Emergency Relief Efforts of 2008 China Wenchuan Earthquake

Submitted by: China
Emergency Relief Efforts of 2008
China Wenchuan Earthquake

Li Baojun, Director of Division of Disaster Relief
Department of Disaster Relief, Ministry of Civil Affairs,
P.R. China

September 23, 2008
The deadly 8.0-magnitude earthquake has caused 69,227 dead and 17,923 still missing, destroyed 7.96 million houses and 24.54 million houses in 417 counties, and directly affected about 46 million people.
During the most emergent period, President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao immediately arrived in the quake worst-hit areas to commanded the disaster relief work and condoled with survivors in turn.
Establishment of Earthquake Relief Headquarters

On May 12, the State Council set up the Earthquake Relief Headquarters, which was composed of 9 working teams. Ministry of Civil Affairs was responsible for the regular work of the Office of Basic Living-Ensuring Team which was one of 9 teams.
The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), the armed police, militia and reserve troops went all out into the rescue efforts. The troops were swiftly deployed in quake-hit areas both by land and air for rescue operation and reconstruction.
The government had mobilized about 140,000 troops, armed police and millions of reservists to help with the relief work in quake-hit areas, where they strived to operate rescue tasks, restore transport avenues, prevent quake-triggered secondary disasters, clear debris and relocate quake survivors.
About 1.48 million stranded victims had been transferred to safe shelters, and 84017 survivals were successfully rescued from the collapsed buildings or debris.
Rescue teams from International communities
Rescue teams from Chinese Taipei
An estimated 180,000 volunteers from across the country went to aid survivors, taking part in rescue work, medical and psychological care, relief distribution, maintaining social order and cultural activities.
The Headquarters promptly decided to make an emergency production of 900,000 tents and a million of sets of plank houses, so as to ensure the victims' temporary shelter.
About 1.58 million tents, 4.87 million quilts, 14.1 million garments had been sent to the quake-hit areas.
Relief workers had built 677,131 plank makeshift houses.
About 10 million people, or 4.45 million households, had moved into makeshift housing.

Sichuan Province gave the farmers who build temporary shelters themselves a subsidy of 2,000 yuan per family to encourage farmers to build interim houses.
Body Disposal and Solatium Policy

Ministries of civil affairs, public security, and public health timely made the relevant policy of body disposal.

At the same time, the state promulgated a regulation that it would give each family of the victims RMB 5,000 yuan solatium one dead.
374,643 people were injured in the disaster, and some were seriously injured. The central government implemented a free-of-charge policy for the cure of the common wounded. As of Sept. 15, hospitals in major cities had treated 96,544 quake survivors, of whom 93,361 have been discharged.
The central government launched a special mechanism to mobilize various provinces to accept the seriously injured. More than 10,000 injured people had been transferred to hospitals outside Sichuan Province for treatment. The central government provided an average of 28,000 yuan one person medical subsidy, and the subsidies for accompanying and nursing staffs and for the return journey of both.
The provincial government has found temporary foster homes or school boardings and provided an allowance of RMB 600 yuan per month for each orphan.
Emergency Relief Policy on Ensuring Basic Living Demands

The quake has left millions of people homeless and destitute. Since the disaster, every needy survivor has been eligible to receive 10 yuan and 500 grams of food a day. The policy covered about 8.82 million people which was carried out starting from June to August. The policy covered such categories as:

- orphans, the elderly and the disabled without family support,
- those whose relatives were dead or severely injured,
- those who were displaced,
- and those whose residences were destroyed.
Emergency Relief Policy on Ensuring Basic Living Demands

Life in most parts of the quake area will return to normal by September, but, in some worst-hit areas, some people might still suffer difficulties. To help them, the central government decided to continue financial assistance after the policy ends.

This July, the central government formulated a follow-up temporary subsidy plan for quake survivors starting from September to November, with each survivor experiencing financial hardship to get 200 yuan per month.
Ministry of Civil Affairs is responsible for the recovery and reconstruction of rural dwellings. In average, one household which lost dwellings will receive a subsidy funds of RMB 20,000 yuan for their dwellings' reconstruction. The central government has arranged RMB 40 billion yuan for rural dwellings' reconstruction alone. Especially, Most of donations in cash will be used for recovery and reconstruction.
In the quake-hit areas, lots of temporary schools and hospitals are established, most of them are composed of plank houses.
Premier Wen Jiabao attended the opening of a temporary middle school in Sichuan's quake zone as the new semester started on Sept. 1.
Social Participation and Donation

As of Sept. 15, domestic and foreign donations had reached RMB 59.39 billion yuan in cash and kind.