

Amity's Disaster Relief and Reconstruction Principles



Selecting beneficiaries

Amity is committed to helping people in the countryside who are habitually overlooked during relief operations and reconstruction efforts. Special attention is given to the poorest members of a community, who receive extra financial support, home appliances or daily necessities (for example a bed or a rice cooker). Priority is given to the support of women by encouraging their participation in decision-making bodies as well as by introducing technology (running water, biogas systems) which facilitates work usually done by women (gathering fire wood, fetching water, cooking).

Participatory Approach

In order to promote democratic principles, Amity emphasizes a participatory approach in development and disaster management. Early involvement of communities can ensure that time and resources are saved and mistakes and conflicts are avoided. By involving people at the grassroots directly, Amity can more easily assess people's actual needs, find local solutions and, at the same time, encourage villagers to act as stakeholders in the relief and reconstruction process. Farmers in Woyun Village, for example, were encouraged to participate in the planning, implementation and monitoring process at every stage of the reconstruction efforts. Village authorities commonly welcome Amity's democratic decision-making process because it provides them with a strong supportive base in the community and confers legitimacy to their governing role.

Monitoring

During reconstruction in Sichuan, Amity has kept an office in Woyun Village for staff from Nanjing to assist villagers with planning, implementation and monitoring of the project.

Villagers selected their own monitoring groups which were responsible for supervising the construction of earthquake-proof houses and the distribution of subsidies. Special training enabled them to follow recognized standards.

Partnership Selection

Amity cooperates with a broad range of partners in order to achieve recognition of our work and to involve relevant groups which can promote our objectives. By building good relationships with governmental units, Amity remains flexible in implementing projects and can, at the same time, advocate successful ideas and work for policy changes. By involving academic partners to participate, Amity draws attention to social needs and simultaneously brings academic expertise to underserved communities. Shortly after the earthquake, Amity invited experts to offer psychological training and counseling to victims in Sichuan, giving them an opportunity to learn more about treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder. Specialists from Hong Kong and overseas provide us with international expertise and keep us informed about international developments. During reconstruction in Woyun Village, for instance, Amity invited architects from Hong Kong to design earthquake-proof homes and to train farmers how to observe high standards in the house construction process.

Total Direct Project Expenses for Relief and Reconstruction until June 2009

Between May 2008 and June 2009, Amity has allocated a total of **CNY 24,455,768** to the Sichuan Earthquake projects.

Relief Assistance	9,645,244
House Reconstruction	7,660,200
Agricultural Recovery	5,140,935
Drinking Water System	740,405
Education Assistance	496,111
Church Reconstruction	470,700
Training	203,129
Rehabilitation of Injured People	55,430
Social-Psychological Support	43,614

(All figures in the table above are in renminbi.)

