**The response of Government at different levels to the Lushan/Ya’an earthquake.**

* After 2008 emergency management officers were added as part of government structure at local levels to manage emergency situations. Lushan County emergency management office has one full time staff.
* After 2008 government agencies made emergency response plan and conducted regular drills.
* The state monitors seismic activities and holds regular consultation meetings on potential hazards. This detected abnormalities in March 2013. Lushan was identified as a potential earthquake impact area.
* In early April 2013 the county purchased emergency supplies such as satellite phones, walky-talkies, generators, flashlights, tents and food.
* Damage assessment started 1 week after the quake. All urban housing stock and more than 30,000 rural houses were assessed within a little over one month. Village officials had been trained to do damage assessment on rural houses.
* Temporary housing was provided with tents from the Ministry of Civil Affairs and other sources.
* Following the 2008 earthquake officials realised that if wooden structures were used as temporary housing the land could not be restored to productive agriculture so they decided not to use wooden structures following the Lushan quake.
* Wooden structures were only used for government offices, banks, schools and other public services.
* The government ordered tents to be removed by June 15th in urban areas and June 30th in rural areas.
* The Government paid 3000RMB per household for villages to build temporary housing on their original sites using readily available and recycled materials.
* Technical assistance was provided on how to rebuild temporary homes they would occupy for 2-3 years.
* The Yaan City earthquake Bureau hired a company to map fault lines underneath the Luchan Earthquake disaster area. The result will be part of the recovery master plan. The final report was completed in June.
* The China Academy of Urban Design and Planning was responsible for putting together the post-earthquake recovery master plan.
* The government posted announcements on walls and broadcast that the public should stop all reconstruction efforts so that the recovery can take plan according to the official recovery plan. Some businesses had already completed repairs with some bad construction.
* The recovery area was divided into four types of zones: population, agriculture, ecological, disaster avoidance.
* July 15th the State announced financial assistance plan for earthquake recovery. The central government provided 46 billion RMB to Sichuan province in the next 3 years. 15 billion RMB of this was allocated to ecological repairs, geological disaster mitigations and industrial development.
* Premier Ki Keqiang arrived at Ya’an on 20 April to guide earthquake relief activities.
* The National Health and Family Planning Commission of China dispatched 136 medical teams consisting of 982 staff, 202 ambulances and mobile X ray examination and medical treatment vehicles.

Better prepared for earthquake disaster

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The central government quickly mobilized large military and civilian forces for rescue and relief work. More than 19,000 military personnel were sent to the quake-hit areas within 72 hours.

Following lessons learned from the Wenchuan earthquake in May 2008, the government's response was much faster. The Ya'an earthquake struck at 8 am, and the Sichuan provincial government held the first news conference four hours later, followed by frequent briefings. Five years ago, it took more than a day before the first briefing over the Wenchuan earthquake.

Technological advances also made relief work more effective. In 2008, it took two days for rescuers to get remote sensory images of the affected sites. In Ya'an, images of quake-hit areas were provided on the same day as the earthquake, the data then distributed to 12 ministries and the Sichuan government. "The country has improved its emergency response mechanism since 2008," said Liao Xiaohan, director of the National Remote Sensing Center of China. "This time we reacted quickly and organized an information-sharing mechanism so all government departments could share remote-sensing data."

Following the onset of the earthquake in Wenchuan, there was no alarm system to give people time to escape. In Ya'an, the alarm sounded five seconds after the earthquake began. Many living near the epicenter in Ya'an were able to escape collapsing buildings and structures.

In the aftermath of the Wenchuan earthquake, many questioned how rescue money and relief funds from donations were spent. This time, as people rushed to help, the Ministry of Civil Affairs asked charity groups to regulate donations and make the process more transparent by publishing information about their activities on their websites, which would later be scrutinized.

Lessons have also been learned about how to carry out relief work in a more scientific way. The earthquake was psychologically traumatic for many who escaped injury. Within 24 hours of the quake, professional psychiatrists had arrived at Lushan.

On April 24, 189 students returned to classes at the first school to reopen, and immediately received counseling. In Wenchuan in 2008, the first psychiatrist arrived 13 days after the quake.

Shortly after the earthquake, President Xi Jinping ordered all possible measures to be taken to rescue victims and minimize death and injury. He made it clear that saving lives was the top priority. He also ordered troops to be quickly dispatched to the front line of relief work to rescue residents and treat the injured in every possible way.

According to reports by the Xinhua New Agency, during his visit, Li urged local officials to check every house and make the utmost effort to save lives as long as there was a scintilla of hope.

Local authorities have been urged to relocate affected residents and ensure access to a house, food and clean water. Tents, clothes, sheets and prefabricated homes, as well as food and funds allocated by the central government, should be distributed to the needy as soon as possible, and disinfection to prevent disease epidemics should be strengthened, a statement released by the State Council said