Background

The 8.0-magnitude earthquake on 12 May devastated 12 of 21 Sichuan Province prefectures and areas in Gansu and Shaanxi Provinces and Chongqing Municipality. The population affected by the disaster is 45.6 million. To date there are 68 516 people killed, 361 822 injured, and more than 19 350 missing. Emergency medical and essential public health services have been severely affected. The initial health priority in the emergency response was to address life threatening needs and prevent further deterioration of the public health status of the affected people.

Premier Wen Jiabao outlined to the UN Secretary General on 24 May, the three priority needs of the affected people: tents, epidemic prevention and control and prevention of secondary disasters.

The Government of China has stated that over 10 million people have been pushed below the poverty line as a result of the earthquake.

Planning for reconstruction has commenced.

How WHO Supported the Chinese People

With financial assistance from the UN CERF, Governments of Monaco and Norway, the WHO undertook the following immediate response activities:

- provided emergency medicines and health supplies for 120 000 people;
- provided water quality test kits to test the water supply;
- provided personal protective equipment to safeguard the health of 50 000 responders;
- provided surgical supply kits to support the 5000 surgical patients for ten days;
- provided water purification equipment for four damaged hospitals;
- issued a joint WHO-UNICEF statement on safe infant feeding;
- provided technical support to the Ministry of Health units for guidelines and references on health emergency management, communicable disease control, health care and hazardous waste management, mental health;
- provided technical support to the Ministry of Health for mental health and psychosocial services;
- provided technical and operational field support on nursing care.
Evolving Health Needs

- Surveillance, prevention and control of communicable diseases;
- Environmental health: water quality, sanitation, health care waste management;
- Mental health and psychosocial support;
- Physical rehabilitation of the injured;
- Prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases;
- Restoration of basic public health services;
- Health facilities development: “safe hospitals”;
- Human resources for health;
- Health systems strengthening;
- Health services delivery;
- Essential medicines and supplies;
- Emergency information system;
- Health financing safety net for the victims.

What the World Health Organization Can Do

WHO seeks funding for 6 to 9 months to support the Ministry of Health of China in the early recovery of the health sector through the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Area</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Budgetary Needs (in US$)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surveillance, prevention &amp; control of communicable diseases</td>
<td>Early warning system</td>
<td>500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental health</td>
<td>health care waste management</td>
<td>350,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mental health and psychosocial services</td>
<td>technical consultation for planning and operational activities</td>
<td>300,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical rehabilitation of the injured</td>
<td>tracking of injured patients</td>
<td>300,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Control of non-communicable diseases</td>
<td>ensuring care of patients with chronic diseases</td>
<td>250,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health facilities: “safe hospitals“</td>
<td>review of planning of hospitals</td>
<td>350,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human resources for health</td>
<td>master plan for health human resource development post disaster</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health systems support</td>
<td>services delivery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food safety</td>
<td>Monitoring and promoting food safety</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health emergency systems strengthening</td>
<td>health emergency risk assessments</td>
<td>350,000</td>
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</tbody>
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