

## Care for Children Case Study

### The Sichuan Earthquake

On the Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2008, an earthquake measuring 8.0 on the Richter scale hit **Sichuan Province**, located in Western China.

According to official figures, the quake was responsible for causing **69,197** known deaths, the majority of which were in Sichuan province. **18,222** were listed as missing whilst **374,176** people were injured.

As a result, an estimated 4,000 children were left orphaned with over 2,000 children disabled making this the worst disaster China has seen in recent times.

The epicentre, 80km (50 miles) west-northwest of Sichuan's capital **Chengdu** and with a depth of 19km (12 miles) was felt as far away as Beijing, Shanghai and even in nearby countries.

### Care for Children's Response

Following the tragic events of the 12<sup>th</sup> May, Care for Children initiated an immediate appeal to the public the very next day.

The very first action Care for Children took was to send a team to assess the situation, with a particular focus on orphanages involved in the National Foster Care Project. The visit concluded that Care for Children could provide support in the following ways:

- **Training and counseling for social workers.**
- **Emergency funds for child welfare institutions.**
- **Medical packs, clothes, toys and other essentials.**

With financial support from **Virgin Atlantic**, Care for Children has been able to organise the following areas of support:

- The training team delivered five workshops for local Chinese social workers. Topics such as emergency childcare, trauma counseling, and rehabilitation were covered. The total number of delegates that attended these workshops exceeded 500.
- A total of **RMB 460,000 (£38,000)** of emergency funds has been distributed to eight child welfare institutions.
- The following items were delivered and distributed to children and families throughout Sichuan:
  - **5,200 clothes**
  - **500 personal hygiene kits**
  - **200 Mei Mei dolls**
  - **10 large boxes of towels, medicine and other essentials**

In partnership with local authorities, we have developed plans and assigned funds to rebuild four child welfare institutions.

A special agreement was made with local government to help increase the number of children moved into foster care in Sichuan by providing financial support to more local families (**RMB 150/per child every month**). Child welfare institutions that are

new to the concept of foster care will receive special training, and are encouraged to start their project with ten children.