



Innovations in Post-Disaster Care – the Sichuan Experience

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At 2:28 pm on May 12th, 2008, a catastrophic earthquake measuring 7.9 on the Richter scale, hit Sichuan Province in rural China. The epicenter was in Wenchuan County, in the Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, 80 km west/northwest of the provincial capital city of Chengdu. In town after town, homes and hospitals were destroyed. 7,000 inadequately engineered schoolrooms collapsed. 87,000 people, including 10,000 children were killed, 370,000 were injured and 4.8 million were left homeless. On May 14th China formally requested the support of the international community to respond to the needs of affected families.

This presentation will outline the resulting 3-year programme of healthcare recovery and rebuilding projects that comprise Cisco's Corporate and Social Responsibility response to the Wenchuan Earthquake.

A number of ehealth innovations will be presented including:

- * the remote assessment of trauma and collaborative planning of treatment in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake;
- * the set-up of the Hongkong-Sichuan Virtual Trauma and Psychological Counselling Centre, which uses high definition video - telepresence technology - for the longer term rehabilitation of patients;
- * the use of mobile, in-vehicle, ehealth solutions - to take care to extremely remote communities and
- * ground-breaking 'laboratory on a disk technology' to take easy-to-use real-time diagnostic capabilities to the point of need.

The practical challenges of delivering meaningful and sustainable ehealth solutions in the aftermath of a natural disaster will be considered and the utilization levels and an assessment of the clinical impact of the above solutions will be discussed.