



WENCHUAN EARTHQUAKE FIVE YEARS ON

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樂施會
OXFAM
Hong Kong

ABOUT OXFAM

Oxfam is dedicated to fighting poverty and inequity worldwide. The international and independent development and humanitarian organisation tackles poverty in four main ways: sustainable development in poor communities, disaster relief, local, national and global advocacy, and education with Hong Kong youth. Established in Hong Kong in 1976, Oxfam Hong Kong is a founding member of Oxfam, an international confederation that has assisted poor people in 94 countries. Oxfam Hong Kong alone has supported poor people in over 70 countries/regions.

Oxfam Hong Kong

April 2013

Cover page photo caption: In Guangyuan City of Sichuan, the people in Shengli Village actively participated in rebuilding the access road to their community. Their efforts not only led to economic development, but also helped strengthen the community's capacity and resolve in the reconstruction process. The entire project was community-driven and self-managed, with assistance from Oxfam staff and partners. The villagers further established a protocol for management and maintenance of the finished road.

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FOREWORD

The massive Wenchuan Earthquake of 12 May 2008, measuring 8 on the Richter Scale, devastated an extensive area of 100,000 square kilometres, covering parts of Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi Provinces. According to government statistics, 69,227 people died, a further 374,643 injured; direct financial losses reached 845.1 billion yuan – with 91.3% incurred in Sichuan, 5.8% in Gansu, 2.9% in Shaanxi.

Oxfam immediately dispatched our emergency relief teams to Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi, and by June, established the Office of Sichuan Earthquake Relief and Rehabilitation Programme in Chengdu to coordinate immediate relief and reconstruction efforts. Reconstruction work started in August; by October we put forth our five-year strategic plan for the Wenchuan Earthquake reconstruction work. The overriding objective of the plan is "by cooperating with government agencies, local NGOs, the academia and the affected communities, and by adopting a participatory approach – to assist quake-stricken communities to return to a life of normality and a living standard essentially equal to that before the disaster, and to enhance the community's capacity for sustainable development, disaster mitigation and self-organisation."

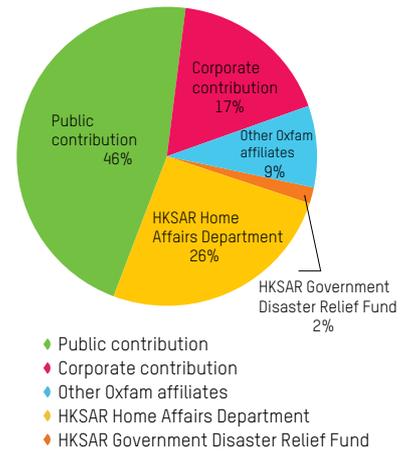
On this 5th anniversary of the Wenchuan Earthquake, this report summarises the humanitarian relief efforts and reconstruction projects undertaken so far, reporting to the public, to the communities we serve, to our partners, and to the different levels of governmental agencies who made this possible.

I. DONATION INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

As of February 2013, we raised HK\$172 million for the 5.12 Wenchuan Earthquake, a record high for Oxfam Hong Kong's appeal for our global relief responses. Projects we have initiated totalled 216, benefitting over 850,000 people. Funds dispensed totalled HK\$166 million, with 28 emergency relief projects accounting for HK\$32 million. Reconstruction projects in the three provinces totalled 188, of which 11 are on policy research and advocacy related to post-quake rehabilitation, accounting for HK\$2.2 million.

Of the HK\$172 million raised, HK\$79 million (46%) came from Oxfam Hong Kong's public appeal, HK\$44 million (26%) from community contribution attributed by the HKSAR Home Affairs Department, HK\$30 million (17%) from corporate contribution, HK\$15 million (9%) from other Oxfam affiliates, and HK\$3.5 million (2%) from the HKSAR Government Disaster Relief Fund.

Contribution as of May 2008 to February 2013

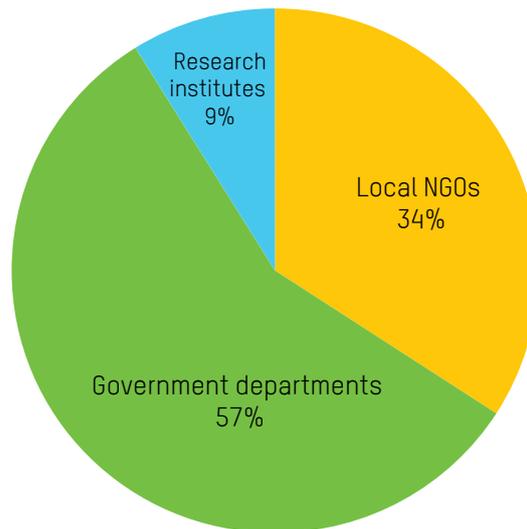


Oxfam's Programme Expenditure for Wenchuan Earthquake – by province and project (HK\$)

		Sichuan	Gansu	Shaanxi	Total
Emergency relief	No. of projects	20	5	3	28
	Allocated funds	25 million	6 million	1 million	32 million
Reconstruction and rehabilitation	No. of projects	122	45	21	188
	Allocated funds	71 million	42 million	21 million	134 million
Total funds	No. of projects	142	50	24	216
	Allocated funds	96 million	48 million	22 million	166 million
	%	58%	29%	13%	100%

II. OUR PARTNERS

During the past five years, Oxfam collaborated with 91 partners in response to the Wenchuan Earthquake in emergency relief and reconstruction, 57% of which were governmental agencies, and 34% were local NGOs and communities.



◆ Government departments ◆ Local NGOs ◆ Research institutes

III. HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE FOR WENCHUAN EARTHQUAKE



Oxfam prioritises the needs of marginalised groups, women and ethnic minorities in distributing relief supplies.

In response to the Wenchuan Earthquake, Oxfam Hong Kong actively worked with local government agencies, NGOs and local communities, mobilising our largest emergency relief effort so far. Since Oxfam did not have a project team in Sichuan at the time, we diverted our field teams from Kunming, Beijing, Hong Kong, Guiyang and Lanzhou to Sichuan, while our Lanzhou office focused on the relief efforts in Gansu and Shaanxi. Among those mobilised included our project, communications and financial/administrative staff, supported by local volunteers familiar with local conditions.

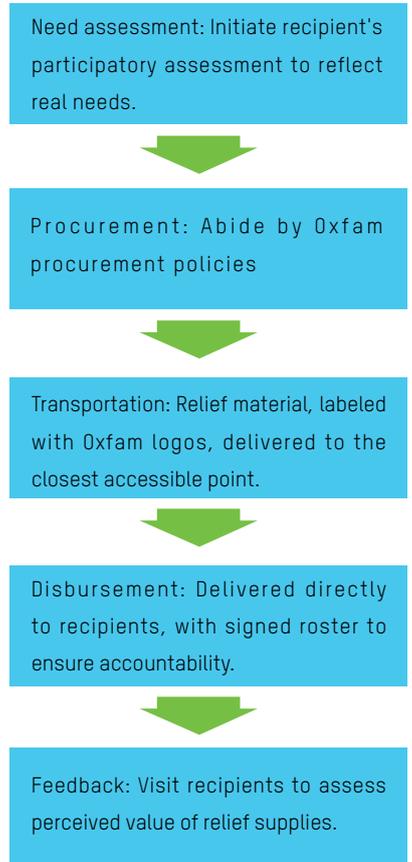
Within two days of the earthquake, Oxfam contacted the emergency

aid committee of the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development (LGOP), as well as the provincial offices of poverty alleviation and development and departments of civil affairs in Sichuan and Gansu. As part of the response, we established an initial protocol at the provincial, city and county level, ensuring a mutual understanding of Oxfam's relief response mechanism. For instance, during the emergency response process, we communicated and coordinated with Sichuan's Provincial Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development, Ethnic Affairs Commission, Gansu's Provincial Forestry Office, the Red Cross, Family Planning Association, Longnan's Municipal Committee, Wudu's District Emergency Management Office and Wenxian County's Poverty Alleviation and Development Office, ensuring support for our relief efforts in Sichuan and Gansu, building an understanding of Oxfam's objectives and establishing a working relationship with Gansu's local government as a foundation of our reconstruction efforts.

Over the initial emergency phase, Oxfam deployed 60 staffers at various times, involving tasks ranging from rescue, supplies procurement and distribution to communications. The entire operation was directed by the Director of China Programme Unit of Oxfam Hong Kong. After assessing the overall picture and following discussions with government agencies and NGOs, the Director and project teams developed a concrete strategy for relief and reconstruction and a plan for resource allocation and implementation. As a matter of urgency, Oxfam modified our normal operating mode – that of asking our partners to submit a proposal complete with implementation plan. In Sichuan, the Oxfam team directly managed and implemented the massive relief effort, procuring, transporting and distributing relief supplies. In Gansu and Shaanxi, we implemented our relief projects in collaboration with local NGOs. To ensure accountability and transparency, Oxfam developed a mechanism regarding quotation and procurement.

Besides working with government agencies, in Sichuan, Oxfam collaborated with other NGOs such as Shan Shui Conservation Centre, Heifer International, and LSM Rural Reconstruction Centre to more effectively assess the needs of the area. In Gansu and Shaanxi, we

Material Distribution Flow Chart



resorted to the rich networks of the Lanzhou University Centre for Western Environment and Social Development, Shaanxi Research Association for Women and Family for project personnel and volunteers,

In cooperation with Sichuan University, 260 medical volunteers from their West China School of Public Health were dispatched to Mianyang, Beichuan, Dujiangyan, Pengzhou, Mianzhu, Anxian, and Shifang to initiate hygiene and immunisation drives. The team also provided counselling for primary school students at their make-shift tent school at Zipingpu, Dujiangyan City.



ensuring effectiveness of our project appraisal and resource distribution. The Gansu Red Cross helped us coordinate with Longnan's municipal agencies, while the Longnan Volunteers Association coordinated with the Wudu District government. By involving local expertise, Oxfam was able to expedite our relief efforts, which not only included providing material needs, but also public health and post-disaster counselling.

Oxfam's relief supplies distribution emphasises community participation, prioritising the needs of marginalised groups and women, and whenever possible, by tackling all odds, persisted in transporting and distributing our own relief supplies to disaster-stuck communities – in the shortest time feasible, for maximum effectiveness and minimum wastage.

Oxfam provided a safe studying environment for over 3,000 students during the reconstruction period.



Emergency Relief Supplies from Oxfam	
Foodstuffs	
Rice	697 tonnes
Milk (250mL)	312,000 packs
Cooking Oil (5L)	42,503 bottles
Flour	297 tonnes
Temporary shelter, bedding and fuel	
Quilts	38,960 sheets
Bedding sets	1,000 sets
Bunk beds	1,000 units
Waterproof fabrics	9,505 rolls
Tents	2,750 units
Mosquito nets	13,000 units
Heating coal	732 tonnes
Sanitary items	
Sanitary napkins	9,560 packs
Women's underpants	1,600 packs
Soap	9,860 bars
Laundering soap	1,500 bars
Mosquito repellent	2,500 bottles
Mosquito coils	1,600 boxes
Florida water (insect bite treatment)	6,540 bottles
Hygiene pack	330 packs
• with toothpaste, tooth brushes, cups, towels, shampoo, combs, sanitary napkins, nail clippers, soap	
Others	
Portable toilet	64 units
Cookware	10,000 sets
Bags (for foodstuffs)	110,000 bags
Electric generators	15 units
Emergency lights	300 units
Torches	1,620 units
Batteries	9,720 pieces
Cement	70 tonnes

During our relief work for the 5.12 Earthquake, Oxfam considered the needs and interests of women and the marginalised people in Gansu and Shaanxi and supplied sanitary napkins and Florida water (for treating mosquito bites) among other hygiene items. Subsequent feedback from the women in the disaster area affirmed our approach. In Shaanxi, a woman from the Shuiguanyin Village of Ningqiang County remarked, "You'd even thought of that. I am really touched." More than one woman had reflected that emergency supplies targeted for them not only met their needs, but more importantly, made them feel they were not alone. Oxfam also considered the cultural and religious needs of the Muslim

population when providing relief materials in Qingchuan County, Sichuan. We supplied Halal food which conformed to Islamic rules, an effort well-received by the community and local officials.

Oxfam's emergency relief work in response to the 5.12 Earthquake lasted well into that winter, and was declared complete in March 2009, tallying 17 projects at an investment of over HK\$25million, benefitting 125 disaster-stricken communities in three provinces, reaching over 630,000 person-times.

Communicable disease control and prevention: In cooperation with Sichuan University, 260 medical volunteers from their West China School of Public Health were dispatched to Mianyang, Beichuan, Dujiangyan, Pengzhou, Mianzhu, Anxian, Shifang to initiate hygiene and immunisation drives. The team also provide counselling for primary school students at the make-shift tent school at of Zipingpu, Dujiangyan City.

Building temporary schools: Within two months after the shock, from June to July, Oxfam, in collaboration with the Sichuan Education Foundation and the education bureaus in Lixian County and Maoxian County, built seven earthquake-resistant "temporary schools", investing over HK\$4 million. Over 3,000 students were assured a safe studying environment during the transitional period of reconstruction.

Response to other disasters in the quake-stricken area

Besides emergency response to the 5.12 Wenchuan Earthquake, at various times during the rehabilitation phase in the past five years, Oxfam also responded to other calamities that struck the disaster area. They included:

- In 2009, we responded to the rainstorm that struck Tangjiahe Village in Anlehe Township, Ningqiang County, Shaanxi on 15 July; the floods that hit Shiba Township, Qingchuan County, Sichuan on 16 July, causing mudflows in Qianfo Village the next day; and the deluge that hit Kangxian County, Gansu, in the same year.
- In 2011, we responded to the rainstorm that devastated Nanjiang County, Sichuan on 6 July; the rainstorm that struck Guangping Township, Ningqiang County, Shaanxi in the same month; and the floods that hit Bazhong City, Sichuan in September.
- In 2012, we responded to the floods that hit Xide County, Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan, in August.



Hong Kong celebrity entertainer Denise Ho Wan-Si visited quake-stricken Sichuan with Oxfam and supported Oxfam's emergency appeal for the disaster.

IV. REHABILITATION

Oxfam's five-year rehabilitation plan in Wenchuan, executed in two phases, started in September 2008 and is expected to be completed by September 2013.



In January 2009, Oxfam, the Foreign Capital Project Management Centre (FCPMC) under the LGOP and the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China (IPRCC) signed the "Framework Agreement on a Pilot Programme to Implement Post-quake Reconstruction in Poor Villages in Wenchuan".

The overriding objective of our five-year rehabilitation plan is "by cooperating with government agencies, local NGOs, the academia and the affected communities, and by adopting a participatory approach – to assist quake-stricken communities to return to a life of normality and a living standard

essentially equal to that before the disaster, and to enhance the community's capacity for sustainable development, disaster mitigation and self-organisation."

Our rehabilitation projects focused on impoverished and isolated villages – areas that normally would be neglected by others. In other words, Oxfam would not allocate resources to urban areas, nor in principle take on projects related to permanent residences, medical or sanitation facilities as these have already received considerable financial support. The school rebuilding projects that Oxfam supported were only limited to primary schools in the remote villages of Gansu Province.

Phase 1: From September 2008 to March 2011. To ensure a quick return to normal life for the affected communities, we leveraged the network of the LGOP and concentrated on projects involving the rebuilding of small-scale infrastructures. The cooperation was based on an agreement entitled "Framework Agreement on a Pilot Programme to Implement Post-quake Reconstruction in Poor Villages in Wenchuan", which was jointly signed by Oxfam, LGOP and the UN's International Poverty Reduction Centre in China (IPRCC) in January 2009. This is the second pilot post-disaster cooperation between LGOP and an international NGO.

This pilot programme has three significant points: (1) to complement the government's post-disaster funding attributable to poor disaster-stricken villages, (2) to introduce international experience in post-disaster reconstruction and development, (3) to explore new models of post-disaster reconstruction.

Under the framework agreement, Oxfam allocated one million yuan for each of the 80 villages we sponsored (40 in Sichuan, and 40 in Gansu and Shaanxi combined), with the LGOP matching another 500,000 yuan each. During this phase, Oxfam allocated over 80 million yuan, which was 70% of our total rehabilitation budget, making this framework the most significant in Oxfam's rehabilitation efforts in Wenchuan.

Phase 2: From April 2011 to September 2013. Lasting two and a half years, this phase focused on rebuilding livelihood and developing communities. In prioritising our projects, we considered the following realities:

- Most of the nation's reconstruction work focused on building physical facilities.
- In many of the newly rebuilt communities, many social problems had begun to surface – community relationships disrupted, heavy debt burden imposed, lack of livelihood improvement and lack of community services.
- Many earthquake affected areas needed training in disaster risk management.
- Many newly organised community-based NGOs needed capacity building.

Considering these factors, in phase 2 Oxfam further collaborated with local NGOs, in addition to working with the poverty alleviation offices. Our projects focused on six areas: livelihood recovery and development, basic infrastructure construction, disaster prevention and risk reduction, experience consolidation and policy advocacy, empowering local NGOs and exploring new project possibilities. Of these, we placed emphasis on livelihood recovery and development in rural areas as well as disaster prevention and risk reduction.

1. Rehabilitation in Sichuan

In Sichuan, rehabilitation resources were allocated in four areas: 60% on small-scale infrastructures – rural roads, hydraulic works, etc.; 30% on livelihood recovery – livestock and crop farming, rescue efforts during the rehabilitation phase; 5% on capacity building for communities and partners; 5% on stocking the emergency reserve in our Sichuan response centre, including quilts and hygiene packs.

Total expenditure on rehabilitation in Sichuan amounted to HK\$71 million, directly benefitting 110,000 people in 80 impoverished villages spread out over 28 heavily damaged counties. As such, our projects tended to be on the building and maintenance of small-scaled infrastructures – village roads (180 km), drinking and irrigation lines (33 km), water collection ponds, and lastly, facilities in support of our community development programmes, which included cash crop planting, such as konjac and walnut; and livestock raising, such as pigs and free-range chickens.

In identifying our reconstruction projects, Oxfam and our partners, the provincial office of poverty alleviation and development in Sichuan and local NGOs, paid particular attention to impoverished people, women, ethnic minorities, children, orphans and the elderly. Projects were mostly self-managed and executed by local communities. This participatory approach not only promoted the community's sense of ownership and enhanced community bonding, but also ensured project effectiveness and sustainability, strengthened the relationship between the villagers and their local governments, and enhanced the community's project management capacity. Many of the infrastructure projects were completed below budgeted cost, allowing more to be built, furthering future growth.



Villagers in Jiashan Village, Lixian County, Sichuan cast their ballots to determine the contents of their rehabilitation projects.

2. Rehabilitation in Gansu

The damage caused by the 5.12 Earthquake in Gansu was second only to that in Sichuan, but the extent of poverty in this province was much more severe compared with Sichuan and Shaanxi. As Gansu's plights were not as well understood, the aid it received was also much less. As of 25 June 2008, domestic and international donations received by Gansu's Provincial Department of Civil Affairs totalled only 273 million yuan, or 0.78% of those of Sichuan. For instance, according to the Chinese government's "Post-Wenchuan Earthquake Paired Assistance Plan for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction", Zhejiang Province was paired with Qingchuan County in Sichuan; while Shenzhen City was assigned the entire Gansu Province. According to the formula of contributing 1% of the donor's financial income, Qingchuan would have received 3.2 billion yuan in the first year, compared to Gansu's 658 million yuan, only about one-fifth of what Qingchuan received.

Therefore, though our stated policy is to eschew construction of permanent public facilities such as housing, medical facilities and schools, in Gansu, we made an exception. Considering the disproportionately insignificant external support, and even less investment in communities and schools in Gansu, Oxfam decided to include the rebuilding of primary schools in impoverished and remote villages.

Oxfam allocated a total of HK\$42 million in rehabilitation in Gansu , benefitting over 80,000 people in 40 impoverished communities in 14 quake-stricken counties.

Reconstruction of village schools

For Gansu's school reconstruction projects, our Lanzhou office actively worked with local education and ethnic affairs bureaus and rebuilt village schools that were damaged in the quake in various districts: three complete primary schools (with junior and senior sections) in Anding District of Dingxi City, three complete primary schools in Tianshui City, four school-rooms in Zhenyuan County of Qingyang City, two primary schools in Kongtong District of Pingliang City and two primary schools in Huanxian County. As of February 2013, Oxfam allocated over HK\$6.5 million to school reconstruction projects.



Students of the reconstructed Santian Village Primary School engaging in morning exercise.

Rehabilitation in rural communities

Gansu's rehabilitation projects aimed to restore and enhance productive livelihood standards and benefitted 24 rural communities. These projects included building basic infrastructures – village roads, gully over-passes, footbridges, underground cisterns and drinking water systems; risk reducing facilities – waste water drainage, slope stabilisation, embankments, flow reducing weirs (to prevent soil erosion) ; environmental projects – solar stoves and the "one tank, three modifications scheme" (installing biogas storage tanks, segregating kitchen, toilet and pigsty). Economic and development projects included improving livestock and crop productivity, rehabilitating irrigation networks, providing technological advice on agricultural practices, and considering rural labour surplus – introduced job-training to migrant workers.

In phase 1, though having had communicated clear policy guidelines with the various levels of poverty alleviation and development offices, Oxfam's project team still visited a certain percentage of the rural households we served, convened local task groups, and ensured community participation in the project selection process.

In Phase 2, communities are selected on their degree of impoverishment, remoteness, level of destruction, and scarcity of outside resources. After having prioritised the evaluations submitted by various local poverty alleviation and development offices, our team from the Lanzhou office would coordinate with them for a one- to two-day field review of

the short-listed communities before finalising project sites. Through a comprehensive need assessment, we would then conduct community planning and project design and bring up different proposals for feedback and discussion at the public forum in the village, enabling full participation of the villagers in determining the project contents, the budget and the implementation plans.



At Zhaizi Village of Suochi Township, Chengxian County, Gansu, the "one tank, three modifications scheme" not only improved basic hygiene and added convenience, but also created new sources of revenue by introducing livestock and crop farming.



Villagers cooking with biogas and getting clean tap water.

This participatory process not only energises the community, promotes involvement, and rationalises funding resources, but also promotes community self-management. As a result, participation optimises funding use, promotes ownership of assets, and enriches community's capacity and enhances management skills. Furthermore, through this immersion process, local poverty alleviation and development offices and community officials developed an appreciation of Oxfam's rural development principles, philosophy, and mechanics of implementation – progressing from unfamiliarity, understanding to embracement.

3. Rehabilitation in Shaanxi

Oxfam allocated HK\$21 million in Shaanxi, directly benefitting over 20,000 people in 25 communities spread over four quake-stricken counties.

Reconstruction started in August 2008. Oxfam, in collaboration with three local NGOs – Shaanxi Gender Development Solution, Shaanxi Volunteer Mothers Association for Environmental Protection, Shaanxi Province Science and Technology Service Centre for Rural Women – carried out urban and rural productivity rehabilitation projects in three heavily damaged communities in Ningqiang and Lueyang Counties.

Starting March 2009, under the framework agreement, in cooperation with local poverty alleviation and development offices, we again initiated two batches of reconstruction projects, covering 16 villages. Learning from that experience, two years later in November, we chose as our partner the poverty alleviation and development office in Lueyang County for our third batch of reconstruction projects, covering seven villages.

Reconstruction projects fall in to the following types:

1. Restoration and improvements on basic small-scale infrastructures: inter-village access roads and intra-village pathways, drinking water supply, footbridges
2. Risk reduction infrastructures such as revetment and drainage;

risk management systems such as disaster warning procedures, emergency shelters and risk management trainings

3. Productivity and profitability enhancement: support for conversion to more productive farming, e.g. by providing walnut seedlings and silkie chicks stock; training in agricultural technology, enhancing cooperatives management, conducting community exchanges; and providing seed money for community development funds
4. Green-farming promotion: providing green farming supplies and training in green farming technology
5. Community bonding and empowerment: by using the participatory project management process – from selection to monitoring, complemented by interactive educational, cultural activities and trainings, Oxfam raised the communities' self-management capacities and organisation skills, ensuring sustainable development.



In phase 1, the projects centred around basic infrastructure rebuilding, with occasional training programmes in crop and livestock farming, supplemented by farming supplies. In phase 2, the focus shifted to restoring livelihood. At Lueyang County, for instance, two villages have elected to allocate funds for infrastructure and livelihood at a 50-50 split. For the Jiuzhongjin Cultural Heritage Village project, which was the last to be completed in this phase, the ratio of infrastructure to productivity development to capacity building reached a 20-70-10 split. Furthermore, to ensure sustainable development, this project set aside a self-managed

Villagers working on access roads to Tangjiahe Village, Anlehe Township of Ningqiang County, Shaanxi.

community development fund – supervised jointly by the local poverty alleviation and development office and the villagers. The third batch of projects was driven by two directions: one in promoting sustainable development and cooperatives, the other in using green energy initiatives to help establish and implement disaster mitigation mechanisms.

During the rehabilitation process, we were concerned about marginalised people's vulnerability to poverty, and emphasised the inclusion of villagers in labour contribution, project and budget management, thus leveraging their potentials and asset ownership. Women were also empowered to participate in management and supervision of community affairs.

We also saw a shift in local officials' attitude towards poverty and development. After over four years of exposure to Oxfam's participatory approach, local offices of poverty alleviation and development in Shaanxi and Gansu have become fully aware of our beliefs and methodology, and fully understood our insistence on inclusion of the community. Some officials would consider the approach, based on fairness and effectiveness, an effective and enlightened approach to poverty alleviation. For instance, the local offices of poverty alleviation and development in Wenxian County, Gansu and Lueyang County, Shaanxi having cooperated with us in local Oxfam projects, have adopted that same working model for other government funded projects, and whenever possible, involved the community, accounted for women and marginalised people, and espoused self-management and implementation.

4. Rehabilitation Policy Advocacy, Gender Equality, NGO Advancement

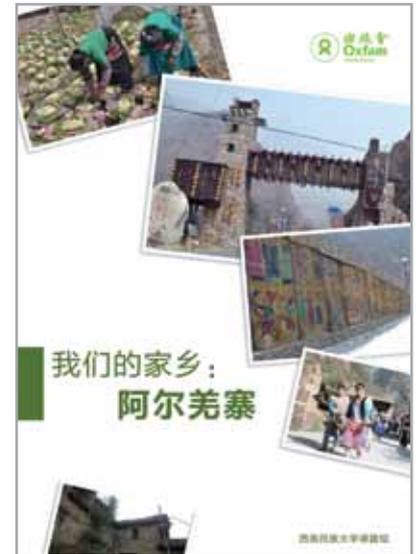
Oxfam's rehabilitation efforts go beyond emergency relief and reconstruction. In our rehabilitation work for the 5.12 Wenchuan Earthquake, we explored new possibilities in the following three areas: advocated post-disaster policy change, promoted gender awareness, empowered and nurtured NGOs. In this regard, Oxfam allocated HK\$2.28 million to 11 projects, with the following six notable achievements:

1. We sponsored a field investigation project by the College of Humanities and Development Studies at the China Agricultural University. Considering the elements of "people, culture and community", the

study examined Qiang and Tibetan minorities living in remote areas affected by the Wenchuan Earthquake. By comparing the community before and after the calamity, the report, entitled "A Study on Post-Wenchuan Earthquake Reconstruction in Impoverished Villages and Preservation of Indigenous Cultures," raised concrete recommendations on improving current policies and practices in disaster reconstruction. On the strength of the study, in 2011 the report was selected for inclusion in the State Council's series of "Studies on Disaster Rehabilitation, Prevention, Poverty Alleviation and Development."

2. A'er Village of Longxigou is a remote and isolated Qiang community near epicentre Wenchuan. Because of its isolation, the Qiang cultural elements, such as Shibi (shaman) practice, distinct embroidery, dance and architecture, are well preserved. The village unfortunately suffered heavy damage in the earthquake. Seeing the rich heritage as a source of sustainable development, Oxfam sponsored a joint study between the Southwest University for Nationalities and Longxi Township Elementary School, investigating possibilities in holistic development based on heritage and traditional knowledge transmission. The study suggested a path for heritage preservation and developments in the reconstruction process. Achievements included:

- The researchers presented a proposal to county government on leveraging heritage tourism.
- We sponsored workshops, gathering local government, community and NGOs to reach consensual understanding on development and heritage preservation.
- We sponsored a book entitled "A Taste of Earth – A Reader on the A'er Heritage of Longxi". The project mobilised the entire village. Young and old, men and women, all contributed eagerly on what constitutes the essence of their village. Through the creation process, from material selection and data collection to writing and editing, the entire village canvassed, performed, recorded and shared their heritage with an audience through space and time.



3. We sponsored a pilot project by the Gansu provincial office of the China Family Planning Association (CFPA). By employing a gender-sensitive approach, the project sought to focus on rehabilitation through empowering women and the vulnerable segments of society.
4. We sponsored a platform of exchange among local NGOs, enabling effective exchange and experience sharing.¹
5. We explored and consolidated experience in community inclusion and NGO participation in the reconstruction process. Working with the Pengzhou Grassroots Community Development Centre, we facilitated cooperation among over 20 local NGOs, thereby enhancing experience sharing and empowerment.
6. We sponsored a study by our partner, the Central China Normal University on the inter-relationship between government and community during Wenchuan's rehabilitation, advocating official recognition of NGOs place in the overall reconstruction effort. This position is supported by studying the experience of four NGOs in the post-Wenchuan reconstruction effort – observing their roles, patterns and challenges. The study suggested models of interactive collaboration with the government that might be beneficial for future disaster rehabilitation work.

V. OXFAM'S PRINCIPLES AND PHILOSOPHY

Oxfam's emergency response and rehabilitation work abides by the following rules and standards: NGO Code of Conduct in Disaster Relief and the Sphere Project.²

- Focus limited resources on remote, impoverished, rural, heavily damaged communities that might have received few media coverage and few relief resources.
- Place priority in restoring a life of normality for the affected communities.
- Ensure that all stakeholders, particularly marginalised groups, have a voice in the recovery process, discussing and determining

project contents so that they can meet the needs of the affected communities.

- Ensure that gender equality and ethnic minority cultures are considered during rehabilitation.
- Whenever possible, seek to cooperate with local governmental agencies and local NGOs, and through training, enhance capacity building of local partners.
- Ensure that project information is transparent and accessible so that it can be accountable to the community and the public.



Financial information of a drinking water installation project in Nanjiang County, Sichuan is on public display. Transparency builds trust and ensures accountability.

(1) Since September 2010, through one of our projects, the Sichuan 5.12 Volunteers Service in Chengdu, Oxfam organised five series of NGO professional exchange seminars. Among the topics covered were: China disaster rehabilitation policy analysis, theories in civil society, strategies in NGO management, disaster rehabilitation and gender roles, disaster rehabilitation and the environment, lessons from the 9.21 Taiwan Earthquake reconstruction. The series attracted nearly 100 NGOs from the earthquake affected area, creating a platform for information exchange and opportunities for empowerment. This platform, renamed Sichuan Academy, has since become a major podium for experience sharing and significant agent of capacity building for NGOs in the quake-stricken province.

(2) The Sphere Project's Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response delineates a series of measurement to ensure minimum levels of safety for humanitarian aid, including those in water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), food security, nutrition, shelter, settlement and health care. <http://www.sphereproject.org>

