

Sichuan Project



Headlines

- *'10,000 die as quake rattles China'*
CBC - May 12, 2008
- *'Aftershock from Sichuan earthquake felt in Beijing'*
Associated Press - May 25, 2008
- *'Sichuan earthquake agricultural damage \$6 billion'*
Reuters - June 30, 2008

Severity

- Devastation of 7.8 scale earthquake on May 12th :
 - 69,197 dead
 - 374,176 injured
 - 18,222 missing
 - over 15 million people displaced



Disaster Area



Aftermath

Area affected:

- 6 provinces: Sichuan (四川), Gansu (甘肃), Shaanxi (陕西), Henan (河南), Yunnan (云南) & Hubei (湖北)**
- 852 counties with a population of 348 million*

Destruction:

- 5.5 million houses collapsed**
- 21 million buildings damaged**
- 30,000 hectares of farmland ruined**

*Reliefweb

**World Bank Website

Devastations

- *8 schools toppled in the city of Dujiangyan (都江堰) -Reuters*
- *7000 schoolrooms collapsed*
- *80% of buildings in Beichuan county (北川) were destroyed*
 - *International Herald Tribune*



Beichuan Middle School

*Credit: WEPAT team

Local Response

- Rescue efforts for injured and buried were immediate
- Neighbours helped one another out of the rubble and carried toddlers over destroyed roads



Local staff and volunteers

* Source: Christina Stevens report for Global TV

Government Response

- Chinese government deployed over 130,000 police and military personnel to the disaster areas - *Xinhua News*



Survivors reported that many soldiers used themselves as human shields during the evacuation. Many of them were observed to be sewing shoes in the resettlement camps for the soldiers, as their token of appreciation. (WEPAT Team Report)

Tokens of Appreciation



NGOs

- Red Cross Society of China launched its relief efforts within 24 hours after the quake and provided temporary aid
- A number of international agencies (including Oxfam, World Vision and UNICEF) also went into action soon after
- As of July 14, 2008 the Canadian Red Cross delivered over 7250 tents to the disaster zones

Emergency Shelters



Current Relief Efforts

At the moment, many of the NGO relief efforts are focused on the immediate needs of the local residents affected.



One of the first medical teams to arrive in the disaster zones from Toronto was the Wenchuan Earthquake Psychological Assessment Team (WEPAT)

Community Support

- Partially through the support from organizations such as the Disaster Relief Action Group (DRAG), WEPAT has continued to send medical personnel to a number of resettlement camps and have been able to develop working relationships with the locals



DRAG \$30,000 gift to WEPAT

Trauma Training Program

- A Trauma Training Program is scheduled to be delivered on August 13-15, 2008 in Chengdu (Capital of Sichuan), being a collaborative effort involving:
 - Department of Health, Chengdu Municipal Government
 - Department of Psychiatry, Tsinghua University
 - Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto
- The program is designed to provide training to approximately 200 mental health professionals (psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers etc) in working with those who suffer from the effects of trauma
- Based on a train-the-trainers model, the program also incorporates a component of follow-up consultation and support

The Initiative

This proposed initiative is a result of:

- interests expressed by community leaders as to a longer term investment in the local communities affected by the disaster
- the value of having a collaborative relief effort
- ability of the China project to provide a focus and forum for discussion
- To date, four meetings (June 12, June 24, July 10) have been held, involving various interested members of the community
- At the July 10th meeting involving a small Working Group, the notion of a 'community hub' was introduced
- Victor Wong, Executive Director of CCNC agreed to assume lead responsibility in convening the July 29th meeting to move this initiative forward

Context in China

Emergence of Social Work

Since 1978, there has been continuous development of community services:

- China's Ministry of Civil Affairs recognized social work as a profession in 1987
- Over the last two decades, social workers have been engaged in processes of community building in large urban centres such as Beijing

Community Building in the Global Context

- ***A process in which people make efforts in cooperation with governmental authorities to improve the economic, social and cultural environment of the community***

U.N. Definition

'Community' in China's Context

- **A community needs to be defined in accordance with its geographical size, community situation and resident's sense of identity**
- **Process of Community Development involves two essential elements**
 - People who voluntarily participate and want to improve their lives
 - Government who gives technical assistance and other services to promote self-administration in community

Source: Jin and Li, 2000 Changsa Civil Affairs Vocational Institute

Community Building in China

“Community Building is a National Task”

China Minister of Civil Affairs, 1991

- Concepts related to community building in China:
 - It is inevitable due to societal re-integration started by industrialization and transition from planned economy to market economy
 - Its purpose is to improve social welfare of people, help people deal with social problems while promoting social stability

Community Rebuilding

- This is an opportune time to initiate a social and community development project in the earthquake affected areas
- In meeting the longer term needs of the residents, the notion of a neighbourhood resource centre as a nucleus for the new settlement areas is deemed to be viable and effective
- Research related to the concept of Neighbourhood Resource Centre indicates that:
 - it should allow different persons and organizations to become involved and empowered by the community*
 - it should start small in local communities, in order to establish sustainable change*

*Source: McCain and Mustard, 2007

Family Context

- By 1997, more than half of urban families in China are living as nuclear families with mother, father and a single child
- Nuclear and trunk families (couple living with both their parents and children) are becoming more prevalent in China's urban areas

*Source: National Population and Family Planning Commission of China

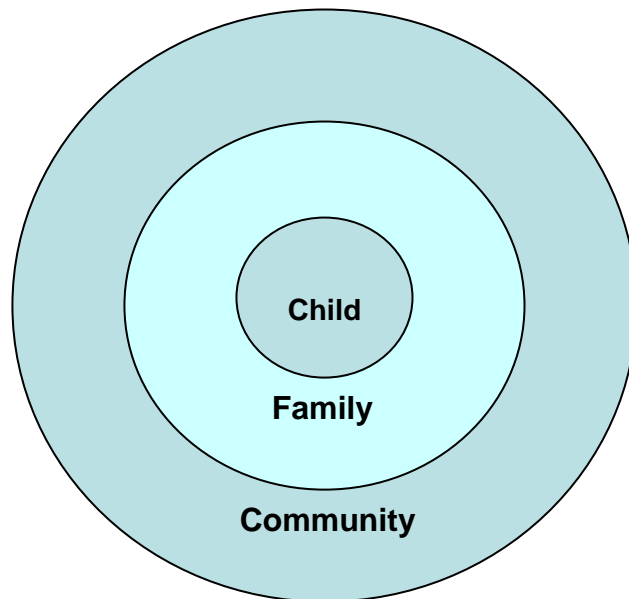
- One of the consequences of the One Child Policy is that the only child is often treated by Chinese families as the “little emperor”

Children's Imagined Community



A Child-Centered Approach

- Partly due to the one child policy in China that began in 1979, family life has largely revolved around the well-being of the only child
- At this point, the welfare of the surviving children is a central issue for the family and community



Open area school soon after the earthquake



Emergence of Tent School

- Temporary shelters are already built for schooling in resettlement camps



Tent school in Mian Zhu City

WEPAT Team at Tent School



School already in session 20 days after the quake (June 1, 2008)



School as Community Focal Point

- Goal: for each community to have a physical resource that is embedded in the local school structure
 - services for children and their families within one setting
- Reconstruction of schools is undoubtedly part of the community rebuilding efforts
- Project calls for the incorporation of a neighbourhood resource centre into the reconstruction of local schools, through the provision of additional space and necessary staffing resources

School as a Community Resource

A school in the 21st Century should be a physical resource available in every neighbourhood, around which full range of support and services for children and their families can be organized.

*Source: Yale Study by Dr. Edward Zigler ,1987

Community

Hub

Community Hub

- Studies related to the value of Neighbourhood Resource Centres (often referred to as a Community Hub) indicate that it should be*:
 - A nucleus for community activities
 - Readily accessible for the greatest number of users
 - Delivered in an equitable and non-stigmatizing fashion
 - A major physical resource available within every community
 - A neutral meeting place, in which stakeholders can be appropriately engaged

Hub as Venue of Integration

- Children should be supported in natural settings of home and school
- School is key environment that instills social values and teaches range of skills in preparation of adult membership in society*
- Should encompass a holistic system of supports and services (education, medical, public health, child care etc)**
- Service providers and stakeholders can mutually define common goals for their community through process of integrated planning ***

Sources:

* Children First Report ,1988

** Building on the Foundation Report , 2006

***Addendum to the Implementation Planning Guidelines for Best Start Systems, 2006

Hub as a Focus for Community Self-Help

A place whereby the local community can :

- Engage in self-healing
- Identify and determine short and longer term needs
- Assume quintessential roles in program design and implementation

Sustainability

- Engagement of and support from appropriate government officials at all levels at the outset
- Community ownership of project, with local involvement in the design and implementation stages
- Involvement of local groups in coordinated service delivery
- Integration of community hub in a lasting community infrastructure (i.e. schools)

Implementation Framework

Objective

- enhance community well-being and self- sufficiency

Partnership

- involvement of government officials, service organizations and residents

Goal

- identify, prioritize and address community needs

Tools

- use local resources and skills

Implementation Strategies

Phases of multi-year project:

1. Identify Project Sponsor(s)
2. Seek out voluntary and funding resources
3. Identify receptive local communities
4. Engage appropriate government officials, service organizations and community members
5. Secure agreement from relevant parties as to the integration of the “community hub concept” and the provision of physical and staffing resources in the rebuilding of local school(s)

Operationalizing the Project

Program Implementation

- Identify project co-ordinator(s) who will be on the ground
- Recruit local staff
- Convene a Local Advisory Committee (LAC) to guide development of the project at each site, comprising of :
 - officials from local government
 - Ministry of Education
 - community representatives
- Engage the LAC in the design of the physical facility for the community hub and the potential delivery of services within available resources

Evaluation Component

- An evaluation tool needs to be developed for this project including :
 - Key Objectives
 - Timelines
 - Evidence-Based Outcome Measures

Budget Considerations

- **Start up costs**
 - Cost of additional infrastructure to house Community Hub
 - Furnishings and equipment
- **Ongoing administrative expenses (per site)**
 - Office expenditures, communication, travel, insurance, hospitality etc.
- **Staffing**
 - Project supervision (mentorship)
 - Staff recruitment, training and development
 - Staffing cost (salary, benefits, housing)*
- **Evaluation Component**

*Average salary for university educated full time social worker in China

- \$2500RMB(\$400CAD)/month or approx. \$5000 CAD per year + housing allowance

Funding Resources

- **Red Cross Society of China**
 - Collected over \$48 billion RMB (7 billion CAD) as of June 23, 2008
- **Canadian Red Cross**
 - Collected over \$27 million to date
- **Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)**
 - Administers the Sichuan Earthquake Relief Fund which matches individual donations received by all recognized charitable organizations for the quake between May 12 – June 30, 2008
- **NGOs**
 - Individual groups and organizations have raised funds for the quake and may be interested in sponsoring potential projects related to China's rebuilding efforts
- **Private Donor(s)**

- Comments/Questions
- Discussion
- Where do we go from here?

Synopsis

Since the May 12, 2008 earthquake in the province of Sichuan, China, many local and international organizations have been involved in significant relief efforts. Their work has been focused on emergency services such as the provision of medical aid, food items, blankets and temporary shelters.

The University of Toronto Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work's China Project is proposing a pilot program that is focused on longer term community rebuilding which will involve the development of a '**Community Hub**' as an integral part of local schools.

Community capacity building is an increasing global phenomenon. Community services have been developing in China's urban centres since the late 1970's, with the concurrent emergence of social work as a profession. This is an opportune time for a collaborative effort to provide an impetus to initiate a **social and community development project** in Sichuan. The intent is to enhance the capacity of local communities to address the longer term aftermath brought on by the earthquake.

Local communities in Sichuan must have a quintessential role in the design and implementation of programs that best meet their needs. The development of the proposed pilot program must therefore involve:

- Discussions with and securing support from local officials
- Engagement of community members

There is a wealth of literature that reflects the value of a community hub that is accessible to local residents. This pilot program will involve working with local officials and residents in the incorporation of the concept of a community hub within the school infrastructure, as they are being rebuilt in the earthquake zone.

The meeting on July 29th will be an open forum for debate and input for participants in regards to the concept of a community hub and project implementation strategies.

Support from community participants is essential in moving this project forward.