



Six Months On: A Report on Oxfam Hong Kong's Response to the China Earthquake of 12 May



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Preface

By Howard Liu, Director of China Unit, Oxfam Hong Kong

It has been six months since the massive earthquake that hit Sichuan and environs on that Monday afternoon of May 12, a public holiday in Hong Kong. A non-governmental organisation with 32 years of international experience and 21 years of experience in mainland China, Oxfam Hong Kong began planning its humanitarian response on that same day and will be assisting survivors for another four years to come with relief, rehabilitation and community development. We do not work alone, but link with various groups, community-based, academic, non-governmental and governmental alike; we each carry out different roles, and together, there has been a synergy. So far, Oxfam has supported 29 projects in 127 communities in 3 provinces, primarily with impoverished people living in regions that have not been assisted by other efforts. Oxfam's priority is to assist women, children, elderly people, people with disabilities, ethnic minority people and other marginalised people.

Today, six months to the day after the disaster, a new phase of cooperation between local and international agencies, between government and non-government groups, between academics and less literate people, has begun: reconstruction projects are gradually being launched.

Looking back to May, we find that Chinese government responded immediately to the earthquake, and allowed agencies such as Oxfam Hong Kong to also respond in such a way as to complement the other. The government made efforts to save lives, disclosed information on the disaster zone, allowed international rescue organisations to enter the country, and continued to provide updated reports on the situation. This transparency and efficiency significantly helped organisations such as Oxfam to carry out our work. To meet the urgent needs for temporary shelter, for instance, government used their authority to order factories to speed up the manufacturing of tents and makeshift wood-board house, while Oxfam provided assistance with everything from basic sanitation and water, to food and psychological counseling with children.

As mentioned in Oxfam's "One Month On: Oxfam Hong Kong Review of Relief Work and Five-year Plan in Sichuan and Gansu after 12 May Earthquake" and "Three Months On: A Report on Oxfam Hong Kong's Response to the China Earthquake of 12 May", Oxfam Hong Kong has been carrying out disaster relief in various affected areas by coordinating and communicating with various levels of Chinese government. In these projects, Oxfam has consistently adhered to our own work approaches, such as in the procurement of supplies (giving priority to sourcing from the local region when possible), the distribution of supplies (conducted by teams of Oxfam staff members and survivors), the information of supplies (lists of goods are publicly displayed in each community), and more.¹

Oxfam believes that reconstruction work should not be limited to restoring the pre-disaster situation in affected areas. We are taking the opportunity of reconstruction to assist poor people with long-term and sustainable development; we are working to improve the quality of life, a life without poverty.

As early as June, the State Council issued two directives, "The National After-disaster Reconstruction Planning Schedule for Wenchuan Earthquake" and "Notice of the General Office of the State Council on Issuing of After-disaster Recovery and Reconstruction Assistance Schedule for

¹ For more information, a CCTV television report on Oxfam's work approach can be viewed. Please refer to the following web page for details:
http://vsearch.cctv.com/play_plgs.php?sref=tvprogramme_20080601_6299753&ref=tvprogramme_20080601_6299753

Wenchuan Earthquake”, which determined the direction of the work ahead, reaffirmed the State’s authority in the recovery and reconstruction projects, and assigned 19 provinces/municipalities to provide assistance to Sichuan for a period of three years.

With the direction of national planning for recovery and rebuilding of the affected sites clearly presented in these two government documents, Oxfam sees a key role of non-governmental organizations in the process.

1) Complementary nature

Even though the government will run major reconstruction projects with the financial support of 19 provinces/municipalities, the scale of the disaster was so huge that there is still space for NGOs to carry out work that does not overlap. Oxfam, for example, is directing our resources to remote areas where there has been less, if any, assistance.

2) Communication, coordination and planning

Coordination and communication with government departments was crucial in the early stage of reconstruction planning. The government provided Oxfam and other NGOs with useful information from various disaster areas – such as the per capita income, the severity of the disaster, and the reconstruction needs – so that we can each plan correctly and use our resources efficiently and effectively.

3) Experience of INGOs

Through cooperating with various China-based groups, international NGOs, including Oxfam Hong Kong, can have the opportunity to promote sustainable development and build up the capacity of local groups. INGO experience has to be adapted for use in local areas.

4) Integration of approach

International NGOs such as Oxfam Hong Kong each have different philosophies and ways of working. Oxfam always adheres to a participatory approach in carrying out projects, even at the emergency relief stage. This approach runs through all of our work, with local governments, non-governmental organisations, and community-based groups alike.

Oxfam Hong Kong has compiled this “Six Months On: A Report on Oxfam Hong Kong’s Response to the China Earthquake of 12 May” to communicate how we have been assisting survivors through the disaster and its aftermath. We have only been able to achieve what we have by working alongside many different groups, and we are thankful for such good partnerships.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all our colleagues, friends and donors who have been supporting the work of Oxfam Hong Kong through this difficult time. It is the largest emergency we have ever responded to, and your support has kept us going. As my colleagues and I are preparing to launch many reconstruction projects across the region, we thank you.

1. Situation Update

On 12 May 2008, a devastating 8.0 magnitude earthquake hit western China, with its epicentre recorded in Wenchuan County of Sichuan Province. It has been the most destructive earthquake since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, affecting the largest area, and leading to the heaviest losses. Government records indicate that 69,227 people have died, 17,923 people remain missing, 374,640 people have been injured, up to 46.24 million people have been affected by the earthquake and the aftershocks, and direct economic losses have reached 845 billion Yuan.

According to China Earthquake Networks Centre, more than 34,000 aftershocks have been recorded, with the strongest - at 6.4 magnitude - occurring on 25 May in Qingchuan County of Sichuan. The second strongest, of 6.1 magnitude, hit more than two months later, on 31 August, in Panzhihua City, near the border of Yunnan Province.

2. How the Chinese Government responded to the disaster

Immediately after the earthquake, the central government and localities, including those in the disaster areas, have taken a series of measures to rescue people. They Chinese also opened the door for international NGOs and other countries to offer assistance. The transparent and timely information from the government played an important role to facilitate relief work.

On 23 September, the State Council of the People's Republic of China revealed its "Overall Planning for Post-Wenchuan Earthquake Restoration and Reconstruction"². The official document outlined the PRC Government's 3-year, one trillion Yuan reconstruction plan, with the following goals:

- 1) Housing for each family;
- 2) Employment ensured for each household of the working population;
- 3) Each person is secure;
- 4) Infrastructure to be improved;
- 5) Economic development.

The plan also gives priority to restoring people's basic living conditions through subsidies for the rebuilding of homes; the report says that that the restoration and reconstruction of schools, hospitals and other public service facilities will strictly adhere to compulsory construction standards and norms for the safest and most reliable architecture.

On 18 June, the State Council launched another report, the "One-to-one Support Program for Reconstruction After the Wenchuan Earthquake". Within three years, nineteen better-off provinces and municipalities will assist 18 hard-hit counties in Sichuan and affected regions in Gansu and Shaanxi. This "one-to-one support" approach has become an approach that the national government has been using to bridge the disparity among different areas of the country and to facilitate poverty alleviation in the poorer areas.

3. Oxfam Project Sites (as of 11 November 2008)

Oxfam Hong Kong has carried out relief and rehabilitation projects in 21 cities and counties, including 127 townships and villages, in Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi Provinces. (See Table 1)

² <http://en.ndrc.gov.cn/policyrelease/P020081010622006749250.pdf>

Table 1: Oxfam Project Sites (as of 11 November 2008)

Sichuan Province: 13 cities and counties, 82 townships and villages		
	County	Township / Village
Deyang City	Shifang	Bajiao Township, Hongbai Township, Yinghau Township, Luoshui Township, Qianchi Township (Shangyuan Village, Longjusi Village, Shungliu Village)
	Mianzhu	Guangji Township, Zhongxin Village, Hanwang Township, Jiulong Township, Tianchi Village, Qingping Village, Mianyuan Township, Zundao Township
Mingyang City	An County	XiuShui Township, Hongguang Village, Yingxin Village, Feishui Township, Xiaoba Township, Huangyang Village, Chaping Settlement Site, Sangzhao Township, Huisui Township, Gaochuan Village
	Jiangyou City	Majiao Village, Tongxiang Township, Liuhe Village, Jingyuan Village, Chonghua Township
Chengdu	Dujiangyan	Xiang Village, Zipingpu Township, Dujiang Village
	Pengzhou	Lichun Township, Xiaoyudong Village, Tongji Township
Aba Zang Qiang Autonomous Prefecture	Wenchuan	Weizhou Township, Wolong Township, Mianchi Village, Longxi Village, Caopo Village, Keku Village, Yanmen Village, Sanjiang Township, Yingxiu Township, Yinxing Village
	Xiaojin	Rilong Township
	Li County	Shangmeng Village, Xiameng Village, Tonghau Village, Xiecheng Township, Muqia Village, Taoping Village, Zagunao Township, Puxi Village, Zagunao Township
	Mao County	Kezhai Village in Fengyi Township, Shigu Village, Ledu Village, Chashan Village, Guangming Village, Dongxing Village, Weimen Village, Sanlong Village, Goukou Village, Baixi Village
Guangyuan City	Qingchuan County	Dayuan Village Suojia Village, Hauguo Village, Qiaolou Village, Qingxi Township, Guanzhuang Township (Guanshang Village, Magong Village, Suhe Village, Hongguang Village, Shiba Village), Qianjin Village, Quhe Village, Haoxi Village
	Lizhou District	Baizhao Village, Sandui Township,
Panzhihua	Huili	Tanglang Village
	Yuanmou	Jiangyi Village
Gansu Province: 7 counties, 35 townships and villages		
County	Township / Village	
Wen County in Longnan City	Bikou Township, Tielou Village, Zhongmiao Village, Liping Village	
Tianshui Zhangjichuan County	Maguan Village, Liangshan Village, Zhangchuan Township, Huchuan Village, Longshan Township, Lianwu Village, Muhe Village, Dayang Village, Pingan Village, Zhangmian Village, Liubao Village, Chuanwang Village, Malu Village, Yanjia Village, Gongmen Township	
Wudu Region	Anhua Township, Fengxiang Village, Maliu Village, Qiangjiawan Village, Guoping Village, Ganshuwan Village	
Cheng County	Xiaochuan Township, Suochi Village, Shaba Township	
Kang County	Chengguan Township, Changba Township	
Dangchang County	Shawan Township, Guanting Township, Xinzhai Village	
Li County	Chengguan Township, Baiguanpo Village	
Shaanxi Province: 1 county, 10 villages		
County	Townshipships / Villages	
Ningqiang County	Dongba Village in Qingmuchuan Township, Guangpinghe Village in Guangping Township, Caojiagou Village, Shuiguanyin Village, Maozui Village, Damaoping Village, Houba Village, Jinshansi Village, Luojiazui Village, Wangjiahe Village	

4. Financial Overview

4.1 Total donations received

As of 11 November, Oxfam Hong Kong has received HKD 153,417,183.83 for its earthquake response work.

4.2 How donations have been used

In total, Oxfam Hong Kong has spent HKD 26,180,434.47 (23,680,037 Yuan) on 29 emergency relief and rehabilitation projects. (See Table 2)

Table 2: Oxfam Hong Kong Relief and Rehabilitation Projects (as of 11 November 2008)

Name of Project	Amount Approved (Yuan)
1. Project for Sichuan Earthquake Relief and Aid	7,000,000.00
2. Disease prevention at disaster site in the Sichuan Earthquake	484,100.00
3. Emergency Relief in Dujiangyan, Sichuan Province	122,700.00
4. Emergency Response in Wudu and Wenxian counties, Gansu Province	1,783,120.00
5. Emergency Relief -- Local Purchasing of Second Batch of Aid	150,000.00
6. Purchasing of the First Batch of Aid in Wen County, Gansu Province	180,000.00
7. Psychological Service Project for Affected Groups in Wudu and Wen counties, Gansu Province	56,648.00
8. Emergency Response in Zhangjiachuan County, Tianshui, Gansu Province	829,520.00
9. Emergency Response in Zundao Township, Mianzhu County, Sichuan Province	201,901.00
10. Provide 10 temporary schools in affected areas in Sichuan	3,598,750.00
11. Emergency Response project in Ningqiang County, Shaanxi Province	236,100.00
12. Shelters for survivors in Sichuan Earthquake on 12th May, 2008	3,160,000.00
13. Supplementary Project of "Project for Sichuan Earthquake Relief and Aid"	3,000,000.00
14. Supply of Cooking Oil and Rice, Wenchuan County, Sichuan Province	304,000.00
15. Volunteer Development in Pengzhou, Sichuan Province	194,100.00
16. Research and Project Planning on Post-earthquake Reconstruction	58,092.00
17. Needs Assessment and Policy Advocacy on Reconstruction, Gansu Province	72,665.00
18. Psychological Intervention with Children and Women in Huating County, Pingliang City, Gansu Province	26,698.00
19. Supply of Canvas to Qingchuan County, Sichuan Province	282,750.00
20. Emergency and Rescue Project, Luquan County of Yunnan Province, Tanglang Township and Panzhuhua City of Sichuan Province	166,280.00
21. Panzhuhua Earthquake Emergency Relief in Jiang Yi, Yuan Mou County	222,480.00
22. Relief after August 30 Earthquake in Yong Ren County, Yunnan	70,000.00
23. Provision of Quilts and Canvas after August 30 Earthquake, Huili, Sichuan Province	392,700.00
24. The Operational Cost of the OHK Warehouse for Relief Goods	315,500.00
25. Provision of two temporary schools in Huili, Sichuan	294,120.00
26. Training with potential partner organisations on community-managed rehabilitation project management, Gansu	48,673.00
27. Training on programme management with potential partners, Sichuan	94,060.00
28. Livestock raising project with poor women in Chengdu, Sichuan	335,080.00
29. Advocacy Research of Measures to Preserve Indigenous Culture in Recovery and Reconstruction Policy and Practices for Remote and Impoverished Ethnic Minorities Villages	232,036.00
Total (Yuan)	23,912,073.00
Total (HK\$):	26,542,401.03

4.3 Expenditure Plans

Over the next three to five years, Oxfam Hong Kong will allocate HK\$105 million for rehabilitation and future relief projects in Sichuan, HK\$ 28 million for Gansu, and HK\$ 2 million for Shaanxi.

5. Factors and Principles for Oxfam's Design of Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Projects

- The impact of the earthquake in affected regions
With reference to the “Evaluation Results of the Wenchuan Earthquake Disaster Areas” by the Ministry of Civil Affairs, National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Land and Resources, the Ministry of Finance, and the China Earthquake Administration, Oxfam Hong Kong selected potential sites for rehabilitation and reconstruction projects and sent frontline project officers for site visits.
- The economic background of the disaster areas
As Oxfam Hong Kong is an independent international development and humanitarian organisation working against poverty and related injustice, we give top priority to start our rehabilitation and reconstruction projects in state-targeted poor counties, and then come the province-targeted poor counties and other poor counties.
- Government rehabilitation and reconstruction plans
Central-, province- and county-level governments launched different rehabilitation and reconstruction plans. The blueprints provided a good reference for Oxfam Hong Kong's work.
- External support to the disaster areas
Apart from the impact of the earthquake to the hit regions, Oxfam Hong Kong will also take into account the external support and resources that the disaster areas already have, including funding from the central government, resources received from the “One-to-one Support Program for Reconstruction After the Wenchuan Earthquake”, donations from the local community, and assistance from other international NGOs. Priority was given to the regions such as Lizhou in Sichuan which received less or even no external support.
- The capacity of potential working partner organisations
Oxfam has worked alongside various community groups, non-government organisations, government bodies, and other groups in Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi to get the projects up and running to provide urgent relief, carry out rehabilitation and reconstruction, reduce poverty, and facilitate the development of civil society.

In considering which groups to work alongside, Oxfam Hong Kong evaluates the skills, capacity, and the governance of each group to decide if it fits into Oxfam's mission, vision and working principles.

Some local authorities, professionals, civil organisations, and universities in Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi, among other groups, implement Oxfam's style of a participatory approach. Oxfam tries to build close relationship with these potential partners and generate synergy effect to fasten the reconstruction plans.

- **Gender Equity**
As mentioned in our “1 Month On: Oxfam Hong Kong 5.12 Earthquake Work Report” and “Three-Month-On: Oxfam Hong Kong 5.12 Earthquake Work Report”, Oxfam Hong Kong always promotes gender equity in our projects. In our relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction projects, Oxfam values voices from men and women and pays particular

attention to the voices of women and girls, as they often are not heard. Oxfam supports poor people and community groups to voice out their concerns for basic rights, on the status of women, to ensure there is no social exclusion or gender discrimination. To achieve gender equity, Oxfam sustains the following principles:

1. There should be no direct or indirect gender discrimination;
2. Women and girls should not be marginalised;
3. Women's and girls' needs and concerns should be taken into account, just as men's needs and concerns are;
4. Provide opportunities for women and girls to participate in decision-making and in their community's development;
5. Women and girls can make changes and improve the current situation just as men can;
6. Facilitate structural changes by switching people's mindsets on gender issues;
7. Build up gender relations based on a sense of equality and equity.

- **Protect ethnic minority culture in disaster-affected regions**

Some of the impoverished, disaster-affected regions are inhabited by ethnic minority groups, and Oxfam Hong Kong is launching rehabilitation projects in several of these areas. Local ethnic minority people participate in project design and planning, and their voices are thoroughly considered during the process in order to not only resume and improve their opportunities for a livelihood, but also to make sure that the means of the project does not conflict with aspects of their traditional culture.

- **Implement participatory rehabilitation**

Oxfam Hong Kong carries out participatory rehabilitation, working together with the stakeholders, e.g. the beneficiaries as well as local government staff to make decisions together and have equal parts in project planning, implementation, management and monitoring. The participation of beneficiaries – whom Oxfam sees as project participants – is a crucial element throughout the whole process. It reinforces the participants' sense of ownership and helps ensure the sustainability of the projects.

- **Promote cooperation between government and non-government organisations**

Oxfam Hong Kong works with central and local governments on rehabilitation and reconstruction; with this synergy, more people can benefit from Oxfam's projects. In addition to training and capacity building with villagers, Oxfam also shares our experience and provides training to government officials to promote participatory rehabilitation, and to build up the government's disaster management capacity.

- **Use international rehabilitation and reconstruction experience for reference**

Being an established international humanitarian organisation, Oxfam Hong Kong has accumulated thirty years of experience that can be useful for the various post-earthquake projects in China.

- **Accountability**

Oxfam Hong Kong has always worked in accordance to the above-mentioned principles in humanitarian response. Oxfam follows best practice to ensure quality programme design and careful financial management. Effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and transparency are all non-negotiable.

- **Specific requests of donors**

Some donors of Oxfam Hong Kong would like to direct their donations to provide specific items or to support certain groups of people. Such requests will be considered if they are aligned with Oxfam's vision, mission and work plan.

6. OHK Strategic Plan and Rehabilitation Project Schedule

6.1 The Strategic Plan for Sichuan

Oxfam Hong Kong's rehabilitation plan in Sichuan will last for three-and-a-half years, from September 2008 to March 2012. The locations include seriously affected areas such as Qingchuan, Mou County, An County, Lizhou and Li County. For some of the projects, we plan to collaborate with local government Poverty Alleviation Offices (PAO) to work in strategic villages. The rehabilitation projects with the PAO will represent Oxfam's working practices and concepts and will set an example for similar work in future.

In Sichuan, OHK will focus on livelihood programmes and small-scale infrastructure projects for the communities seriously hit by the quake. It is our goal that people should be able to return to their living standards before the earthquake struck, or even that we can assist them to alleviate their poverty, within three-and-a-half years. Since the Chinese Government will devote substantial resources to rebuilding permanent housing, schools and health facilities, OHK, in principle, will not participate in such projects.

6.1.1 Schedule of the Rehabilitation Plan in Sichuan

Target schedule: September 2008 to March 2012

OHK's work plan in the second half of 2008 financial year:

- July to August: Preliminary assessment and planning of rehabilitation projects
- August: To discuss the actual plans and choice of locations with authorities of province, cities, counties, townships and villages, as well as with local NGOs.
- September to October: Training new partner organisations from government authorities and NGOs
- Late October to December: Projects get the necessary approval and can start

6.1.2 First Stage of Project Site Selection in Sichuan

After an integrated assessment, OHK has decided to choose the seriously hit areas such as Qingchuan County, An County, Mou County and Lizhou for rehabilitation, for these reasons:

- Comparing with other counties, fewer resources are allocated to Qingchuan County;
- Qingchuan County, An County, Mou County and Lizhou are comparatively poor and remote. Their respective distances to Chengdu: Qingchuan – 349km, Lizhou – 285km, Mou County – 210km, An County – 200km;
- Qingchuan County and Mou County are ethnic minority communities;
- Out of the 250,000 people in Qingchuan, there are eight minority groups, including Hui, Tibetan, Zhuang and Chinese Korean. In Mou County, under the administration of Aba Zang Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, 80 per cent of the 106,700 people are Qiang ethnic minority.
- Qingchuan experienced significant aftershocks, with the one on 26 May 2008 being the most serious;
- Qingchuan suffered most from secondary effects, such as landslides, mudslides and 'quake lakes'.
- Most aftershocks struck Qingchuan, Beichuan and Mou County. As a result, a landslide occurred at Shibao Trench of Hongguang Township, Qingchuan, as well as the second-largest 'quake lake' (the largest is Tongjiashan in Beichuan).
- There is no province or city assigned to provide dedicated assistance to Lizhou, which also receives little attention from external sources;

- The ‘Model villages of Rehabilitation of Serious Hit Areas’³, assigned by State Council PAO are in these counties;
- After on-the-ground investigation, the local partner organisations, including municipal governments and PAO are more positive to jointly plan and implement projects with Oxfam.

Table 3: The Locations of the First Stage of Rehabilitation Projects in Sichuan

8 Counties / Cities	10 Townships / Villages
Qingchuan County	Qunfeng Village of Huangping Township, Xiaomiao Village of Wali Township
An County	Daxi Village of Yinxin Township*
Mou County	Sanzhai Village of Wadi Township
Li County	Jiashan Village of Taoping Township
Jiange County	Jialing Village of Zhangwang Township*
Lizhou Guangyuan City	Makou Village of Sandui Township*, Shengli Village of Longtan Township
Pengzhou	Shishan Township
Dujiangyan	Xiange Township

*Model Locations of Rehabilitation assigned by State Council PAO



6.1.3 Resource Allocation for Rehabilitation Projects in Sichuan

Projects in Sichuan include:

- 50% of the budget: Small-scale infrastructure, including water facilities and roads;

³ To explore the methods and models of rehabilitation planning and implementation in poor villages, State Council PAO has chosen 10 villages as pilot points, based on criteria including poverty level, damage level and landscape. OHK has signed an agreement of collaboration with State Council PAO Foreign Investment Centre, so we decided to integrate our plan with their Model Locations of Rehabilitation Plan. The decision has received recognition from State Council PAO Foreign Investment Centre, as well as support from municipal governments.

- 30% of the budget: Recovery of production capacity, including the provision of quality livestock, seeds, fertilisers, loans and building materials;
- 5% to 10% of the budget: capacity building and training with partner organisations, counseling with survivors, and advocacy;
- 5% of the budget: setting up a Disaster Preparation Centre in China for Oxfam to provide faster humanitarian response to disasters in the future.

6.2 The Strategic Plan for Gansu

The community rehabilitation planning in Gansu Province tentatively extends 3.5 years from September 2008 till March 2012. The areas covered under this rehabilitation include Wen County of Longnan City and Wudu County, which are the two hardest-hit counties in the whole province.

Considering the fact that there is relatively little support from external resources for Gansu, as well as limited financial reserves from the local government, OHK will launch livelihood recovery projects and will rebuild 16 permanent schools.

6.2.1 Schedule of the Rehabilitation Plan in Gansu

Tentative implementation schedule: a span of 3.5 years from September 2008 to March 2012

OHK's work plan in the second half of 2008 financial year

- July to August: Preliminary assessment and planning of rehabilitation projects
- August: Negotiation with the government departments at different levels and local NGOs in Longnan City with regards to concrete planning and project site selection
- September to October: Training new partner organisations from government authorities and NGOs
- In middle/late October – late December: Projects get approval and start.

6.2.2 First Stage of Project Site Selection in Gansu

OHK confirmed Wen and Wudu in Gansu as the two selected counties for rehabilitation; a large number of people were affected in these two counties. Three to four key townships will be chosen from each county for project sites. The reasons for selecting Wen and Wudu are as follows:

- **Wen and Wudu are the hardest-hit counties in Gansu Province**
Wen and Wudu are adjacent to Qingchuan County in Sichuan. The frequent aftershocks in Qingchuan brought about different degrees of damage to Wen and Wudu, devastating 20 townships, 305 villages, and 1,305 village groups. A total of 230,782 people were affected in 67,256 households. The economic loss amounts to 11.8 billion.
- **Frequency of Landslides and Mudslides**
A total of 1,820 geological hazards have been recorded in Gansu in one survey alone, including 456 landslides, 378 collapsed rocky slopes, 862 surface cracks, 124 areas of sunken land, and 262 areas at high risk. Landslides and mudslides led to a destruction of up to 63,300 *mu* of farmland and two billion Yuan in economic loss, and the mudslide in Dongfeng Trench of Linjiang Village seriously disrupted the traffic between Bailong River and Route G212.

- **Wen and Wudu are the national-level poor counties**
The remoteness and mountainous terrain there have long been a tremendous challenge to the impoverished residents.
- **Less Response in Gansu than in Sichuan**
The main affected counties in Sichuan were able to receive “one-to-one help” from other provinces, which amounts to 1% of the province’s fiscal income. Yet the 4 main affected counties in Longnan of Gansu only received support from Shenzhen. It shows that counties in Gansu have received relatively little external support in terms of money, materials and human resources.

Table 4: The Locations of the First Stage of Rehabilitation Projects in Gansu

4 Villages / Townships in 2 Counties	
Counties	Villages
Wen	Houshan Village of Chengguan Township, Yujia Village of Yulei Township
Wudu	Cao Shan Village of Wuku Township, Bahai Village of Guohe Township



6.2.3 Resource Allocation for Rehabilitation Projects in Gansu

OHK will launch key rehabilitation projects in Wen and Wudu in Gansu Province:

- 60% of the total budget: Permanent school building and small infrastructure
- 30% of the total budget: Productivity recovery
- 5-10% of the total budget: Capacity building and advocacy with partners:

In conclusion, the concrete projects for the target project villages or the communities will further be confirmed subsequent to participatory assessment. OHK’s primary focus in the project villages includes productivity and livelihood recovery in the rural community, improvement and recovery of the community infrastructure and the necessary humanitarian relief.

7. Principles for Selecting Partner Organisations

Working partners of Oxfam Hong Kong for the rehabilitation and reconstruction projects in Sichuan, Gansu and Shannxi includes government departments, universities and non-government organisations. For government departments, Oxfam Hong Kong works with various government departments at the central, province, county, and especially rural and village levels. Working capacity and methods, vision and mission are the main factors for Oxfam Hong Kong to work alongside and select certain organisations.

At the central government level, the main working partner of Oxfam Hong Kong is The State Council Development-Oriented Poverty Alleviation Leading Group. Both parties came to a consensus that the poor population suffered the most in the disaster. Therefore, for our project design, we combined poverty alleviation with rehabilitation and reconstruction work. Both parties are going to sign the framework agreement and Oxfam Hong Kong gives priority to the state-targeted poor counties recommended by The State Council Development-Oriented Poverty Alleviation Leading Group.

In Sichuan, potential partners of Oxfam Hong Kong include government departments such as Sichuan Foreign Capital Project Management Centre, Poverty Alleviation Offices at the county level, Ethnic Affairs Commission of Sichuan Province, and Administration for Religious Affairs at the city and county level, as well as the Chengdu Women's Federation, various research centres and non-government organisations.

In Gansu, potential partners of Oxfam Hong Kong include government departments such as State Family Planning Commission of China, Family Planning Commission of Gansu Province, Educational Bureau of Gansu Province, Technology Bureau of Gansu Province, Office of Poverty Alleviation of Gansu Province, Offices of Poverty Alleviation of Longnan City, Family Planning Commission of Longnan City, Ethnic Affairs Commission of Longnan City, as well as Lanzhou University and non-government organisations at the province level, in Longnan City, Wudu and Wen.

8. Build up Partners' Capacity on Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

In order to enhance partners' capacity, OHK, upon agreement made with each organisation, will arrange for any necessary training in areas such as project evaluation, finance management, participatory development model, social development and gender issues.

8.1 Training in Sichuan

On 15 – 20 October, OHK Chengdu Office organised “Training on Programme Management with Potential Partners” in Chengdu and Guangyuan. The objective was to provide training to people working on poverty alleviation and development in the poor areas of Sichuan, giving them a better understanding of OHK in terms of project and finance management, requirements and procedures, and participatory planning. The partners have agreed to apply the principles from the training to their work ahead.

Due to the fact that OHK in general has never undertaken any large-scale project in Sichuan prior to earthquake, government officials at various levels have little awareness of OHK and the operation of NGOs in general. We hold a belief that mutual trust and understanding is the essence to collaborate with different stakeholders. As a result, one of the objectives of the training is to enhance understanding and trust between OHK and the local government departments.

A total of 30 partners participated in the training, mainly from the government departments such as Sichuan Province, CEInet Corporation of Sichuan, Chengdu Women's Federation,

Dujiangyan Women's Federation, Chinese Communist Youth League of Lizhou Prefecture, Administration for Religious Affairs of Mou County, Offices of Poverty Alleviation of Guangyuan City, Lizhou Prefecture, Guangyuan City, Sandui Town of Lizhou Prefecture, Longtan Village of Lizhou Prefecture, Qingchuan County, Huangping Village of Qingchuan County, Hongguang Village of Qingchuan County, Jiange County, Zhangwang Village of Jiange County, Shishan Village of Pengzhou City, Wadi Village of Mou County, Li County, Taoping Village of Li County, and An County,

The 5-day training and field visits should assist the partners as they work alongside OHK.

8.2 Training in Gansu

With an aim to facilitate OHK rehabilitation projects in Longnan, Gansu, the OHK Lanzhou Office offered a 5-day training from 7 – 12 October for 30 programme and management staff from NGOs in Gansu and our key governmental collaborators in Longnan City, such as Longnan City PAO, Education Commission, and Population Commission and Family Planning Commission.

The training was tailor-made for the participants, with knowledge-based topics ranging from project and finance management to community participatory planning. It also gave partners a deeper insight into our joint project guidelines. An on-the-ground community participatory planning practice was also provided.

With this training, our partners can improve their understanding of the projects, operational capacity and finance management, which in turn can help ensure the quality of project implementation in the future. With this, OHK can build up its partnership network in the affected areas of Longnan, Gansu.

9. New Projects

Apart from the temporary school projects in Sichuan and the permanent ones in Gansu set out in the “3 Months On: A report on Oxfam Hong Kong’s response to the Earthquake of 12 May”, OHK has embarked on the following projects after the earthquake:

9.1 “Help Poor Women with Children in Earthquake Areas by Encouraging Them to Raise Pigs”

After the earthquake, the affected in Sichuan faced a severe hardship in reconstruction and livelihood recovery. In many families, it is the men who typically work outside the hometown while women and the elderly stay and are left to do the farming and livestock-raising work on their own. Collaborating with Chengdu Women's Federation, we targeted to help those disadvantaged and cash-strapped women to restart their livelihoods by raising pigs. This project idea stems from the rural tradition that the village women in Sichuan are used to raising pig as a way to produce fertiliser and supplement the family income.

The first phase of the project is to provide a pig-raising fund for women in selected areas hit by the earthquake and later give the piglets to other women in need.

Participatory implementation and management will be applied and a means to train the villagers in areas of management and risk capacity. Furthermore, Chengdu Women's Federation will be assisted to apply this participatory approach into their daily operations through this collaborative project.

9.2 “Advocacy Research of Preservation Measures of Indigenous Culture in the Post-quake Recovery and Reconstruction Policy and Practices of Remote and Impoverished Ethnic Minorities Villages in the 512 Earthquake” Project

The impact of the earthquake on ethnic minorities is a loss of human life and property and a disruption of cultural heritage. Given that, OHK and the Department of Sociology under the College of Humanity and Development, the China Agriculture University, joined hands to launch the 7-month project on “Advocacy Research of Preservation Measures of Indigenous Culture in the Post-quake Recovery and Reconstruction Policy and Practices of Remote and Impoverished Ethnic Minorities Villages in the 512 Earthquake”. We conducted field surveys in three remote villages in ethnic minority areas. The research will look at the impact of the earthquake on their traditional cultures and assess the influence of existing rehabilitation measures on the local communities. In the end, the measures to preserve their traditional culture during the rehabilitation projects will be identified.

The preliminary results of the study will be used for policy advocacy. It is our expectation that the research results, with joint inputs from the policy-making departments and the academics, will be translated into a useful reference for the stakeholders to plan the rehabilitation work.

9.3 Swift Disaster Response and Preparation for the First Winter

Based on our experience, the aftershocks are very common in the aftermath of an earthquake due to the active crustal activities: local residents are under threat of landslides and mudslides. Taking this into account, we have set aside funds in our rehabilitation budget for the response to the aftershocks and geological hazards in Sichuan and its close proximity.

On 31 August, a 6.1-magnitude aftershock hit Panzhihua City and the areas along the boundary of Sichuan and Yunnan. OHK quickly mobilised staff to the affected areas and allocated basic necessities to 3,859 people in Tanglang Village of Luquan County and Jiangyi Village of Yuanmou County. The relief materials were worth HK\$431,523.60 (RMB 388,760).

Due to the fact that rehabilitation takes a longer time than relief, and sections of roads are still under repair, there is little chance for all rehabilitation to be completed by winter; thus, some people are still living in temporary shelter. OHK staff have accessed areas to assess people’s needs and have placed orders for quilts in preparation for the first winter after the earthquake.

9.4 Drawing International Experience: Research Study on International Experience and Project Planning for Wenchuan Earthquake Rehabilitation

The rehabilitation work after the earthquake is considered a long term, difficult mission – one that will last for about five years. With an influx of financial, material and human resources to the cause, the imminent challenge facing the Chinese government and NGOs on the mainland is how to use the funds sensibly and effectively, in particular for the rebuilding of homes, resuming livelihood and productivity, etc. In collaboration with the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, we have started to draft a report outlining the international experience in rehabilitation, which will be a valuable reference for our counterparts and other organisations in their rehabilitation work.

10. Human Resources Allocation in Rehabilitation Projects in Sichuan and Gansu

The rehabilitation projects in Sichuan Province will be undertaken by OHK’s Chengdu Office where nine staff members, including a project manager, six programme officers, an administrative assistant and a communications officer, were recruited/ being recruited in the fiscal year of 2008-2009.

The OHK Lanzhou Office will be in charge of the rehabilitation in Gansu and Shaanxi. There are a

total of eight staff members, including a project manager, six incumbent programme officers and an administrative assistant. Engagement of a short-term project consultant will be considered, if necessary.

Given the growing budget, China Unit of OHK will hire an auditor in the fiscal year of 2008-2009.

In the three years ahead, OHK will look into the need of further recruitment in order for the rehabilitation work to run smoothly, as well as the future monitoring and evaluation.

11. Other Projects

11.1 Training for Chengdu Office

For planning and implementing rehabilitation projects, OHK set up a programme office in Chengdu, which is the fifth office of OHK in mainland China. From 24-28 September, 2008, an orientation and training workshop was held for the new staff members.

The training included sessions on gender equity and the rights-based approach (which relate to OHK's core values) and project management, finance and auditing (at the operational level).

11.2 Oxfam Trailwalker 2008 – Special Team of Earthquake Survivor and Volunteers

OHK's annual landmark event, Oxfam Trailwalker, was held from 7 – 9 November: over 1,000 teams challenge themselves to finish a difficult trail of 100 kilometers within 48 hours. In a sense, in order to overcome the challenges and complete the task at hand, the Oxfam Trailwalker teams need what poor people need every day: endurance, stamina, collaboration, support and determination. Just as survivors of the earthquake need the support of others to get beyond the disaster and return to a sense of normalcy, each of the 1,000-plus teams in Oxfam Trailwalker also has a 'support team' to help the walkers finish the long trail.

One earthquake survivor, a villager from Sichuan, and two relief volunteers, from other parts of mainland China, formed a special team called 'Beyond 512' in Oxfam Trailwalker 2008. They finished the full 100 kilometre trail in Hong Kong.

11.3 Accountability to Donors

Accountability, transparency and openness to Oxfam donors and to the public are key principles that OHK upholds. In addition to the "1 Month On: Oxfam Hong Kong 5.12 Earthquake Work Report" and "Three-Month-On: Oxfam Hong Kong 5.12 Earthquake Work Report", we have discussed our work plans through newspaper articles, publications to our donors, mailings, emails, YouTube and our website. We have also conducted briefings with individual donors, corporate donors and volunteers to keep them abreast of our relief efforts and principles. Corporate donors who contributed a certain amount of funds visited OHK project sites under their sponsorship – this was done safely and in a way that did not interfere with rehabilitation work.

11.4 Workshops and School Talks

As presented in the "Three-Month-On: Oxfam Hong Kong 5.12 Earthquake Work Report", OHK will continue to draw attention to the needs of affected people in Sichuan and Gansu, and to communicate the links between disaster and poverty. One OHK workshop is an educational drama workshop at the Oxfam Hong Kong Interactive Education Centre in Hong Kong for primary and secondary students, who actively participate and contemplate on how the negative impacts of disasters are aggravated by poverty. OHK staff members who have worked in the affected areas of Sichuan talked about their firsthand experience directly with Hong Kong students.

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