



Sichuan Expanded Mental Health Network

**Redefining Passion:
SW Across Borders**

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The Impact



Affected population

- Death toll: 69,197
- Injured: 374,176
- Missing: 18,377
- Affected: 15,000,000
- Schools destroyed: 13,616




Summer children projects

June – August 2008

Objectives:


- To provide meaningful summer activities for children affected by the earthquake
- To help them to ventilate their problems, restore normalcy, and to strengthen their capacity for growth and resilience
- To develop peer support networks among children who have lost their family members, school-mates and homes.



Summer children projects

Local partners:

University	No of Teachers	No of University Students
Southwest Petroleum University	1	11
Chengdu University of Information Technology	4	9
Sichuan Agricultural University	3	15
Leshan Teachers College	5	35
TOTAL	13	70



Summer children projects

Attendance each day [July – August 2008]

Local University	Venue	Children/day
Chengdu University of Information Technology	阿壩州小金县石炭岩小學	300
Southwest Petroleum University	綿竹市體育場及二號樓安置點	80
	彭州新興鎮救助兒童會活動點	90
Sichuan Agricultural University	彭州市通濟鎮筒西村及龍門山鎮寶山橋壩社區	42
	彭州市小魚洞鎮太子社區	78
Leshan Teachers College	綿竹市興隆鎮中心小學	850
Total Number of Children Participants per day		1440




Children Portfolio

To record the growth and development of every child in the summer children program




Video Clip: Children Playing in Tents


- [Shiyou U at Mianzhu Erhao Qiao STC Tent 1.mp4](#)

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Sichuan Expanded School Mental Health Network

- Based on the summer projects organized immediately after 5.12 earthquake in June – August 2008
- Needs assessment October – November 2008 [12 schools]



Goal of Network

- Support the physical, psychological and social development of students in post-earthquake Sichuan
- Link schools, families and the communities, using a multi-disciplinary approach
- Based on the “expanded school mental health” (ESMH) concept.





Selected 4 schools [since February 2009]

Mianzhu

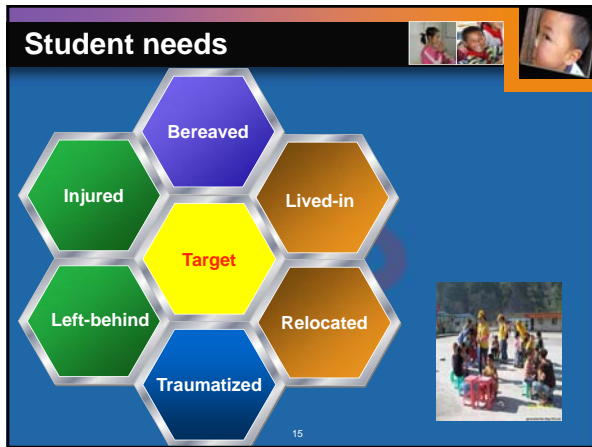
- Hanwang School [1800 students]
- Xinglong School [900 students]

Wenchuan

- Shuimo Secondary School [800 students]
- Yingxiu School [135 students]

Student needs in the 4 selected schools

	Hanwang	Xinglong	Shuimo	Yingxiu	Total
Post earthquake Student numbers	1700	900	786	135	3521
Death toll [students]	228	3	-	322	553
Lost parents	65	10	5	6	86
Injured*	101	3	4	8	116
"Left behind"	30%	50%*	-	20%	-
Stayed in school during weekdays	300	-	-	19	319
School relocated	-	-	786	-	786



Network objectives

- Integrate psychological, social, medical and rehabilitative services for students
- Increase the social, mental & psychological capacity of students & their families to rebuild their lives
- Increase the capacity of local service providers through "Training of trainers" model

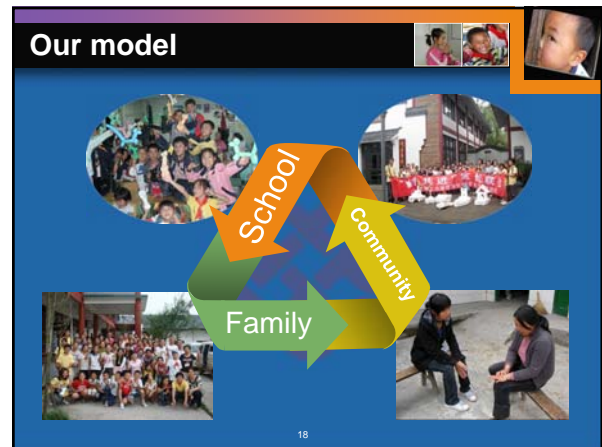
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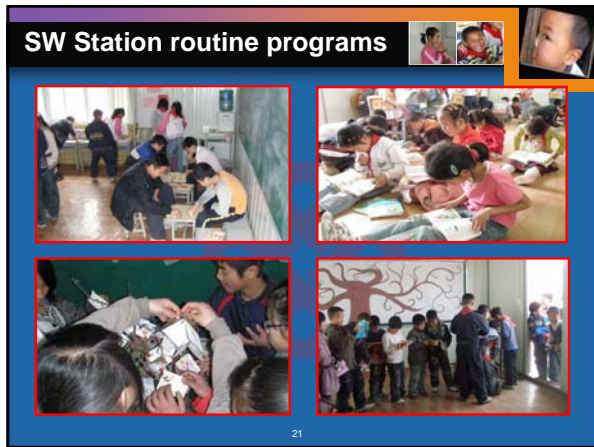
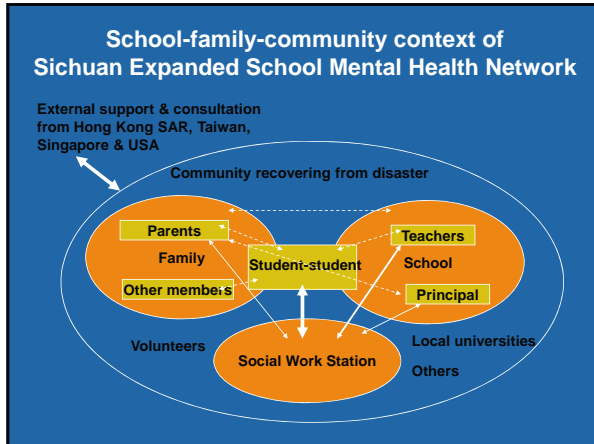
Our Team

- 8 external consultants
- 3 local supervisors
- 8 local social workers
- 2 therapists



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Culture-based art program

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Inclusion programme

Life's a Dance

Community program

Video Clip: Students with different abilities performing together

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"Little" volunteer program

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Varsity student volunteer program

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Psychosocial support for teachers

Adventure based

Rest & retreat

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Psychosocial support for parents



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School visit program for parents



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Special programs Hong Kong Exchange



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Community program



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Community program

Video Clip: Teachers participating in community project

- [Yingxiu Teachers Dancing Videoclip.MP4](#)

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Networking




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Professional training & consultation



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Documentation: Raw data



- Proposals
- Case records
- Activity reports & evaluation
- Daily station journal
- Personal journal
- Social workers' reflections
- External consultant visit reports
- Observational notes
- Other records: Powerpoint presentations, photographs, video clips etc

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Documentation Research projects

- Yingxiu teachers: Lived experience
- Policy impact of the relocation of teachers and students from Wenchuan City: A case study of Shuimo Secondary School
- Education for Life Programme in Sichuan



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Documentation: Output



- Yearly statistical reports
- Conference presentations
- Journal publications

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My reflection paper



Crossing the river stone by stone: developing an expanded school mental health network in post-quake Sichuan

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Funders & donors



- HK College of Paediatricians Foundation
- Keswick Foundation
- Cultural Research & Regeneration Society
- NewSoHo NewLife
- Ikea [Chengdu]

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Unique characteristics



- Multidimensional
- Cross-discipline
- Multi-partners
- Mutual Capacity building
- Outreaching
- Culture & context sensitive
- Inclusion

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Future direction

- 1 Increase sustainability of project
- 2 Strengthen local capacity
- 3 Promote resilience
- 4 Advocate inclusion
- 5 Consolidate a model in disaster contexts

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Discussion... ..

- ◆ What are the strengths of Singapore social workers across borders?

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Cautions

Social work across borders...

1. Do we understand?
 - The lived-experience
 - Language & culture
 - Existing policies & systems

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Cautions

Social work across borders...

2. Can we sustain?
 - Resources: time, manpower, funding, training and consultation

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Conclusions

- Redefine social work passion through a perspective of **DILEMMAS**

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Conclusions

- “Dilemmas are not just difficulties or issues, they represent a particular decision-oriented view about hard choices where options all have some unfavourable consequences”
(Norwich, 2008, p. 7)

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Conclusions

Dilemmas of different professional values and views

- What paradigm? What standards?
- Example [a] The different concept of professional boundaries, worker-client relationships, leadership
- Example [b] Debate paradigm of assessment

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Conclusions

Dilemmas of different practice models
Indigenization and importation

- “We need to tread lightly, learn to listen and to tune into culture lest we too quickly impose our culture on others and hence stand guilty of imperialism” (p. Gray 2005, p. 236) and at the same time we need to be aware that social work has a goal of changing unjust cultural practices that do not value human rights (Gray, 2005).
- Example [a] “Avoid fire, dogs and psychotherapy”

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Culture & context sensitive
Import or indigenize?



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Conclusions

Dilemmas of different capacities

- The head or the heart?

More of the head	More of the Heart	Ideal	Less of the Head
	Less of the Heart		



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Question and answer?

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Conclusions



After 20 years of being in social service...
My prayer is:

Make me a servant
Humble and meek
Let me lift up those who are poor
And may the prayer of my heart
always be
Make me a servant
Today

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Thank You

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