



Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in China
联合国系统驻华协调代表办事处

Hong Kong Peace Development Foundation donate HK\$ one million to UN Appeal

22 September, Hong Kong – Today, the Hong Kong Peace and Development Foundation donated HK\$ one million towards to the UN Appeal for early recovery of survivors of the devastating earthquake that struck the South Western Chinese provinces of Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi in May. The Hong Kong Consular Spouse Group also made a contribution through the Peace and Development Foundation. This was announced as Khalid Malik, United Nations Resident Coordinator in China briefed the Hong Kong public including Government Officials, business representatives and NGOs on the “UN China Appeal for Wenchuan Earthquake Early Recovery Support”.

“We are delighted to see the tremendous interest and show of support to the earthquake-affected people on the part of the Hong Kong public and authorities. The relief phase of the assistance has come to a close but the medium and long term needs are immense. The task ahead of us is huge and Hong Kong people’s contribution will go a long way in helping survivors restore their livelihoods,” said Khalid Malik.

The US\$33.5 million UN China Appeal was launched on 16 July in Beijing. It is designed to bridge the phases of immediate relief assistance with the longer term process of reconstruction and it focus on addressing early recovery needs of the most vulnerable in 9 sectors of activities.

Contributions to date amount to nearly US\$15 million and came from commitments pledged by the Governments of Canada (7 million Canadian dollars), Norway (US\$1.5 million) and Saudi Arabia (US\$1.5 million), Belgium (Euros 500,000) plus the European Union (Euros 300,000). The UN has mobilized another US\$4 million from its own resources and private donors.

These funds will support the needs of the most vulnerable survivors living in remote areas hit by the earthquake who have received basic assistance but require much more comprehensive aid over the next six months as reconstruction gets fully underway and before winter sets in.

Several sectors of the Appeal, focusing in particular on livelihoods; health, nutrition and HIV/AIDS; ethnic minorities; protection of vulnerable groups and the environment require additional financing.

The UN Appeal is part of the UN’s overall efforts to assist the people and communities affected by the earthquake. The UN system in China has already delivered over US\$18 million in emergency relief to the affected populations in Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi provinces, and has begun working closely with the Government of China and the international community to assist in the reconstruction efforts. In mid-July, the UN in China and the Chinese Ministry of Commerce co-hosted a workshop on international post-disaster best practices where leading international post-disaster experts offered ideas and know how on past experiences in post-disaster situations.

According to the Chinese Government, reconstruction could take as long as three years during which permanent structures need to be rebuilt, livelihoods and basic services need to be restored and collapsed schools need to be constructed.

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The Wenchuan earthquake, measuring 8.0 on the Richter scale, left more than 90,000 people dead or missing. It not only devastated lives and livelihoods, but also destroyed services and infrastructure. In Sichuan and neighbouring Gansu and Shaanxi provinces, an estimated five million buildings collapsed, 21 million buildings were damaged and over 40 million people were affected by the earthquake. The area continues to be jolted by strong aftershocks.

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