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Emergency Appeal Final Report

China: Sichuan earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Final Report
Emergency appeal n° MDRCN003
GLIDE n° EQ-2008-000062-CHN
30 April 2012

Period covered by this update: May 2008 – December 2011

Appeal target (current): CHF 152.86 million

Appeal coverage: 98 per cent <click [here](#) for final financial report or [here](#) for contact details>



Left above: In Shaanxi, a CBHFA volunteer explains to a mother some basic home measures to treat children's fever

Left below 1 & 2: The ERU, deployed to Sichuan by the IFRC have now been handed over to the RCSC, forming the basis of its own domestic ERT. These were already deployed in 2010 after the Yushu earthquake¹. The pictures show Yunnan's sanitation ERT checking the set-up latrine in Yushu and local people in the quake-hit area carrying water supplied by the ERT

Right above 1: Shelter beneficiaries in Jiulong township stand in front of their new home

Right above 2: Villagers in Qinglong village enjoy the safe drinking water supply from the IFRC supported water supply project

Right below: People participate in the construction training in Jiulong village as part of IFRC's livelihood project

Middle: Students in Nanchong conduct psychosocial support activities

¹ A major earthquake measuring 7.1 Richter scale hit Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Qinghai province on 14 April, 2010. The deadly quake left 2,698 people killed, 270 missing.

Appeal history:

- A revised emergency appeal was launched on 22 September 2010 for CHF 152.86 million to assist 200,000 families (up to 1,000,000 people) for 44 months.
- A revised emergency appeal was launched on 20 November 2008 for 167.1 million to assist 200,000 families (up to 1,000,000 people) for 31 months.
- An emergency appeal was launched on 30 May 2008 for CHF 96.7 million in response to the huge humanitarian needs and in recognition of the unique position of the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) supported by Red Cross Red Crescent partners to deliver high quality disaster response and recovery programmes.
- A preliminary emergency appeal of CHF 20.1 million was issued on 15 May 2008 to support the RCSC to assist around 100,000 people affected by the earthquake for 12 months.
- CHF 250,000 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 12 May 2008, to support the RCSC to immediately start assessments of the affected areas and distribute relief items.

Programme Summary:

Relief phase (*first three months*)

The outpouring of generosity throughout the world for the people affected by the Sichuan earthquake enabled partner national societies - through the IFRC and bilaterally in close cooperation with the IFRC - to make extremely important contributions to this relief operation.

The RCSC headquarters and its branches took on vital roles throughout the affected areas during the relief phase. It is estimated that **over one million beneficiaries** were reached with Red Cross Red Crescent emergency relief support including shelter, emergency health, water, quilts and other relief items. About 80 percent of these beneficiaries were from Sichuan province, the most heavily hit by this earthquake.

Recovery phase

Shelter – In December 2009 and January 2010, IFRC distributed cash grants in 20 townships in Mianzhu county on two separate occasions. A total of 62,319 households received shelter assistance through the IFRC. This coverage is over 50 per cent of the 124,358 rural homeowners reconstructing homes across Mianzhu county.

Disaster preparedness – By December of 2011, mitigation measures and training in 15 villages in four selected counties of Shaanxi province were completed. In Gansu province, 12 out of 15 villages in the two selected counties had finished their mitigation measures and trainings. Three of the nine disaster preparedness centers in Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi are under construction; one is in the tendering process, four submitted required documents, and one is still collecting required documents. Both of the community-based disaster preparedness programmes (CBDP) and disaster preparedness centers are planned to be completed by the end of 2012.

Water and sanitation ERU equipment donated after the earthquake to RCSC in the three provinces (Hubei, Hunan and Yunnan) were repaired, reorganized and replenished with the support of Spanish Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross and Indonesia Red Cross. This equipment is pre-positioned for emergency response within China and has enhanced the disaster preparedness capacity of RCSC. The capacity of Red Cross staff and volunteers was also enhanced from a series of technical water and sanitation emergency response trainings provided by the IFRC, with technical support from Spanish Red Cross and Indonesia Red Cross. A plan has been developed to continue to support the RCSC over the next two years in water and sanitation emergency response.

Community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) – As of the end of September 2011, the RCSC has completed targets related to CBHFA training of trainers and volunteers in all four provinces. Due to the current scope of the project activities, both RCSC and IFRC agreed to extend the timeframe of the planned activities to the end of June 2012.

Psychosocial support project (PSP) – The PSP project in Sichuan was completed in November 2011 with some 20,000 students and teachers reached in 10 schools. The community activities for the Yunnan project will be completed by March, but the study tour and the sum-up meeting need to be extended until the end of May 2012.

Livelihood – The training component has been successfully completed with the total number of beneficiaries trained: 6,676 out of which 1,480 are disabled. Regarding the small loan component, by the end of January 2012, 212 small loans (totalling CNY 3,547,000) were released in 11 townships. The cycle of small loans will continue well into 2015.

Water and sanitation – As of the end of December 2011, 3,617 households had been connected to the newly constructed water supply system in Hanwang, benefiting approximately 11,000 people who now have access to safe drinking water. In the coming months, more households will be connected to the system as they sign up voluntarily. The coverage reached 86 per cent of the project target so far, exceeding the planned 80 per cent. Since the end of December 2011, all 4,202 households had been reached by the volunteers and received hygiene promotion messages.

Financial Situation:

This emergency appeal received a total income of CHF 150,452,383 covering 98 per cent of the appeal target. Overall expenditure at the close of the operation timeframe was CHF 128,785,707 of funds received (85 per cent), with a closing balance of CHF 21,666,676.

After three years of direct involvement in RCSC's relief and recovery work in Sichuan and surrounding areas, IFRC closed its sub-office in Chengdu and the management of longer-term recovery and development programmes under this operation was absorbed by the regional team in 2011. This includes programmes for **building community safety and resilience (such as livelihood provisioning, community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) and CBHFA), and also to increase capacities to respond to disasters and emergencies.**

Beginning 2012, all remaining activities and funds related to these programmes are further consolidated and integrated into the China **four-year longer-term planning framework** and continues to be implemented as presented in the Sichuan earthquake appeal.

Partners and donors who have any queries or require further clarification regarding this reallocation of the final balance of funds are kindly requested to [contact IFRC](#) within the next 30 days prior to integration of this balance into the LTPF.

Context

An 8.0 magnitude earthquake devastated Wenchuan county and the surrounding areas of Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi provinces in western China on 12 May 2008. The official death toll stands at over 87,449², the second worst in China following only the Tangshan earthquake in 1976 which killed an estimated 240,000 people. The devastating earthquake injured 375,000 people and caused the initial displacement of up to 15 million people. Up to five million houses were destroyed and the homeless and displaced were moved into temporary shelters. The region continued to experience aftershocks for a long period after the initial quake.

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) received donations totalling to CNY 19.9 billion, including 16 billion in cash and 3.9 billion in kind. 133 Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies or organizations have supported the Sichuan earthquake operation with people, cash or in-kind.

Over the past nearly four years, the RCSC, with support of its domestic and international partners and donors, has undertaken a massive reconstruction effort. Much of the "hardware" of people's daily life such as homes, schools and clinics are in place. Now, the focus is on helping communities to address issues present after the disaster – such as the impact on livelihoods, health and disaster readiness.

The IFRC has supported the RCSC in the recovery and reconstruction through a wide range of programmes and capacity building. The IFRC supported RCSC's contribution towards the reconstruction efforts by providing cash grants to over 62,000 households in Sichuan. In addition to shelter construction support, community-based programmes including health and psychosocial care, water and sanitation, livelihood and disaster preparedness have been carried out to the same communities where family homes were reconstructed.

² No official statement by the government has been issued on the status of the 18,500 missing people. However, some media reports quote a death toll of more than 80,000 people. According to Xinhua news, 86,663 deaths alone were from Sichuan province.

The progress in the past four years was not only limited to trying to ease the survivors' struggle to resume their normal life, but also involved a significant effort to help China to build up its capacity in disaster response with the lessons learned from the devastating Sichuan earthquake.

The emergency response units (ERU), deployed to Sichuan by the IFRC have now been handed over to the RCSC, forming the basis of its own domestic emergency response teams (ERT). These were already deployed in April 2010 after the Yushu earthquake in the western province of Qinghai, where they helped to provide clean drinking water and sanitation for thousands of survivors. The RCSC aims to develop the domestic ERT in the future to form the basis of an international emergency response unit.

Overall, the task of fashioning a programme of international support that is workable in the Chinese context - characterized by the government's strong directive role in disaster response and recovery - certainly posed challenges to the IFRC's established ways of working. A review on the IFRC support for the operation was conducted in 2010 and it identified many key issues that are being brought forward for current collaboration and contingency planning in preparing for any future mega disasters.

Likewise, due to the unprecedented scale of this disaster, the government of China has recognized the need to boost response capacity and act upon lessons learned in this disaster. The Sichuan earthquake prompted the government to enhance disaster management efforts, and the China earthquake administration responded by adjusting its response plans and increasing its rescue team numbers from 200 to 500 members.

Meanwhile, the professional, rapid-response teams established in 27 provinces raised the total number of relief workers from 3,000 at the time of the Sichuan earthquake to 5,000 today. Servicemen and women with the People's Liberation Army have also received regular emergency response training since the Sichuan earthquake.

The increase in relief workers has helped to save lives. The rescue efforts after the Yushu earthquake were faster and more efficient compared to the efforts two years before in Sichuan. The government has shown greater competency in coordinating rescue teams across the country, and the rescue teams have been equipped with better technological tools and equipment. In Yushu, communication was improved with the addition of wireless facilities and maritime satellite systems. Remote-controlled aircrafts also helped rescuers by sending aerial images of earthquake-hit regions.

For the Red Cross Red Crescent and the country as a whole, the Sichuan earthquake marked a milestone and a learning experience. It has been a unique international humanitarian operation in a context and scale which the IFRC has not previously operated.

Relief phase

IFRC relief goods distributed through IFRC appeal	Total
Estimated number of households provided with at least one type of essential non-food relief item	300,000
Households provided with hygiene kits	100,000
Households provided with food assistance	134,728
Households provided with temporary shelter (tents)	100,000

Progress

The outpouring of generosity throughout the world for the people affected by the Sichuan earthquake enabled partner national societies - through the IFRC and bilaterally in close cooperation with the IFRC - to make extremely important contributions to this relief operation.

The RCSC headquarters and its branches took on vital roles throughout the affected areas during the relief phase. It is estimated that **over one million beneficiaries** had been reached with Red Cross Red Crescent emergency relief support including shelter, water, quilts and other relief items. About 80 per cent of these beneficiaries are in Sichuan province, the most heavily hit by this earthquake.

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster and in support of the RCSC, the IFRC coordinated and mobilized over 100,000 tents to Sichuan. This was made possible by contributions from partner national societies, in particular Iranian Red Crescent which contributed CHF 10.7 million worth of tents, almost half of the total value of tents that were mobilized. The IFRC coordinated the deployment of two water and sanitation (Austrian and Spanish Red Cross Societies) and one mass sanitation (British Red Cross) emergency response unit to provide safe drinking water, waste disposal facilities and hygiene promotion to some of the most devastated townships. At least 50,000 people benefited from this support. A Danish base camp

emergency response unit was established in order to house the many national and international relief workers. A German Red Cross field hospital was set up for three months and provided medical care to approximately 66,000 people who were injured.

After the emergency period, the equipment of these emergency response units were handed over to the RCSC and training was provided to RCSC personnel in operating the units. The water and sanitation units have already formed the basis for China's own ERTs and the teams from Hunan and Yunnan when they were deployed in April 2010 to the Yushu earthquake in the Qinghai province.

More than 100,000 tents provided by the IFRC to the relief operations were fully distributed within Sichuan, Shaanxi and Gansu. A small portion of those have been used to restock disaster preparedness warehouses. The IFRC also supported the RCSC with food parcels for more than 130,000 affected families in Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi.

In June 2008, 100,000 hygiene kits were distributed. The kits included body and laundry soaps, tooth paste, tooth brushes, sanitary pads, toilet paper, hand and bath towels, and razors.

The RCSC also distributed non-food items which included 690,000 items of clothing, 790,000 quilts, 1.7 million mosquito nets, as well as heaters and washing machines.

The National Society deployed six medical teams, two psychosocial support and first aid teams who provided treatment to 23,000 people and performed 180 surgeries. RCSC provincial branches dispatched 107 groups of emergency rescue teams and 37 psychosocial support teams to provide assistance to 230,000 people. The efforts of these domestic teams were supported by international medical teams deployed from the Italian, Japanese and Russian Red Cross Societies.

The scale of the public response and the international support channeled through the RCSC gave the RCSC unprecedented visibility. The National Society proactively committed itself to greater accountability and transparency. Being ever more in the public eye has also helped to mobilize new volunteers as well as retain and motivate the existing volunteer force. Community-based programmes will also promote voluntary action at the grassroots level. There have been many boosts to RCSC's ability to prepare and respond to domestic disasters, including plans for new disaster preparedness warehouses, national disaster response teams and new forms of training in health and water and sanitation in emergencies.

The international solidarity and support to this relief operation is a milestone in humanitarian cooperation with China and the RCSC. **A total of 133 national Red Cross Red Crescent societies contributed to the operation of the RCSC.** The support from all corners of the world also conveyed to the people of Sichuan and the other disaster-hit provinces a sense that fellow human beings everywhere felt their pain and shock.

Recovery phase

The operation transited swiftly from the relief to early recovery and then, recovery phase. Setting up temporary shelters and starting construction throughout the affected areas were done at an unprecedented pace. The government set a deadline of having all rural housing construction completed by 30 September 2009, just 14 months after the earthquake.

Moving from relief to recovery, the RCSC and IFRC conducted three joint assessments in 2008 to assess the overall relief, health, and water and sanitation situation in Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi. These assessments provided the RCSC and its supporting partner's analysis and recommendations on appropriate recovery and reconstruction options. From these recommendations, plans for the November 2008 appeal were formulated and discussed with partners at length.

The IFRC supported the RCSC with the reconstruction of family homes and other community-based programmes in Mianzhu county of Deyang prefecture, Sichuan province. Three townships (Jiulong, Banqiao and Zundao) were initially selected, and later all 21 townships within the county were assisted with shelter support. During the relief phase the emergency response units were based in these three townships. Mianzhu was one of the most seriously affected counties, with between 90 to 97 per cent of homes destroyed or damaged to the point of no longer being safe.

According to the recommendations of the assessments, other recovery programmes supported by the IFRC were planned in these same communities in order to build up their resilience through community-based

programmes in health, livelihood and water and sanitation. Communities seriously affected by the earthquake in the neighbouring provinces of Gansu and Shanxi were selected for support in community-based disaster preparedness. Also under the disaster preparedness objectives in the IFRC recovery plan, the IFRC is supporting the RCSC in the reconstruction of a number of disaster preparedness centres in the affected provinces.

The intensive focus on shelter and reconstruction in the area, which was a clear priority set by the government for all humanitarian actors, caused implementation of other programmes to be delayed. Many of the IFRC-supported recovery programmes was rolled out only in 2010, after the RCSC branches and communities were freed up to concentrate on community-based project implementation and other reconstruction work, such as constructing water facilities.

Due to the series of changes and delays in the shelter support programme, along with the fluctuating currencies throughout that time, there ended up being a significant balance of funds earmarked for shelter that needed to be reallocated at the end of the shelter project. Contributing partners were consulted and the RCSC and IFRC proposed that the balance (approximately CHF 10 million) be reallocated for support to the RCSC in three areas: reinforce the already planned development of emergency response teams (ERT), add the reconstruction of schools and hospitals, and the piloting of integrated community-based programmes to the IFRCs disaster preparedness programme plan of action.

With the support received from the RCSC, the IFRC and all partner national societies throughout the relief and the reconstruction phase, thousands of people have been able to restore a high degree of normalcy in their lives. The monitoring of programme implementation and many interviews with people reached have shown that the interventions have been deeply appreciated and that they have contributed to the recovery of the affected communities in meaningful ways.

Review

International humanitarian organizations have never before carried out operations of this magnitude in China, and this brings along new opportunities and challenges. This was the first time the RCSC and the IFRC have worked together on such a scale. In its commitment to learn from this unique experience, the RCSC and the IFRC conducted a full review of the operation in May-June 2010. The review period was from the day of the earthquake until April 2010.

The purpose of the review was to examine the extent to which the goal, objectives and expected results of the operation were achieved in terms of its relevance to the needs of the beneficiaries and its effectiveness and timeliness. In so doing, the review highlighted what worked well and what might have been done differently as lessons to be applied in future operations. Where relevant, the review documented good practices and areas of improvement for future programming. In addition the review analyzed how disaster-related policies are used as guidance for the planning and implementation of emergency and recovery operations led by the RCSC and supported by the IFRC. The review also includes recommendations for improvement, where appropriate. The review report was shared with all the partners in January 2011.

Examples of support from partner national societies to the RCSC

There were a significant number of partners of the RCSC who contributed funding in bilateral cooperation. The following is a short summary of some of the bilateral support provided and the projects that have been carried out with that support. There are many examples that have not been listed here, but have had a significant impact on the relief and recovery operations of the RCSC. It is important to note that the RCSC has also received a significant portion of its support from the Hong Kong Red Cross, Macau Red Cross and the Taiwan Red Cross organization, all of which have played a critical role in the past three years in building capacity of the RCSC and supporting its work in the disaster affected areas, and beyond.

American Red Cross

In order to support newly constructed houses in earthquake zone, American Red Cross had been working with RCSC to implement a water programme in Guangyuan prefecture, Sichuan province. Seven gravity-fed water supply systems were installed to provide safe drinking water to beneficiaries in 19 villages, including newly constructed houses, clinics, and schools. The project has been completed.

Canadian Red Cross

Canadian Red Cross has supported the construction of 15 township clinics, two schools and one leprosarium in Gansu and Shaanxi. As part of its long-term recovery support in Sichuan, the Canadian Red Cross supports the efforts of local branches in HIV prevention work. All construction have been completed. The HIV project will be completed within one year.

German Red Cross

German Red Cross was responsible for the construction of two health stations and one clinic in Chengdu, Sichuan province. After the deployment of the three clinics, German Red Cross supported RCSC in developing their national response capacities. All projects have been completed.

Japanese Red Cross Society

Japanese Red Cross Society supported the construction of 30 schools, 41 clinics and 48 health stations in Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi. Japanese Red Cross Society also supported the capacity building of local Red Cross branches in Gansu, Sichuan, and Shaanxi provinces. Japanese Red Cross Society also purchased relief goods for the disaster preparedness storages in IFRC's warehouse in Kuala Lumpur amounting to CHF 454,296. Almost all the projects have been completed except two construction and part of the capacity building projects.

Republic of Korea Red Cross

For the Sichuan Recovery Programme, Korean Red Cross aided in the construction of two schools and two township clinics in Sichuan. Total KNRC relief efforts amounted to CHF 3,689,444. All construction projects have been completed.

Malaysian Red Crescent

The Malaysian Red Crescent supported the construction of 15 village health stations and donated medical equipment. Total relief effort amounted to CHF 1,509,139. A total of 10 out of the 15 construction projects have been completed.

Qatar Red Crescent

After the Sichuan earthquake, Qatar Red Crescent donated CHF 798,783 to be distributed to 384 households affected by the disaster. The project has been completed.

Thailand Red Cross

Thailand Red Cross supported the reconstruction of one township clinic and the dormitory and dining hall of one school. Total funds donated towards the Sichuan earthquake relief amounted to CHF 357,347. All projects have been completed.³

Shelter

The IFRC supported the RCSC's efforts for the reconstruction of the disaster-hit area by providing assistance to more than 62,000 survivor families in rebuilding their homes. The aid formed a valuable addition to the assistance which the government provided and the loans which families had to take out to finance their new homes. The IFRC shelter programme focused on Mianzhu County in Deyang Prefecture, which was where the emergency response units were deployed.

Initially, the RCSC and IFRC planned to provide full housing reconstruction coverage within the three townships (17,540 village homes) with a cash grant further subsidized by the central government. The expectation was that families would use this support to rebuild their homes in an 'owner-driven model', where the primary decision-making responsibility and overall driving force of home reconstruction lies with the homeowner. This owner-driven model for reconstruction (with the exception of large centralized sites) was proposed by the government. IFRC and RCSC supported this model, as did other non-governmental organizations involved in the area.

The original plans also addressed quality assurance, which was provided by government supervisors, and to be reinforced through a joint RCSC and IFRC team of qualified technical experts and monitors in each township. Additional technical assistance and awareness-raising on the necessity of earthquake resistant construction was to be a key contribution of the IFRC.

While construction was underway in the area, concerns of social inequities arose throughout the county, and the disbursement of cash grants was delayed by authorities. A resulting shift in IFRC's shelter plan further extended IFRC's support to cover, not only the affected families in the three originally planned townships of Mianzhu, but also to three other rural mountainous townships, however with a reduction in the amount

³ All the bilateral support information has been updated by RCSC as of January 2012.

allocated per household. Remaining IFRC funds were used to assist families in 14⁴ other townships within Mianzhu.

Plan of action according to revised appeal November 2008	Adjusted plan of action according to revised appeal September 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Full coverage in three townships in Mianzhu county. ▪ 17,540 households (max 22,540 if 4th township included). ▪ CNY 20,000 cash grant per household in three installments; upon completion of foundation, walls and roof. ▪ Monitoring by RCSC and IFRC teams of qualified technical experts in each township for earthquake resistance guidelines. ▪ Technical assistance to homeowners and contractors. ▪ Public awareness/homeowner education programme on earthquake resistant construction if required. ▪ Funds used for home-owner reconstruction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Full coverage in six townships: 22,702 households received CNY 10,000 cash grant per household ▪ Partial coverage in 14 townships: 39,619 households received CNY 3,000 - 10,000 cash grant per household depending on five selection criteria. ▪ One lump sum installment. ▪ Government inspectors will be responsible for quality control and ensuring that homes constructed meet government, building codes, standards and guidelines. ▪ Main focus on transferring much needed financial assistance to homeowners to repay debt that financed the rebuilding of their homes. ▪ Construction monitoring reduced to visual inspection of 1-3 per cent number of finished homes. ▪ Technical assistance and homeowner education components of the programme are cancelled. ▪ Cash distribution monitoring will visit 1-3 per cent of finished homes.

Based on the altered shelter plan, IFRC distributed a total of CNY 363.6 million (CHF 58.9 million) in two phases (26-29 December 2009 and 27 January 2010) to 62,319⁵ households to help ease the burden of debt and other costs incurred during the reconstruction of their homes. This covered over 50 per cent of the 124,358 rural homeowners reconstructing homes across Mianzhu county. The maximum amount of support received by households was CNY 10,000 (CHF 1,526). Financial support was paid directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts.

Those being supported by this financial assistance included the elderly, families who lost loved ones in the earthquake, families with people suffering from certain serious illnesses, the disabled and families that had to be permanently relocated.

Monitoring

Red Cross teams conducted monitoring on the cash grants for three weeks in March 2010 to verify if households had fulfilled the selected criteria and received the accurate amount of Red Cross assistance. A total of 2.37 per cent of households were monitored by six teams consisting of Mianzhu and Deyang branches of the RCSC and the IFRC staff and volunteers, as well as the administrative and natural village leaders and representatives from the township level government.

These teams interviewed approximately 1,500 beneficiaries from 20 townships selected randomly by the IFRC. During interviews, a questionnaire was filled out and cross-checked with the head of the household's ID card, resident book, bank book, and in the 14 townships, documents that prove they fulfilled one of the five criteria. All documents and the house owner standing in front of his/her house are photographed for documentation purposes.

Construction monitoring and technical assistance was provided by the government authorities. This resulted in a revision of the original plan. By the time all funds had been fully distributed, over 95 per cent of the houses were already completed. Furthermore, the government took full responsibility for maintaining the quality of construction and enforcing building standards. As the Red Cross did not have a role in monitoring construction, a senior shelter delegate from the IFRC's Asia Pacific zone office conducted an assessment on the government system for monitoring construction and the housing construction quality and found the systems, in general, to be satisfactory. Still, a team of national staff and volunteers were able to include visual inspection of a small number of the IFRC funded homes (1-3 per cent) during the cash grant monitoring.

⁴ IFRC's shelter support programme's coverage extended to all 21 townships within Mianzhu county that met IFRC's conditions (rural houses damaged by the earthquake and needing reconstruction) but due to the government's decision to re-classify the status of one township from 'rural' to 'urban', this particular township no longer fulfilled the conditions for IFRC shelter support.

⁵ In the adjusted plan of action the total households should be 62,321, but the actual households reached were 62,319, two households less than the plan, because one household was found not to meet the criteria and had to be cancelled, one household was found to have been calculated twice, and was cancelled thereafter.

Impact

All beneficiaries interviewed were happy and grateful for the financial support, which the IFRC and the RCSC transferred directly into each beneficiary family's bank account. Beneficiaries reported that the cash grants made a substantial difference in easing the burden of debt, and were especially timely coming just before the Chinese New Year in February 2010.

Reconstruction of schools and health facilities

The IFRC and RCSC jointly agreed to use part of the balance of funds (approximately CNY 20 million or just under CHF 3 million) from the shelter programme for the reconstruction of schools and health facilities in the affected areas. A significant number⁶ of schools and health facilities had been destroyed in the earthquake, and the RCSC held a predominant role in reconstruction of these facilities. At the time the IFRC shelter support came to completion, many communities were still without adequate support for the reconstruction of these facilities, and it was determined that a portion of the IFRC reconstruction funds should be used to support these vital projects.

After two joint assessments in October 2010 and February 2011 by both the RCSC and IFRC, seven projects, including two schools, four township hospitals and one elderly hospital were originally identified with an agreement signed in May 2011. A review visit was made by the end of 2011, where the original agreement was changed under mutual consent from RCSC and IFRC. The concern was that the elderly hospital, might not, over time, be in line with Red Cross's initial purpose of funding this project, and as such not benefit the targeted vulnerable group - the elderly. It was agreed that RCSC would select other project(s) with the same budget in the coming months to replace this particular construction project.

By the end of December, four of the original six projects in Nanchong, Suining, Ziyang had started construction work with the other two in Wanyuan and Suining in the tendering process. It was expected that all six confirmed construction programmes will be completed by the end of 2012, contributing to directly benefiting a population total of 224,000 from four townships with better hospital service as well as benefiting 3,000 students in two townships, providing better and safer educational environments.

Community Resilience Programme

Another portion of the shelter balance (approximately CNY 20 million or just under CHF 3 million) will be used for a community-based programme aimed to strengthen the resilience of selected communities in Sichuan province through an integrated multi-sectoral approach. The programme also aims to build stronger local branches of the RCSC.

In February, April and October 2011, IFRC East Asia disaster management team arranged planning meetings together with Sichuan Red Cross and RCSC headquarters' representatives. A framework for the programme has been designed with the first three to six months focusing on identifying branch capacity building needs and laying the foundation of knowledge and skills in Red Cross staff across all levels. Knowledge and skill building would be done in varied areas - DRR, livelihood, health, programme management, utilization of vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) tools, volunteer management, Red Cross knowledge dissemination, and other important elements of branch development.

The county Red Cross branch will then conduct a VCA to determine the risks and needs of the community, and will work with community members to design programme (village development) plans according to actual needs. While some of the needs will be addressed by programme interventions, county Red Cross branches will balance the rest of proposed solutions with other potential sources of support and funding (such as from the government or other actors). Simultaneously, the county Red Cross branches would be supported to carry out needs assessment aimed at their own capacity building. The programme will support the identified interventions enabling them to enhance their capacity.

This approach intends to build the capacity of branches so that they are able to support local communities in designing development plans to boost their resilience in any area that is genuinely their greatest concern; whether in health, disaster preparedness and response, livelihoods, water and sanitation, or other possible areas of risk.

⁶ Exact figures have not been officially released.

In November and December 2011, Sichuan branch, with support of IFRC has selected five counties after conducting site selection visits to nine counties. The selected counties are economically poor, affected by disasters and their county Red Cross branch and government have expressed support for the programme. The programme implementation would be carried out in two phases, each of one and half year duration. Each phase would reach out to at least 15 communities.

A draft programme agreement has been prepared after several discussions with Sichuan branch and RCSC headquarters. It is planned that the agreement would be launched soon and begins with the activity of orienting the Red Cross leaders and staff on programme approach and methodology. It would be followed by the capacity building interventions of the branch.

Disaster preparedness

Objective	Expected results
1. Vulnerability of targeted communities in Gansu and Shaanxi is reduced through mitigation measures and an enhanced capacity to prepare for and respond to future disasters.	Communities' knowledge and awareness in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) measures are increased in selected village communities. Disaster risk reduction mitigation measures are identified, established and implemented through community-based approaches in selected vulnerable communities.
2. Capacity of Gansu and Shaanxi Red Cross staff and volunteers in disaster risk reduction/disaster preparedness is enhanced.	Disaster management knowledge is enhanced through effective project management and monitoring systems. Disaster management institutional linkages of Gansu and Shaanxi branches of RCSC is strengthened and expanded.
3. RCSC capacity to effectively prepare and respond to disasters is improved.	9 disaster preparedness centres are established in Sichuan, Gansu, and Shaanxi Provinces. Provincial Red Cross staffs are trained to operate and maintain the disaster preparedness centres effectively. 3 emergency response teams (ERT) are developed in Yunnan, Hubei and Hunan and storage capacity for essential equipments are ensured.

The RCSC has been working closely with IFRC to develop a long-term disaster response strategy. The IFRC and partner national societies have been supporting the RCSC's work on community-based disaster risk reduction initiatives in various provinces; but compared to the vast amount of needs in China, resources are still relatively scarce. As a result of the sheer amount of response needed after the earthquake, efforts are being made to speed up strategic planning.

The programme had been focusing on the implementation of training and mitigation activities in order to improve the resilience of selected village communities against risks and hazards (community-based disaster preparedness), as well as providing resources and trainings to enhance the capacity of RCSC in responding to emergencies effectively throughout the country in strategically selected provinces (disaster preparedness centres and emergency response teams). Furthermore, building up emergency response teams and disaster preparedness centres will provide the opportunity for RCSC staff to obtain the necessary knowledge in emergency response, while providing a platform for strengthening long-term national disaster response strategy.

Community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP)

Although the earthquake epicentre lies in Sichuan, the impact of the subsequent earthquake in Gansu and Shaanxi was magnified due to the local population's⁷ high vulnerability to natural disasters. The CBDP programme in Gansu and Shaanxi aims to reduce the population's vulnerability prior to the onset of natural disasters by improving capacity and empowering communities to plan and implement appropriate risk reduction initiatives. While the programme is facilitated by local Red Cross staff and volunteers, the community itself takes the lead throughout the implementation of the programme.

A total of 30 villages in Gansu and Shaanxi (15 villages for each) were selected for the community-based disaster preparedness programme. The number of direct beneficiaries is estimated to be approximately 20,000⁸ men, women and children (about 80 per cent of population of all selected villages).

⁷ The rural population make up 60-70 per cent of the provincial population

⁸ The average population per village in Gansu and Shaanxi is 850 people. CBDP is expected to reach 80 per cent of the total population (about 20,000 in 30 villages).

Village activities have been selected through a vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA), which have provided detailed analysis of training needs, mitigation measures, timeframe, complementary support from the government, and the villages' own contributions.

By December of 2011, mitigation measures and training in 15 villages of the four selected counties (Shiquan, Hanyin, Xixiang and Qianyang County) of Shaanxi province were completed. Mitigation measures include: construction of evacuation roads, dams, irrigation systems that complemented trainings on disaster preparedness knowledge, personal hygiene, public health, first aid, livelihood and agricultural techniques.

Each village has also established a village disaster management committee (VDC), each of which is composed of 10-15 members. The CBDP project has helped these community volunteers in building up their capacity in project management, resource mobilization, as well as taking a leading role in the establishment of an early warning system. A village contingency plan incorporating township government resources, the villagers' capacity, and the Red Cross volunteers' role was designed for each village. At least 40 per cent of the VDC members are women, so as to ensure a gender balance in decision making. By the end of the year, an approximate 3,500 households (about 12,000 people) in Shaanxi directly benefited from the programme.

One monitoring trip and one evaluation trip had been conducted in March and July, respectively, in Shaanxi province. All completed mitigation programmes were well managed and well documented.

In Gansu province, 12 out of 15 villages in the two selected counties (Qinan and Tanchang) had finished their mitigation measures and trainings. The other three villages in Qinan County had applied to change the programmes in their villages. It is estimated that the altered programmes will be finished in July of 2012. A mid-term monitoring visit was made by the RCSC headquarters in August 2011 to ensure the quality of the programmes was aligned to programme objectives.

In addition to building the resilience of the selected communities, this CBDP programme is building the capacity of local Red Cross branches. This is the first time CBDP has been implemented in Gansu and Shaanxi branches; therefore, new staff have been recruited to contribute to the growth of branch capacity and knowledge base. The programme is being implemented by county branches with support from provincial and headquarters levels. Provincial Red Cross branches have been providing trainings using developed information, education, and communication materials for the branches, who in turn are training villagers. Trainings include disaster and project management, technical skills to conduct VCAs, first aid and disaster preparedness measures, among other skills. Coupled with monitoring and evaluation systems that are built into the programme, Red Cross staff and volunteers are increasingly able to effectively prepare for disasters.

Disaster preparedness centres

In order to build the National Society's capacity in distributing emergency relief effectively at the prefectural level, IFRC is supporting the RCSC by contributing CNY 3 million (CHF 464,476) to each of the nine disaster preparedness centres in Sichuan (six), Gansu (two) and Shaanxi (one), and three additional centres specifically for the emergency response teams (see ERT section below).

Progress of the six disaster preparedness centres in Sichuan	
Location	Progress
Mianyang and Ya'an	Undergoing a tendering process
Aba and Deyang	Undergoing according to the construction schedule
Guangyuan	Main construction was completed and has moved into renovation stage in September, and it is scheduled to be completely finished in January 2012
Chengdu	All needed documents like land permit were submitted, and the agreement between IFRC and RCSC will be soon signed

Two disaster preparedness centres in Gansu province - an assessment trip had been conducted in December by disaster management officers from the East Asia regional delegation. During the assessment, all of the required documents including land permit were submitted, and the agreement between IFRC and RCSC will be soon signed.

One disaster preparedness centre in Shaanxi province - The original construction proposal was rejected because it did not comply with the principles of the IFRC. A new proposal was submitted and the local Red Cross branch is collecting the required documents now.

Emergency response teams (ERTs)

This programme has supported the development of the national water and sanitation ERTs in Hubei, Hunan and Yunnan RCSC branches to repair and reorganize the existing water and sanitation ERU equipment and to purchase supplementary equipment locally, as well as to provide extensive support for personnel training and management. These three provinces, located in the central and southern parts of China, have been selected due to their geographical location and structural opportunities, e.g. existing capacities in rapid emergency response and experience in programme management. Their positive track record in emergency response also extends to surrounding disaster-prone provinces.

Through this programme, water and sanitation ERU equipment donated after the earthquake to RCSC in the three provinces were repaired, replenished and reorganized so they can be utilized to respond to safe drinking water needs in emergencies in China. The capacity of Red Cross staff and volunteers was also enhanced due to a series of water and sanitation technical trainings provided by the IFRC, with support from Spanish Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, Indonesian Red Cross, not only on operating equipment but the concept of emergency actions regarding water and sanitation.

The IFRC, together with experts from the Austrian and Spanish Red Cross, conducted an assessment in July 2009. A two-year plan was developed based on the recommendations from this assessment, with IFRC agreeing to support three provincial branches in building water and sanitation ERTs.

In addition to developing equipment, the water and sanitation ERTs will also develop water and sanitation standard operation procedures for equipment deployment; all of which will be operated by trained provincial Red Cross staff and volunteers, with support from RCSC headquarters. After holding discussions and assessments together with the three provincial Red Cross, it was agreed that renovation of the current disaster preparedness centers in Yunnan and Hubei was necessary in order to provide appropriate storage for the water and sanitation ERT equipment; while in Hunan, it was decided that a newly constructed disaster preparedness center was required, given that existing facilities were inadequate for the extent of equipment expected.

Around 80 personnel and volunteers were trained in emergency assessment, rescue, and first aid, and to operate the water treatment equipment. Each ERT will have the capacity to provide water and sanitation support for at least 10,000 people. It will also support neighbouring provinces in the event of a disaster under the coordination of the RCSC headquarters.

The RCSC took a study trip to Indonesia in October 2010 to learn about the Indonesian Red Cross's experience in formulating and managing a water and sanitation ERT. In addition, two water and sanitation technical delegates from the Spanish Red Cross visited the two provinces of Yunnan and Hubei to provide technical assistance in reorganizing the equipment. A simulation exercise with local volunteers was also conducted in each of the provinces during this time.

The translation of the Standard Operation Manual (SOP) on ERTs into Chinese was completed, and will be included in RCSC discussions as one of the templates to be adopted for national ERT management.

Two water and sanitation emergency response trainings were held in Yunnan and Hubei in May and June 2011, respectively. The training was facilitated by representatives from the East Asia regional office, Asia Pacific zone, Spanish Red Cross Society and Malaysia Red Crescent Society. The training covered components of water quality and treatment, sanitation, vector control and hygiene promotion, as well as a simulation.

To facilitate planning for overall water and sanitation ERT development plan for 2011-2012, the regional disaster management team, with support from the water and sanitation coordinator from Asia Pacific zone office, travelled to Yunnan, Hubei, and Hunan provinces to consolidate the plans with the respective provincial Red Cross branches in July 2011. Three in-depth discussions were held between leaders and programme managers from the provincial Red Cross branches, which resulted in a finalized plan of action and budget allocation plan for a two-year period.

An IFRC water and sanitation delegate was also recruited for six months and commenced his mission in November 2011 to support the RCSC with developing their water and sanitation ERT capacity, specifically developing local Chinese manufactured water treatment equipment, which is more sustainable.

Deployment of the Emergency Response Teams in the Yushu earthquake

A major earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale hit Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Qinghai province on 14 April. The deadly quake left nearly 3,000 people dead or missing⁹ and an estimated 100,000 homeless¹⁰.

Besides distribution of relief items and the dispatch of search and rescue teams, medical teams and ambulances, the RCSC also mobilized two of its newly founded water and sanitation ERTs. The water ERT from RCSC's Hunan branch provided safe drinking water to over 20,000 people in total in the major relocation centre until 20 May. The sanitation ERT from Yunnan province installed 100 rapid latrines. The disaster provided the RCSC its first significant test in the deployment of these teams and a good opportunity to further develop their domestic disaster response capacity.

Health

Objective	Expected results
1. Vulnerability of the earthquake-affected population to public health risks is reduced through a community-based health (CBH) approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is significantly increase in knowledge on how to prevent and manage public health risks among earthquake-affected communities. - The knowledge and capacity of RCSC board members, staff and volunteers to coordinate, manage and implement programmes is significantly strengthened.
2. Psychological resilience of the earthquake affected population is improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Earthquake-affected people are able to manage stress and overcome crisis in their communities, individually, and among their families.
3. RCSC's capacity to provide health and psychosocial support to disaster affected communities is increased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RCSC's human resources and equipment to respond to health in emergencies are developed.

The health component of the recovery programme aimed to address the essential physical and psychosocial needs of the population worst-affected by the earthquake in a sustainable manner. It incorporated preventive, curative and rehabilitative health services, as well as psychosocial support, through an integrated community-based approach. It also aimed to strengthen RCSC and local capacity to respond to health issues during emergencies and non-emergency situations. With the National Society's interest in developing emergency response teams, and its increasing role in addressing emergency health in response to recent disasters, the key areas of the health component of the recovery programme centred on community-based health first aid (CBHFA), psychosocial support (PS), and emergency health (EH).

The health component was designed and carried out in accordance with the Sphere standards, inter-agency guidelines on mental health and psychosocial support in humanitarian emergencies, national standards and other relevant guidelines. It also promoted capacity strengthening of RCSC through the provision of technical and coordination support to systematically develop and implement these programmes. It also endeavoured to ensure sustainability and integration of programming tools and systems into RCSC's institutional programmes, as CBHFA and PS are new for RCSC.

Community-based health first aid (CBHFA)

The CBHFA programme has grown well beyond the scope of a disaster response programme. The way in which communities have been empowered and given the confidence to take more responsibility for their own health and welfare has much broader applications for their potential to increase resilience and take a more preventive approach to all sorts of common diseases.

CBHFA has been implemented by RCSC headquarters through the national training centre, which was primarily involved in the training of RCSC trainers in health-related knowledge, such as first aid and health issues commonly affecting the local communities. These trainers were mobilized to train volunteers at community level, who in turn, provided trainings to local communities according to their needs and priorities.

⁹ China News, 31 May 2010

¹⁰ Released in the press conference held on 25 April 2010 by the vice governor of Qinghai

In addition to disseminating key messages, volunteers also introduced the work of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and its Fundamental Principles. More importantly, trainings at grassroots level empowered communities to take ownership of health issues which affected them, and consequently, assisted decision making at the Red Cross branch level. The CBHFA component incorporated globally recognized tools and materials that were translated and adapted according to the local context.

CBHFA activities were implemented in four earthquake-affected provinces: Sichuan, Shaanxi, Gansu, and Yunnan. Sichuan has projects in four townships and 16 schools, and the remaining three provinces each have projects in two townships with targeted activities in eight schools; totalling to projects in 10 townships and targeted activities in 40 schools.

A training of master trainers was held in July 2009 prior to the delays associated to the implementation of shelter programme. Further to the completed implementation of the shelter component in early 2010, the programme has picked up again in February. The initial project agreement had been signed by the IFRC and RCSC headquarters March 2010.

A plenary meeting was held in Chengdu at the end of April 2010 for all four provincial branches where the RCSC presented the overall development plan for CBHFA. This meeting provided an opportunity for all partners to learn from each other and have technical clarification about the implementation plans, including specific issues about capacity building and volunteer management.

From the end of July to the beginning of September 2010, the IFRC CBHFA team conducted planning visits to the four provinces. In September 2010, the first meeting for CBHFA master trainers who were trained in July 2009 and will work in the provincial programme was held in Beijing. Eight qualified master trainers have been available and committed to the implementation period. In this meeting, IFRC briefed the master trainers about their roles and responsibilities, reviewed the training of trainers' (ToT) specific training content and divided the master trainers for provincial coverage (two to each province). Reporting timelines and coordination mechanism for the RCSC headquarters and IFRC were also agreed upon. Teaching materials, adequate manuals and tools were sent out to the provinces.

The ToT training started in Shaanxi province from September 2010. As of the end of September 2011, the RCSC has completed targets related to CBHFA training of trainers and volunteers in all four provinces (please see the table below). First aid trainings are incorporated into ToT in all provinces. After receiving the trainings, community volunteers under the guidance of RCSC staff, in coordination and working with local village leaders, conducted assessments to identify key health issues faced by villagers as well as priority actions to address them.

Number of RCSC staff and volunteers trained in CBHFA as of end of September 2011:

Branch	Trainers		Volunteers	
	<i>Planned</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>planned</i>	<i>Actual</i>
Sichuan	60	60	500	500
Shaanxi	30	30	200	200
Gansu	30	30	250	250
Yunnan	30	30	180	180 ¹¹
Total	150		1,130	

As part of this overall plan, a total of five CBHFA manuals¹² from the IFRC were contextualized and translated, and 1,000 sets of these manuals were printed and distributed to all the partners. Beyond the scope of the earthquake recovery support, the manuals will be adopted across all RCSC branches nationwide for the implementation of CBHFA.

In order to improve the capacity of RCSC and strengthen its health and first aid programming at the community level, a CBHFA programme management team has been set up in April 2010, comprising members of the RCSC headquarters, RCSC National Training Centre, the master trainers, and the IFRC since the beginning of the programme. In addition to daily programme management, this team is also

¹¹ The numbers of volunteers trained in Yunnan are less than the other three provinces due to a revision down in the total number of households planned to be reach in Yunnan's mountainous areas where most targeted households are located.

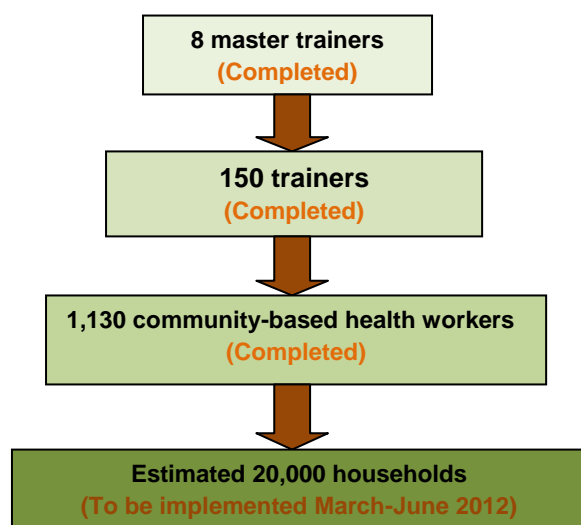
¹² Facilitator Guide (two volumes), Implementation Guide, Community Tools and Volunteer Manual

responsible for providing support and guidance to each implementing branch with all the necessary resources and experiences built up to ensure the programme's sustainability.

Starting from November 2011, monitoring visits were made to each implementing branch. The monitoring team had an active discussion with the local partners on methods to motivate volunteers, particularly with providing better support, recognition, and equipment with their limited resources.

In order to ensure quality monitoring and evaluation, the programme management team also adapted a number of forms based on the IFRC CBHFA planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) toolkit. These forms are utilized for monitoring the volunteers' skill capacity and knowledge while conducting the planned household visits, and providing guidance to improve their capacity.

The highlights of CBHFA school activities focus on the first aid and life skills trainings to the school teachers and the students by the trained volunteers. It is very helpful that the students obtained the key messages and skills on disease prevention and first aid, in return, they educate their parents when they go back home. In addition, a variety of activities such as singing contest, paper cutting and handwritten poster competition were organized around the principles and knowledge of Red Cross. Based on the summary of community assessment, hand washing sinks and dustbins were built up for training the health habits of the students in the schools.



During the timeframe of the programme implementation, in addition to the manuals, 26,500 first aid and hygiene promotion kits have been produced for the volunteers during the household visit period. 40,000 yellow caps for the school safety aspect were delivered to each branch based on the priorities of the community assessment. Meanwhile, each partner developed a series of IEC materials, such as calendars, pamphlets, and posters to for the dissemination of Red Cross principles and the CBHFA concept.

Due to the current scope of the project activities, an addendum was added to the project agreement to reflect on the changing situation in November 2011. Both RCSC and IFRC agreed to extend the timeframe of the planned activities to the end of June 2012.

Capacity building

A training for programme managers from both CBHFA and psychosocial support programmes was held in Beijing on September 2010. It was attended by 35 participants including programme managers from the four programme provinces as well as provincial, prefecture and county-level branches, CBHFA master trainers, RCSC headquarters and provincial leadership and training centre staff. This training provided accurate, systematic and updated information about IFRC standard requirements and regulations on finance, human resources and administration, logistics, reporting, communications and respective programme details. This is a capacity building activity for different levels of branches, enabling systems to be in place and familiarizing the branches to use them in their programme management. On 13 September, RCSC had a symbolic launching of CBHFA, as it is the first time for CBHFA to be implemented in China. Implementation will be piloted in the Sichuan earthquake-affected areas. This marks the beginning of CBHFA in the four provinces of Sichuan, Shaanxi, Gansu and Yunnan.

From 2010 to 2011, three project staff members selected from RCSC headquarters and the branch level participated in the Asia-Pacific CBHFA workshops in Bangkok. These workshops aimed to share experiences on programme implementation, volunteer management, integration and evaluation, the development of monitoring and evaluation tools, and ways forward. The annual workshops provided a good opportunity for the participants to learn from each other's experiences and broaden perspectives. Meanwhile, the points of action for China's CBHFA programme were put forward, which indicates the incorporation of behaviour change communication into the current programme activities, the integration of schools activities with community activities, and training for CBHFA PMER toolkits.

Psychosocial support programme (PSP)

The RCSC's psychosocial support programme, with support from the IFRC, aimed to build two psychosocial support ERTs, one in Sichuan (10 members) and another in Yunnan (30 members) to provide psychosocial training to volunteers, who in turn would serve local communities. Master trainers from Sichuan have been equipped with tools and skills to support 50 volunteers who were assigned to reach out to 100 teachers and 17,500 students in ten schools. The PSP project in Sichuan had been completed in November 2011.



In Yunnan, the project aimed to provide psychosocial support (PS) to 100 people in an elderly home, 100 residents of an urban community, 100 people in an ethnic minority village and 1,600 members of the local government's earthquake rescue team. It was expected that master trainers in Yunnan would empower 100 volunteers to reach 10,700 adults and 30,000 children in the province. After discussions with the RCSC headquarters and Yunnan branch, an adjustment was made on the implementation plan of Yunnan PSP project. Considering the time constraint and capacity of the local branch, the plan and target was changed to mobilize 100 trained volunteers to reach 3,000 adults and 1,000 children by organizing four to five mass activities in the community. The project will now focus on launching PS activities in communities targeting the elderly and ethnic minorities. The beginning of these activities had been affected by delays in the adaptation of PS materials into minority languages thus delaying implementation of activities from November 2011 to February 2012.

The project in Yunnan will not reach completion as scheduled in March 2012. The community activities will be completed by March, but the study tour and the sum-up meeting needs to be extended until the end of May 2012, with the corresponding reporting period extended by an additional one month. This will all be supported by the funding that is carried forward to the annual appeal in 2012, as agreed with the RCSC.

A key tool in the implementation of the programme was the PS toolkit developed by the RCSC's "Sunshine in Your Heart" (SiYH) team, with technical support and guidance from the IFRC. The toolkit consisted of three parts:

- "Psychological Support in Emergency and Disaster Settings";
- "Disaster Mental Health"; and
- "Psychosocial Support for Children and Teenagers".

This toolkit enables aid workers, social workers, volunteers and teachers to provide psychosocial support to different groups of people that are affected by disaster in its different phases, including disaster preparedness, response and reconstruction. PS activities such as active listening skills, role plays, story-telling and art therapy are all included in the toolkit. The toolkit not only contributes to project implementation in Yunnan and Sichuan; it also has been introduced to the whole RCSC system through its headquarters and is being promoted across the country as part of a longer-term psychosocial support programme development plan.

Eighty participants from 27 branches of the RCSC, as well as representatives from Save the Children and UNICEF, were invited to the launch of the PSP toolkit as well as the sensitization and symbolic launch of the PSP in September 2010. The toolkits were distributed and the subsequent ToT were used from October to December in Sichuan for teachers and volunteers from five communities where the ten selected schools are based.

Teachers and volunteers from the selected schools had found the materials useful and effective. Many children were able to communicate their feelings through art, storytelling, and role playing using puppets. Through these activities, children and teachers were able to open up and collectively share their feelings in different ways. Although the programme targeted all students in the ten schools, the most vulnerable children were identified by the schools, such as Ankang children (earthquake orphans), and the children of migrant workers, all of whom have especially benefited from the programme.

In March 2011, a specialized PS ERT training was held in Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan province. The 30 members from the Yunnan branch and 10 from the Sichuan branch attended the training, which utilized the toolkit as an important resource. The volunteers were trained on how to provide psychological first aid for disaster victims and how to organize PS response in disaster situations. The ICRC also coordinated with the

RCSC to ensure the RCSC Restoring Family Links team was able to send trainers and provide materials for the ERT training.

Two joint ERT simulation exercises were organized by RCSC Yunnan branch in March and October 2011, and all 40 volunteers from the Sichuan ERT team had participated. All PS ERT members were equipped with a PS toolkit, uniform, and insurance for spontaneous deployment.

Progress in Sichuan province:

For the community PS project implementation, 50 community volunteers from five prefectures (Nanchong, Suining, Chengdu, Mianyang, Deyang) were recruited and trained to conduct PS activities in their own communities. Two trainings in each prefecture had been conducted by the volunteers to equip the teachers with knowledge on the usage of the PSP toolkit, developed by the IFRC, and basic PS principles. All trainings had been completed by October 2011.

10 targeted schools in five prefectures were equipped with 9,700 PS reference books and materials by Sichuan Red Cross branch in September 2011. By the end of February 2012, each of these 10 schools had organized two mass PS promotional activities and 80 hours of routine classes on PS. The number of students reached in these 20 mass activities was around 20,000, and 5,000 for the routine classes. And there are another approximately 5,000 parents and teachers attended the mass activities benefited from this programme. Therefore direct people reached are 20,000, and indirect 5,000.

Number of people reached directly in Sichuan (as of December 2011):

<i>Project Site</i>	<i>No. of students reached</i>			<i>No. of teachers reached</i>	<i>No. of volunteers</i>
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>		
Nanchong	1287	1244	2531	20	10
Suining	1943	2235	4178	20	10
Chengdu	2700	2536	5236	20	10
Mianyang	1324	1159	2483	20	10
Deyang	2495	2306	4801	20	10
TOTAL	9749	9480	19229*	100	50

* Among the 19,229 students, 9,512 were primary students and 9,717 were in middle schools.

The RCSC Sichuan branch also organized two volunteer-sharing sessions for the volunteers to share their experiences and challenges on PSP implementation, in August 2011 and March 2012. All of the 100 trained volunteers attended the two sharing sessions.

A publication was produced by the Sichuan branch as a record for the PSP project in Sichuan since September 2011. And a flash video game was also produced by the Sichuan branch as a tool to promote PSP for teens.

Progress in Yunnan province:

Yunnan Red Cross branch started the community-based PS project implementation in Mengzi county since September 2011. A launching ceremony had been organized on 28 September 2011, followed by a PSP seminar and workshop on 29-30 September in Mengzi county. Approximately 1,200 civil servants, police officers, elderly people, teachers, and parents participated.

A PS volunteer team had been set up in Mengzi county; 36 volunteers were enrolled, equipped with PSP toolkits, and trained with basic PS skills in October 2011. Another training and field visit had been organized for the 36 volunteers in December 2011, in order to equip them with PS counselling skills, and needs assessments for the ethnic minority and elderly target groups.

By the end of February 2012, Mengzi county branch organized one educational PSP activity on safety for 20 left-behind children, mobilized 10 volunteers to conduct PS assessment for 10 elderly people in an urban

community through household visits, and one trust building PSP activity in an ethnic minority community. The total number of volunteers who participated was around 30, and the total number of people reached was around 150. One volunteer training and three technical sharing sessions on PS were also launched in Anning, Suijiang, and Dehung prefectures in Yunnan since October 2011; more than 1,600 volunteers including civil servants, teachers, and health practitioners participated.

In order to advocate the benefits of the programme to the leadership in the provincial branch, a PS ERT demonstration workshop had been organized for 10 leaders of the Yunnan Red Cross branch on 7 January 2012. A sharing session for PS experts was also organized on 14 January 2012 by the Yunnan branch, and 20 registered PS experts attended.

A project monitoring trip had been conducted in February 2012 in Yunnan, which was attended by the PMER assistant and health officer of the IFRC EARD, together with a RCSC headquarters representative. They participated in the evaluation meetings and field visits organized by the Yunnan Red Cross branch, who reported the progress of the project implementation during the meeting and suggested for the postponement of the oversee study tour and project sum up meeting.

50 PSP experts had been registered for providing technical support to the branch on PSP in the PSP professional database of Yunnan Red Cross branch since November 2011.

A PSP reference centre had been established in RCSC Yunnan branch since February 2012; the reference centre was equipped with PSP reference books, a reading corner and project files for registered volunteers and PSP experts to access.

Yunnan Red Cross branch decided to handover the localization aspect of the PS toolkit to Sunshine In Your Heart (SIYH) of RCSC headquarters, it was also agreed in the addendum that all budget required would be transferred to SIYH, and SIYH must submit reports as well as the localized toolkit to Yunnan Red Cross before the end of March 2012.

Expansion to another four provinces

During the first half of 2011, the RCSC headquarters decided to expand RCSC PS ERT capacity to cover four more provinces (Inner Mongolia, Fujian, Jiangxi, and Hubei), modelling the structure after the current two teams established in Sichuan and Yunnan provinces.

The Red Cross branches in these four provinces set up ERT teams comprising of RCSC staff members, psychologist consultants and Red Cross volunteers who are prepared to be deployed to disaster-affected areas. Put together, all the six provincial ERT teams will serve as the national PS emergency response capacity. In April 2011, the RCSC launched a staged training programme for all six provincial ERT teams.

In order to equip the teams with adequate skills, the RCSC planned to conduct a series of standardized trainings for all the teams (18 trainings in total) between May and December 2011. Basic, intermediate, and advanced level trainings were scheduled for each of the teams as well. To date, all basic level trainings and three intermediate trainings have been completed.

According to the RCSC, there are less than 200 professionals who are trained to provide post-disaster psychological intervention work in China. Therefore, the trained ERT team members, 200 in the six provinces, of RCSC who are available on call will provide a big boost to the overall national PSP response capacity in emergency situations.

To facilitate the further expansion of RCSC PS capacity in emergency response, a training expert from the IFRC Psychosocial Support Centre facilitated, together with the health team of the East Asia regional office, the PS ERT training in Beijing in November 2011. The visit of the IFRC PS Centre expert also provided an opportunity for RCSC to gain insights on the establishment of PS ERT of other national societies.

Water and sanitation

Objective	Expected results
1. To reduce vulnerability of earthquake-affected populations from water-borne diseases by improving access to safe water and sanitation facilities and empowering community based organizations on water governance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Communities have improved access to water and sanitation facilities according to minimum Sphere standards in three townships of Mianzhu county – Communities and RCSC have skills and knowledge to identify problems and solutions involving water, sanitation and hygiene practice issues through participatory hygiene activities.
2. To provide technical assistance and training to RCSC in water and sanitation for emergencies and post-emergency situations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – RCSC has the relevant skills and capacity at national level to deploy water and sanitation emergency response units domestically

The water and sanitation programme combines hygiene promotion with water supply and sanitation infrastructure rehabilitation, aimed at reducing the risk of waterborne diseases in the affected area. In addition, the programme is integrated with disaster management to assist the strengthening of the RCSC's disaster preparedness capacities through the development of water and sanitation ERT and pre-positioning of water and sanitation emergency response equipment for future domestic deployment. For information on the water and sanitation ERT, see previous section under disaster preparedness.

Water Supply Project

The objective of this project was to reduce the vulnerability of earthquake-affected populations in the eight villages in Hanwang township (approximately 11,000 inhabitants or 3,440 households) of Mianzhu county, from water-borne diseases by improving the access to safe drinking water, as well as empowering community members on water governance and improved hygiene behaviour.

The centralized gravity-fed water supply system constructed consists of a water intake, water treatment plant, and water pipe network. This system provides the first opportunity for these communities to link to a safe and continual water supply. Like other similar systems installed throughout China, a user fee will be charged to families who are connected to this system, to support ongoing operation and maintenance of the water supply system.

Taking into consideration changes in resident population of the project's targeted villages (relocation of villagers by the Hanwang township government, 762 households of 2,875 people relocated to Hanwang township since June 2011), the number of households estimated to benefit from the water system by the end of this project was increased from 3,440 households (or 11,000 people) to 4,202 households (or 13,875 people).

The RCSC, with support from the IFRC, funded 53 per cent of the water supply project (or 88.4 per cent of the construction portion of the entire project) and provided both technical and management support. The Mianzhu branch of the RCSC oversaw the hygiene promotion activities in collaboration with the relevant offices of the Mianzhu government.

The construction of the water supply system follows government regulations and was managed by the Water Bureau. The Hanwang township government mobilized the communities throughout implementation. A system to ensure water quality of the supply was also put in place by encouraging community members to report any breakage or leakage in the system.

All of the construction work was completed in June 2011. The original water intake was washed away in a landslide in 2010, and had to be replaced by a new intake which was constructed in April 2011 in a new site that is more likely to withstand extreme conditions.

The water supply system operation was first trialled from June to October 2011, before commencing direct supply to consumers. Water quality tests were conducted by the local authorities during this period to ensure the water quality met Chinese government standards, before being supplied to consumers. Sustainability of the water supply system was considered as part of the project implementation and as such a plan for operation and maintenance of the water supply system was developed in August 2011, which included training for eight operators.

As of the end of December 2011, 3,617 households had been connected to the newly constructed water supply system in Hanwang, benefiting approximately 11,000 people who now have access to safe drinking water. In the coming months, more households will be connected to the system as they sign up voluntarily. The coverage reached 86 per cent of the project target so far, exceeded the planned 80 per cent.

A water supply system review was conducted in July 2011 in order to capture risks affecting the sustainability of the project as well as implementation lessons to guide any future water supply system projects for RCSC. A water supply system lessons learnt workshop was also held in September 2011 with representatives of RCSC Deyang and Mianzhu branch, JRCS, RCSC headquarters, as well as the PMER officer and health officer of the IFRC regional office. The meeting documented the lessons learnt from this project as well as recommendations on future Red Cross water and sanitation initiatives in China.

The ownership and operation of the water supply system was transferred to the Hanwang township government in November 2011.

Biogas Latrine Project

Discussion on the planned bio-gas latrines project with all concerned authorities was ongoing from 2009 to 2010, but was ultimately canceled. A second water and sanitation project, which was planned as a replacement project for the cancelled bio-gas latrines project to be implemented in Qingping township of Mianzhu county was also cancelled. This was due to the fact that the government announced it would include the area in its centralized support for water systems construction.

Hygiene Promotion

The local Red Cross branch was supported in hygiene promotion activities by the Hanwang Township Hospital and the Mianzhu Centre for Disease Control. Hygiene promotion activities include a baseline survey, dissemination on Red Cross information and the new water supply system. The RCSC is also using opportunities such as the Global Handwashing Day to further promote good hygiene practice in these communities.

The hygiene promotion activity launched in November 2011 involved one train-the-trainer (ToT) session conducted for 20 local community volunteers by the professionals of the Hanwang People Hospital and the local CDC. The ToT sessions aimed at equipping the volunteers with health knowledge, health promotion skills, as well as various dissemination tools such as making posters and leaflets, and mobilized them to disseminate a correct hygiene message to all target households.

By the end of December 2011, all 4,202 households had been reached by the volunteers and received hygiene promotion messages. The progress had been continuously monitored by the local CDC and RCSC Mianzhu branch. The water and sanitation delegate and health officer of the IFRC regional delegation also travelled to Mianzhu, together with the RCSC headquarter representative for the final evaluation on 28 December 2011.

Capacity Building

As a part of capacity building for the RCSC, the project supported the water and sanitation programme assistant within the Mianzhu branch of the RCSC. Furthermore, the IFRC water and sanitation team guided the local branches in programme management, to support the water project as well as improving capacity to implement future projects.

The RCSC headquarter disaster management and water and sanitation counterpart, along with the IFRC water and sanitation delegate, attended the Asia Pacific zone water and sanitation software workshop in November 2010. At the workshop, the RCSC staff had the opportunity to learn from other national societies about their experiences and lessons learned to benefit future water and sanitation work.

Livelihood

Objective	Expected results
1. Income and employment viability of relocated farmers and disabled people in Mianzhu County are increased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the course of five years, up to 3,700 relocated farmers, disabled and other vulnerable people receive funds for the purpose of resuming and establishing businesses. - Up to 5,000 relocated farmers and 600 disabled farmers in Mianzhu county receive vocational or/and business skills training and information assistance to become better employed or start a business.
2. RCSC capacity to plan and implement employment promotion projects, especially in vocational training and microfinance is developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity of RCSC at headquarters and branch level, especially Mianzhu and Deyang Red Cross branches, to develop and implement livelihoods projects is increased.

The programme, consisting of both vocational and business training and access to financial resources through microcredit loans, is designed to help earthquake survivors, many of whom have been relocated from mountainous areas and lost their land, to find new ways of making a living. It is targeting nearly 6,000 beneficiaries from two groups of earthquake-affected people: relocated farmers and the disabled.

Originally, the livelihoods programme had planned interventions such as rehabilitating livelihood assets and developing sustainable income-generating activities, allowing families to have better resources to recover and begin reconstructing their houses. Since shelter support was prioritized throughout the region prior to other support programmes, the livelihoods programme was reviewed and changed to better fit the current needs and circumstances.

The RCSC and IFRC relied on strong partnerships with the Mianzhu Labor Bureau and the International Labour Organization (ILO) for the vocational and business training component, and with PlaNet Finance for guidance and assessments on the microfinance component. The microcredit loans have been managed in cooperation with the Postal Savings Bank of China (PSBC).

A series of assessments conducted in early 2010 helped identify the most pressing financial and training needs of the communities and how they could be supported after accessing vocational training and microfinance tools. These assessments have been critical in drawing up the selection criteria process and in defining the composition of training programmes. They were also crucial in helping to form the microfinance service delivery mechanisms.

Training

The training component can be divided into two parts: one is the planned training to some 6,000 beneficiaries from two groups of earthquake-affected people: relocated farmers and the disabled; the other is an additional training for approximately 600 persons with special needs, who were injured by the earthquake, utilizing the unspent balance of the training project.

Various factors were taken into account in designing the training structure and curricula, including differences in education levels, needs of the disabled, job requirements and expectations as well as the availability of farmers during the different phases of the farming season. Different types of training offered include demand-driven skill training with certification, community-based trainings to share skills directly with less mobile target groups, and start-your-business entrepreneurial trainings.

Planned training - By the end of June 2011, 16 months had passed since the beginning of a training component March 2010, marking the completion of training 5,400 relocated farmers and 600 disabled farmers in Mianzhu county. In total, 6,008 earthquake-affected vulnerable people have been trained in 25 different training courses, with approximately 400 more beneficiaries trained according to the target group's needs and partners' consensus. Out of the 6,008 beneficiaries, 812 are disabled.

Additional training - In July 2011, the Mianzhu County Red Cross Branch and Mianzhu Branch of Disabled Person's Federations of China signed a memorandum on cooperation regarding the skills training provision for approximately 600 persons with special needs, who were injured by the earthquake.

The additional training which started in August 2011 has been successfully completed after five months of implementation. A total of 26 classes were organized and 668 people with special needs and their family members received various trainings. Costs for the additional training project was CNY 382,000.00 (cost per person is CNY 572 or CHF 86).

As a result, the total number of beneficiaries in the training component is **6,676**, out of which 1,480 are disabled, who face even more difficulties in the labour market and can greatly benefit from acquiring new skills.

Training courses have been successfully completed, for targeted beneficiaries, on various vocational training topics and integral skills for the self employed, range from fruit cultivation and livestock breeding to sewing and running farmhouse restaurants. There was an even representation of women attending the classes. The project emphasized of the inclusion of disabled members of the community in the programme.

During the process, a total of 12,000 information leaflets and 300 posters were printed and disseminated in targeted communities.

To improve quality and ensure the training plan, the IFRC livelihood team, labour bureau, ILO and RCSC did random in-class monitoring visits. A training assessment form was distributed to trainees by ILO and IFRC/RCSC during the random check. All the forms are then collected, analysed and documented by the IFRC livelihood team.

The formation of a working group was aimed at fostering cooperative planning for the implementation of the programme's activities among key stakeholders (including British and Japanese Red Cross Societies). It provides a forum for the exchange of views and information on implementation, provides regular monitoring and review when necessary, and provides guidance and oversight to programme implementation.

Under the guidance of IFRC and the supervision of Deyang Red Cross, Mianzhu branch took the lead in organizing, planning and monitoring in the additional training project, which provided a great opportunity for Mianzhu Red Cross to practice what they learnt from the previous training project and build up their capacities considerably.

The web-based livelihood programme beneficiary database platform was successfully installed, and is being used by the Mianzhu Red Cross, Deyang Red Cross, as well as partners such as the Bureau of Human Resources and Social Security. The web platform is a useful management and reporting tool, allowing for transparency and more effective information exchange for both training and small loan elements of the programme. The link to the platform is: <http://125.64.78.140:9000/livelihoods/>.

The IFRC in cooperation with ILO conducted a mid-term evaluation of this project in October-November 2010. A senior skills and employability specialist from the ILO's office in Bangkok, jointly with IFRC's livelihoods delegate, reviewed the project's activities and came up with recommendations for the remaining implementation period.

An external final evaluation of the training component, organized by the ILO's office in China, was completed in April 2011. According to its findings, the project catered well to the needs of the disaster-affected population. The evaluator made a comparison between the control groups of trained and untrained people, and analyzed the outcomes: findings indicated that trainings significantly affected the incomes of beneficiaries and directly produced positive impact levels in trained groups.

According to the evaluation report, the training delivered great assistance to farmers in need of livelihood recovery. Overall, the trainees were satisfied with all aspects of the training programmes provided. Detailed organization such as the number of people per class, associated services in addition to the training programme, the competency of the teaching staff, training locations and timetables all contributed to good results: over 90 per cent of the trainees passed their exams and were awarded with training certificates. More than 95 per cent of the farmers believe the training they received would help them with job seeking and/or help establish their own businesses. Over two-thirds of them found employment after the training. The ongoing support provided for trained farmers should also be regarded as a highlight of the services offered by the project, as it will work towards the sustainability of this project as a whole.

The IFRC and Mianzhu branch have also conducted a series of training impact assessments throughout the project implementation. Participants of the assessments were randomly selected and thoroughly interviewed.

Reports of assessments are available upon request. A total of more than 400 training component beneficiaries were interviewed throughout the project's implementation. The general trend is that the training has been very well received, was timely and in more than 80 per cent of cases, has started to pay off as income generating capacity has been improved, especially for those who managed, thanks to the project, to move away from traditional agricultural activity to regular jobs as, for example, security guards, construction workers, welders, etc. A total of 1,179 people became qualified laborers which allowed them to start earning the income immediately after completion of the training.

Micro finance (small loan)

A small loan product, developed within this programme aims to help loss-making individuals by offering subsidies or group loans to (re)start income generating activities. This component includes facilitating poverty reduction strategies, supporting micro and small businesses such as cooperatives and formal groups of farmers, and expanding the financial frontier to include previously excluded clientele. RCSC and the IFRC work towards proper utilization of the innovative lending technologies, new financial products and appropriate pricing for poor or low-income earthquake-affected people.

In February 2010, to define the best mechanism in small loan delivery, the programme has conducted an assessment of financial institutions present in the targeted area to find out their capacity, willingness to cooperate and commitment to stay on the project goals. That led to an establishment of a mutually beneficial partnership with Postal Savings Bank of China (PSBC).

The investment in this component programme mainly comprises of capital funds, such as seed money, operational costs, as well as project kickoff and training outlay. The estimated number of loans to be delivered is 2,000 through a revolving budget of five years, with direct operational costs of approximately eight per cent of the total budget.

The training element was linked as much as possible to a small credit element, and covered the following areas: raising awareness of entire households, skills training, business development, and follow-up training. The training is monitored via attendance sheets, shifts in economic security from a baseline from each household, and the number and sustainability of any businesses or income-generating activities.

Seed money provided to the small loans technical service provider (PSBC) will be spent according to the disbursement plan. The disbursement plan will show the timelines for expanding the seed money according to the return rate and operational costs. More specifically, the project subsidizes the interest rate to bring it down and, therefore, making it affordable for vulnerable earthquake victims. This subsidy goes to a technical service provider and, in a sense, becomes the project's operational cost. Red Cross bears most of the risks bound up with possible delinquencies or defaults to make the technical service provider motivated to serve the poor and vulnerable. The programme aims to put into circulation the seed money during the first lending cycle (12 months). The small loan component will be ongoing till 2015.

The IFRC provided necessary training to RCSC to take over the component, which has been handed over to RCSC in December 2011. Conditions on the usage of the seed money and general description of the lending process are stipulated in the agreement between the RCSC, IFRC, and between the Red Cross Partners and PSBC. The detailed process was compiled in the Small Loans Standard Operating Procedures, and was adopted by both the PSBC and the Red Cross staff concerned.

The small loan product targeting the programme beneficiaries has been defined, discussed and developed. Programme partners have set forth the beneficiary selection criteria and continuously oversee this component to ensure that the most vulnerable are reached. Small loan component targets beneficiaries that do not have access to existing loan schemes due to the conditions generally imposed by financial institutions, such as a lack of collateral/guarantee or proof of stable income. A small-scale piloted implementation of the project started in April 2011 in Hanwang township with 27 loans disbursed there. In July 2011, the programme has been expanded in three other townships with the rest of the targeted area covered in October 2011.

The project also cooperates with local agricultural cooperatives to facilitate group lending in targeted communities. This proved to be an effective tool in serving the most disadvantaged members of the community, who often lacked the possibility to find guarantors when applying for a loan.

By the end of January 2012, 212 small loans (totaling CNY 3,547,000) were released in 11 townships. The average loan amount was CNY 16,731.13, all in 12-month terms.

The IFRC and the local branches paid regular visits to beneficiaries to monitor the loan utilization. (See [Annex 1](#) - a beneficiary story collected during one of the visits). For instance, in October 2011 the RCSC's small loan component coordinator interviewed randomly selected loan recipients - residents of Jiulong township. All eight beneficiaries interviewed stated that loans helped them to be able to (re)start their income-generating activity. Three beneficiaries have already started earning their income thanks to the timely provision of the financial start-up capital from the project.

Item	Amount (CNY)
Funds transferred to NS to-date	7,477,300.00
Repaid loans to-date	25,957.50
Amount disbursed to-date	3,547,000
Available Balance	3,605,446.51

Two tracer studies were done in September and December 2011 for 40 loan borrowers respectively. The aim is to have the impact and changes documented to better understand the impact of the programme. The tracer studies showed 79 beneficiaries out of the total 80 are now successfully engaged in their intended vocations and declared income generating activities for which their loans were utilized. This

will be done continuously and regularly to see this dynamic process in action.

Capacity building

Progress:

Mianzhu Red Cross branch confidently implemented both components of the programme. The implementation guide on the training component and small loans SOP were developed to include a standardized implementation and process.

Both prefecture and county branches of the RCSC operating the project have trained and positioned skilled staff members in place to manage both training and small loan elements of the programme. The training unit of the Mianzhu branch consists of two programme officers and an accountant. The Small Loan Project Management Office includes a financial controller/internal auditor at the Deyang prefecture branch, a coordination officer and business counsel or/information dissemination officer at the Mianzhu county RCSC branch.

This recovery and livelihood programme implemented by the Red Cross is unique in many ways in the China context – from the close strategic partnership between the Red Cross with the government that has helped to successfully steer the programme through the many challenges of implementation, to the achievements and milestones that have been attained in less than two years. The progress to date has been outstanding, with a start-up rate higher than other areas hit by disasters of this magnitude. Even more remarkably, this has been achieved by the project beneficiaries themselves, who were firm on being in charge of rebuilding their own livelihoods. One other measure of this programme's success is the credibility it has earned not only with RCSC but also with government authorities in China.

Both elements of the programme have been effectively coordinated with the county and prefecture authorities and became integral parts of the government's support programmes helping the earthquake victims and vulnerable rural population. There is an ever-growing interest from all levels of the RCSC to capture the experience of this programme for replication in other geographical area.

Challenges and lessons learned

The local government may affect much of the project scope and activities in China. This is something that has been identified as a lesson learned for future planning of emergency appeals and/or annual support programmes. While the local Red Cross can help to identify what might or might not receive government support, it is not always possible for the local branch to influence government decisions that can affect a project.

Branch interest in capacity building is critical in order to incorporate livelihoods recovery activities as part of its service package. To date, this concept is new and foreign to the existing experience and mandates of the RCSC. This livelihood programme is an opportunity to test a new approach of recovery for the RCSC, building its ability to respond to future disasters while meeting the needs of the affected communities. The capacity-building element of the National Society, especially its implementing branches, was successful.

However, a stronger role of the RCSC in the actual implementation of the programme will be important for future livelihood initiatives. Defining the roles and responsibilities of each partner more clearly at the start of future operations will be beneficial for all stakeholders.

The process of recovery needs assessments is an important step, which may be made easier if there is a greater understanding of communities and how the political and administrative system is organized before disaster strikes.

In programmes like this where there are many parallel activities, more vigilance is required from programme monitoring and financial controls, in order to ensure the integrity and efficient use of funds.

Initially, the projected disbursement plan had been revised due to a change in the average loan duration (so far all loans are taken out for no less than 12 months vs. the projected average of six months); the average loan amount exceeds CNY 16,000 vs. the initially projected CNY 10,000. Piloting demonstrated that borrowers were taking out loans for the maximum term available (12 months). They were also interested in borrowing larger amounts. These factors impacted the total number of loans to be released, due to budget constraints. One of the possible means to increase the small loan project's budget is to utilize saved funds within the training element and take advantage of the current exchange rate between CHF and CNY. This will allow a release up to 2,000 loans within the course of five years vs. 3,700 initially projected.

Capacity building and organizational development

The massive scope of this disaster and the RCSC's extensive operation opened up many opportunities for RCSC to strengthen their capacity on many levels. The National Society prioritized a massive scale-up in its national response capacity through the IFRC's support towards the establishment of national emergency response units that are already being deployed in new disasters, and in the construction of disaster preparedness centres.

As noted in the details under each section above, capacity-building activities have been built into each sector throughout each phase of the earthquake response. Trainings and disaster simulation exercises at both national and local levels helped contribute towards building the skills and capacity of existing and new staff and volunteers. The strengthening of general programme management, financial management and volunteer management were integral components of IFRC-supported programmes. The IFRC supported annual national financial management trainings, PMER trainings, and improved systems and mechanisms. Furthermore, cross-sectoral planning provided opportunities for better integration within the RCSC and brought new relations with external partners.

The IFRC also targeted RCSC staff for international deployment as staff-on-loan to partner national societies or within the IFRC. Participants were selected through a rigorous examination process overseen by a committee made up of RCSC, IFRC and external experts. Six have been deployed for at least one year, and in some cases extended for up to two years to gain experience working with other national societies on critical issues such as organizational development, water and sanitation, resource mobilization, and many other key areas of concern for the RCSC.

Organizational development remains at the top of RCSC's agenda looking forward. The funding carried over from the earthquake operation into the annual plan of support to the RCSC will continue to support these important initiatives into the coming years.

Communications – Advocacy and public information

Communication activities have focused on documenting the progress of RCSC programmes, supported by IFRC and other Red Cross Red Crescent partners in the work of helping survivors of the disaster to regain their resilience. At various milestones in the recovery and reconstruction process, international media gave significant coverage to RCRC work and the challenges faced by people in the region.

To mark the three-year anniversary of the earthquake, the East Asia regional delegation produced a documentary film "Looking to the Future," which highlights the achievements of reconstruction and recovery. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ToDnC98VJVM>. A package of b-roll was produced from this film, which was made available to media outlets through the video newsroom of www.ifrc.org. Advocacy films focused on livelihoods and psychosocial support were also produced and have been widely used for training and information purposes.

As with many aspects of the programming which followed the Sichuan earthquake, communications work has provided significant opportunities to showcase our approach, focusing on the human stories of survivors. This has had a wide resonance in the work not just of the IFRC, but of RCSC staff across a wide range of programme areas and has been reinforced during various trainings conducted in PMER and communications.

Coordination and partnerships

IFRC supported the RCSC in coordinating the multilateral support from the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. RCSC requested that partners take a unified approach towards responding to the needs of Red Cross beneficiaries and supporting the RCSC throughout the response.

The RCSC remained regularly involved in high-level coordination meetings with government authorities throughout the relief and recovery phases of this operation. The coordination efforts between the IFRC operations support team, RCSC at all levels and relevant official agencies have been positive and have helped facilitate solutions towards reconstruction and recovery challenges.

Many partner national societies have made contributions to the appeal: American Red Cross/American government, Australian Red Cross/Australian government, Belgian Red Cross/Belgian government, British Red Cross, Bulgarian Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross/Canadian government, Cook Islands Red Cross, Croatian Red Cross, Czech Red Cross, Danish Red Cross/Danish government, Estonian Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross/Finnish government, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross/ Icelandic government, Indian Red Cross, Iranian Red Crescent, Irish Red Cross/ Irish government, Italian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross/Japanese government, Lithuanian Red Cross, Malaysian Red Crescent, Mauritius Red Cross, Monaco Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross/Netherlands government, New Zealand Red Cross/New Zealand government, Norwegian Red Cross/Norwegian government, Qatar Red Crescent, Romanian Red Cross, Singapore Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Sri Lanka Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross/ Swedish government, Turkish Red Crescent and United Arab Emirates Red Crescent, as well as contributions from American, Greek, Italian, Luxembourg, Slovenian and South Africa governments, OPEC Fund for International Development, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and many corporate partners.

The Red Cross Society of China has also received many bilateral contributions of funding, including the following: Canadian Red Cross, Cambodian Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Republic of Korea Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Pakistan Red Crescent, Qatar Red Crescent, Singapore Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Thai Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent and Viet Nam Red Cross. These contributions have been added to the various substantial resources raised domestically by the Red Cross Society of China in its national fundraising appeal.

The IFRC, on behalf of the Red Cross Society of China, would like to thank all partners for their generous response to this appeal.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Red Cross Society of China: Ms. Zhang Ming, director of external relations department; email: rcsc@redcross.org.cn.
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 - Please send all funding pledges to zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org.

Click here for:

1. Final financial report [below](#)
 2. [Return](#) to the title page
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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
-

[<final financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRCN003 - China - Sichuan Earthquake

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/1-2012/3
Budget Timeframe	2008/1-2011/12
Appeal	MDRCN003
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	142,460,768	6,893,832			3,503,178	152,857,778
B. Opening Balance	0	0			0	0

Income

Cash contributions

American Red Cross	41,406,389	668,409			3,735	42,078,533
Australian Red Cross	5,206,972	998,000			514,859	6,719,831
Australian Red Cross (from Australian Government)	995,500					995,500
Austria - Private Donors	485					485
Belgian Red Cross (Flanders)	93,682					93,682
Belgian Red Cross (Flanders) (from Belgian Federal Government)	36,523					36,523
Brazil - Private Donors	6,373					6,373
British Red Cross	4,790,276	50,750				4,841,026
Bulgarian Red Cross	5,000					5,000
Cambodia - Private Donors	170					170
Canada - Private Donors	5,200					5,200
Charities Aid Foundation		98,414				98,414
China - Private Donors	32					32
Cook Islands Red Cross Society	78					78
Croatian Red Cross	24,882					24,882
Czech Red Cross	10,202					10,202
Danish Red Cross	10,749	11,539				22,289
Danish Red Cross (from Danish Government)	154,622	515,408				670,030
DELL Direct Giving Campaign	525				89,342	89,867
Estonia Red Cross	4,035					4,035
Finnish Red Cross	418,224					418,224
Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)	692,936					692,936
France - Private Donors	2,668					2,668
French Red Cross	876,026					876,026
German Red Cross	167,633					167,633
Germany - Private Donors	121					121
Germany - Private Donors (from Switzerland - Private Donors)	100					100
Great Britain - Private Donors	22,503					22,503
Hellenic Government		327,000				327,000
IATA	8,650					8,650
Icelandic Red Cross (from Icelandic Government)	109,646					109,646
ICRC (from Unidentified donor)	153					153
IFRC at the UN Inc (from Adams Street Partners)	3,000					3,000
IFRC at the UN Inc (from Alcatel Lucent)	157,661					157,661
IFRC at the UN Inc (from Applied Materials)	15,686					15,686
IFRC at the UN Inc (from Bechtel Group Foundation)	3,037	57,698				60,735
IFRC at the UN Inc (from Black Rock)	53,573	29,950				83,524
IFRC at the UN Inc (from Citadel Investment group)	2,347	44,590				46,937
IFRC at the UN Inc (from Codexis)	1,763					1,763
IFRC at the UN Inc (from EMC Corporation)	80,360				104,447	184,807
IFRC at the UN Inc (from Fibrogen)	10,961					10,961
IFRC at the UN Inc (from Genzyme Corporation)	11,786					11,786
IFRC at the UN Inc (from Heinz H.J. Company)	105,107					105,107
IFRC at the UN Inc (from Hospira)	105,107					105,107

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRCN003 - China - Sichuan Earthquake

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/1-2012/3
Budget Timeframe	2008/1-2011/12
Appeal	MDRCN003
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

IFRC at the UN Inc (from Huber)	52,554			52,554
IFRC at the UN Inc (from Jones Apparel Group)	1,171		21,804	22,975
IFRC at the UN Inc (from Kraft Foods Company)	141,247	16,253		157,500
IFRC at the UN Inc (from Mellon Bank)	26,787			26,787
IFRC at the UN Inc (from Monsanto Foundation)	56,398			56,398
IFRC at the UN Inc (from Motorola Foundation)	1,532	29,112		30,644
IFRC at the UN Inc (from New York Life)	125,345			125,345
IFRC at the UN Inc (from Otis LG Elevator Co)	7,143			7,143
IFRC at the UN Inc (from PricewaterhouseCoopers)			278,531	278,531
IFRC at the UN Inc (from Schering Plough)	29,309			29,309
IFRC at the UN Inc (from THERMO FISCHER)	1,071	20,358		21,429
IFRC at the UN Inc (from United States - Private Donors)	10,525		39,085	49,610
IFRC at the UN Inc (from United Technologies)	12,475	237,021		249,496
IFRC at the UN Inc (from Yahoo)	8,572			8,572
Indian Red Cross Society	32,773			32,773
Indian Red Cross Society (from India - Private Donors)	3,481			3,481
India - Private Donors	5,040			5,040
Indonesia - Private Donors	2,209			2,209
Infineum UK Ltd		70,413		70,413
Ireland - Private Donors	1,256			1,256
Irish Government	1,627,000			1,627,000
Irish Red Cross Society	346,715	15,094		361,809
Italian Government Bilateral Emergency Fund	917,700		694,450	1,612,150
Italian Red Cross	98,887			98,887
Japanese Government	1,785,000			1,785,000
Japanese Red Cross Society	23,448,676	1,355,070	429,002	25,232,748
Japan - Private Donors	3,150			3,150
Lithuanian Red Cross Society	976			976
Luxembourg Government	24,150	80,750		104,900
Malaysian Red Crescent Society	10,546			10,546
Malaysia - Private Donors	1,780			1,780
Mauritius Red Cross Society	191			191
Netherlands - Private Donors	8,335			8,335
New Zealand Red Cross	186,719		235,893	422,612
New Zealand Red Cross (from New Zealand Government)	664,365			664,365
Nigeria private donors	1,024			1,024
Norwegian Red Cross	87,122			87,122
Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government)	373,383			373,383
Office of the Representative of the Dalai Lama	52,671			52,671
On Line donations	399,419		360,777	760,197
OPEC Fund For International Development	1,158,078			1,158,078
Other	14,304			14,304
Qatar Red Crescent Society	59,400			59,400
Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates	20,981			20,981
Red Cross of Monaco			114,914	114,914
Romanian Red Cross	58,857			58,857
Royal & Sun Alliance	12,714			12,714
Russia - Private Donors	2,686			2,686
Singapore - Private Donors	9,975			9,975
Singapore Red Cross Society	114,048			114,048
Slovenia Government			161,500	161,500
South Africa Government	119,796		73,254	193,050

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MDRCN003 - China - Sichuan Earthquake

Final Report

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South Africa - Private Donors	361			361
Spain - Private Donors	1,985			1,985
Stavros Niarchos Foundation			260,000	260,000
Swedish - Private Donors	32			32
Swedish Red Cross	167,874			167,874
Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)	342,400			342,400
Switzerland - Private Donors	31,036			31,036
Thailand - Private Donors	5,200			5,200
The Canadian Red Cross Society	14,755,014	1,468,000		16,223,014
The Canadian Red Cross Society (from Canadian Government)	17,816,762			17,816,762
The Netherlands Red Cross	1,025,922			1,025,922
The Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)	12,000	801,500		813,500
The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society	3,250			3,250
Total	51,000			51,000
Turkish Red Crescent Society	5,264			5,264
United Arab Emirates - Private Donors	1,115			1,115
United States Government - Missions	520,000			520,000
United States - Private Donors	159,248			159,248
United Technologies	262,500			262,500
United Technologies (from United States - Private Donors)	5,250			5,250
UN Staff Council / UNOG	13,631			13,631
VERF/WHO Voluntary Emergency Relief	4,400			4,400
WIPO /OMPI staff	2,760			2,760
C1. Cash contributions	122,915,282	6,895,330	3,381,594	133,192,206
Inkind Goods & Transport				
Belgian Red Cross (Flanders)	134,228			134,228
British Red Cross	2,104,974			2,104,974
Canadian Government	249,696			249,696
Danish Red Cross	1,395,009			1,395,009
Finnish Red Cross	886,681			886,681
German Red Cross	1,183,335			1,183,335
Japanese Red Cross Society	3,217,992			3,217,992
Norwegian Red Cross	1,889,444			1,889,444
The Canadian Red Cross Society	2,247,991			2,247,991
The Netherlands Red Cross	3,662,744			3,662,744
C2. Inkind Goods & Transport	16,972,094			16,972,094
Inkind Personnel				
American Red Cross	57,493		22,000	79,493
Australian Red Cross	76,193		22,000	98,193
Other	26,107		73,700	99,807
Red Cross Society of China			64,307	64,307
The Canadian Red Cross Society	24,640			24,640
C3. Inkind Personnel	184,433		182,007	366,440
Other Income				
Fundraising Fees	-96,629	-1,498	-19,149	-117,275
Services Fees	4,557		31,192	35,749
Sundry Income	1,024	2,106	39	3,169
C4. Other Income	-91,048	609	12,082	-78,357
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	139,980,761	6,895,939	3,575,683	150,452,383
D. Total Funding = B + C	139,980,761	6,895,939	3,575,683	150,452,383
Appeal Coverage	98%	100%	102%	98%

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II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0	0			0	0
C. Income	139,980,761	6,895,939			3,575,683	150,452,383
E. Expenditure	-123,366,226	-3,533,627			-1,885,854	-128,785,707
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	16,614,535	3,362,312			1,689,829	21,666,676

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		142,460,768	6,893,832			3,503,178	152,857,778	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	24,610,307	23,527,814					23,527,814	1,082,493
Shelter - Transitional		1,082,550					1,082,550	-1,082,550
Clothing & Textiles	2,729,821	2,542,243					2,542,243	187,578
Food	3,602,000	-4,673					-4,673	3,606,673
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	3,416,337	2,025,486					2,025,486	1,390,851
Medical & First Aid	598,581	7,355	6				7,361	591,220
Teaching Materials	503,387							503,387
Utensils & Tools		3,661					3,661	-3,661
Other Supplies & Services	67,211,633							67,211,633
ERU		2,249,704					2,249,704	-2,249,704
Total Relief items, Construction, Su	102,672,066	31,434,139	6				31,434,145	71,237,921
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Land & Buildings	7,537,990							7,537,990
Vehicles	131,219	141,634					141,634	-10,415
Computers & Telecom	73,362	69,755			3,620		73,376	-14
Office & Household Equipment	37,242	17,094			-173		16,921	20,321
Others Machinery & Equipment		2,660					2,660	-2,660
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	7,779,813	231,143			3,447		234,590	7,545,223
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	39,219	40,990					40,990	-1,771
Distribution & Monitoring	10,174,407	11,197,523					11,197,523	-1,023,116
Transport & Vehicles Costs	1,324,534	69,426	19,908		25,463		114,797	1,209,737
Logistics Services		510,444	4,500		6,450		521,394	-521,394
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	11,538,160	11,818,383	24,408		31,913		11,874,704	-336,544
Personnel								
International Staff	3,738,268	1,546,467	517,646		1,187,548		3,251,661	486,608
National Staff	925,304	345,736	141,719		188,711		676,166	249,138
National Society Staff	878,005	2,634			1,930		4,564	873,441
Volunteers		7,438					7,438	-7,438
Other Staff Benefits		5,763					5,763	-5,763
Total Personnel	5,541,577	1,908,038	659,364		1,378,189		3,945,592	1,595,986
Consultants & Professional Fees								
Consultants	713,360	375,539	124		11,058		386,721	326,639
Professional Fees	103,398	111,748	420		837		113,005	-9,607
Total Consultants & Professional Fe	816,758	487,287	544		11,894		499,726	317,032
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	7,587,994	127,256	46,062		32,811		206,129	7,381,865
Total Workshops & Training	7,587,994	127,256	46,062		32,811		206,129	7,381,865
General Expenditure								
Travel	449,986	215,196	59,133		139,724		414,053	35,933
Information & Public Relations	1,286,089	74,580	61,586		32,105		168,271	1,117,818
Office Costs	391,072	62,663	1,720		74,607		138,990	252,082
Communications	158,905	26,943	2,841		20,223		50,007	108,898
Financial Charges	312,288	196,238	64		15,112		211,414	100,874
Other General Expenses	3,197,345	8,331	129		4,517		12,976	3,184,369
Shared Office and Services Costs	10,950	750			10,100		10,850	100
Total General Expenditure	5,806,634	584,701	125,473		296,388		1,006,562	4,800,073
Contributions & Transfers								
Cash Transfers National Societies	1,785,428	68,578,479	2,455,864		26,067		71,060,410	-69,274,982
Total Contributions & Transfers	1,785,428	68,578,479	2,455,864		26,067		71,060,410	-69,274,982

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		142,460,768	6,893,832			3,503,178	152,857,778	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	9,329,348	8,158,331	208,864			102,314	8,469,510	859,838
Total Indirect Costs	9,329,348	8,158,331	208,864			102,314	8,469,510	859,838
Pledge Specific Costs								
Pledge Earmarking Fee		37,770	13,040			2,830	53,640	-53,640
Pledge Reporting Fees		700					700	-700
Total Pledge Specific Costs		38,470	13,040			2,830	54,340	-54,340
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	152,857,778	123,366,226	3,533,627			1,885,854	128,785,707	24,072,071
VARIANCE (C - D)		19,094,541	3,360,206			1,617,324	24,072,071	

Annex 1

Small Loan Project in action: Visiting a beneficiary in Xinkai Village of Hanwang township, 21 November 2011.



Mr Qing Bang You is a 42-year old farmer now living in Xinkai Village of Hanwang Township with his wife and elderly mother. Before the earthquake, Qing was a migrant worker living, as he describes it, a miserable life often away from his home, taking chances to earn money at the mercy of employers. His income at that time was very unstable, leaving his entire family without means, sometimes for months.

His old, small house was completely destroyed by the 5.12 earthquake in 2008; luckily no one in his family was hurt. Authorities gave him a new plot of land 23 km away from the location of his destroyed home. Qing and his wife had to focus on building their new house in Xinkai Village. It took enormous effort and money to rebuild their new home, which left the family heavily indebted. Qing and his wife are currently still struggling to achieve financial independence; they still owe approximately CNY 20,000 to banks for construction loans. In 2010, they were surprised to receive a CNY 3,000 grant from the IFRC in support of their reconstruction efforts. The construction of their new house had finished, but while it looks nice from the outside, the interior gives the impression of obvious poverty.

In the summer of 2011, Qing had learned from a village public broadcast system about a small loan scheme supported by the Red Cross, operated through the Postal Savings Bank of China (PSBC). After considering this opportunity, Qing and his wife rushed to a nearby PSBC outlet to apply for a subsidized loan. He stated that the loan will be used to jumpstart a larger-scale chicken farming business. Loan officers recommended Qing to form a group of loan applicants who can vouch for each other. Three days later, Qing and two other relocated farmers applied as a group for a combined loan of CNY 45,000. To their surprise, there was a minimum requirement for the submission of supporting documents; however, within a week, each group member was approved and obtained a CNY15,000 loan.

In September 2011, Qing and his wife bought a batch of 500 chicks, feed supply for 6 months, and some medication to reduce poultry disease. He also invested some money to build two larger henhouses. In November, Qing managed to raise 460 chickens and started selling them to restaurants at a price of 24 CNY per kilogram of live weight. Each chicken yields approximately CNY 15 of net profit. The loan term of 12 months is long enough to provide Qing with enough time to buy more chicks and raise them into chickens. Qing is confident that he can repay the loan on time, and will earn a more stable income. Here calls his past job as rather difficult periods in his life, having to depend on employers who paid him reluctantly and assigned him low-pay, dirty jobs because he did not have any qualifications. Currently, Qing and his wife feel they have control of their futures, and both enthusiastically engage in this livelihood endeavour where they are self-employed and much more confident. Qing called the Red Cross a great people-oriented organization, which had provided him and his family an opportunity to become self-reliant and happier about the future.