help groups were formed with the participation of both women affected by HIV and non-affected women to promote family care and support. In Manjiang County, the project was integrated into the county's comprehensive HIV prevention and care plan, implemented through designated focal persons at county, township and village levels and delivered via direct community participation in follow-up and anti-viral drug adherence monitoring.

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



## **SOCIAL MOBILIZATION:** **HIV Prevention in a Post-Emergency Context**

The earthquake led to the movement of hundreds of thousands of people, both in its immediate aftermath and in the reconstruction phase.

In this context of a massive inflow and outflow of workers and residents, HIV education became very important. Immediately after the earthquake and throughout the reconstruction phase, UNICEF conducted HIV prevention education in camp settings, temporary schools and communities. To date, more than 50,000 young people and 30,000 construction workers in the earthquake zone have received community-based HIV prevention information and anti-discrimination education.

## **A SAFER TOMORROW**

In 2010, UNICEF developed and submitted a technical report to the Sichuan Government to integrate HIV prevention and care into the provincial emergency health preparedness plan. UNICEF's inputs help to lay the foundation for future work to ensure that the needs of children and women affected by HIV/AIDS are fully considered and addressed in preparing for future emergencies.

## REAL LIVES: HIV/AIDS

Before the earthquake, the Beichuan County Centre for Disease Control (CDC) was only aware of one HIV case.

Three years after the earthquake, as a result of improved data collection and case management, 18 cases of HIV/AIDS have been identified in Beichuan, one of the most severely affected counties in the Sichuan earthquake zone. The Beichuan County CDC is now implementing a comprehensive HIV/AIDS care, education and outreach programme.

Mr. Tang Zemin, a public health worker with the Beichuan County CDC, has had to wear several hats in his work as a provider of community-based HIV/AIDS care and prevention services. While Mr. Tang is a veteran of the Beichuan County CDC, many of the elements in the UNICEF-supported emergency reconstruction programme were new to him.

When the work first began, “I felt like I was stumbling in the dark... I didn’t know what to do at the time,” Mr. Tang said. Today, with ongoing support from UNICEF, the Beichuan County CDC has designed a systematic approach to the delivery of services, and Mr. Tang and his colleagues are better able to implement and monitor a package of locally-appropriate interventions.

One of the most important aspects of Mr. Tang’s work is outreach to children and women affected by HIV/AIDS. In this work, Mr. Tang has not only served as a health worker, but also a provider of psychosocial support, a family counsellor and, on occasion, an undercover agent. The role of undercover agent is sometimes necessary to protect men and women living with HIV from stigma and discrimination. By knocking on doors during his routine home visits in the guise of a relative who has come from afar to deliver presents, Mr. Tang is able to protect the privacy of people living with HIV.



In other cases, people living with HIV not only face possible misunderstanding or rejection by their neighbours, but also their own family. Recalling one particularly moving case, Mr. Tang recounts the case of Ms. Pan and her husband, both of whom are HIV-positive. For a very long time, Ms. Pan and her husband hid their status from their 16-year-old daughter. When the daughter finally learned about her parents’ status, she did not know how to accept the news, and went through a difficult time.

Today, the daughter has become her parents’ biggest supporter. With both parents working in a nearby town and unable to always return to the village, the daughter frequently goes to the Beichuan CDC to pick up medicine for them. Mr. Tang’s support and his regular follow-up visits were critical to helping the daughter, as she evolved from initially refusing to accept her parents’ situation to playing a key part in their care, ensuring uninterrupted drug supply.

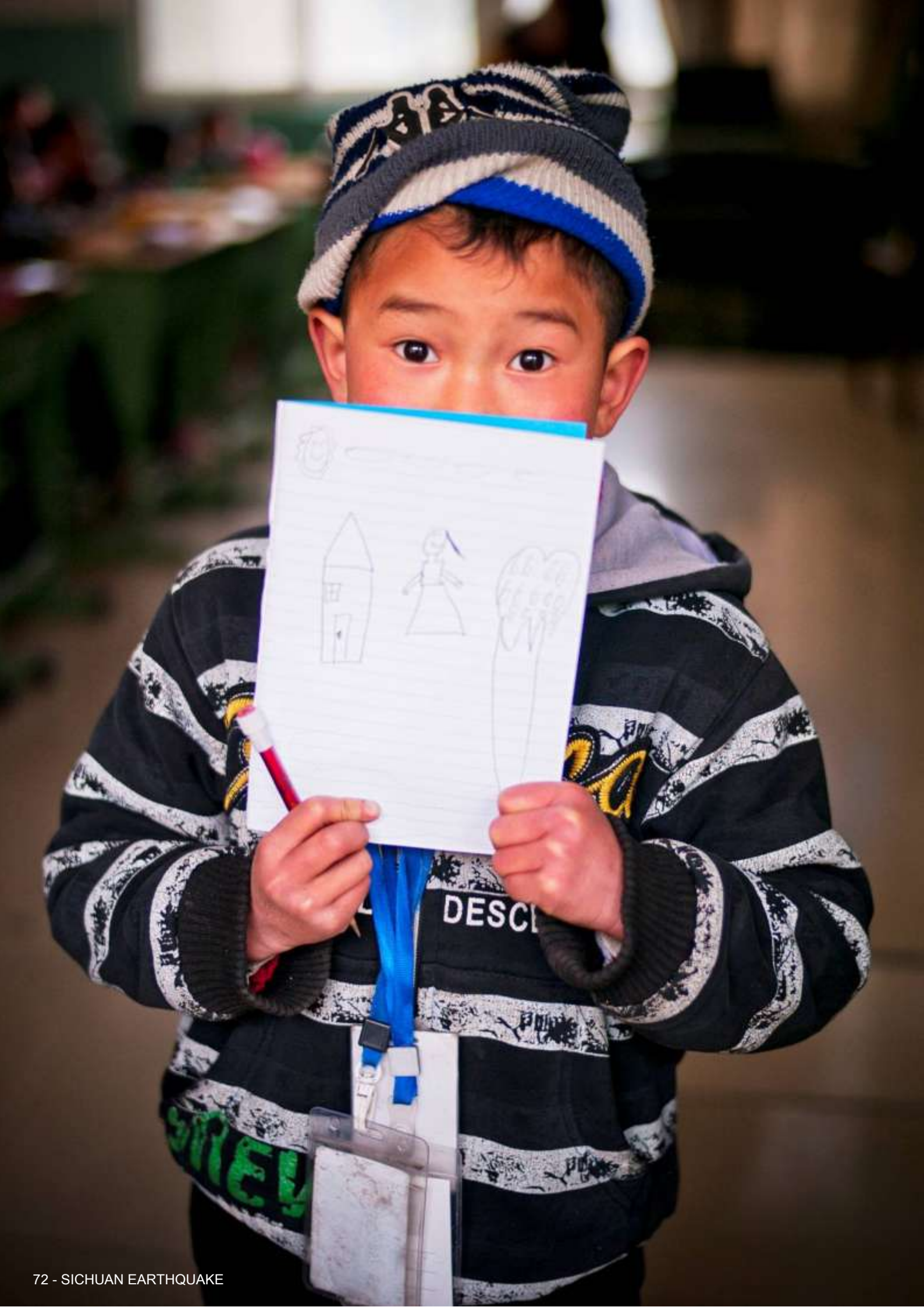
Another area of focus for Mr. Tang and public health authorities in the earthquake response and reconstruction period has been prevention advocacy and outreach to high-risk populations. With the displacement of large populations in the earthquake and the subsequent influx of construction workers and others seeking economic opportunities during the reconstruction phase, health education and HIV awareness have been of paramount importance.

A baseline survey conducted by the Beichuan CDC in 2009 found that among 210 workers surveyed, nearly all of them men between the ages of 20 and 40 from rural areas, 43% did not have the basic

facts on HIV/AIDS and 87% had never received HIV prevention information. In response, UNICEF and the CDC supported the dissemination of HIV/AIDS messages at construction sites and other areas with concentrated populations.

“Initially, many migrant workers were resistant and refused to accept the leaflets we handed out,” Mr. Tang recalled. “But as we continued to visit them, we were able to slowly break down the barriers.” Today, awareness of HIV/AIDS among both resident and migrant populations in the earthquake zone has increased, thanks to the unflagging efforts of Mr. Tang and his colleagues.









## SOCIAL POLICY

Since the very first days after the earthquake, UNICEF has emphasized that recovery and reconstruction programmes for children and women will not be sustainable without appropriate supporting policies.

UNICEF has emphasized that newly built schools, hospitals and public services in general will benefit those in need only if the rights of citizens and the obligations of public service providers are clearly defined and enforced, only if essential services are adequately funded and resources are appropriately allocated; only if unfair charges that disqualify the poor from quality public services and goods are abolished; only if the inadequacies of previous facilities and services are recognized and overcome; and only if local governments work closely with citizens, including women and young people.

In the three years since the earthquake, 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 the earthquake zone. Today, 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.

**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 the earthquake zone.**

**UNICEF has contributed policy recommendations to support the restoration of social services after the earthquake and the development of strategies to be deployed in future emergencies.**

In late June 2008, at the invitation of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), UNICEF delivered a policy note entitled, “Reconstructing Wellbeing: Bringing Public Services to Those Who Need Them Most After the Wenchuan Earthquake.” The policy note, which received very positive feedback from the national Reconstruction Planning Group led by NDRC, as well as from top leaders of the State Council, contributed to the development of China’s post-earthquake reconstruction strategies, which were laid out in the three-year recovery and reconstruction plan released in August 2008.

The policy note, which was distributed by the State Council to line ministries for action, set out clearly, and for the first time, the concrete steps to be taken to build back better social services for children and their communities. It emphasized the functional, financing and institutional issues that need to be addressed so that reconstructed public services truly contribute to the wellbeing of children and communities affected by the earthquake.

Since then, UNICEF has 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 supporting the development of strategies to be deployed in future emergencies. At the end of 2009, UNICEF supported a seminar in Sichuan that brought together national-level policymakers and representatives from local communities to share experiences and exchange ideas. Research presented and observations made by local participants presented evidence that, in addition to a very impressive physical reconstruction, in many cases, new service delivery standards exceeded those before the earthquake, with increasing awareness and prioritization of the needs and children and other vulnerable population groups.

Working with the State Council Leading Group on Poverty Alleviation (LGOP) in the three years since the earthquake, UNICEF has supported community-level reconstruction planning in the poorest earthquake-affected villages. Through UNICEF-supported capacity building, community leaders learned how to conduct a capacity and vulnerability analysis and present a vision of a community that is disaster-resilient and considers the voices of children and women. Most of the trainees admitted that prior to the training, they focused almost exclusively on infrastructure development in their quest to promote the development of poverty villages, without taking into consideration the needs of children and women. As a result of the training, children and women will be better considered in the government’s future rural poverty reduction programmes, in both emergency and non-emergency settings.



## A SAFER TOMORROW

In the reconstruction phase, UNICEF has worked with government partners to update national emergency response and assessment tools and introduce specific measures to protect children, women and other vulnerable groups.

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Civil Affairs in incorporating child- and gender-sensitive elements into national disaster risk reduction planning, by reviewing international experiences and adapting them to the China context.

UNICEF is currently working with the National Disaster Reduction Centre of China (NDRCC) to develop guidance on child and gender-sensitive relief items to meet the specific needs of children and women in emergency assessment and response.

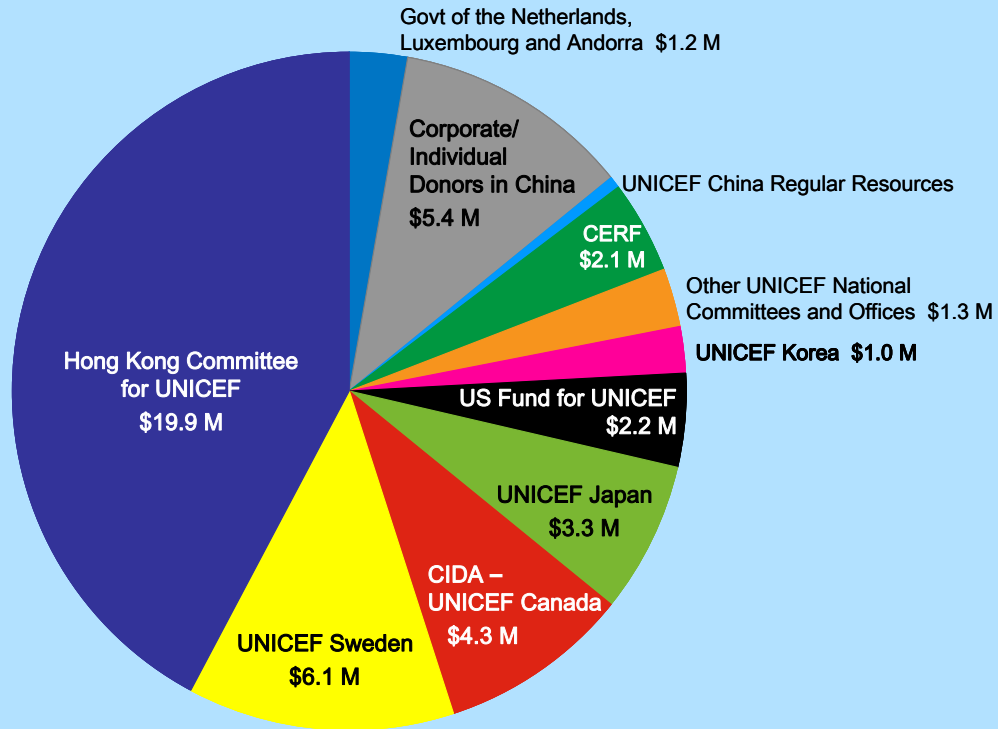
UNICEF is also working with NDRCC to identify and consolidate best practices and innovations for the full participation of children and women in disaster risk reduction at community level.

As a result of the experiences from the Sichuan earthquake, there will be greater emphasis on children and women and on the effective delivery of social services to those who need them most in future emergencies.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

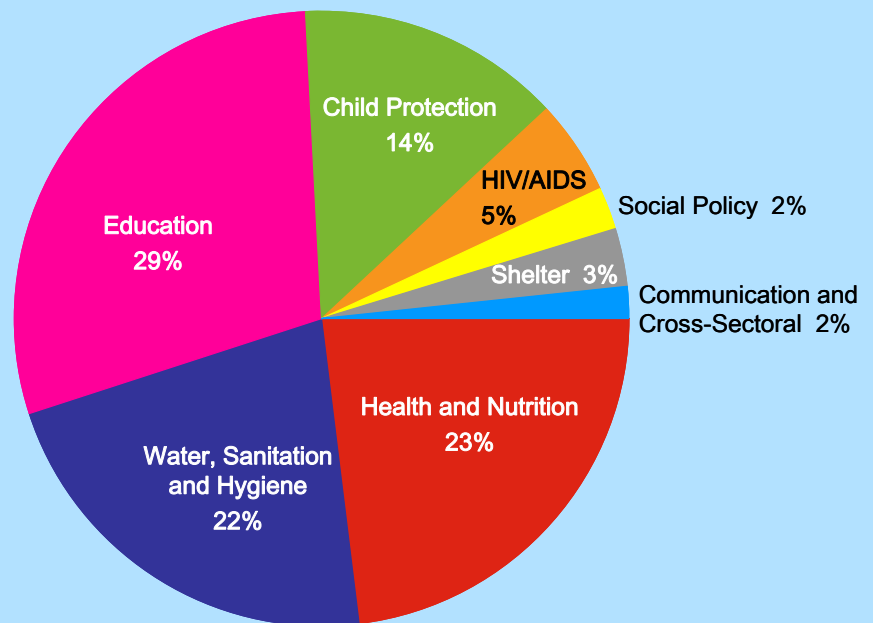
## Funding sources for UNICEF's response

US \$47.1 million raised



## Utilization of funds by sector

US \$41.5 million utilized as of 30 April 2011



*\*Utilization figures 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.*

## 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.

## 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.

<b>Funding Utilization</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Utilization (US\$)</b>
<b>Health and Nutrition</b>	<b>9,038,832</b>
Emergency health kits, medical supplies, nutrition supplements and ambulances provided in the emergency response phase	1,640,985
Medical equipment to support the recovery of obstetric and neonatal health care for children and pregnant women in 14 earthquake-affected counties	1,208,119
Training of health workers on basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care	1,495,531
Health education and Communication for Behavioural Impact in the earthquake zone	716,569
Support to Child Immunization Registry Information System and recovery/strengthening of routine vaccination services; education and outreach to remote communities to improve vaccination coverage	1,865,021
Support to micronutrient intervention to reduce anaemia and improve early childhood nutrition, including provision of supplement, monitoring, development of education materials and parent counselling	1,124,809
Support to collection, analysis and management of health and nutrition data, and the strengthening of Management Information Systems	332,073
Support to the development of health and nutrition emergency preparedness plans and guidelines	72,269
Field assessments, studies and monitoring of health and nutrition conditions	359,699
Technical support on rehabilitation of health and nutrition services	223,757
<b>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</b>	<b>8,514,768</b>
Water treatment units and purification tablets, mobile toilets and disinfectant tablets to provide clean drinking water and support personal and environmental hygiene in the emergency response phase	2,384,551
Construction and extension of safe water supply systems and infrastructure in rural communities to provide clean drinking water to 150,000 people	2,419,205
Construction of sanitary latrines in schools, hospitals and model households to benefit 40,000 people	1,401,313
Provision of hygiene kits with towels, soap and other hygiene products and support to communication campaigns, including Global Handwashing Day events, to promote hygiene and sanitation	1,340,060
Training of water and sanitation officials on hygiene, maintenance of public facilities and Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST)	510,373
Support to the development of WASH emergency preparedness plans and guidelines	62,250
Field assessments, studies, design of construction projects and monitoring	273,811
Technical support on water, sanitation and hygiene	123,205
<b>Education</b>	<b>11,483,962</b>
Classroom tents and prefabricated classroom units to provide 60,000 children a safe learning environment in the emergency response phase	3,412,673
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	2,061,220
Early Childhood Development Kits, storybooks and supplies for 180 kindergartens and preschools	1,295,942
Schoolbags, sleeping bags and household items for children in boarding schools	864,034
Training of teachers and principals on Child Friendly School guidelines to improve teaching and learning quality, increase student participation and introduce participatory management	990,608
Support to mobile educational training and resource units to provide training and supervision to teachers in the most remote schools in the earthquake zone	468,031
Introduction of ICT-enhanced learning and establishment of e-learning communities in earthquake zone	423,798
Training for teachers and principals on Child Friendly Kindergarten guidelines and curriculum; parent education and establishment of parent networks to support early childhood development and education	246,250
Provision of educational materials on emergency preparedness and safety education, support to school safety database for monitoring/retrofitting and training of teachers and principals on safety in schools	1,139,799
Field assessments, baseline studies and monitoring	331,630
Technical support on rehabilitation of quality education services	249,977

<b>Funding Utilization</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Utilization (US\$)</b>
<b>Child Protection and Psychosocial Support</b>	<b>5,366,591</b>
Provision of toys, games, furniture, psychosocial support kits and other supplies for Child Friendly Spaces, both immediately after the earthquake and in the post-reconstruction relocation process	1,025,347
Training and recruitment of staff for the 40 Child Friendly Spaces to support the provision of community-based children's services	1,824,035
Development of guidelines and documentation of best practices to build capacity and ensure quality of Child Friendly Spaces; community events and Children's Day activities to increase awareness and exchange experiences among Child Friendly Space network	399,186
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	767,829
Support to children with disabilities in special education schools, including trainings for teachers, development of materials and provision of appropriate school supplies	180,538
Support to the development of social work in emergencies	303,105
Support to the development of guidelines and training manuals on foster care, protection of orphans and child adoption; establishment of registration system for orphans and their caretakers	144,188
Field assessments and monitoring	445,553
Technical support, studies and guidance on child protection in emergencies	276,810
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	<b>2,043,643</b>
Development of community and family-based support system and training of health workers and social service providers to support home visits, medical care, drug delivery, counselling and outreach to children and families affected by HIV/AIDS; HIV prevention education among young people and construction workers	1,939,669
Field assessments and monitoring	103,974
<b>Social Policy</b>	<b>850,989</b>
Studies and policy notes on reconstruction strategy, implementation and coordination; education quality of schools in the earthquake zone; evaluation of the post-earthquake restoration of public services; and development of child and gender-sensitive perspectives in disaster risk reduction	755,892
Technical support on reconstruction planning and implementation	95,097
<b>Shelter and Non-Food Items</b>	<b>1,113,730</b>
Provision of family tents, quilts, sleeping bags, children's clothing and emergency non-food items immediately after the earthquake	1,111,830
Field assessments and monitoring	1,900
<b>Communication</b>	<b>368,098</b>
Publications, photo and video documentation and advocacy	106,722
Technical support on communication	261,376
<b>Cross-Sectoral Coordination and Operational Support</b>	<b>331,113</b>
Office supplies, IT equipment and miscellaneous expenses	47,465
Field assessments and monitoring to inspect supply delivery systems and ensure quality control	27,598
Technical support, planning and coordination of emergency programme	256,050
<b>Headquarters Recovery Cost</b>	<b>2,393,918</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41,505,644</b>





# CONCLUSION

Since the earliest days of the emergency response and throughout the three-year reconstruction period, UNICEF has been working with the Government of China to build back better for children and women.

Building back better means that inside the four new walls of a rebuilt health facility are trained medical staff with the equipment and knowledge they need to provide quality services, and that children and women are able to equitably access those services. It means that along with the newly built, earthquake-resistant school buildings, there are dedicated teachers and principals able to provide students with joyful, interactive education and a safe, child-friendly environment. It means that community-based child protection systems and social work services, formerly underdeveloped, become integrated into the fabric of the new communities that have arisen in the earthquake zone.

Throughout the three-year response and reconstruction period, UNICEF and its partners have focused on taking advantage of the unique opportunities to build and strengthen protective, supportive systems and services for children and women. Today, UNICEF is proud to report that in the three years since the earthquake, significant achievements have been made. The capacity of maternal and child health workers, school teachers and principals, and WASH technicians has improved. Attitudes and behaviours around infant and young child nutrition, hygiene and early childhood development have changed. Strong community ownership has been formed around the Child Friendly Spaces and the newly constructed water and sanitation facilities. Newly developed disaster preparedness and response plans and policies better reflect the needs of children and women.

In closing, UNICEF would like to recognize the courage of communities, the dedication of partners and the generosity of donors over the last three years. It is because of this courage, dedication and generosity that children, women and communities in the Sichuan earthquake zone and around China are today more resilient, better protected and better prepared than they were three years ago.

**UNICEF would like to recognize the courage of communities, the dedication of government partners and the generosity of donors over the last three years.**



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