**International response to the Sichuan 2008 earthquake**

**UNICEF**

UNICEF and its partners worked to rehabilitate a range of services including education, health, hygiene and young children’s support. They saw the reconstruction as an opportunity to reduce pre-existing vulnerabilities and promote greater equity. They believed it was an opportunity for transformation.



Emergency Response

* Emergency health kits and medical supplies provided to meet the needs of 1.4 million people for three months.
* Water treatments units and purification tablets supplied to provide clean drinking water to 630,000 people.
* 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.

Reconstruction

In the years following the 2008 earthquake UNICEF continued with a range a projects. Some of the achievements included:

* Restoration of basic medical and public health service systems in 14 counties covering a population of 5 million.
* The establishment of a Child Immunization Registry Information System in 36 counties leading to the creation of digitized immunization records for 780,000 children.
* Child friendly school and kindergarten curriculum and guidelines introduced to improve preschool and primary education quality for 120,000 children.
* 60,000 teachers and school administrators trained on school safety education and management.

**International Red Cross**

* Combined efforts from the Red Cross Society of China, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies included the construction of water systems, hygiene promotion, village clinics, town clinics and school dorms in Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi



**International Community**

Many countries responded to request by the Chinese Government for assistance by providing financial aid and resources. Some of the assistance received included:

* New Zealand - $850,000 to provide shelter for the homeless
* Australia - $4.5 million
* Canada - $1 million as well as doctors and paramedics from the Canadian Medical Assistance Team to Chengdu.
* Japan – The Japanese rescue team was one of the first foreign groups to respond. Their team had 60 members that included fire fighters, police, and Coast Guard. A significant amount of financial aid was also provided.
* Pakistan – provided a range of resources including 30,000 tents, food and drugs. They also provided a medical team of doctors and nurses. Pakistan also provided financial aid.