

# Six Months On



Save the Children  
救助儿童会

November 2008

## Emergency Relief for Sichuan Earthquake

### Six months after the earthquake, Save the Children:

- Completed the relief phase and stepped into the recovery stage to help children catch-up with pre-earthquake conditions.
- Directly reached 2,214 children through Protection programme activities and 1,611 children through Health programme activities. Prefabricated classrooms, school supplies and equipments benefited more than 60,000 students and 811 teachers in 26 schools and 42 kindergartens.
- Now focuses on capacity-building with 50 kindergarten teachers and 58 health volunteers having received trainings.

### Programme consolidation

At the end of the three months relief phase, Save the Children team carried out a thorough review and replanning exercises. During the recovery stage, our response is now geared towards:

- **scaling up current operations through shifting Child Friendly Spaces into Child Activity Centres and increasing the number of Baby Washing Station to 11;**
- **providing extensive support to the rehabilitation of local communities;**
- **developing new programmes that will have lasting influence on children and communities, including setting-up a mutual social fund for preschool education and implementing Disaster Risk Reduction strategies.**



Children are back to kindergartens

### Protection programme:

#### Enhanced child participation and development through Child-to-Child activities

Three long-term “Child Activity Centres” have been established in Mianzhu, An County and Pengzhou and another six will be set up before the end of the year. We began to conduct Child Rights and Child-to-Child training and initiated a Child-to-Child activity named “My space, My call”.

#### Child-to-Child



Child-to-Child is an educational process linking children’s learning with taking action to promote health, wellbeing and development for themselves, their families and their communities. Through participating in Child-to-Child activities the personal, physical, social, emotional, moral and intellectual development of children is enhanced.

Save the Children’s child protection staff members use a series of related activities to improve the quality and the level of child partici-

pation by encouraging children to develop their life-skills and take action to tackle issues related to their lives in the communities.

### Huang Yue's Story

Huang Yue is an eleven-year-old girl who lives in the Taizi Prefab Community in Pengzhou. She begins to engage in reconstruction of the community together with her partners with the approaches learned in the Child Activity Center.



Huang Yue discusses with her partners how to help people of the community to save water

“As the center moved to the prefab, teachers began asking us to discuss about children’s rights, we are very curious because we have never heard such things before. Now we know children have the right to survival, right to development, right to education and right to participation.”

“We are also encouraged to take efforts stopping people from wasting of water. We will put up some slogans to inform the adults of the urgent shortage of water resources and advocate for the approaches to saving water at the broadcast station.”

“We did worry that the adults may not take our words seriously. However, we are confident as we are doing a good deed with reasonable basis and appropriate approaches, owing to which we can definitely make a difference.”

### Education programme: Let children in love with kindergarten

We gave a hand to private kindergartens: built 49 pre-fabricated houses for six kindergartens and supplied materials to more than 50 private kindergartens in An County. A training project

named “In Love with Kindergarten” has delivered pre-school education training to 50 teachers.

### Early childhood care and development (ECCD)

ECCD facilities provide day care for young children, pre-schools for three and four year-olds, and kindergartens for five year-olds. Save the Children is working with partners to help restore ECCD facilities and to improve the quality of ECCD in the worst-affected areas.

Save the Children plan to improve the quality of education for children aged three to six by increasing its importance and establishing a child friendly learning environment through teacher training in child-centred teaching methodology.

### Social Mutual Fund

A pilot social fund is to be set up to enable more vulnerable children to have access to pre-school education. The fund will attempt to improve children’s access to education as compared to their pre-earthquake situation.



### Chen Liang & Liu Surui's story

Two six-year old children from Jiale Kindergarten, a private-owned kindergarten located in An County. There are four teachers in Jiale Kindergarten. Save the Children donated toys and desks/chairs and offered training on how to establish child friendly environments to the teachers.

“Our kindergarten is as beautiful as it was before the quake.”

“We have learned many new Chinese characters that mean cat, dog, rabbit, tortoise, east, west, white and blue..... The teacher writes down the characters on the blackboard and teaches us gestures that the animals usually do as we read the characters.”



Chen Liang, Surui and their teachers stand against the outer wall of the classroom that has undergone the "environmental creation".

"Several days ago, the teachers put up some flowers on the wall. This picture means it is raining, and dragonflies fly low and ants move their home..."

## Health programme

Save the Children established seven Baby Washing Stations in transitional housing communities in Mianzhu, An County, Shifang and Beichuan, providing service to children under five years old. Bathing facilities, hygienic materials and supplementary nutrition food is provided to 6-month to 2-year-old children.

### Community based child health, nutrition & hygiene initiative



We are cooperating with local authorities and clinics of 17 transitional housing communities in rural areas to provide around 2,000 under five year olds with regular free health check ups, as well as supporting the health facilities with medical consumables and necessary medical

equipment to township hospitals. Save the Children is conducting training on child health care and nutrition for local volunteers. Training and support from volunteers will help these communities improve their understanding about health, nutrition and hygiene issues and to implement appropriate responses.

### Li Dahui's story

Li Dahui, is a dedicated volunteer although poorly educated. As the wife of the head of Jinshan Village, Xiushui Township, An County, she is well liked and respected by the other female villagers. After she received child health training provided by Save the Children, she passed the knowledge onto the woman villagers using her own words, and collected data on common diseases among children living in the village together with the village doctor.



As a volunteer for the Health Programme of Save the Children, Li Dahui is very dedicated

"Although I have brought up two children, it was not until I received the training that I began to understand the scientific approaches to raising children, for instance, common diseases among children in different seasons, and nutrient supplements for babies older than six months, etc."

"After I complete the training, I pass the knowledge that I have learned onto the women in our village, telling them how to prevent their children from contracting diseases, such as the need to frequently have a bath and wash your hands. I was told that many diseases among children younger than five years were caused by bad health habits."

"I collected data on common diseases among children aged 0-5 in our village together with the village doctor, and submit the data next time when I attend the training. In the future I will

often organize the women in our village to receive training, not only in the quake crisis time, but also in ordinary days. I want to learn more about how to prevent diseases for the children.”

## Disaster Risk Reduction

### A lasting legacy

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) involves working with communities on activities that help people prepare for and reduce the impact of natural disasters. This can include mapping of hazards and risks in a village, building evacuation routes, training caregivers about health concerns after a disaster, and much more. Our intervention will be geared towards increasing knowledge and response capacities within the community and within partner organizations to better cope with future emergencies and disasters.

We will implement education, protection, and health related training for children and care givers to teach them how to respond in future disaster situations. By actively promoting Child-centred DRR, children can play an important role in helping their families, villages and communities to reduce the risks associated with natural disasters.

## About Save the Children ERP

At present, there are totally 15 staff working for Save the Children Sichuan Emergency Relief Programme.

The places where we implement our projects are Mianzhu, An County, Pengzhou, Beichuan and Qingchuan.

Until now, the number of children who have benefited from Protection, Health and Education projects has reached 2214, 1611 and 62,910 respectively.

In August and September, two donors, CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) and Arcandor visited our Health and Protection projects.

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