

Early Recovery and Disaster Risk Management Programme

The Challenge

On 12 May 2008 a major earthquake measuring 8.0 on the Richter scale (RS) jolted Southwest of China, claiming more than 69,000 lives, over 374,000 people were injured and more than 18,000 people were missing. A total of 6.5 million homes were destroyed in the earthquake and huge economic losses were caused. The earthquake severely struck rural areas in particular the impoverished communities. More than 4800 poorest villages and 3 million poor are mostly affected by the earthquake.

Due to difficulties in transportation, communication and access to information, villages that are worse-hit reportedly have not received equal attention and resources. Within the framework of the ongoing recovery and reconstruction planning, there is a need to address a clear strategy for integrated reconstruction and development for the extremely poor in rural areas. Poorer communities also need to be strengthened in their resilience for rapid early recovery.

The assessment missions conducted earlier also shows that many significant and cut-cross issues such as gender, environment and protection of vulnerable population need to be brought into consideration from the planning stage to ensure efficient and sustainable recovery, which will also require additional efforts to deal with.

The Response

In response to the earthquake, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) immediately mobilized and delivered more than US\$ 2 million relief support to the affected areas as part of the UN joint efforts. Over US\$100,000 were also allocated to strengthen coordination, conduct rapid assessment and disseminate international experience on post-disaster reconstruction practices.

Building on its strong involvement with relief activities as mentioned above, UNDP is developing medium to long-term strategy for assisting the Government of China in early recovery and disaster management. Consistent with its mandate of poverty alleviation and development, UNDP would focus on the poorest and most vulnerable people affected in the earthquake.

In collaboration with partners at both national and local level, UNDP would provide technical and financial support to 19 poorest villages in their early recovery activities on following aspects:

- Impact assessment and community-based integrated rural recovery planning.
- Livelihoods assistance to the most affected and vulnerable populations to rebuild and recover from the impact for of the earthquake.
- Psycho-social and legal support to the most affected people, especially people with vulnerabilities, to participate in the recovery and reconstruction process
- Energy and environment planning to enable the resettled communities have access to clean and improved habitable conditions.
- Mainstreaming of community-based disaster risk management through capacity building.
- Research, collation and dissemination of best practice and knowledge

At A Glance

Project Start Time: September 2008
 Project End Time: December 2010
 Executing Agency: UNDP CO
 Leading Implementing Agency: LGOP
 Project ID: 00062824

UNDAF Outcome 1: Social and economic policies are developed and improved to be more scientifically-based, human-centered and sustainable.

UNDAF Outcome 3: By the end of 2010, more efficient management of natural resources and development of environmentally-friendly behavior in order to ensure environmental sustainability.

Country Programme Output 7.5: Capacity to analyze and manage risks at the national and selected communities strengthened

UNDP Budget: US\$ 3,500,000
 Other: US\$ 2,029,247
 Total Budget: US\$ 5,529,247

To contribute to this initiative, or to find out more about the project, please visit our website or contact us at 86-10-8532 0800 or registry.cn@undp.org

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