



Heifer Sichuan Earthquake Rehabilitation Project Progress Report (as of 31 December 2009)

1 Project Profile

Heifer started its “Sichuan Earthquake Rehabilitation Project” in November 2008 after a series of investigations in the disaster-affected areas to help victim families rebuild livelihood.

Within 5 years, the project will assist over 4,000 families with high quality livestock and training, while an additional 9,000 families will be benefited through "Passing on the Gift".

Heifer will also support them to form Self-Help Group (SHG). This will help realize the cohesion of family and community, and empower them with capabilities for community’s sustainable development.

2 Project Progress

2.1 Income Generation

Up to December 2009, 19 months after the disaster, all 7 sub-projects have been started in Pengzhou, Beichuan, Lixian, Anxian, Jiangyou, Jiange and Baishuihe. It covered 22 villages in 17 townships. 1,266 families (2,346 planned) have been assisted with 23,890 animals being distributed (Please see below for details).

Farmers are now able to sell their animals to market for cash income. 13,900 animals have been sold for a total income of RMB1,477,800yuan.

The 2nd batch of sub-projects in Lizhou District and Chaotian District of Guangyuan City are under approval, while the Shifang sub-project will start in January, 2010.

It is planned that 1,846 families will be helped in the 2nd batch of sub-projects. The total recipient number will become over 4,000.

Heifer will continue distributing the remaining animals, and strengthen the training and technical services. The 3rd batch of sub-projects is under development.

Updated to Dec 31, 2009, Heifer sent animals detailed as below:

| 1 st 7 sub-projects | No. of original recipient families | No. of families that have received animals | Animal type | No. of animals |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|----------------|
| Pengzhou | 512 | 136 | Goat, rabbit, chicken | 13,430 |
| Baishuihe | 261 | 59 | Goat, pig, cow | 175 |
| Jiangyou | 730 | 277 | Goat, pig, cow | 748 |
| Anxian | 443 | 465 | Pig, cow | 1281 |
| Beichuan | 441 | 40 | Pig, cow | 116 |
| Lixian | 126 | 126 | Pig, chicken | 7,158 |
| Jiange | 700 | 277 | Pig, goat | 1,999 |
| sum | 3213 | 1,380 | -- | 24,907 |

2.2 Capacity Building

94 Self-help Groups have been set up, with each elected their own leaders. They organized various activities to improve members’ communication and information flow. They also helped each other rebuild houses & roads. Group Fund was set up to gather funds for emergency use or organizing activities, for example, bulk purchase of fertilizers to reduce costs.

Heifer also recruited community facilitators and professional animal workers to assist with community activities and technical services. In this period, over 200 training sessions were conducted to improve farmers' capacities. Topics included technical skills on animal management, personal leadership, SHG and SHG fund management, community plan, and disaster prevention, etc.

3 Project Stories

3.1 Yang Zhengxiu, Qingchuan County

Gao Wanxue, a teenage girl born in a small county, Qingchuan in Sichuan, had never imagined such great changes in her life until the earthquake in 2008.

Wanxue's grandmother died in the disaster. They lost everything including their house. Since her home town was no longer safe for living, her family migrated to the nearby Jiange County under the government's arrangements. They bought a less-damaged muddy house with the government's rehabilitation subsidy and were given a plot of land to start a new life.



The less-damaged mud house bought by Yang Zhengxiu with government's rehabilitation subsidy.

However, life was not easier at all for Yang's family. They used to live in the mountainous area and never grew rice or used any chemicals in their farmland before. However, in order to ensure good harvest, they had to learn about it. Due to the lack of skills and experience, their harvest was just half of other people's. Her sister therefore had to go to the city for some short-term labor work to support the family.

In Oct 2009, Wanxue's family got 14 goats from Heifer, of which 9 have got pregnant now. The family's life becomes full of hope.

3.2 Zhou Xianyun, Pengzhou

Zhou Xianyun lives in Xiangshui Village of Junyue Township, Pengzhou City. Before the earthquake, he lived with his parents at home, while his wife and son went out for labor work. During leisure time, he loved playing mahjong. Life was pretty stable for them at that time.

In the earthquake, their house was heavily damaged. Worrying about the situation, his wife and son went back home. They found that there was nothing more important than the family, and decided to stay home together. But with the damaged house and just a few acres of crop land, how could they sustain and rebuild their livelihood?



Zhou Xianyun's wife is cleaning the rabbit cage

Zhou Xianyun later participated in Heifer project, and was very active in attending various activities. In June, 2009, he received rabbits from Heifer. Now he has over 700 rabbits and made an income of over RMB5,000yuan.

"I have never been raising rabbits, but with the help of Heifer and Heifer's project partner, I am confident to do that well, I will rebuild my house with the income", said Zhou Xianyun. He leant very hard and seriously kept the breeding record. He even became the community animal health worker and helped other farmers with technical skills.

He does not play mahjong any more. In fact, not only him, but other members of the community does. Their relationship become closer than before and will gather sometimes to share the problems they encountered and the future development of the community.

4 Photos from Other Project Areas



Project families of Liuba Village of Yanmen Township in Jiangyou discussed about the future development of the community



Project families of Shitan Village of Bailong Township in Jiange County attended a training session



Qi Xiang-jun, a Qiang minority woman living in Xishan Village of Tonghua Township, Lixian, posted in front of her house under construction



The pigs raised by Qi Xiang-jun



The women Self-Help Group of Kazi Village in Lixian attended a training session



Members of the Kazi Village Self-Help Group danced in an activity