

WHAT YOU CAN DO

In the immediate aftermath of the Sichuan earthquake, joining government rescue and relief efforts were private firms and the rapidly growing number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in China. According to official statistics, there were 354,000 NGOs in China at the end of 2006. The rise of China's NGO sector reflects a heightening awareness that concerted efforts by individuals can make a difference in Chinese society. Although HRIC does not recommend any particular organization, the following are organizations to consider if you are interested in contributing to the ongoing relief efforts in Sichuan.

Red Cross Society of China [中国红十字会]
<http://www.redcross.org.cn> (Chinese and English)

The Red Cross Society of China, founded in 1904, is China's only Red Cross Society. In the wake of the May 2008 Sichuan Earthquake, the Red Cross Society organized collection of relief donations throughout the country. In addition to distributing funds, the Red Cross Society has sent water, food, and supplies, and is participating in reconstruction projects in the affected area.

China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation [中国扶贫基金会]
<http://www.fupin.org.cn> (Chinese and English)

Beijing-based **China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation (CFPA)** is a non-profit organization managed under the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development. CFPA provides direct assistance to the poor and supports public facilities and social services in impoverished communities by providing funds and personnel. CFPA has played an active role in relief aid following the May 2008 Sichuan Earthquake, soliciting aid and donating supplies to two impoverished counties in Chongqing.

Care for Children
<http://www.careforchildren.com> (Chinese and English)

Care for Children is an international non-profit organization based in Beijing that works with local governments and organizations across China to promote foster care and train orphanage staff. Its official partner in China is the China Social Work Association. Care for Children led a post-earthquake fundraiser for the children and families affected by the quake.

Half the Sky Foundation [半边天基金会]
<http://www.halfthesky.org> (Chinese and English)

Half the Sky runs programs at 36 welfare institutions throughout China and provides homes for orphaned or special-needs children. It has offices in Beijing, Hong Kong, and the United States. Following the May 2008 Sichuan Earthquake, Half the Sky formed the HTS Children's Earthquake Fund to provide emergency shelter, food, and medical care for children orphaned or separated from their families, as well as temporary or long-term foster or institutional care. Half the Sky also accepted a number of earthquake orphans.

*For more on the Chinese and international response to the May 2008 Sichuan earthquake, as well as a list of organizations accepting donations, see *Human Rights in China's Action Bulletin: The Earthquake in China*, available at <http://www.hrichina.org/public/contents/54447>.*

For a directory of international NGOs working in China on disaster prevention and relief, see: <http://www.chinadevelopmentbrief.com/dingo/Sector/Disaster-Prevention-and-Relief/2-10-0.html>.