**The emergency response of the Chinese Government to the Sichuan earthquake 2008**

* President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao arrived in the worst-hit areas to command the relief efforts.
* On 12 May the Earthquake Relief Headquarters was set up which was made up of 9 teams.
* The government mobilized about 140,000 troops, armed police and reserves for rescue operations and reconstruction. Priorities included restore transport routes, prevented quake triggered secondary disasters and relocate quake survivors.



* There was requests for additional help from the international community.
* Relief works built 677,131 plank makeshift houses. About 10 million people had moved into the makeshift housing.
* The government put in place a special measure so various provinces could accept the seriously injured. More than 10,000 injured people were transferred to hospitals outside the Sichuan Province for treatment. The central government provided an average of 28,000 yuan one person medical subsidy.
* Temporary foster homes or school boarding were found for children orphaned by the disaster. Each orphan had an allowance of RMB 600 yuan per month (NZD$150 approx.).
* An emergency relief policy was established to help meet basic living demands. Every needy survivor was eligible for 10 yuan (NZD$2.50 approx.) and 500 grams of food a day. This was designed to continue until September but for those in the worst hit areas financial assistance continued.
* From September-November 2008 a follow up subsidy was set up with each survivor getting 200 yuan per month.





Source: Emergency Relief Efforts of 2008 China Wenchuan earthquake. APEC. September 2008

**Restoration and Reconstruction in Wenchuan, China**

A post disaster restoration and reconstruction planning system was established. 32,728 reconstruction projects were planned with investment estimated to be 885.8 billion yuan. From October 2008-September 2010 85% of the projects were completed. Priority projects included those for people’s livelihoods such as housing, schools and medical and health facilities. Urban construction was closely monitored with scientific expertise. The construction of infrastructure was also important.



1 ½ years on transitional housing is still in use but a brand new city is progressing.



1 ½ years after the earthquake roads and bridges have been reconstructed.



New Beichuan County, the worst affects county has had substantial reconstruction after 1 ½ years.



Rebuilt apartments are to be in compliance with the construction code that would ensure that they can withstand future earthquakes.

Source: restoration and reconstruction in Wenchuan, China. APEC. 2009