

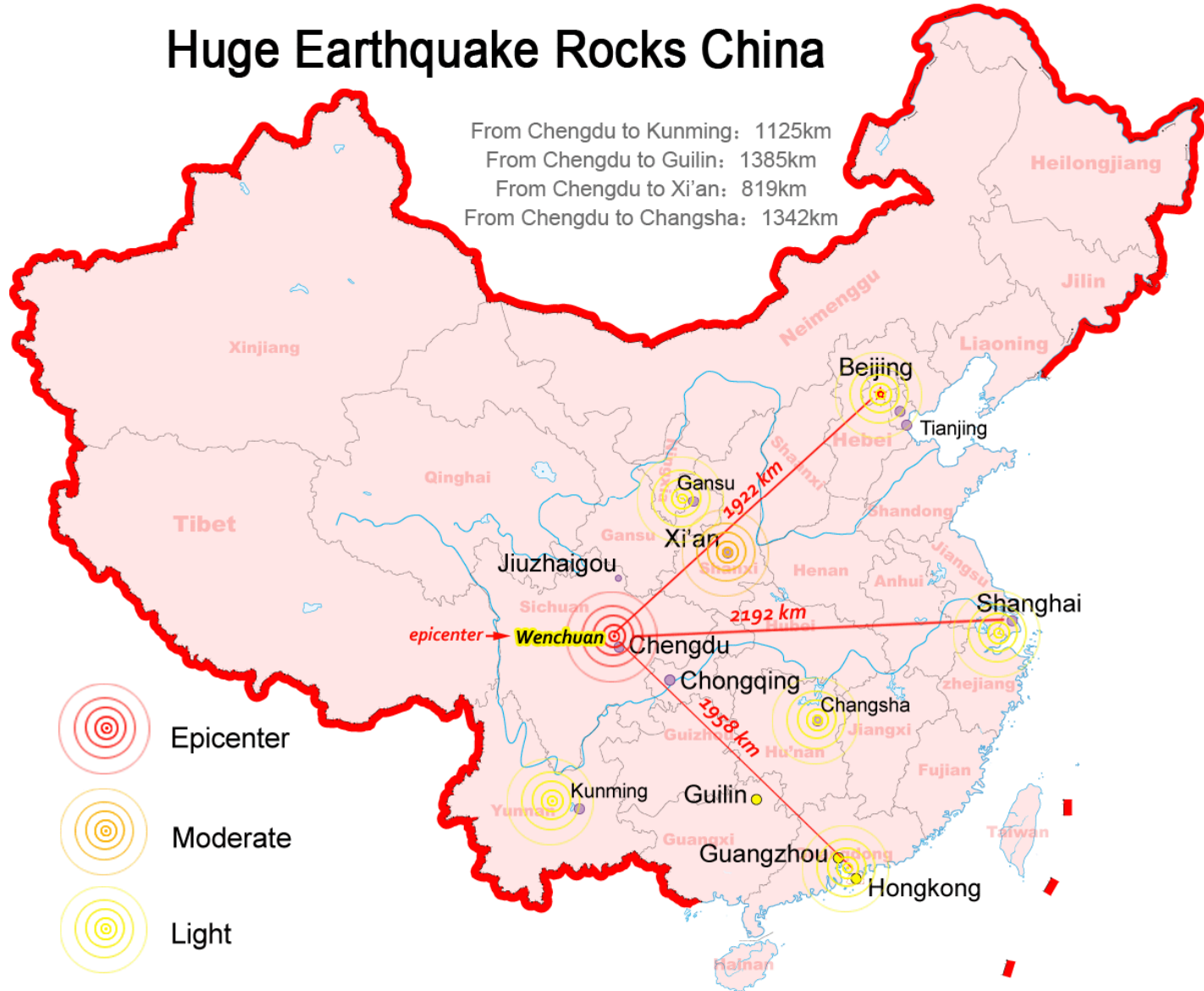


**Wenchuan Earthquake Psychological Assistance Team**  
**World Effort Providing Aid Together**

*A  
Project  
of*

Chinese Immigrant Emergency Relief  
[www.cierf.org](http://www.cierf.org)

# Huge Earthquake Rocks China



## Wenchuan, May 12, 2008

Date [May 12, 2008](#)

Magnitude 8.0  $M_s$ <sup>[1]</sup> / 7.9  $M_w$ <sup>[2]</sup>

Depth: 19 kilometres (12 mi)

Epicenter location: [Wenchuan, Sichuan Province](#)

Countries: [China](#)

Max. Intensity: [X - Disastrous](#)<sup>[3]</sup>

Aftershocks: [110 major, over 7,000 total aftershocks](#)<sup>[4]</sup>

Casualties: 69,136 (dead, [19th deadliest earthquake of all time](#))

374,061 (injured)

17,686 (missing)

(as of June 8, 2008 12:00 [CST](#))



## **Schools, Condos collapsed under the weight of mountain slide**

Latest government figure shows 1500 orphans on the official list under the care of various agencies including Red Cross China.



**First two Canadian Physicians worked in Sichuan disaster zone:**

**Dr. Charles Jiang and Dr. Haibo Xu, left Toronto May 17, 2008 with CMAT to join the world's effort in disaster relief with the sponsorship from CIER- Chinese Immigrant Emergency Relief, a charity established in Toronto since 2005.**



Something we all too familiar with after the 911 in New York...

Families put walls of posters looking for the missing. Husband searching for wife and his daughter...

# 寻张新红

寻妻子，张新红，现年30岁，北川

县茅坝初中老师，  
望知情人告之为谢。



电话：13778104301、13778009326

# 寻王梓璇

寻女儿，王梓璇，现年6岁，北川县

城学前班，望知  
情人告之为谢。



电话：13778104301、13778009326

## Caring for the orphans

Working in temporary refugee camp at Jiu-Zhou stadium, crowded with 40,000 people displaced by this earthquake, Dr. Xu worked with his colleges from all over the world in a makeshift “Tent Clinic”.



## **Dr. Jiang attending the injured**

While working in the City of Mian Yang, Both Dr. Jiang and Dr. Xu suffered illness themselves. Dr. Xu had to return to Toronto early on May 27 for medical care, while Dr. Jiang stayed until all the refugees were transferred out to settlement camps with better living conditions. Dr. Jiang returned to Toronto on May 29, 2008.





**World's Effort Providing Aid Together=WEPAT**

## **WEPAT: Wenchuan Earthquake Psychological Assistance Team**

Made up with over 20 volunteer medical and psychosocial workers, WEPAT started working soon after the earthquake. Dr. Joseph Shan is the first Canadian mental health worker to provide assistance in Sichuan.





**Drs. Jian-Hua Shen and Joseph Shan: Guests of Hotel Tent in Sichuan**

CIER recognized the need for psychosocial assistance in the quake zone , after consulting with Dr. Jiang and Dr. Xu while they were still in Sichuan. Call for volunteers went out in the Chinese community. Many physicians immigrated from China responded immediately. Dr. Joseph Shan was the first few among a group of 10 volunteers of psychologist, therapist, social workers, physicians.



**Dr. Joseph Shan  
in Hong-Bai Township,  
near the epicentre**

Dr. Shan listen to this boy  
who lost many of his  
classmates and his teacher  
in the collapsed school  
building in the background  
of this photo.



## Children's Drawing

One girl explained her drawing” I like round stuff, they are smooth, no sharp edges to hurt me”

One boy said this about his seemingly random quibbles:” oh, these are broken glasses that are everywhere, they hurt”



**“when I grow up....”**

This little girl has lost everyone in her family during the earthquake. This is what she told WEPAT member, Dr. Joseph Shan: “ I don’t want be a doctor, too much sadness for a doctor to see, I want to be a singer, a performer, I want to bring laugh, cheers, and joy to everyone...”

**In the end, she asked: “when are you coming back?”**



## WEPAT Providing Training

Dr. Jian-Hua shen teaching  
the volunteer staffs from  
the Institute of Psychology,  
Chinese Academy of  
Sciences.



## Lunch Break

**In tent hospital setup at a site of crumbled buildings in Dujiangyan, Drs. Joseph Shan and Jian-Hua Shen providing counselling to local medical staffs.**



**In Shi Fang, near epicentre, WEPAT member is Working with local medical teams, and staffs from Red Cross China.**





**WEPAT members working with children at Tent School in Settlement Camps near epicentre in Sichuan**



**WEPAT member Dr. Joseph Shan , working with local mental health care team at an out-reach post in Shi Fang, one of the worst hit county.**



**WEPAT members Dr. Jian-Hua Shen and Dr. Joseph Shan:**

**“ No matter how many images we have seen from media reports while in Toronto, we are overwhelmed by what we see, hear, and sense. You have to be here to feel the way we feel..... Words can not describe what we are experiencing, which is negligible to what the locals have suffered.”**

## WEPAT in Mian Zhu Settlement Camp



Dr. Joseph Shan and Dr. Jian-Hua Shen at “School of No Name”

**WEPAT Linkages in China:**

**University of Sichuan**

**West China Second Hospital**

**Chinese Academy of Sciences**



## Lessons learned

- \*Find a local partner
- \*Volunteers who knows the language, and culture
- \*Respect the directives from both central and local authorities
- \*Make your plan flexible





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